

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 7 Issue 4

HAMS

January 2013

Principal's Message

"Time"

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running.

Make the most of today. Treasure every moment that you have, and treasure it more because you shared it with someone special: special enough to spend your time. Remember that time waits for no one. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the PRESENT!

Throughout the new year, enjoy the "present" of time with your children, your family, and your friends. In the years to come, it is not the games, clothes, or toys that



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that will be remembered, but rather the time that your children spent with you and you spent with them.

Everyone at HAMS wish you and your family a happy, safe, and healthy New Year!

KEYSTONE EXAMS

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content. Beginning with the class of 2017, students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams to graduate. Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the Keystones throughout their high school careers.

On January 10 & 11, our geometry students will participate in the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam as part of the 2013 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). For additional information about the Keystone Exams, visit the SAS website at www.pdesas.or or contact HAMS.

MISSION

Working together to inspire all students to become lifelong learners and productive global citizens

VISION

Every day, all students are challenged to develop their full potential and experience success leaving school inspired and eager to return the next day

VALUES

Safety, Respect, Collaboration, Empowerment

Huntingdon Area

Middle School

"Working together so all students can learn"

Meet HAMS's New Teachers

Matt Youun, eight grade Social Studies teacher.

I grew up in James Creek, PA and graduated from Huntingdon Area High School in 2005. I was very involved at HAHS with sports. I played football, basketball, and baseball. After high school, I attended Mansfield University, where I also played division II baseball, and graduated with a bachelors degree in social studies education. After college I came back to the area and began my teaching career. I have really enjoyed teaching and am looking forward to being a Bearcat again. In my spare time, I enjoy playing golf and enjoying the outdoors. This summer I will be getting married to my fiancé who is also a teacher at Huntingdon Area School District

Brandon Thurber, seventh grade social studies teacher.

I am from Springdale (a small town outside Pittsburg). This is my fourth year of teaching. In the past I have taught middle school and high school, where I coached football and baseball. I have always enjoyed working with kids on the field and in the classroom.

6-BEARS

Students vs. Teachers

The 3rd annual Teachers vs. Students basketball game took place in the Huntingdon Area High School gymnasium December 21. The Huntingdon Area Middle School teachers have had a Relay for Life team for several years and decided to use the game to bring awareness to cancer and as a fundraising event. There is currently a teacher that has battled cancer, there has been a loss of a teacher in the recent past, and multiple families who have lost loved ones from cancer.



6-BEARS –cont.

The students were encouraged to bring in a donation to support the cause. The homeroom with the most money enjoyed “special” courtside seats in the Bearcat Zone. They were also given an opportunity to play several minutes against the teachers. Mr. Snare’s homeroom 218 brought in \$164.35. This feat was even more awesome considering that there are only twelve students in homeroom 218. Students were given a chance to win \$10 at halftime of the game by taking half court shots for one dollar. There were several close calls, but none managed to make it through the hoop.

Every student who entered the gym attempted a shot from the foul line area to help give the student team a head start against the teachers. The scoreboard read students-61 teachers-0 before the tipoff. The All Stars had some difficulty early on in the game. They couldn’t seem to managing hitting the bonus 20 pointer awarded for a half court shot. Once they got on a roll, things were not looking so bright for the Junior High Boys and Girls Basketball players. Seventh grade math teacher, Mr. Vescovi, quickly became the crowd favorite with several monster slams. Things started to go the teachers way with some tough defense and a few 20 point shots.

The teachers also had to face multiple “challenges” throughout the game. Some of these challenges were no-hands defense, 10 on 5, defense staying in the paint, no dribbling, girls only scoring, and 5 on 2. It was a hard fought battle down to the last few seconds. The students hit a 4 point basket to cut the lead down to two points as time expired. The final score was Teachers 106 and students 104. The most important stat of the game was **\$1,072**. That was the grand total that will be donated to cancer research. A big thank you goes out to everyone that supported this wonderful cause.



Faculty and Student Basketball Game



6-CATS

Sixth Graders Step into History

Recently, our sixth graders had a special visitor. No, it wasn't Santa Claus – it was Mr. Lesniewski, a local Civil War enthusiast, who shared his knowledge with our students. They were fascinated and bombarded Mr. L with questions. He engaged the students with visual aids and video clips on the Smart-board. The students found it unbelievable that anyone would be willing to be the “flag bearer” in battle since that soldier was an easy target - unable to carry a weapon to defend themselves.

Mr. Lesniewski brought a regimental flag from the 20th Maine. He explained the many dangers the soldiers faced both on and off the battlefield. The students were surprised to learn that more soldiers died from illness and infections rather than in battle. He also discussed the role of women in the war; including those who worked as spies, other women who served as nurses in the medical field, and some who chose to cut their hair and disguise themselves as men to fight for a cause they believed in.

