

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Message	1
Important Dates	2
AP Update	3
Counseling	4
Reading	6
Tech News	7
German	7
Music	8
Digital Lit.	9
Art	10
Phys Ed.	11
PTA	12
Library	13
Team 9	14
5th Grade	15
6th BPR	16
Mrs.	18
Nabozny	
Team 7-1	19
Team 7-2	20
Mrs.	21
Dettbarn	
Health	22
Office	

# Hoover Happenings

NOVEMBER 2017



Wow...what a quick first marking period! Our first ten weeks of school have been jam packed with plenty of school activities. We kicked off our WEB program with our fifth and seventh graders, have had several social and academic follow ups, held our World Cafe where we had school-wide discussions on ways we can boost school pride and spirit, and we participated in Socktober, collecting socks for those in need in our community. We had an incredible Red Ribbon Week, chock full of fun activities like Halloween Dress Up and Buffa-love Day. Later this year, we will plan to take a school-wide H-M-S aerial photo of our entire student population! We also held two of our five parent academies in an effort to work collaboratively with our community and

families, and to provide parent support on topics that are of the utmost importance in regards to the middle school child. For more information on upcoming parent academies, please visit our school website.

Our Open House brought in a tremendous amount of families to our school, with several guest food trucks on the premises for all to enjoy. Our classrooms are buzzing with activity, students are engaged in hands-on work, where using creative thinking and problem-solving skills are a must as we actively strive to prepare our students to be 21st century learners!!!

Our seventh graders were treated to a super Career day, where they were able to meet and ask questions of nearly 50 different careers! This was a great opportunity for our students to begin thinking about the path they will take as they move through their educational paths.

Our PTA sponsored our first school dance on Thursday, November 9th, where fun was had by all. We recognize and thank our fabulous PTA for their diligence and commitment in planning such events for our students!

On behalf of our staff, I thank all of our parents, guardians, and family members for their support of our students and our school. We know, that together, we can accomplish incredible things when it comes to our students...thank you for your commitment to Hoover Middle School!

As we move into the second marking period, please make a note of these important dates for the second marking period.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Carmelina Persico  
Principal



<u>EVENT/ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Grade 7 Scholar Breakfast	November 14—7:45 am
PTA Meeting	November 14—6:30 pm
Grade 6 Scholar Breakfast	November 15—7:45 am
Early Student Dismissal	November 16 & 17—12:00 pm
Parent-Teacher Conferences	November 16 1:00-3:00 pm, 4:00-6:00 pm November 17 1:00-3:00 pm November 20 4:00-6:00 pm
Kids Escaping Drugs	November 21 (Grade 7 Presentation)
Thanksgiving Recess	November 23 & 24—NO SCHOOL
PTA Meeting	December 6, 6:30 pm
Early Student Dismissal	December 7, 12:00 pm
Spelling Bee	December 8—1:00 pm
Winter Concerts	December 11—6:30 pm December 14—6:30 pm December 18—6:30 pm
Winter Recess	December 25-January 1—NO SCHOOL
Classes Resume	January 2
PTA Meeting	January 9—6:30 pm
Geography Bee	January 12—TBD
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 15—NO SCHOOL
Mid-Term Exam	January 16—January 25—During Class
End of Marking Period 2	January 26

## Assistant Principal Updates

On September 29th Hoover Middle School students came together with teachers and administrators to participate in a World Café. A World Café is a protocol tool used to evoke discussions amongst a larger group of people. Students were chosen by their teams and invited to participate in this event.

Students were asked a series of questions about their engagement at school and their thoughts on their social and emotional well-being while attending

school. Students were able to collaborate with their peers and share valuable intel about the mind of a middle school student. Throughout the activity, teachers helped to facilitate the conversations, foster ice breaker activities and enable students to learn about each other as they discussed important school issues. Highlights included a sing along karaoke session, where students sang a variety of songs including “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”! Students were also treated to a special lunch and snacks sponsored by our PTA. The information gathered at the World Café will be used to guide our work with the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention

System) team for the 2017-2018 school year. Already we have used some of the ideas generated to boost student engagement in our planning for the upcoming weeks. For example, our WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) leaders are making posters to hang throughout the school that encourage students to express themselves with confidence and not be afraid to fail. We are hoping to facilitate two more World Café meetings this school year.

