



**Wildcat  
News**  
Hixson Middle School  
Hixson, TN

**Nov/Dec  
2014**

[www.hixsonmiddle.com](http://www.hixsonmiddle.com)

INFORMING HIXSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

# Principal's Corner

Dear HMS Family,

It is hard to believe that the first semester is coming to a close and spring is right around the corner.

There are changes to the TCAP Writing Assessment that impact each of our students. Beginning this upcoming calendar year, all students will take the TCAP writing assessment in February. The assessment will be on a computer using software provided by the state of Tennessee. Students will be required to read a passage and create a written response to a text. They will then read a second passage and answer a prompt comparing the two texts. Students have been working very hard in their ELA classes to prepare for this assessment. If you have additional

questions, please contact your child's reading and/or writing teacher.

Thank you for your support of the Logan's Roadhouse Raise the Steak program. Logan's Roadhouse is discontinuing this program as of the New Year. Our last scheduled fundraiser at Logan's Roadhouse will be Monday, December 15 from 4:00- 10:00 p.m. Your support is much appreciated!

From my family to yours, I wish each of you a very blessed holiday season!

LeAngela Rogers  
Principal



## Music

December was a month of music!

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## The Student Section

Some 7<sup>th</sup> grade poets show off their work!

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*"There are many things in life like God, family, and friends that we can be thankful [for] every day."*

—Wazir Sheikh, HMS Student, page 9

## Veterans Day

On November 11, Hixson Middle joined people around the nation to honor and remember our veterans. On that day, in this year of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War I, students, teachers, parents and veterans gathered in the gym for a program of music, remembrances and acknowledgement of the service and sacrifices of our veterans and their families. We were graced with the presence of distinguished veterans from almost every branch of the military, including one World War II Navy veteran. The Veterans Day program at the middle school is also one of the rare chances to hear from the choirs, the band and the orchestra together. The Star Spangled Banner was particularly lovely this year and featured soloists David McElhaney, LaChae Wilson, McKayla Balckstone and Angela Smith.

Thank you to every veteran who joined us that Tuesday!



## *London Remembers*



Photo from The Telegraph UK

On the same day, Nov 11, 2014, London marked Armistice Day and the 100 year anniversary of the start of World War I with a ceramic poppy planted at the Tower of London for every British soldier killed in World War I, almost 900,000 in total. Over 100,000 Americans were killed in World War I.



Photo from CNN.com

*Did you know we have one of the most outstanding music programs in the area?  
With multiple bands, multiple choirs, an annual musical production and an  
excellent orchestra, our students benefit from all the joy and lessons music instills.*

## Beginning & Advanced Band Middle School Winter Concert



On Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the HMS Beginning Band and the Advanced Band played their winter concert to an appreciative and packed crowd. The music featured lively, popular Christmas music. Congratulations to Mr. Rose, Band Director, and the students! You sounded wonderful.

## All – East TN Middle School Honor Choir



### 2014 HMS ALL-EAST TN MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

Left to Right – Emmy Catlett, Kat Ramsey, Kya Abernathy, Zy'Drea Hunter, Drew Dodge, Connor Mosburg, Anthony Bates, Peighton Roach, Kiya Kellams, Aubrey Chastain, Hali Clark, & Justin Hamilton.

“WE MADE IT TO CARNEGIE HALL!” - Ailey



## MUSIC Continued ... HMS Chorus News

Our FABULOUS Hixson Middle Chorus students wowed the audience at this year's Holiday Concert on December 9<sup>th</sup>! They presented a concert version of Mac Huff's "Forever Christmas, A Warm and Wonderful Holiday Revue" to a nearly full house in the gym!! All choruses filled the gym with the true Spirit of the Season with great songs and solos by Gillian Edelen, Cameron Stargin, Emmanuel Gelpin, Taniya Staten, Cora Yarborough and Tanner Moore! Also, the following 8<sup>th</sup> grade students wowed the audience with their interpretations of the great Christmas characters, Frosty, the Snowman, (ala Elvis Presley), by Zack Rolen, A Country/Western version of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer by Drew Dodge and a "Tina Turner-esque" Suzy Snowflake by Zy'Drea Hunter! The next day our 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade choruses performed for the residents at Morning Pointe. Everyone was filled with the Holiday Spirit!

Our next show is in March, when we will present the Young Performers' Edition of the great Broadway Musical, "Bye, Bye, Birdie"!

