

# The School Connection

#ISinnovators



## Horseheads Intermediate School

### Principal's Post

It seems hard to believe that we are already into the month of December. November always seems to pass by so quickly from an educational perspective. It is a busy, yet short month.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to participate in the parent/teacher conferences. The connection between school and home is vital for your child's academic success. Please continue to check Parent Portal and stay in touch with your child's teacher.

Fifth and sixth grade students have participated in their Adventure Based Learning (ABL) experiences. ABL is a building-wide initiative which focuses on teamwork, collaboration, and problem-solving. Students learn how to strategically think through problems in an effort to find logical solutions with intent in developing these skills for real-world scenarios. All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were able to participate in several activities with BOCES ABL Facilitators in October and November.

Thank you to all who supported the PTO BELIEVE fundraiser and to those who spent their time organizing the event. We were able to make a large profit that goes directly back to the school toward field trips, PTO activities, technology, classroom supplies, and much more.

Please continue to value your child's attendance at school. Arriving on time and scheduling vacations/appointments outside of school hours, makes a tremendous difference in the academic progress of students. I also ask you to keep your child's mind and body active during winter break. Exercise, reading, journaling, and problem-solving/brain teasers have been shown to be great methods in staying fresh during school breaks.

Please encourage your child to participate in community service with our Presidential Community Service program. If you need more information or the service logs, [click here](#).

Check out the article to the right about encouraging your reluctant reader. Thank you for your support, and I wish you a very Happy Holiday season!

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick  
Principal

**Follow me on Twitter:** Michael Bostwick@[M\\_Bostwick](#)  
**School Hashtag:** [#ISinnovators](#)  
**Like us on facebook:** Search Horseheads Intermediate School  
**Website:** <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

*"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."*

*- Jane D. Hull*

December 2015  
Volume 4 Issue 4

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### [Parent Article](#)

**ATTENTION!**  
[Parent Resources](#)  
on IS website.

*"The connection between school and home is vital for your child's academic success."*

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Straw Vote on Possible Elmira Heights/Horseheads Merger, 7:00AM – 8:00 PM, at Big Flats, Ridge Road, High School

**Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:** Board of Education Meeting, HS Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM

**Thurs, 12/24 – Mon, 1/4:** No School – Winter Recess

**Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>:** Strings Showcase, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM

**Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>:** NO SCHOOL/MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

**Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>:** Grade 5 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM

**Wed, January 27<sup>th</sup>:** Grade 6 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. We are collecting new pajamas (baby to adult) for the Scholastic Pajama Drive. For every pair of pajamas we donate, Scholastic will match it with a book. Donations will be accepted through Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>!
2. We are excited to announce that our very own Riley Fesetch has been named the Arctic League Bell Ringer for this season. Congrats Riley! Arctic League applications are available in the Office of the Intermediate School and in the Human Resources Office.
3. Students should NOT be dropped off in the morning along the road or while the car is in line to drop off. Drop off is at the curb in front of the Field House door. Five cars can drop off at a time when they pull up to the front of the curb. Thank you for adhering to this important safety procedure. Drop off time cannot be earlier than 7:45 AM. Please do not drive through the bus lanes between 7:15-8:25 AM.
4. Students should be picked up by 2:30 PM each day. There is not adequate supervision beyond that time.
5. A study has found that irregular bedtimes can lead to behavioral problems. [Click here.](#)
6. We will have a Canned Food Drive for the local food banks sometime in late winter or early spring when their supplies often run low.
7. Reminder that recess is outside when weather permits. Please be sure that your child wears an appropriate jacket.
8. Please be sure to pick your child up promptly from after-school activities including clubs. Volunteers cannot stay late with students who are not picked up on time.
9. Report Cards: Grades for Art class and Music class are weighted at .33 because these classes meet two times in a six-day cycle. Our Honor Roll recognizes students who had a grade point average of 85.0 or higher and did not fail any classes. Distinguished Honors is 95.0 or higher. Congratulations to these students!
10. We thank all the parents who participated in Parent Teacher Conferences in November. Communication with home is essential. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher to monitor your child's progress throughout the year or if you have any other questions. Parent Portal is always available as well.
11. Please encourage your child to read at home. Our Goal is for all students to read three books each month in order to reach the Goal of 25 books for the year.