-Ms. Jaros

On September 21st, our Hoover Middle School Administrators teamed up with the Transportation Staff to provide targeted professional development to our Bus Drivers. Ken-Ton Behavior Coach, Mr. Tom Horowitz led the charge focused on how to utilize our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) on the bus, embracing it as an extension of school. Tools such as Poll Everywhere, video testimonials, “What do the kids say?”, and interactive activities helped to flesh out our current reality and where we desire to be. The riveting session truly had an impact on both the mind and heart, all under the lens of a safe ride to and from school.

-Mrs. Buffomante



## Counseling Office

The seventh annual Career Day took place on Oct. 25 in the gymnasium. Local professionals representing more than 40 different career areas were on hand to share their expertise with 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Some of the professions represented at the fair were attorney, sports announcer, police officer, border patrol, mechanical engineer, nurse, graphic designer, dental hygienist, veterinarian, accountant, cosmetologist, counselor, culinary arts, welder, physical therapist, chiropractor, athletic trainer, theater arts, high voltage lineman, and photographer.

Students were encouraged to “dress for success” and also participated in a “mystery announcer” contest on the morning announcements leading up to career day where they had to guess which staff member was talking about different jobs or experiences they had prior to working at Hoover.



Students have enjoyed Career Day in the past because of the enthusiasm of the presenters, who often bring interactive displays and are excited about being a part of the program. Prior to the event, students completed a survey and were assigned to their three top career choices. For the fourth rotation, they were encouraged to choose something they knew very little about. Typically, that is where they gain the most knowledge and develop new interests.

Several parents of students as well as Ken-Ton teachers and alumni participated in the event, were complimentary of the program, and eager to participate again next year.

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## Counseling Office, continued...

The intention of the program is to expose the students to as many local professionals as possible, and allow them to experience multiple career pathways in order to assist them in making wise choices for their own careers. Hoover Middle places a great deal of emphasis on its career literacy program, with specific activities such as Career Cruising and Career Day to promote the importance of early exposure, allowing students to think carefully and early about their futures.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, Mrs. Vittum, along with students Kelsey Morrow, Sam Christiano, Charlie Anzalone, Ryan McLaughlin, Jackson Gallivan, and Alyssa Welnowski, attended the Kids Escaping Drugs Leadership Summit at The Chapel at Crosspoint in Amherst. The summit is held every fall and involves a day long workshop on the dangers and consequences of substance abuse as well as the symptoms and trends. Students participate in various sessions where they hear from their peers about the consequences of experimentation and drug use and work together on ways to promote positive choices within the school community. Student participants are encouraged to return to their schools and use their leadership skills to demonstrate a positive impact within their school buildings.



R O A R S





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## HELP? My Child Hates to Read!™

### Ways to Keep Your Middle Schooler Turning the Pages

*Amidst the flurry of friends, homework, and hormones, your pre-teen may not feel like reading. Here are some tips for keeping his or her interest and skills on track.*

1. **Let your child choose what to read.** While you may cringe at his preferences, he may never touch a title if it's force-fed.
2. **Talk about what she reads.** Ask her what she thinks of a book and make connections with ideas or issues that are relevant to her life.
3. **If he's struggling or bored with a book, let him put it down.** Forcing him to stick with a difficult or dull book that's intended for pleasure will reinforce the idea that reading is a chore. Life's too short for bad books! Pick something else.
4. **Subscribe to magazines that will interest her.** Ask her to choose one or two titles and put the subscription in her name.
5. **Be flexible with bedtime and chores when your child is reading.** Within reason, avoid asking your child to stop reading when s/he is on a roll.
6. **Play games that utilize reading.** Word-and vocabulary-building games like Scrabble or Boggle are great, but many board games provide reading opportunities (even if it's just the instructions). Crosswords provide opportunities for learning new words and spelling practice, too.
7. **Encourage your child to read to a younger sibling.** Letting him take over ritual reading at bedtime once a week will ensure he reads something, and he may find his sibling's enthusiasm for stories contagious.
8. **Visit the library together.** Try to make it an event where you share some quality one-on-one time and both choose a few books.
9. **Ensure he has a good reading space.** He should choose where it is, but you can make sure it's well lit and inviting so he stays a while.
10. **Keep up on what she's reading.** If you can, read a few pages of her books yourself so you can discuss them with her.
11. **Suggest books from movies he liked.** He may enjoy getting even more detail in the book.
12. **Listen to books on tape in the car.** If you're heading on vacation, or even back-and-forth to school, try listening to a novel that will appeal to everyone.
13. **Model reading.** Your pre-teen will still follow your reading habits (though she'll never let you know it!) Let her see you reading, make comments, and share interesting passages with her.

