

# The School Connection



## Principal's Post

## Horseheads Intermediate School

October has been a busy and exciting month as we are now well into our school routines. With the whirlwind of the start of this schoolyear, it's hard to believe we have welcomed the month of November already.

The academic expectations are growing each day as we continue working through our curriculum in our remote learning setting. There are many things you can do to help lead your child to success in school. Please stay up to date on Parent Portal and assignments on itslearning. Check out the Intermediate School website, specifically the **Parent Resources**. We have included many helpful resources including month-by-month tips, problem solving strategies, homework tips, internet safety, academic standards support, bullying information and much more! Simply click on *Parent Resources* link to the right on this page. It's very useful, and we thank you for taking an active role in your child's education as it is one of the most critical pieces of success.

Each month we focus on a specific character trait as well as a Habit of Mind (HoM). November's character trait is **citizenship** and our HoM is **managing impulsivity**. The teachers infuse them into the classroom, and we highlight the traits in activities and throughout the building. We would appreciate your help with these at home as well. Discussing ways to show citizenship in daily practices and promoting strategies for managing impulsive behaviors, are great ways to build these skills. See page 7 for more information.

In closing, I'd like to say thank you for sending us such great kids. November is a month to reflect upon what you're grateful for, and for me it is the great mix of students at the Intermediate School. We certainly face our challenges, especially this year. With your help, we are developing some fantastic young minds. Thank you very much for your assistance in reinforcing academics, positive behaviors, and healthy relationships. Some of the most impactful things you can do is make sure students attend their classes live, and check in to make sure their assignments are completed with great effort and quality.

Check out the article to the right about **being good at math**. Math ability is not passed on from parents! Despite what many people think, being good at math **isn't** either something you have or something you don't. Math is learned, and everyone is capable. Anything you can do to promote positive thinking and hard work will benefit your son or daughter! If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick

Principal

**Connect with 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>

*"We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching." - Roy L. Smith*

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Volume 9 Issue 3

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### PARENT ARTICLE

#### ATTENTION!

**Parent Resources**  
on IS website.

*"Thank you very much for your assistance in reinforcing academics, positive behaviors, and healthy relationships."*

## Mark Your Calendars!

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>:</b>   | PTO Meeting, Via Zoom, 6:30 PM                                   |
| <b>Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>:</b> | NO SCHOOL – VETERANS DAY   |
| <b>Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>:</b>  | Board of Education Meeting, Big Flats Elementary School, 6:00 PM |
| <b>Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>:</b>    | Picture Re-takes (if school is in session)                       |
| <b>Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>:</b>    | Picture Re-takes (if school is in session)                       |
| <b>Wed. 11/25 – Fri. 11/27:</b>             | NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING RECESS                                  |

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. We would like to thank all of our Veterans and their families for the amazing sacrifices you have made for our country. We normally hold a special event to honor your dedication, but we are not able to this year. However, we will be hanging signs in our windows as way to publicly honor and thank you for your service!
2. Fall is well under way and temperatures are below freezing on some mornings. Physical Education classes and recess are outside when weather permits. Please be sure your child wears a coat and dresses appropriately for the weather.
3. We have a 3-Tiered Honor Roll System and will recognize students on the Honor Roll who have a grade point average (GPA) of **85.0** or higher and do not fail any classes. Students achieving a GPA of 85.0-89.99 will be recognized as Honor Roll, 90.0-94.99 will get High Honors, and 95.0 or above will be recognized as Distinguished Honor Roll. For this school year, special area classes (PE, art, and music) will be graded with an H (95 or higher), G (80 – 94.99), S(65 – 79.99), or U (below 65). These grades are not weighted into the overall average.
4. Applications for assistance from the Arctic League are available in the Social Worker's Office. Please call the school for more information.
5. Math Facts—Memorization of math facts is critical for student success at this grade level. Math facts are essential for students as they study higher level math concepts. The Intermediate School would like to see ALL students testing at 100% on their math facts by the end of this school year. Your child may borrow a set of math facts cards. We ask that you or someone in your family help your child to study these math facts cards and then return them to their homeroom teachers. Practice will pay off!
6. We are encouraging our students to wash their hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is available at the doors to the lunch room. We appreciate those who had sent some in with your child this year. We want to inform you that the District will be maintaining this during the year. Thank you.
7. We will also be launching our annual **Believe Fundraiser** that includes many great gifts for the holidays. All ordering will be online, and items are shipped directly to the purchaser's address. This fundraiser brings in thousands of dollars to our PTO to help fund great experiences. This will run November 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Intermediate School PTO Officers (2020-2021)

|            |                     |  |              |
|------------|---------------------|--|--------------|
| President: | Gretchen Ferraro    | <a href="mailto:gferraro2010@gmail.com">gferraro2010@gmail.com</a>   | 425-2603     |
| VP:        | Angela Sullivan     | <a href="mailto:Aksullivan624@gmail.com">Aksullivan624@gmail.com</a> | 518-708-4288 |
| Treasurer: | Danielle Richardson | <a href="mailto:dani0227@aol.com">dani0227@aol.com</a>               | 425-6896     |
| Secretary: | Denise Trondsen     | <a href="mailto:dtrondsen@outlook.com">dtrondsen@outlook.com</a>     | 742-9051     |

## LUNCH WITH YOUR CHILD

Normally we welcome parents who would like to join your child for lunch on a special occasion. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer this opportunity this school year. We will again open our doors to parents and guests when it becomes safe as deemed by the NYS Health Department. Thank you for your understanding!