This year we launched a Makerspace in the Intermediate School. A Makerspace is a place for students to tap their creativity and innovation by investigating/making things they are passionate about. We are starting small with things such as making challenges, electrical circuits, tech devices such as Makey Makey/Little Bits/Ozobots, and we even have a take apart station where students can deconstruct electrical devices to see how they work. Check out some pictures below, and be sure to follow our school hashtag to see all of the great happenings at the IS! [#Sinnovators](#)



### LEGOS WANTED

The Intermediate School is seeking donations of Legos for our Makerspace Program. If anyone has any lying around the house, please feel free to donate them to this very innovative opportunity for students. Ask your child about our Makerspace! Thank you!



## CREATIVE GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Need some gift ideas for your Intermediate School student? How about some new art supplies to help keep them creative and productive over the break. Here is a short list of quality well priced art supplies and tools you can pick up. If you have questions or want more suggestions, contact Mr. Bell at [cbell@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:cbell@horseheadsdistrict.com).



**8.5x11  
Hardbound  
Sketchbook**  
\$8 - \$12  
(Hobby Lobby)



**Watercolor  
Paint Set**  
\$1 - \$5  
(Hobby  
Lobby)



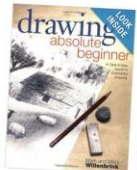
**Colored  
Pencils**  
\$3 - \$10  
(Hobby  
Lobby)



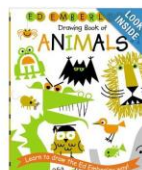
**Darice 80-Piece  
Deluxe Art Set**  
\$15.99  
(amazon.com)



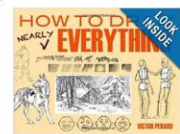
**How to Draw  
Comics the  
Marvel Way**  
\$13  
(amazon.com)



**Drawing for  
the Absolute  
Beginner**  
\$15  
(amazon.com)



**Ed Emberley's  
Drawing Book  
of Animals**  
\$7  
(amazon.com)



**How to Draw Nearly  
Everything** \$10  
(amazon.com)



## HANDLING NON PAYMENT OF MEAL CHARGES

### **High School:**

There is no charging in the High School. Exception: if a student tells the cashier that their parent deposited money through PaySchools, they will be allowed to charge and the charge will be deducted from their meal account once it has been credited.

### **Middle School:**

Students may charge one lunch in the cafeteria. After one charge, the student will be sent to the Main Office by the cashier. There, the student may borrow money for lunch. A building administrator will then contact the parent to collect the charges.

***(NOTE: When any student (Grades Pre-K-12) has any charges on their account, no extra items will be allowed to be purchased until the account is paid in full. If a student brings in money to buy ala carte items and has charges, the money will be returned to them.)***

### **Grades Pre-K-6:**

- 1) A student can charge up to three meals. After three meals are charged, a meal of a **peanut butter and jelly sandwich, two side dishes and white milk** will be provided and charged at the regular price. (NOTE: For those with medical issues that prohibit peanut butter, a cheese sandwich will be substituted for the PB&J sandwich.) The District's auto call system will notify the parent of the charges due.
- 2) When there are three outstanding meal charges on a student's account, an alternate breakfast will be provided. That alternate breakfast will include a granola bar, a package of graham crackers, canned fruit and white milk. The student will be charged for this at the regular price.
- 3) This alternate meal will be provided for seven days (up to 10 total charges) or until the account is paid in full. If after this time, payment has not been received, the food service cafeteria manager will call the home, and:
  - a) Notify the parent of current charges due.
  - b) Ask if there has been a change in finances in the household that would necessitate changes on their Free or Reduced Application.
  - c) Send home a new application for completion if there is none on file. If an application is on file that needs updating, the manager will make changes to the application based on the phone conversation.
  - d) Inform the parent that they have the option of meal prepayment.
  - e) Notify the parent that after an additional three days, the cafeteria manager will forward the concern to the principal. (include form letter follow-up summarizing the issue).
- 4) If the charges remain outstanding, the cafeteria manager will inform the Principal, who will then make written contact with the parent. The letter shall contain the following information:
  - a) Charges due and a request that payment be made by a specific date.
  - b) Another copy of the application for free and reduced lunch.
  - c) A statement that meals will be stopped if payment is not made in full, and the date of meal cutoff.
  - d) A statement that if the bill is not paid in full by the specific date given, the matter will be turned over to the District's attorney for collection.