**\*\*Try one or try them all! Reading is a skill everyone can improve with practice!**



## Technology News

7<sup>th</sup> grade technology students opened the year by assuming the role of a structural engineer. Students competed in a tower building contest. They learned about structural design, forces, and loads. They built their designs using wooden coffee stirs and came up with some incredibly strong designs! Towers were evaluated using an efficiency calculation which is a comparison between how much the tower weighed vs. how much weight the tower held. Some of the top towers were:

Name	Weight Held	Efficiency
Mariah Huss	520 lbs.	17,618
Richard Janis	542 lbs.	16,515
Elizabeth Mawi	488 lbs.	16,172
Mark Baxter	478 lbs.	15,840
Shealin Bellamy	510 lbs.	15,645

## GERMAN DEPARTMENT NEWS

Guten Tag! from the German department! The students have been very busy working through their first unit where they learn to ask questions and share information all about themselves. At the beginning of the year we made traditional “Schultüten.” These are cones to help make the start of school a little sweeter for German students. Then, we celebrated German American Day by learning about the contributions of several famous Germans and German Americans. We also celebrated Germany’s Reunification Day by learning a little history of the separation of Germany after WWII, and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. For fun, we have watched some German commercials and some videos using the German language. We are planning a late Oktoberfest celebration for some time in November. Students are also preparing for our trip to Frankenmuth, Michigan in June. Frankenmuth is modeled after a typical town in Bavaria, Germany. Our next celebration will be Sankt Nikolaus Tag (Saint Nicholas’s Day) when we will see if St. Nick leaves us any presents in our shoes.



## Music “Notes”



“Music is sounds, beats, and voices molded into a powerful, unique creation of humankind.”- 7th grade Hoover Student

**Did you know?** You can find concert dates, rehearsal schedules, and other important info about the music department by going to our webpage on the Hoover Middle site!

1. Go to <http://ktufsd.org>
2. Choose “**Hoover Middle**” in the SCHOOLS drop down box.
3. Choose “**music**” in the “ACADEMICS” drop down box.
4. You are now on the music page... click on any link that you are interested in!

The music performing groups are busy rehearsing new music in preparation for our December concerts. Mark your calendars to join us... you’re sure to hear at least one of your favorites. We look forward to sharing the talent and creativity of our Hoover musicians with family and friends in our **brand new auditorium!** Concert dates are:

**Monday, December 11th**

6th and 7th grade chorus, 5th grade band, 5th grade orchestra

**Thursday, December 14th**

7th grade band, Glee, String Ensemble, Jazz Band

**Monday, December 18th**

6th grade band, 6th and 7th grade orchestra, 5th grade chorus

\*\*\*All concerts begin at 6:30 PM\*\*\*

**Wednesday, January 31st, 7:30 pm, District Band Concert @ KW**

**6th & 7th grade concert bands**

In general music class, students are showing their creative sides as well! They are playing classroom instruments such as tubano drums and glockenspiels, learning how to read and write music notation, creating original music with small groups, and listening to many styles of music!



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## Digital Literacy Grades 5 and 6



We had a great quarter learning computer skills on both a Microsoft Office and Google Classroom platform. Students are learning how to use Google Drive and Gmail in addition to all of the applications necessary in helping students be prepared to do their middle and high school work in the areas of word processing presentation software, and desktop publishing.

Mrs. Stillman's 5th graders chose a national park, researched the park and produced a PowerPoint set to music. They also created an Animoto video. Check out their final product by going on to the account they created. Mrs. Houck's students chose a state to research and created a presentation using Google slides.

Sixth graders created their own simulated food truck business using Microsoft Publisher to create documents for their projects. To wrap up the quarter, they learned how to create a Photostory using pictures of friends dressed up in costume for Halloween and set the project to music.

Digital citizenship and cyber safety are part of the ten week course as so many students are using social media these days. We feel it is important to focus on using such applications in a positive manner.