Mr. Lesniewski discussed the many weapons used by the infantry, sharpshooters, and officers during these battles. The students found the story of ‘Sherman’s Bow Ties’ intriguing and asked several questions about how the Union soldiers could wrap railroad ties around trees. The school days close to the holiday vacation can be a difficult time for teachers to motivate our learners, but the sixth graders were captivated by Mr. Lesniewski’s presentation.

By Kristen Streightiff



7-BEARS

There was excitement in the air as the 7Bears said goodbye to their friends and teachers and headed out the door for their Winter Break. For some, this will be a time for gathering with family. Others may use this time to relax and catch up on sleep. However, some of the 7Bears had big plans for this break.

Aubree Cresswell was planning on getting a Christmas tree.

Katie Shultz was going to celebrate Christmas at a family member’s home and work with her Farm Show animals.

Betty Walters was going to open Christmas gifts, sing Christmas songs, and write.

Warren Shope would be celebrating Christmas with his Nana, Uncle Louie, Dad, Mom, and sisters. He also was going to visit a water park in Virginia.

Hayden Price was headed to his Gram’s house for dinner and gifts.

Alex Mykut had big plans consisting of sleep, opening presents, and eating.

Laura Bilger also planned on going shopping, visiting family, and sleeping in.

Jenna Herncane had a long list of to-dos: sleeping, basketball, visiting family, opening gifts, redecorating her room, and shopping.

Brook Hollibaugh said she would be ice skating, cooking, relaxing, eating, building snow forts, and making hot chocolate.

Grace Cook-Huffman was off to Ohio to visit family, Indiana to see her grandma, and then New York to see a Broadway show.

Leah Reed planned on watching movies, spending time with family, sleeping, and of course eating great food.

Reagan McKim was spending time with her dad who just came back from Texas, making cookies, and having Christmas parties.

Halie Miller was getting surgery on her foot. We hope you have a speedy recovery.

Hannah Park was going to have family over, open gifts, and finally stay up until midnight to celebrate the New Year.

Christine Stone planned on spending time with my family and my friends. She said she was also going to invite her friends over to her house for a New Year’s party.

Owen Kauffman was headed to Florida over break to see his aunt and uncle.

7 – BEARS Continued

Kylie Patterson planned on going to New York City ice skating, seeing the lights, the big tree, and riding a subway.

Nick Zanic, an avid Pitt fan, planned on going to a Pitt basketball game.

Lance Jeffries decided he would relax and ride his dirt bike.

Katie Emel said she would be making crossword puzzles for her sisters and making them solve them.

The 7Bears hope everyone enjoyed their break and wish everyone a safe and happy New Year!

7-CATS

In Algebra the students have been working on solving and graphing linear functions. In Pre-Algebra they have been solving problems with percents, such as finding tips, sales tax, commission, and simple interest. In Holt 2, the students have been using ratios and proportions to solve problems involving rates and similar figures.

In Science, the students are studying the laws of genetics. They made an iMovie on the Macbooks to express the importance of Gregor Mendel and his work on heredity. In the coming days, students will be applying their knowledge of genetics by studying probability and Punnett Squares. The Language Arts classes have been reading the drama version of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Of course everyone wants to play the part of Scrooge! A follow-up activity was viewing the movie and finding differences between it and the play. Students also celebrated the holidays by making cards for the wounded soldiers hospitalized in Washington, DC.

Ancient Egypt was an exciting topic in Social Studies. Students learned about hieroglyphics and practiced using the symbols to write their names. Pyramids were explored and mummies will be covered in January. Kids will really enjoy that topic! *The Prince of Egypt*, an excellent movie, was shown and discussed in class.

Reading class gave the students an opportunity to go onboard the Titanic! Each child was given a boarding pass and chose a passenger's name. With a little research, they were able to find out specific information about that passenger and share with the class. It was an amazing story from the literature book and was written by Robert Ballard, the man who discovered the wreckage in 1985. Several documentaries and primary source interviews from National Geographic and the Discovery Channel were viewed. Throughout the 2 weeks students had many opportunities for extra credit. Several kids chose to build a detailed model of the great ship that never completed its maiden voyage. There was a clear sensitivity to the survival rate that fateful night.

8-BEARS

For the last 3 years, the 8 Bears team has taken part in the Trout In the Classroom program sponsored by PA Fish & Boat Commission and the John F. Kennedy Chapter of Trout Unlimited. This program promotes coldwater conservation with the Brook Trout being the focal species. Students have been involved with egg separation of the eyed eggs, tank design and maintenance as well as continued water quality testing. The fish have hatched into sac fry and developed into swim-up fry in the past 6 weeks. Students have had the opportunity to watch about 225 eggs develop through these stages while in class as well as on our web cam. The web cam can be linked to from our middle school web page under Bearcat Cam or by going to Ustream.tv and searching for HAMS2011.