## STUDENTS READ THREE BOOKS A MONTH

Our District has established the standard that Grade 5 and 6 students will read a minimum of 25 grade level books per year. We need your help to encourage your child to reach this goal each month. Children whose parents read with them on a regular basis are more successful in school.



## **CIM TEAM**

Our School District currently is utilizing the CIM (Classroom Intervention Model) in assuring your child is receiving all necessary supports to have a positive school year. The CIM Team is a collaborative approach which includes teachers, special area teachers, administrators, special education staff, school psychologist, social workers and other staff with knowledge or specific skills. Our goal is to discuss, confidentially, any student's needs and to develop an Intervention Plan that will help him/her be more successful. You, as the parent/guardian, can be involved in the process to help make this a joint effort between home and school. If you have any questions regarding this team, please consult with your student's classroom teacher.



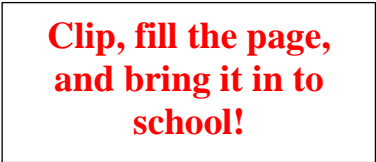
## **ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES (AIS)**

The New York State Education Department mandates that all schools identify and provide academic assistance to any student falling below a designated cutoff on various assessments. AIS stands for Academic Intervention Services. Identified students will be monitored and will receive additional help, which continues until the student demonstrates competency in the identified area. In many cases, a student will have been identified through a State Assessment he/she took at the end of the previous school year. In addition, students may qualify for AIS support if they have fallen below designated levels on District tests and/or have been recommended by teachers.

## **Horseheads Central School District Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data**

The District, in compliance with Education Law 2-d, hereby establishes the following Parents' Bill of Rights in regard to student data:

1. A student's personally identifiable information will not be sold or released for any commercial purpose;
2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's educational record. Procedures for reviewing student records can be found in the Board Policy entitled "Student Records," Policy 5500, Regulation 5500-R;
3. Security protocols regarding confidentiality of personally identifiable information are currently in place and the safeguards necessary to protect the confidentiality of student data are maintained at industry standards and best practices. The safeguards include but are not limited to encryption, firewalls, and password protection.
4. New York State maintains a complete list of all student data collected by the State and the data is available for public review at [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov), or by writing to 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234
5. Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, NY 14845.



Clipped Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your child's school. Tape or paste them to this collection sheet and send it to school. Please note, bonus certificates must be submitted separately. Thanks!



- 1 Clip Box Tops and check expiration date
- 2 Tape or glue Box Tops on sheet until filled
- 3 Send completed sheet to your school Coordinator

[illegible]

Teacher name: \_\_\_\_\_

# NOTES REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



## NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

### PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

**All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to receive 2 doses of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the first 10 days of school without these immunizations.**

Your child may get the required immunization through your health care provider, Five Star Urgent or Walk-In Clinics or through the Chemung County Health Department, at (607) 737-2028, appointment, only if qualified.

You must provide proof that your child has received the Tdap immunization in order for your child to attend school in the fall. Your health care provider or health department will provide you with this written proof once your child receives the immunization. Please bring this proof to our Health Office or fax it to us at 795-2495. **No appointment cards accepted.**

**Please note: 10-year-old students who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade will not be required to receive the Tdap vaccine at this time and will not be excluded from school but will be tracked and must be immunized upon turning 11 years old.**

If you have further questions, please contact the health office at 739-6366 (Option 2). Thank you for your cooperation.



## HEALTH CORNER



It is that time of the year again to remember good health practices. Please keep your child home if he/she has had a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours. Because there is no known cure for the common cold, prevention is the key to keeping colds away. Most of the time you acquire a cold virus by touching your eyes, nose or mouth with an object that has the cold virus on it. Therefore, to help avoid catching a cold:

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with warm soapy water.
- Sneeze into a tissue, rather than your hands, then discard the tissue(\*Remember to please send in tissue boxes)
- Don't touch your face—your hands may have come in contact with a cold virus!
- Drink 8 glasses of water daily.
- Get plenty of rest—up to 12 hours a night!

Please be considerate of others—you are contagious for the first three days that cold symptoms appear.



# 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.

### 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 \$105 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

### PRINCIPAL CHATS

Mr. Bostwick normally holds principal chats several times a year as a way to ask questions and get to know the procedures of the school. These have been cancelled due to the pandemic and rules about school visitors. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to him directly.



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Please start hoarding pull tabs! We began our drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we gathered over 40 pounds which was the most out of any school in the region! **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

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

**Character Trait: Citizenship** is contributing to your school and outside community, staying informed, and participating in decision-making.

**The Habit of Mind: Managing impulsivity** means taking a minute to think before you speak or act. Consider how your words and actions will affect you and other people.

Parents can help reinforce *citizenship* by

- Promoting community service
- Encouraging cooperation
- Staying informed and voting when possible
- Being a good neighbor
- Respecting authority; obey laws and rules

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 Caitlyn DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer, Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

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