# Making



# Photostories



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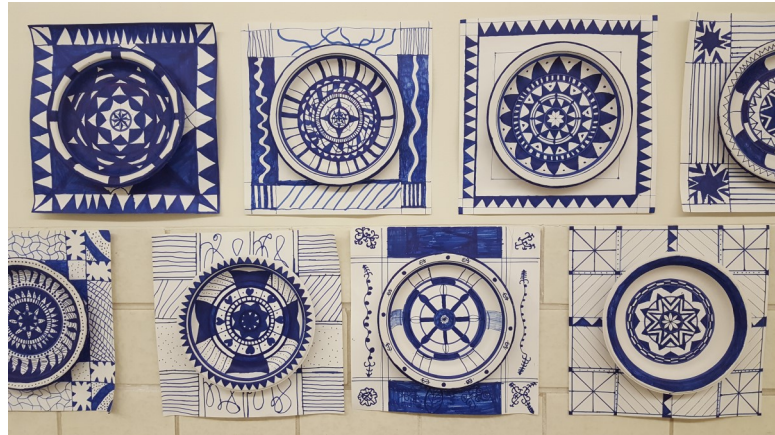


# Art Department Update

There are over one hundred artworks on display in Hoover hallways from all grade levels.

# ART

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## Physical Education

Welcome back! As Mother Nature is cooperating, the Physical Education Department is taking full advantage. The month of September saw students participating in a Football or Ultimate Frisbee unit. We rolled into October by playing soccer. We will be finishing our soccer unit indoors this week.

Next week all students will begin participating in the district wide Fitnessgram. The Fitnessgram test includes a variety of health-related physical fitness tests designed to assess cardiovascular fitness muscle strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Please ask to see your child's fitnessgram report card that summarizes the child's performance on each component of health related fitness.

We will start using the pool after the mid-winter recess (12/19-12/23). Students will be required to have a swimsuit and towel for those classes. We will begin reminding students as the time gets closer.

Please check our website for other important information at [www.ktufsd.org](http://www.ktufsd.org), and email us anytime with any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with your children.

The PE Department,

Mrs. Blaszak, Mrs. Bowers, Mr. DeCarolis, Mr. Mermigas and Mrs. Siegel





Our PTA would like to thank everyone for their help in making our book fair, picture day, and kidstuff book fundraiser a success! With the recent fundraisers we were able to give money to the 5th grade to help offset the cost of their field trip and plan to contribute towards 6th as well. We are also sponsoring the Scholar Breakfasts for our 6th and 7th graders, who have worked so hard to achieve honor roll status during every quarter last school year. Congratulations! A special thank you to Paula's Donuts for their donation.

This is the first year we had a t-shirt design contest for our 7th graders. So many amazing entries were received! It came down to two that the 7th graders chose. Congratulations Joe Covelli and Natalie Gazzo, your designs were AWESOME!! We are proud to offer their designs on t-shirts and hoodies for sale. All money will directly benefit the 7th graders. Thank you Mrs. Indridson for all your help with getting the designs print ready! Thank you Niagara Awards for printing them for us.

Our Neon/Lights Dance was November 9th and it was the highest attended dance yet!! We are so happy to offer the kids a fun, exciting event!

A look ahead...we will host an Applebee's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on February 18th. Our first Meat Raffle/ Basket Auction will be held April 14th at the Knights of Columbus. Many raffles, baskets, Disney Tickets, more! Mark your calendars.

A reminder on a couple easy ways to earn school money:

- Link your Tops Bonus card to Herbert Hoover Middle School
- Shop on smile.amazon.com (same as amazon except we get to keep a portion)
- Donate your bottles at DTCC Recycling at 735 Delaware Rd. (in the UPS/ Mighty Taco plaza) and tell them to put it on the Hoover Middle PTA account.

Thank you for your continued support!!

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## Curl up with a good book!

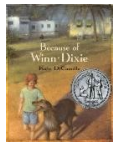
Are you looking for a heartwarming story to read this fall? Then check out some of these great middle school books. All titles are available at the HMS Library, or are available as an e-book on the HMS Library website. For more recommendations, contact Ms. Dempsey at [jdempsey@ktufsd.org](mailto:jdempsey@ktufsd.org)



### **Wonder by R. J. Palacio**

Auggie Pullman, a boy with extreme facial abnormalities, starts fifth grade at a private middle school after being home-schooled for years. Auggie faces his fears about fitting in as he struggles to be seen as just another student in this uplifting story.

*Recommended for grades 4-8.*



### **Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo**

When ten-year-old India Opal Buloni moves to Florida, she's lonely and doesn't know anyone in town. But finding a big, ugly dog in the local grocery store changes her life in unexpected ways.

*Recommended for grades 4-6.*



### **Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech**

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Salamanca and her grandparents go on a road trip to find her. Along the way, Sal tells her grandparents about her friend Phoebe, whose mother also mysteriously disappeared.

