

Horseheads Middle School

January, 2021



New Year's Edition

Contact Us!

607-739-6357 • <http://Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm>

Welcome Back Students!

We hope you had a restful winter break and are ready to return to school. Your teachers and school administrators are so excited to have you back!

To ensure everyone's continued safety, please wear a mask at all times, maintain six feet apart for social distancing and wash your hands often.

*Hay,
We Got This!*

Pharoah's Horses

Painting by
John Frederick Herring, Sr., 1854.



SEMESTER 2

MS second semester begins on 2/2/21. Students will receive their second semester schedules in 9th Period on February 1. Schedules can also be viewed in School Tool.

What's Happening at HMS

1/18/21

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No School**

1/29/21

2nd Marking Period Ends

2/2/21

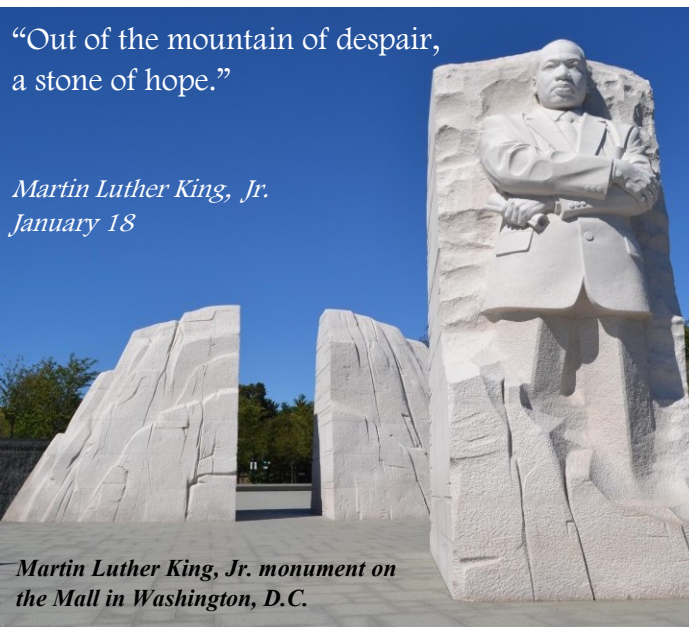
Second Semester Begins

2/3/21

Report Cards Issued

*"Out of the mountain of despair,
a stone of hope."*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 18*



*Martin Luther King, Jr. monument on
the Mall in Washington, D.C.*

Horseheads Middle School

JANUARY

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Emergency Meals Program Returns

The district has received clearance from the state to reinstate the free USDA emergency meals program. This means that school meals served both at school or delivered home will be free to students until June 30, 2021 or until the funds appropriated by Congress are exhausted. This also means that paid meals since school began in September will be credited to students' accounts. If you have questions, please contact our Food Services Office at (607) 739-5601, x3671 or dobrian@gstboces.org.

If you have not signed up for weekly meal deliveries for your child(ren) on remote learning days and would like to, please complete contact our Food Services Office at (607) 739-5601, x3671 or dobrian@gstboces.org.

PICTURE DAY CHANGES

Cohort A- January 11

Remote Students - January 13 / 7:30am - 3:00pm

Cohort B- January 14

Parents/guardians of 100% remote students can drop them off at the main entrance. Students will sign in, have their temperature taken and wear their mask. They will return to your car after pictures are taken.

Parent Portal

If you have not yet signed up for Parent Portal, please visit the District website. Under the "Quicklinks" section, hover over "Parent Portal" and click on "Parent Portal Registration Form". Fill out the form and submit it, and a link will be sent to your email.

Checking your student's grades on Parent Portal?
The URL for a computer browser is:
<https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com>

The URL for the mobile app is:
<https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com/sthhweb>

Notes from the Nurse

If your student has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is quarantining from being in direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed, please call Ms. Cobb, school nurse, at 607-739-6357. See information in the Middle School newsletter on return-to-school procedures.

Important Sports Physical Announcement

Due to COVID-19, NYS Guidelines for sports physicals have been changed. You may now use a sports physical from the last two years (dated 2018-19 or newer). If you have any questions, click on the link: bconklin@horseheadsdistrict.com or call the Athletic Department at (607) 739-5601, x4254.

itslearning Parent Portal

To access 'itslearning', click here <https://horseheadsdistrict.itslearning.com/>. Parent accounts are now functional. Use your parent portal login credentials. Your student can login through their student menu. To view the virtual demonstration, visit our website and click on the District 2020-21 Plan. Scroll down to "itslearning", and click on the link.

COVID-19 Testing

You will be notified of your student's COVID-19 testing date the week prior to testing via email. If you have questions, please call the school at 739-6357. Please be sure your consent forms are signed and returned before returning to school.