### THE 6<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHORUSES SANG AT MORNING POINTE, DEC 2014



## Message from Your PTSA

**Have a safe and fun holiday break. We are looking forward to 2015 and hope you have a Happy New Year!**

SCHOOL CALENDAR



ATHLETICS:

**Reminder –  
All students who  
make honor roll  
receive free  
admission to  
home game  
middle school  
sporting events.  
Come out and  
support your  
school and friends!**

**And watch for our new  
mascot...**



# Wildcat *Sports*

**GO WILDCATS!**



## Basketball

Hixson girls basketball finished their season off with a big win versus Hunter. The girls fought all night to capture the win. This improved their record to 7-7 overall.

Both the girls and boys basketball teams participated in the HCAC tournament. Congratulations!



## Volleyball

Volleyball tryouts will be December 15 - 17 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.



## Soccer

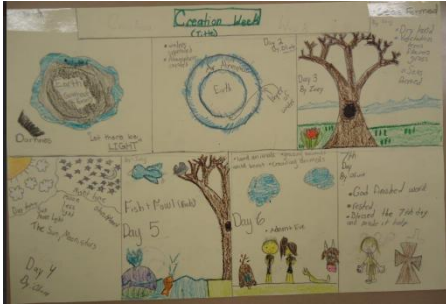
The boys soccer team finished up their season with a hard fought game versus Loftis. They played as a team and never gave up. Your coaches are proud of you. Congratulations also go to Cooper Hamilton on being named to the 2014 HCAC All Tournament Team!

# Academic Update

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Bible History

This is a sample of the Creation Week charts the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Bible class did.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Science

Happy Holidays!

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade scientist have been working hard: they have been learning all about prokaryote cells and eukaryote cells and their organelle. And, they have been working with microscopes to study organism and cells under magnification. At the end of November, they spent two days to the computer labs doing research for their 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter projects: they are so excited about presenting their projects before break.

Ms. McDaniel and Mrs. Hill wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

### Social Studies

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is finishing up with work on Medieval Europe and reviewing now for the 2nd Quarter Finals. We have worked hard the last few months analyzing primary sources and maps to make meaning of world history issues like:

- "How did the Mongols get so powerful?"

- "Why did China isolate itself from the rest of the world after the Ming Dynasty?"
- "Why is the Shinto religion so important to the Japanese?"
- "How do the codes of chivalry and the Bushido (code for the samurai) compare?"
- "What was the Hundred Year War and who led The Crusades?"

Students have used textbooks, primary sources, and other resources to grapple with the question: "Were the Dark Ages really as dark as some historians reported?"

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade are working and thinking like historians.

Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Byars are excited about the newly adopted curriculum in world history. We look forward to moving into the Renaissance and Reformation when we return back from winter break.

Please check Power School regularly to ensure your student is turning in work. Missing assignments can be turned in for late credit.

Mrs. Byars and Mr. Gordon  
7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies

### Writing

In Writing class we are reading nonfiction texts, noticing text structure, determining importance, examining explicit and implicit relationships between ideas, and thinking about the author's purpose. Writers learned how to create an outline and use this plan to write an argument essay. Students learned the difference between reasons and evidence, how to write a strong thesis, and how to write a powerful conclusion.

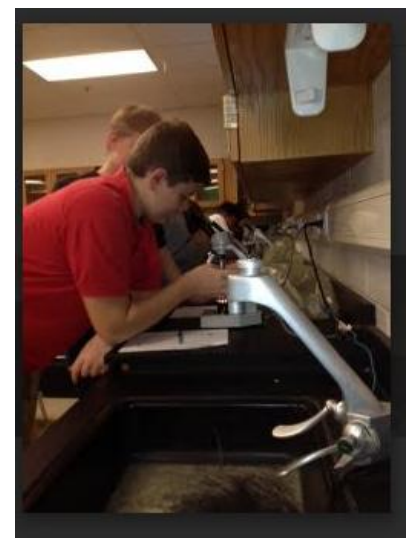
Carrie Bishop, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Science

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teachers are finishing up a unit on Chemical reactions. Mr. Spann and Mr. Lewis have performed several demonstrations and there have also been several hands on labs and activities. We will begin studying acids and bases and magnetism and electricity after Christmas. Our Science exam is on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Photos:



# ART News

There is a lot of awesomeness happening in Mr. Weger's Art Class! The photo of the 3 students and the clay is 6th grade getting hands on with Earth Science and forming pottery and holiday ornaments. The photo of the 7th grade girls are working on this year's Winter Dance backdrop.



## A Featured Student

**“A Christmas Story”  
at the Chattanooga  
Theater Center this  
year has one of our  
HMS 7<sup>th</sup> graders in  
it!**

**Caio Modolo de  
Godoy**

**Bravo, Caio!**



**Caio Modolo de Godoy**



Chattanooga  
**THEATRE**  
Centre

## Activities

### HMS Bowling Club



**Strike!**



### Pep Club

Pep Club is still meeting on Tuesdays after school until 4:00 to make posters and locker signs for athletes during their playing season. It's not too late to join us.