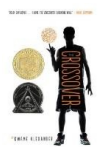
*Recommended for grades 5-8.*



### **Pax by Sarah Pennypacker**

Twelve-year-old Peter rescued his pet fox Pax when he was just a kit. When Peter's father enlists in the military, Peter is sent to stay with his grandfather and forced to abandon Pax. Heartsick over losing his friend, Peter leaves home to find him.

*Recommended for grades 4-7.*



### **The Crossover by Kwame Alexander**

Josh Bell has a talent for composing raps, and he and his twin brother Jordan are kings of the basketball court. But when the twins' close relationship begins to unravel under the strain of changes in their lives, the brothers start to realize life isn't always about winning.

*Recommended for grades 6-9.*

## Team 9 Designs

Our class is creating a wooden block, desk calendar that you keep forever. We are manufacturing these calendars during Technology class. Every morning since the beginning of October we have been working as an assembly line by measuring, sawing, nailing, and sanding. Each product requires 9 individual pieces of pine and oak wood. These "Infinity Calendars" can be yours for only \$10.00. There is a limited amount, so please get your orders to Kristen Coley ASAP! The profits from all of our hard work will be used towards our many fields trips. These trips help us navigate our city and learn appropriate communication skills within our community. Thank you for your support in all we do!

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**\*Special Thanks to the Technology Department:  
Mr. Hillman, Mr. Korniczky, Mr. Novak and to:  
Mr. Downey, Mrs. Skorupski and Mrs. Tuttle\***



## 5th Grade Update

Thanks for your help in getting our 5th graders off to a great start to their middle school career! You can check grades any time using Infinite Campus. Keep reading below to discover updates in each academic class.

### ELA

The 5th graders are really enjoying reading *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. We did a great team building activity based on the book in October. The team building activity helped us look beyond our outward appearance and see what everyone has to offer on the inside. We are also learning about the geography and history of Mexico as we read *Esperanza Rising*, which relates to our SS unit. Students should be reading at home each night to help prepare them for their monthly Reading Counts test.

### Math

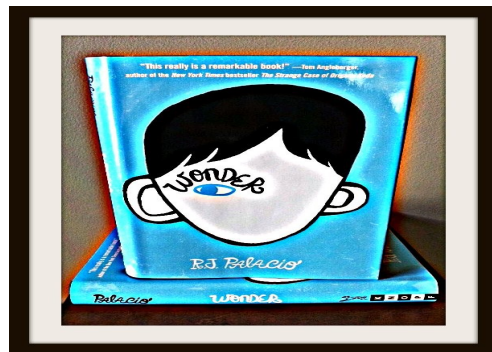
Please encourage your child to turn in the review sheet called Flashback Friday each week in Math. If your child needs extra Math help, encourage them to go online and use Zearn. We are finishing Module 2 on multiplication and division. Module 3 focuses on fractions.

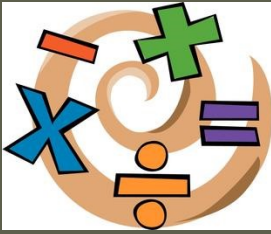
### Social Studies

Students are learning about geography and landforms. They made interactive flip books, too.

### Science

Students are engaged in interactive learning about the physical and chemical properties of matter in Science class.





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Team BPR

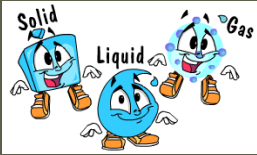
(Butler-Pilato-Roberts)

Autumn 6th Grade News

Getting into the classroom is easy; finding your focus and thrill for learning can be even easier!?! What? It all begins teachers. It is here where the sense of belonging begins. We are not just teaching math, science, social and English language arts; we are teaching character. It is with well-developed character-perseverance, work ethic, ownership, and kindness- that students will be truly successful in their endeavors as they travel through life.

***In ELA classes with Mrs. Pilato*** we are working on finding what we love to read and sharing it with others. We were able to hear a young Taino boy's perspective of Columbus' first encounter in a picture book entitled, *Encounter* by Jane Yolen, while also taking note of the beautiful use of figurative language within. **We have also blogged with our classmates about our independent books and will be blogging bi-quarterly throughout the year!** In September, we wrote a letter (and addressed an envelope) to our future 6<sup>th</sup> grade selves to be read in June. At that time we will be writing another letter to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade selves (which will be stamped and delivered to houses just before school starts for 7<sup>th</sup> grade). We have written an **argumentative essay** on whether cursive writing should be taught in the schools, as well as a **paired collaborative persuasive seasonal essay**. We had a "crash course" in poetry following our descriptive seasonal work, and created some beautiful first images with our thoughts. We have learned some interesting facts about **Greek Mythology and are eager to begin *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan**. At the end of the month we will be reading to our new Hoover Elementary kindergarten buddies too!! As the weather turns colder our sensational skills are only getting hotter! Sizzle-sizzle!