The program's culminating activity is the release in late May. The 8 Bears will have the opportunity to take a field trip to the C. Barton McCann School of Art, a few miles North of McAlevey's Fort, and release the fish fry into Laurel Run. We will take advantage of the wonderful setting with many hands on activities for the students. If any parents have an interest in helping with the program in any way, please contact the Middle School and set up a time to meet with us. The more involved we can get the community, the more successful the program will be.



8-CATS

HAMS Fights Cancer

Cancer is a terrible disease that seems to affect everyone in some way. It's easy to see why so many have been affected when looking at the statistics, which are staggering. According to the National Cancer Institute, from 2005 to 2009, about 54% of males in the United States were diagnosed with some form of cancer. That obviously means that men have a better chance of getting cancer than staying cancer free. Females are not far behind. During that same time period, about 42% of females were diagnosed with cancer. The mortality rates are heartbreaking as well. 21.9% of males and 15.1% of females in the United States have died because of cancer from 2005-2009.

Huntingdon Area Middle School has been affected as well. A few years ago, one of our science teachers, Joe Hammers, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Most people would take this news, go into depression and start asking questions like "why me?" Mr. Hammers did not. His outlook was optimistic and inspiring. He would say things like "I have been given 50 years of a great life, I can't complain." Even though he was knowingly fighting a losing battle, he never gave up. He left us with an old saying that is still posted around the middle school, "Winner's never quit, and quitters never win." In honor of him, HAMS teachers started a Relay for Life team through the American Cancer Society, appropriately named "Joe's Bros and the Per-Sisters."

One of the main goals of Relay for Life is to raise money to support cancer victims and help fight cancer through research. Cancer is not a disease that goes away on its own and researchers have been working hard at finding treatments and cures. This research obviously takes a lot of money. The HAMS Relay Team has raised thousands of dollars for this worthy cause over the years.

Just before the Holiday Break, HAMS held a Student vs Faculty Basketball game. Coordinated with this game, students were asked to donate money to help fight cancer. As an added incentive, the homeroom that raised the most money was given VIP seating in the Bearcat Zone and had the opportunity to play in part of the game. There was also a half court shot at halftime where the students paid \$1 per shot and if they made it, they would receive \$10. In the end, Huntingdon Area Middle

8-CATS

School raised an astounding \$1072.00 to be donated to the American Cancer Society.

We hope our efforts will help save lives and ease the burden of cancer victims and their families. We have already had a success story with Mr. Alan Secrest. He is a special education teacher at HAMS who was diagnosed, battled and has survived cancer. As a middle school family, we are proud of Mr. Secrest and all of the students who have taken this challenge to heart and have truly made a difference.

Arc of Learning

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, students from Juniata College provide tutoring in all subject areas from 6:00PM-8:00PM. The location of Arc of Learning is 2514 Shadyside Avenue (Salvation Army), Huntingdon. Tutoring services are free of charge. Sandra Altman, Federal Community AmeriCorps representative, may be contacted at 641-3364 for additional information

Yearbook



Orders can be placed NOW for the 2012-2013 Yearbook! *Orders are to be placed ONLINE with Jostens, Inc.*

At www.jostens.com

Search Huntingdon Middle School.

Books begin at \$12.00

You can even add your name, an icon or protective cover!

Send your photos!

If your student plays a school-sponsored sport, please send us some candid shots of the team! Submit to agoodman@huntsd.org OR send a CD, SD card or Flash drive to Ms. Goodman at the Middle School. *It will be returned immediately (your student can wait while I download the images)*



Middle School Students Give Back

The Huntingdon Area Middle School Life Skills students give back to the community, while gaining positive life experiences. Not only do the Life Skills students complete their academics in the classroom, but they also volunteer at local agencies within the Huntingdon community. In doing so, they acquire appropriate social skills, safety awareness, and important on-the-job-training. Each student goes into the community twice a week. Students are placed at a site according to their strengths. Every student is able to complete a task, no matter how simple or how difficult. There is a job for everyone.

Some of these community experiences include: The Huntingdon County Humane Society, The Huntingdon County Visitor's Bureau, J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital, Huntingdon Manor Nursing Care Facility, Westminster Woods, and, most recently, The Standing Stone Senior Center. At these agencies, the students perform such jobs as: unfolding newspapers for the bedding in the cages, bulk mailings and refilling brochures at local restaurants, paper shredding, playing bingo, filling and passing out water pitchers, bussing tables, and sweeping the floors.

These work experiences are priceless. The students are gaining valuable life lessons, while giving some back.