We just finished both basketball and soccer season by attending two basketball home games HMS vs Signal Mt and HMS vs. East Hamilton and one soccer match, HMS vs Loftis. Members are learning chants and cheers to encourage our teams to V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!

We ended this season with a Christmas Party where we played "Chinese Christmas" with wrapped gifts. Fun was had by all! Nothing like getting something you wanted, and having someone else "want" it too. Gifts went around the room and so did the fun!

We will start back after Winter Break on Jan. 13th. Come join us and help us support both our wrestlers and volleyball team!

GIVE ME AN "H",  
GIVE ME A "M",  
GIVE ME A "S"—  
GO HIXSON MIDDLE SCHOOL!!!

### Thank you!

Pictured are 2 of the several Service Learning students that were assigned to Hixson Middle School from August 19th through December 2nd.

They have been a great asset to our teachers and office staff this quarter. Thanks to Suzanne Rushworth, Service Learning Teacher at Hixson High School for sharing your students with us!



**Fruit is in!**

**If your child sold fruit, be sure to come in this week and pick it up.**



# The Student Section

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Poetry  
Thank you to Mrs. Bishop for  
submitting and to the  
students!

## Rain on My Window

Rain on my window  
Dried up by tomorrow  
The sun has taken it away  
And kept them for another day  
Rain on the rooftops  
Dancing with no stop  
Water from the sky  
Landing on the grass  
Rain on the cars  
With all their dirty scars  
Racing down the glass  
Children watch them pass  
Rain on my window  
Gone by tomorrow  
*By Erin Riley, 7th Grade Writer*

## Painting

Brushing up and down  
Moving the paint  
Making the picture come to life  
Is a great delight  
Creating something new  
Maybe a view  
It's a mystery  
From beginning to end  
Until I put my signature  
At the bottom  
Do I get to see  
The beauty of what I did  
*By Mollie Bishop, 7th Grade Writer*

## SNOW

I love snow,  
It's like happiness and love,  
All wrapped in one snowflake,  
The whiteness and sweetness in nature,  
Snow is truly my life.  
*By Bethany Ables, 7th Grade Writer*

## Christmas

Christmas  
It brings joy to the world  
Faces covered in smiles

Christmas  
People gather  
Friends, family  
Christmas  
Lights cover cities and houses  
Christmas trees in windows  
Children anticipating for Santa to bring  
gifts  
Christmas songs and music are played  
Christmas  
A joyful time of the year  
Christmas  
*By Maggie O'Rear, 7th Grade Writer*

## A Genetics Limerick

There once was a man named Mendel  
Who had strength in the realm of mental.  
He planted some peas,  
And now we all see,  
That traits pass through means parental.  
*By Paul Newton, a 7th Grade Writer*

## Hades

The gods of the underworld  
Have many slaves.  
From women to children  
To warriors and braves.

Soldiers and fairies,  
Hellhounds as well.  
An army of corpses  
From the deaths of hell.

Minatours and harpies,  
A cerberas or two  
Lost souls and demons  
Gorgons too.

He has sirens to lure  
Men to those dooms  
Demons for killing  
That hide in the gloom

Mindless and violent,  
The army of dead  
They'll tear off your arms  
And rip off your head.

He feels no regret  
And kills with ease  
The god of the underworld  
The mighty Hades.  
*By Bradley Shropshire, 7th Grade Writer*

## Laughter

ringing through our ears  
rising like bubbly soda  
fills our hearts with joy

*By Sarah Bargerstock, 7th Grade Writer*

## Haiku

The rain falls softly  
The sun starts to shine brightly  
Rainbows are a gift  
*By Silas Minton*

## A student caught reading!



ESL Student Work  
Thank you Ms. Jarrett &  
Wazir for sharing!

## My First Thanksgiving in America

Wazir Sheikh

My name is Wazir Sheikh. I came from Lahore, Pakistan. My family left the country five months ago because there were too many political problems and too much violence. I am twelve years old this year. I read about Thanksgiving and we talked about it in class that I never heard of it before. I learned that Canada and the US are the two countries celebrating Thanksgiving on the different dates.

I never ate turkey before so I was exciting about eating a big bird.

There were about 40 people celebrating the holiday with my family. We had a lot of food. We cooked 3 big turkeys in 3 kinds; traditional American style, barbecue turkey, and Pakistani style. I think Thanksgiving is fun and I like the way family get together to celebrate it. There are many things in life like God, family, and friends that we can be thankful every day.