**College and career ready is definitely the goal behind what drives the use of Dell Chromebooks in *Mr. Butler's math classes***. Students are helping KenTon find ways that they can connect math to their digital selves through this yearlong pilot program. Students are using a digital platform, Schoology, to submit assignments, take quizzes, and interact with each other about their work. Transitioning from a strictly paper and pencil format to a mixed format has been second nature for these kids. Mr. Butler hopes to increase engagement in a topic that for some students can be very demanding. So far, signs point in a positive direction as students are giving the new format a thumbs-up. In addition to Schoology, students have been using FrontRowEd.com to help reinforce older concepts learned in previous grades, as well as front-load new math that will be coming at them this year. FrontRowEd.com assesses students' mathematical abilities and places them at a level for any common core standard that they wish to learn more about. As a student progresses, he or she earns coins and is able to shop in the piggy store. The program is very engaging, and even better, produces growth in students' abilities.



## BPR Continued

Sixth grade science focuses on Physical Science in Mrs. Robert's room. The first half of the year specifically focuses on chemistry. So far we have been introduced to the structure of matter and the states of matter. Right now we are working on changes of state. Students are predicting and describing changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance when energy is added or removed. Soon, Mrs. Roberts and her students will be learning about chemical processes and equations. In this unit, we will analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred. We will also be writing chemical formulas and reintroducing ourselves to The Periodic Table of Elements!

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## Social Studies in Mrs. Robert's room



We've been looking at maps and looking way back into the past. We studied **Early Humans** and what they were like during the **Paleolithic** and **Neolithic** ages. We have come to understand the importance of the **Agricultural Revolution** and the significance it has had on our lives. We are just beginning our study of **Ancient Mesopotamia** where the students will learn about the **Sumerian's** way of writing called cuneiform and Hammurabi's

Code of laws. **Hammurabi's code of laws** were written down and posted for all to read. These laws were very strict! The students will begin to understand where the phrase "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" came from!!

Our team looks forward to sharing more of our "adventures in learning" in the winter edition of Hoover Happenings!



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## Grade 6 ELA Mrs. Nabozny

**Rick Riordan is a fantastic storyteller who has given us a front-row seat to Percy Jackson and his quest to return the lightning bolt. His writing has delighted us with powerful storytelling and we have started the school year feeling inspired. Here are a few of our favorite quotes from The Lightning Thief:**

**Nolan Nobile: “Look, I didn’t want to be a half-blood. If you’re reading this and you think you might be one, my advise is: close this book right now.”**

**Leah Schragel: “No gift comes without a price.”**

**Anna Sturmer: “You’re pretty smug, Lord Ares, for a guy who runs from Cupid statues.”**

**Tatyana Kotaska: “I’m not talking about a tinfoil-covered zig-zag you see in a second grade play.”**

**Lucas Kaderabeck: “What ever was in the pit is nobody’s pet.”**

**Max Leaderstorff: “He walked funny, like every step hurt him, but don’t let that fool you. You should have seen him run when it was enchilada day in the cafeteria!”**