Book distribution



Students received a book before the holiday thanks to the Huntingdon Community Center and Toys for Tots.



Guidance Corner

By: Linda Miller

On January 25, 2013, all eighth grade students will visit the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center in Mill Creek, Pennsylvania. HCCTC provides an educational environment emphasizing integration of academic and technical experiences. After completion of select programs, students can seek immediate employment in a challenging, competitive work world. Others may pursue post-secondary education at institutions of higher learning. Students will view programs including Animal Science, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Health Occupations, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration and Heating, Plumbing, Construction, Electrical, Welding, Automotive Body Repair, Horticulture, Automotive Mechanics, and Computer Servicing Technology. Before touring HCCTC, the school counselor will provide a classroom lesson focusing on career exploration. Adolescents will generate goals and complete a computer program called Career Cruising. The excursion to HCCTC will be a positive experience that will allow students to ponder life beyond their educational journey in the Huntingdon Area School District.

Hats off to our HAMS students and Mrs. Canner for an awesome Holiday Program.



Technology Education

By: Matt Raker

During December and January in the technology education department, 7th grade students have been testing the strength of their bridges. The students worked in groups using software designed by West Point Military Academy to design an efficient and safe bridge. Students will then construct models of the bridge to physically test for compression and tension forces. Students have constructed nine inch bridges out of ¼" wood stock that held over 200lbs! During this activity students integrate geometry, trigonometry, and math skills with hands on learning. Students can finally see a "real world application" of where they can put their knowledge of the previous mentioned subjects to use.

After the bridge building projects students were introduced to the world of buoyancy. We talked about Archimedes' principle, which best defines our prospective of buoyancy. Students get to put their newly gained knowledge to use and construct several prototypes of a boat to test the laws of buoyancy. Each student will construct and test a boat in a friendly competition to build the most buoyant boat in each class or even the entire seventh grade! Students also learn a basic form of the scientific method when testing their boats for buoyancy.



Is the library a thing in the past?

By: Miss Varner

Some people have suggested that a library will soon be a thing in the past due to technology. Here is one librarian/teacher that hopes reading and having a good book in your hands will never go out of style. To me, there is nothing better than sitting and reading a good book. One of my favorite books is *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, written by Elizabeth George Speare. I first read this book when I was in eighth grade and after many years later, it is still one of my favorite books.

Lurlene McDaniel is one of our favorite authors. She has written books that include, *Don't Die, My Love* and *Starry, Starry Night*. She is a Pennsylvania native, being born in Philadelphia in 1944. Another popular author is Jeff Kinney. This author was born in Maryland and is most popular for his *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. Jeff Kinney also created the popular website, <http://poptropica.com>. These are just a couple of our interesting authors.

There are many exciting adventures that you can go on just by picking up and reading a book. You can walk with the dinosaurs, travel to Africa and ride an elephant, sail across the seas, and you can even go to a world full of science fiction, just to name a few places. There are so many places that you can "travel" to with a good book and a little imagination. Where will your next adventure take you?



Feel Free To Contact Us

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Events At HAMS

January 16—Half (1/2) day of school.
Dismissal at 12 noon.

January 21— Snow Make-up Day
WE have School

January 23— Marking Period Ends

January 25— Report Cards Go Home



ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is necessary for a good educational experience. If a student is under the compulsory school attendance law, proper steps will be taken to enforce that law. Unexcused absences will result in no credit for the day and no opportunity to make up work that was missed.

When a student returns to school after an absence, the student must report to the office during homeroom and present a properly signed written excuse. If you have obtained a written doctor excuse, please send this excuse also. The student has 3 days after his/her return to school to bring this note. Failure to bring a proper excuse within 3 days will result in 1 illegal day.

The Huntingdon Area School District attendance policy provides that a claim of continual or repeated illness in excess of 10 days per school year requires a physician's statement regarding illness. If a student has absences in excess of 10 days with no medical excuse, the absences will be considered illegal. Students whose absence is determined to be illegal will not be allowed to make up their work.

Parents will receive an attendance letter in the mail after 10 days of recorded absences and doctor's excuses will be required. State legislation stipulates that students (and/or their parents) may be fined for excessive absences.

TARDY TO HOMEROOM

Students are responsible for being in class on time. A reasonable amount of time is provided for changing classes. Teachers will keep appropriate records and work with students to resolve problems of tardiness. Disciplinary consequences are listed below:

Procedure for handling tardiness –

1. Student/Teacher conference – 1st tardy
2. Student/Assistant Principal conference – 2nd tardy
3. Letter sent home – 3rd tardy
4. After School Detention – 4th tardy
5. Two After School Detentions – 5th tardy
6. Administrative discretion – 6 or more tardies