**(NOTE:** This procedure also applies when a bad check is received from a home for payment of charges when there is a negative balance due to charges.)

On occasion, parents forget to give lunch money to their child. Most of the time these charges are repaid immediately, however, in some situations charges continue to pile up and go on for many days.

**GOT TALENT? SHOW OFF YOUR STUFF!**  
**HORSEHEADS INTERMEDIATE VARIETY SHOW**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

*Sing, dance, flip, magic, jokes, etc. All acts are limited to 2 minutes.*

**Rehearsal Dates:**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade January 14, 2016

6<sup>th</sup> Grade January 21, 2016

Final Practice 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade February 8, 2016

All rehearsals will be in the I.S. cafeteria, after school, until 3:30.

All students must be picked up no later than 3:30, in the main lobby.

**BOTTLE DRIVE FOR THE ROSS PARK ZOO**

Mrs. Ike's, Mrs. Smith's, Mrs. Snyder's, Ms. Carroll's and Mrs. Schoonover's classes are participating in the Zoo Crew, which is a team of sixth graders teaming up with the Ross Park Zoo to help them see what needs to be improved from a student's perspective. In order to help the Zoo, we are collecting cans and bottles to help raise money for improvements.

Please drop off cans and bottles in Mrs. Ike's classroom 321.



Thank you!  
Sydnee Coss  
Mrs. Ike's Class, Room 321  
In Charge of Cans and Bottle Drive for Zoo

**Intermediate School PTO Officers (2015-2016)**

<i>President:</i>	Stacey Huftalen	<a href="mailto:mshuftalen@horseheadsdistrict.com">mshuftalen@horseheadsdistrict.com</a>	607-738-3621
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Deborah French	<a href="mailto:frenchsd526@aol.com">frenchsd526@aol.com</a>	607-742-7941
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mariam Khawar Spear	<a href="mailto:mkhawar@elmira.edu">mkhawar@elmira.edu</a>	607-739-3315

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted

**Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Substitute RNs and Bus Drivers needed for per diem work during the school year.**

**Teaching Substitutes** must meet the following criteria: 1) An Associates' Degree or higher; OR 2) completion of at least 2 years of College; OR 3) Graduated from High School for at least 4 years and completed at least 12 college credits; OR 4) an Honorable Discharge from the military.

**Sub RNs** should bring in evidence of their license.

**Sub Bus Drivers** – Training will be included

**Apply in person at Human Resources**

or email: [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com) for more information.

**Apply in person at the address below:**

Human Resources Office  
Horseheads Central School District  
One Raider Lane (south end of the High School)

## NEW RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified substitutes receive a rate of \$95 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

thank  
you!

A special thank you goes to the PTO for the Staff Luncheon they provided on Parent/Teacher Conference Day. It was delicious and very helpful with a busy schedule for staff that day. We sincerely thank all parents who donated to help make it such a success!

## CHARACTER TRAIT AND 'HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

**Character Trait: Caring** is being kind • being compassionate and showing you care • expressing gratitude • forgiving others • helping people in need.

- Have your child perform 1 selfless deed per day
- Help care for pets
- Perform Community Service

**The Habit of Mind: Thinking Flexibly.** Flexible thinking means finding more than one way to do something. It means stretching what you know enough to make an educated guess that could be right. It is about finding out what you need to know and problem solving. Being a flexible thinker will give your child the tools they need to thrive in school now and in the future.

## ART SUPPLIES NEEDED

Mrs. Crans's Art Classes (grades 5 & 6) are in need of some materials for a special Art project. If you can donate any of the following materials by Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, we thank you in advance for your generosity.

- \*Christmas, Winter or Generic wrapping paper
- \*Small self-stick gift tags
- \*Disposable scotch tape dispensers



## **Attention!** PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 13<sup>th</sup>, **January 12<sup>th</sup>**, and May 10<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM in the Cafeteria  
6:00 – 6:30 PM in the Library

Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Judith Christiansen is the DASA Coordinator for the district. All concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying should be directed accordingly.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Judy Christiansen, Title IX Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601