**Jayson Kline: “Hey! I screamed waving the jacket and running to one side of the monster. Hey stupid. Ground beef!”**

**Emilija Mirilovic: “We hadn’t taken a shower since Half-Blood Hill, and I was sure that was quite obvious.”**

**JJ Hodges: “Maia! He yelled, but the magic word seemed to have no effect. Maia already! Nine-one-one! Help!”**

**Maximas Schwede: “Can you read this mate? It says, C-H-A-R-O-N.”**

**“Say it with me care- on.”**

**“Charon.”**

**“Amazing! NOW, Mr. Charon!”**

**Izzy Ciotoli: “You could hear spirits pounding on the door.”**

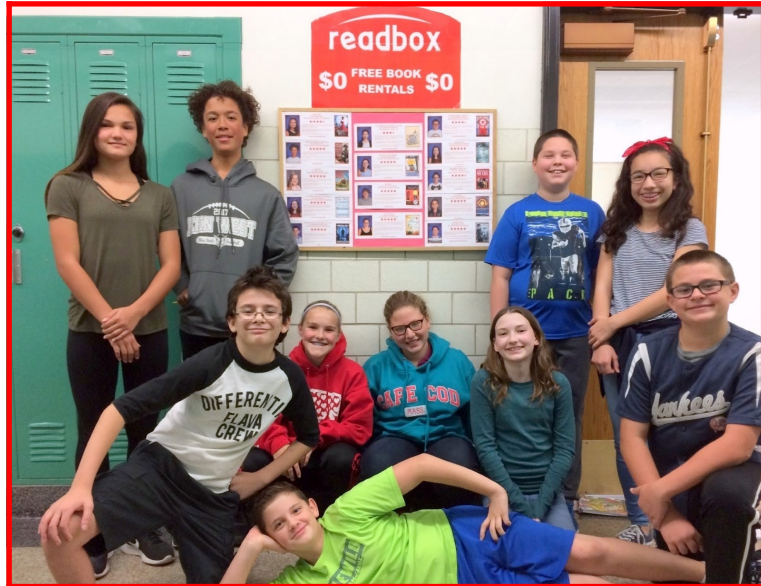
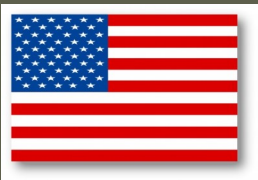
**Mrs. Nabozny: “Humans see what they want to see.”**

**Mrs. Wilkinson: “Even strength has to bow to wisdom sometimes.”**

## Team 7-1 Update



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Student reviewers from Team 7-1 share their book reviews in the team's "Readbox"

It has been a busy start for Team 7-1! **SOCIAL STUDIES:** In Mrs. Halt's class, the students are currently finishing a unit on exploration and starting the next unit, European Colonization in the Americas. They completed an interesting lesson using a variety of children's books on Christopher Columbus. Students had to think critically and make inferences. We have also welcomed a student teacher, Miss Uddin from Buffalo State College. **MATH:** Mrs. Yemma's Math 7 students finished a unit on integers and are beginning a rational numbers unit. Accelerated Math students are in the middle of studying rational numbers. The students have been doing a great job of completing their weekly reviews, getting them checked throughout the week, and earning high scores as a result! **ELA:** Mr. Kleismit's students are reading *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. Keep an eye out for information on a November fundraiser for Water for South Sudan, coming home soon! As students have finished their independent reading books, they have been writing reviews for the team's "Readbox." The student reviews are displayed in the seventh-grade hallway and help others know which books to choose and which books to avoid! **SCIENCE:** In Mr. Spengler's class, the students are in the middle of the astronomy unit. They have learned about the Big Bang and the formation of the Milky Way Galaxy and our solar system; they will be learning about Earth's rotation and revolution, which gives us our seasons, day, and night. They will be also learning about our moon (Luna)—its formation, phases, control of our high and low tides, and eclipses. Students will be doing or have done labs using Vernier Probeware to investigate apparent star brightness, magnetism, and angle of insolation from the sun. Team 7-1 is off to a great start!





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## Team 7-2 Update

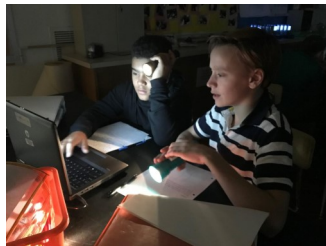
Things have been FALL-ing into place on Team 7-2! **ELA:** In Mrs. Bacon's ELA classes, students wrote children's books to demonstrate their understanding of the literary elements. We hope to read these books to an authentic audience of elementary students at a later date. Also, students are continuing to read their free-choice Scholastic Reading Counts books. Students may submit five-star reviews of the books they have read and loved for the Readbox display in Mrs. Bacon's classroom, to help other students find something interesting to read. Currently, as a class we are reading the novel *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. In the computer lab, students have been building their own Google Tours to go along with the novel to learn more about the countries in Africa where the story takes place. Details will be coming soon about a walkathon that will be held here at HMS to benefit Water for South Sudan, an organization founded by the main character of the novel, Salva Dut. **SOCIAL STUDIES:** In social studies with Mr. Sander, students finished studying Native American tribes of New York State. They are currently working on a project about the Thirteen Original American Colonies. Students have to research life in the colonies and write letters detailing the lives of the colonists. Then, they have to make a map of three different colonial towns. **SCIENCE:** Mrs. Tundo's classes began the year working with the scientific method and the engineering design model for problem-solving. Students designed and built boats that met criteria for buoyancy and for speed. Students are currently studying our solar system and Earth's place in the universe. They will read extensively about how the solar system formed and how models must be used to represent objects in space because of the size and distances that are characteristic of things in space. Soon students will learn about the life cycle of stars and how those are related to the formation of other mysterious objects in space. Students will be choosing a specific object in space to complete research and will create a poster to share with their class. The astronomy unit will also include instruction on constellations, the phases of the moon, and Earth's motion as it relates to our calendar and seasons. **MATH:** In math, Mrs. Cardamone's classes started off the year reviewing various types of fractions and performing operations within them. We just finished the integer unit which involved identifying opposites on a number line, absolute value and adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing integers. During this unit we talked about positive and negative numbers and how they are used to represent quantities in the real-world such as temperature, elevation, credit and debits. Now students are applying everything they learned to adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers.