Health Unit Notification

During the last marking period of each semester, seventh grade health classes will be studying the Human Physiology Unit. This is an abstinence-based unit which will include the male and female reproductive systems, conception and birth, the risks of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS prevention.

You have the option of exempting your child from the HIV/AIDS prevention information. However, we strongly encourage your child to participate. HIV information must be presented to every child by State mandate. Therefore, it is the parent's responsibility to provide this information which will be included in the Health final. If a student is exempted, he/she is assigned to a study hall and required to do an independent study unit in health.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your concerns before making your decision, call your child's health teacher during school hours at 739-6357.

RETURN THE FORM BELOW IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNIT.

Please note that this information may not be appropriate for younger children. Therefore, we ask that you be mindful who is around your 7th grade student while they are learning this material remotely at home.

Return this portion by January 15, 2021 to the Middle School Health Teacher to exempt your child from instruction in the classroom.



.....



(student name)

Does not have my permission to participate in the Human Physiology Unit and/or HIV/AIDS prevention.

Student: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

School Notes

Progress Reports / Report Cards

Parents are informed of student progress in two ways. Progress reports are sent home with students at the five-week point of each marking period. A report card is sent home with students at the end of the ten-week marking period. We encourage parents to sign-up for Parent Portal to help keep track of your student's progress between the reporting periods.

Distinguished High Honor Roll	95-100
High Honor Roll	90-94.99
Honor Roll	85-89.99
Failing Grade	64.0 or lower in any course

February Report Cards will be available to view online beginning February 3 through your Parent Portal account. Copies will be sent home with students. Report cards for 100% remote students will be mailed.

Important Sports Physical Announcement

Due to COVID-19, NYS Guidelines for sports physicals have been changed. You may now use a sports physical from the last two years (dated 2018-19 or newer). If you have any questions, click on the link:

bconklin@horseheadsdistrict.com or call the Athletic Department at (607) 739-5601, x4254.



Character Trait of the Month Fairness

Treat all people fairly. Be open-minded. Listen to others and try to understand what they are saying or feeling.
Don't take unfair advantage of other's mistakes.
Don't take more than your fair share.



Student Council News

Congratulations to the new officers for 7th and 8th grade!



8th Grade:

President Emma Kamas
Vice President Caitlyn Slavin
Secretary Avi Patel
Treasurer Lauren Tournour

7th Grade:

Vice President Briley Beach
Secretary Grace Stratton
Treasurer Grace Wilson



National Junior Honor Society Hosts Food and Coat Drive

In the weeks leading up to Winter Break, our Student Council held a coat and food drive. In a show of solidarity, all of the Elementary Schools joined in the effort. Collected food items were given to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier for their annual Backpack program. This program provides healthy meals for students when school is not in session. Donated coats were given to Catholic Charities.



Thank You Elementary Schools!

Big Flats
Center St.
Gardner Rd.
Ridge Rd.

**We appreciate
YOU!!**

What is the Backpack Program?

Organized by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, the Backpack Program provides schoolchildren with healthy food over the weekend. Items include fruits and vegetables, proteins and grains to provide nutritional meals when school is not in session. To sign up for the program, or to volunteer, visit the Food Bank's website:
<https://www.foodbankst.org>

Youth Activation Committee

Making a More Inclusive Environment at our Schools

This tireless group is on a quest to make a difference in the lives of Horseheads students. Are **you** ready to join them?



What is YAC? YAC is the Youth Activation Committee and focuses on an inclusive school environment for all students of Horseheads High School and Middle School. What does YAC do? YAC has participated in the Buddy Walk, attended Special Olympics events, participated in the Ridge Road Fun Run, made signs for every fall sports team to sign for the pep rally, set up for the Center Street Fall Carnival, volunteered for Special Olympics practices, attend an Elmira Enforcers game free of charge, bagged Blizzard Bags for the Food Pantry, and made signs for National Anti-bully day. What is YAC going to do? We are assisting with Unified bowling and Unified basketball, we are trying to plan full school activities for the spring, we are fundraising to support Unified sports and plan activities that will be open to the entire school body, we will be attending a full day YAC summit in February to gain new ideas for our school, we will be selling white and blue Unified Raider shirts, and we will send representatives to the NY state Special Olympic games/YAC summit in June. If you're interested in making a more inclusive environment at our high school, please attend our Zoom meetings on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 PM. If you're interested in participating, please email Dr. Alisha Tenbus, PT, DPT at atenbus@horseheadsdistrict.com Check out Unified Raiders on Facebook and Twitter.





