

Happy New Year, Hoover families! I hope everyone had an outstanding holiday season and that the start of the new year has treated you well.

We have completed the first half of the 2017-18 school year, and are raring to go for the third marking period! We have many events planned for this quarter and we look forward to our students' and your participation.

Our WEB leaders and fifth grade students have been conducting their social follow ups, and most recently created Valentine's greetings for local Veterans. And for our current sixth graders...we will soon begin recruiting for next year's WEB leaders. More information will be shared in the early spring. We are looking for aspiring leaders!

In the next few weeks, our Be The Change Club will be hosting a Kindness Week. Please encourage your child to participate in these great spirit week events...stay tuned for more details! We will also have a school-wide Advisory Period, where each team will recognize outstanding student accomplishments, be it academic, extracurricular, or ROARS-like behavior. Be sure to ask your child all about it!

As you are aware, we recently launched our Hoover Middle Facebook page. This was in large part due to the overwhelming response provided to us by our parents through a survey we conducted back in the late fall indicating your desire to be connected digitally. "Like" our page to see all of the great things happening here at Hoover Middle School!

We have been given a great opportunity for any middle school student wishing to access support in their writing, and we encourage participation. Assistance is being provided free of charge on Saturdays at Kenmore Middle School from 10:00-10:45 in Room 105. Students will need to have their own transportation. You can attend one or all sessions...just show up! The writing center will be open as follows and will address specific topics:

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10: "Writing a Short Story? Know Your Characters!" [Dr. Rita Pollard]**

Great characters are vital to any story's plot and theme. To develop characters effectively, you need to know them intimately. This workshop will lead you through a few brief exercises designed to help you explore and develop a fictional character.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17: “Are You Stuck? How to Avoid Writer’s Block” [Dr. Tom Reigstad]**

There is no need to panic if you get stalled while writing. This workshop offers tips for regaining your momentum and composing rhythm.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21: “How Do I Sound? Developing Your Writing Style” [Dr. Rita Pollard]**

In writing, both *what* you say and *how* you say it matter. This workshop will focus on the *how*—your writing style. We will discuss and practice a few style options that can enhance your writing.

**SATURDAY, MAY 19: “Is Your First Draft Clumsy? Ways to Effectively Reread, Revise and Polish” [Dr. Tom Reigstad]**

Lastly, I am including a list of important upcoming dates...Please make a note of them. Stay warm!!!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Persico

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

February 2	Gerry Starr KenTon Sleep Out
February 7	Early Release Day-Student Dismissal, 12:00 pm
February 9	Advisory Period-Student Recognition on Team
February 15	PTA Meeting & Parent Academy #3 6:30 pm, Cafeteria
February 19-23	Early Spring Recess, No School
March 1	Talent Show Auditions
March 8	Student Early Dismissal, 12:00 & Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00-3:00 & 4:00-6:00
March 14	Talent Show
March 15	PTA Meeting 6:30 pm, Cafeteria
March 23	Game Night 3:00-5:00 pm
March 29	End of the 3rd marking period
March 30-April 8	Spring Recess, No School