## Mrs. Dettbarn's 7th Grade Science Classes

Mrs. Dettbarn's 7th grade science classes have been busy exploring measurement, density and astronomy so far this year with hands on, rigorous and engaging activities. In the beginning of the year, students participated in a metric system Olympics competition complete with medals for the winners to culminate our measurement topic. During our study of density, students derived the mass, volume and densities of 9 unknown substances by first hand measurement, made claims about the identities of the substances supported with evidence and then defended their reasoning in a community of their peers. They were surprised to learn the difference between acrylic, PVC and Polypropylene! Recently, students have been engaged in a month long lab tracking the moon phases and explored the characteristics and life cycle of a star by taking on the name of a real star and walking through the stages of its life. Students have been experimenting with gravity by changing the masses of tennis balls and then testing their speed falling to earth as well as calculating their weights on different planets. Classes are currently setting up models of the solar system to observe the rotation and revolution of the earth, explore the seasons, the Earth's night and day and the apparent motion of the sun, moon and stars across the sky. Classes also took some time to explore "spooky science" of mummies and Senegal's Pink Lake with only flashlights around the Halloween holiday. Finally, in October, students learned about the scientific qualities of curiosity and compassion through the contributions of Jane Goodall, Primatologist and founder of the Jane Goodall Institute. The following student scientists who also demonstrate these qualities were recognized: Christian Jagiello, Morgan Nagel, Nicholas Cash, Matthew Rey and Francesca Chimento. Students look forward to learning about more important scientific qualities, contributions of scientists and honoring more student scientists monthly.

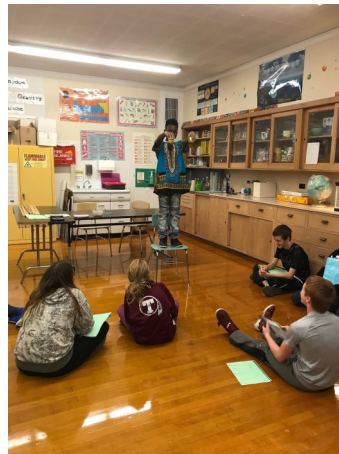
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Spooky Science



Metric Olympics



Gravity Tennis Ball Drop



## From the Health Office

### A few quick reminders from the Health Office:

- All 7th graders are required to submit a physical per New York State Education Law, as well as proof of the Meningococcal vaccine (Menactra). Paperwork was sent home at the end of last school year. If you need additional forms, please contact the Health Office.
- All 6th graders are required to submit proof of the Tdap Booster, and second varicella (chickenpox) vaccine by their 11th birthday per New York State Law Section 2164 (Immunization Requirements for School). Please notify the Health Office as to when your child is going for his/her appointment, or provide a copy of his/her most recent immunization record with the required vaccines.
- Any medicine for school requires a note from your child's healthcare provider, along with a parent/guardian signature. This includes all over-the-counter medicine (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin, cough drops, etc.) & prescription medicine, including inhalers, Epi-pens, etc.. Forms may be obtained from the Health Office or from your child's healthcare provider. Please remember that all medications, with the exception of self-carry inhalers or Epi-pens (self-carry permission must be determined and documented by your child's healthcare provider), must be brought to school by a parent/guardian. Please **DO NOT** send medication in with your child.
- All medical notes excusing your child from physical education must be brought to the Health Office. Copies of the note will be made and given to your child's physical education teacher. Parent notes can be given directly to your child's physical education teacher.
- Please make sure you turn in your child's green health office cards, if you have not done so already. It is important that we have an updated one on file for every student. If there are any changes to contact information, including phone numbers, doctor's office, etc., please notify the Health Office.



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