Information about Emergency School Closings and Delays

Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or vehicles would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed when inclement weather conditions improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice and freezing temperatures. If the school day is delayed, buses will run and schools will open two hours later than the usual time.

If it is necessary to close or delay schools, the information will be posted on the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, the district's Facebook pages, Twitter and the local television and radio stations. Horseheads schools now uses SchoolMessenger to alert you of school closings or emergencies. Opt-In from your mobile phone: Just send "Y" or "YES" to 67587.

Please be aware that the superintendent may call a remote-learning day, rather than a snow day.

Mock Interviews for 8th Graders

The 8th Grade FACS classes, despite being 100 percent remote, successfully completed the career unit with mock interviews. This year looked a little different as students logged into a zoom meeting with their interviewer. Many companies are going in the direction of virtual zoom interviews so we feel these students have not skipped a beat as far as the valuable experience. We are most grateful to Deb Lynch and the Career Development Council as well as the many willing volunteers that made this possible. Prior to the interviews, students participated in career research, completed a job application and created a resume focusing on their skills. Students also looked at possible interview questions and prepared themselves to answer the questions. Thank you again to everyone that helped us pull this off.

HMS FACS teachers: Ms. Mashanic & Ms. Oliver



Career Development Council

The school district has many career related events including career days, career panels, job shadows, classroom speakers, field trips, and mock interviews. **We are always looking for volunteers** for these events. We are looking for parents, grandparents, other adult family members and friends as well as community volunteers in every career field.

If you feel your career is not of interest or you are currently at home, you may still contribute through mock interviews and other fun classroom events. We will be doing many of these events on-line, but they are still important experiences for the career development of our students. Most events are only an hour or two on a given day, yet **your experience and career knowledge** can deeply influence a child's life, career goals, and future educational path.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can get involved, **please contact Deb Lynch**, the Career Development Representative for the Horseheads School District, at **(607)795-5320** or **dlynch@gstboces.org**.



VISIONS & VOICES

Visions and Voices, Horseheads' district-wide publication of student work, is now accepting submissions. Students and parents/guardians can submit student work including drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture photos, poetry, short stories, comics, etc.

Please send to cbell@horseheadsdistrict.com by March 5. Please include the student's full name, school and grade. If you have questions, contact Mr. Bell, Intermediate School art teacher, at the address above.

View a video about Visions and Voices at this link:



Food Service Office Announces Special Funding Benefit

The district Food Services Office would like to remind all families in need that by way of special funding from the USDA, all school meals will be served at no charge. This includes breakfast and lunch served at school as well as meals delivered home. Every child under 18 is entitled to receive one breakfast and one lunch per day. Additional food items beyond the breakfast and lunch meals in the cafeteria will continue to be available for sale. Questions?

Call (607) 739-5601, x3671

or email dobrian@gstboces.org.

Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School



DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with conflict or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from conflict and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

Source: www.attendanceworks.org

Please Note:

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

Students enrolled in Algebra I, French, Spanish or Studio in Art at the middle school, must meet the 85% attendance rate established by the Board of Education Policy 5100. The full policy can be viewed at our district website under the Board of Education tab or at this link: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/index.cfm>.



Parents and Guardians

You can now take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Horseheads schools will soon use the SchoolMessenger system to deliver **text messages**, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending "Y" or "Yes" by text to our school's short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with **"Stop"**.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#), so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!



Just send
"Y" or "Yes"
to 67587

Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

***Terms and Conditions** – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.



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Pesticide Application

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty and staff, regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Horseheads School District is required to maintain a registry of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are **not** subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application
- Anti-microbial products
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Boric acid and di-sodium octaborate tetrahydrate
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 152.25

The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects, including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets. In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good-faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification registry.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the attached form and return it to Tony Stager, the Horseheads School District pesticide representative at: Horseheads School District, Facilities Services, 507 Fletcher Street, Horseheads, NY 14845. You may also fax this form to (607)795-2595.

Please note: Four times per year via newsletter or equivalent, a written announcement concerning impending pesticide applications, pesticide use, "emergency" applications and any other associated pesticide use will be provided. This will occur at the beginning of the school year, at the end of the winter recess, the end of the spring recess and the end of the school year. Please feel free to contact Tony Stager at the District Safety Office at 739-5601 ext. 4270 if you have any questions or require further information concerning these requirements.

Forty-eight Hour Pesticide Application Prior Notification Form

Is email an appropriate method for notifying you of an impending pesticide application? Yes/No

If not, you will receive a brief notification letter 48 hours prior to an impending pesticide application. Every effort will be made to ensure the notification reaches you 48 hours (or more) in advance of the pesticide application. This time may vary slightly due to postal conditions beyond the control of the district.

Horseheads School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification

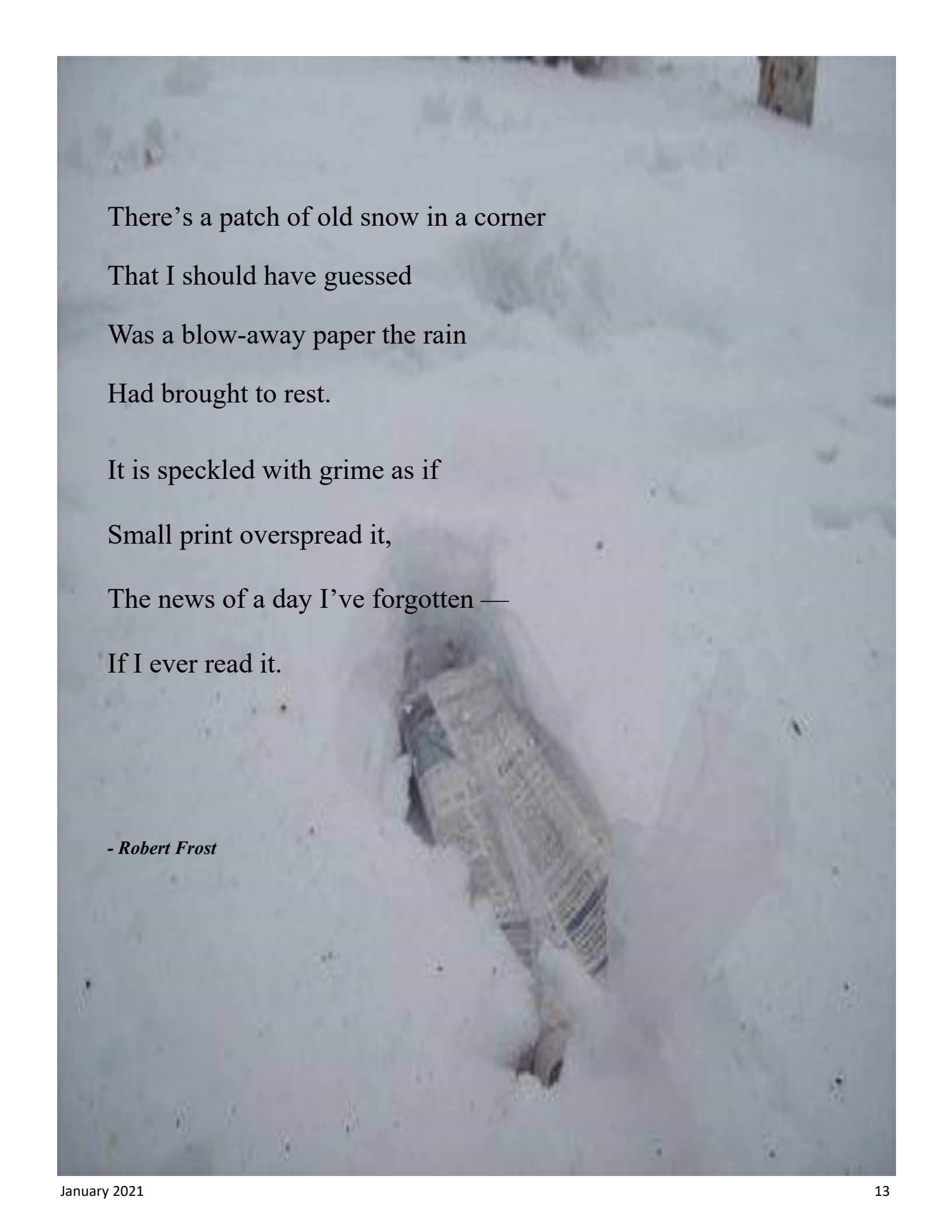
School Building (or field) _____

Your Name & Address _____

Phone or Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Return to the Main Office, or mail to Horseheads Middle School, 950 Sing Sing Road, Horseheads, NY 14845.

A photograph of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, a discarded newspaper is partially buried in the snow. The background is a vast, white, snow-covered field. The text of the poem is overlaid on the left side of the image.

There's a patch of old snow in a corner
That I should have guessed
Was a blow-away paper the rain
Had brought to rest.

It is speckled with grime as if
Small print overspread it,
The news of a day I've forgotten —
If I ever read it.

- Robert Frost



District Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo, at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x 4211 or at cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Middle School Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Middle School is Ron Holloway, building principal. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Mr. Holloway at 950 Sing Sing Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845; 739-6357 x 3640 or at rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Notice

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, 504 Director, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.

Horseheads Middle School:



Home of the Raider way