



Wildcat News
 Hixson Middle School
 Hixson, TN

Oct 2014

www.hixsonmiddle.com

INFORMING HIXSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Corner

Dear Hixson Middle School Families,

It is hard to believe we are well into the second nine weeks and Winter Break is right around the corner. Our students are working hard to achieve their goals this year. Please continue to check their agenda mates and PowerSchool several times per week. This Friday is a scheduled Progress Report day. Make sure you check PowerSchool and sign their 2nd quarter discipline ticket saying you saw their grades.

Thank you for your support of Hixson Middle School at our Logan's *Raise the Steak* fundraiser. We will have a *Raise the Steak* fundraiser every month. Hixson Middle School receives 20% of your

pre-tax dining amount. Please mark your calendar for the following dates: November 10, December 15, January 12, February 9, March 16, April 13, and May 4.

Also, thank you for coming to Literacy Night! We had a great turn out and hope you were able to take the strategies offered to assist your student in their literacy success.

Thank you for your continued support of Hixson Middle School!

It's great to be a Wildcat,
 LeAngela Rogers
 Principal



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 Get the highlights!

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Art Kudos
 Drawing by Charlotte Dickerson

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Literacy Night

Thank you to all the students, families, and faculty who attended Literacy Night. Between 150 to 200 people from the Hixson Middle community packed the HMS cafeteria on Tuesday, October 21, to support literacy and the difference it makes in our lives.

Hooray for Kio! 8th grader Kio Ishii did a wonderful job speaking to the crowd about why literacy is important.

A **big thank you** to our supporters:
Read20 (books and door prize donations)
Hixson MS PTA (snacks)
Dr. Greg Martin, School Board member
Marty Haynes, County Commissioner



For those unable to attend, here is an overview of how you can support your child's success in literacy:

1. Ensure that your child is reading at home every night.
2. Ask questions about your child's reading and writing.
3. Assist your child in choosing appropriate books.
4. Guide your child in using technology to read and write.
5. Be involved: check agenda, develop a schedule, check PowerSchool, visit <http://hms.hcde.org>, read to/with/alongside your child.

Gone now are the free books, yummy cookies and fun door prizes, but some of the memorable messages remain. Hope to see you next year!

Quotes from Literacy Night

"My life would be boring [without reading]...Read, Read, Read!"
- Kio Ishii, 8th Grade HMS

"Make your own little book club, read the book, watch the movie together."
-- Ms. Keck, 8th Grade Teacher

"Ask better questions [about the books your child reads] to get the conversation going."
-- Ms. Bishop, 7th Grade Teacher

"Spark conversation, start connecting more...ask 'how was your reading life today?'"
--Ms. Thacker, 7th Grade Teacher

"Students can use the Chattanooga library, our [HMS] library and the classroom library."
--Ms. Bailey, 6th Grade Teacher

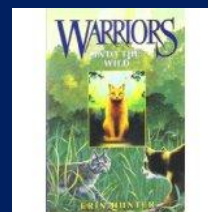
"Read to, read with, read alongside your child [they are never too old]."
--Ms. Holloway, HMS Instructional Coach

Free Digital Books!

There are many ways to get free digital copies of good books. Your child's new Chattanooga library card gives him or her access to a digital library where you can check out ebooks and audio books in multiple formats. It is quick, free and easy. You can find the Chattanooga digital library link on the library website.
<http://chattlibrary.org/>

Project Gutenberg. This project posts many classic titles in their entirety online for free download and reading. You can find Treasure Island, Anne of Green Gables, The Secret Garden, Robin Hood, Charles Dickens, Jane Austen and many more. Any book that is in the public domain is likely to be there for your child to read.
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/>

Amazon. Did you know your child can read Kindle books without a Kindle? There are free apps so your child can read on a tablet, smartphone or computer. In addition to Kindle library books (from the Chattanooga Library), Amazon always has a selection of Kindle books for free. Right now *A Quest of Heroes* by Morgan Rice and *Warriors #1* by Erin Hunter are both free in Kindle format from Amazon. It changes often so keep looking for a good book.



Literacy Night Photos



Library News



The Chattanooga Public Library cards have been given out to all students who turned in a permission slip to Mrs. Oesch. If your child did not receive a public library card and you would like them to have one, please have them see Mrs. Oesch in the library for a permission slip. This is a wonderful partnership with the Chattanooga Public Library and we want all students who would like a public library card to have one!

If parents have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Mrs. Oesch at [423-847-4810](tel:423-847-4810) ext. 243 or email her at oesch_e@hcde.org



Message from Your PTSA President

Greetings Hixson Middle School Families:

Thank you to everyone who turned out for Clean and Green Day on Saturday, September 20. We weeded, we spread mulch and we regouted the bricks. Take a moment to admire how great your school is looking. A very special thank you goes to CTR Construction for their donation of mulch and to Home Depot for their donation of sand. It was terrific to see kids from Pep Club volunteering.

Our Halloween dance was a giant success. The kids put great effort into their costumes and looked awesome. Congratulations to Jack Julian (8th), winner of the best costume boy prize, and to Taylor Milliron (6th), winner of the best costume girl prize. The parents in the Haunted Locker did an outstanding job. Kids could not wait to get out and then could not wait to go back through.

Thank you also to families who contributed food for school events, especially for parent/teacher conferences and Literacy Night, and to those who donated much needed microwaves for the cafeteria.

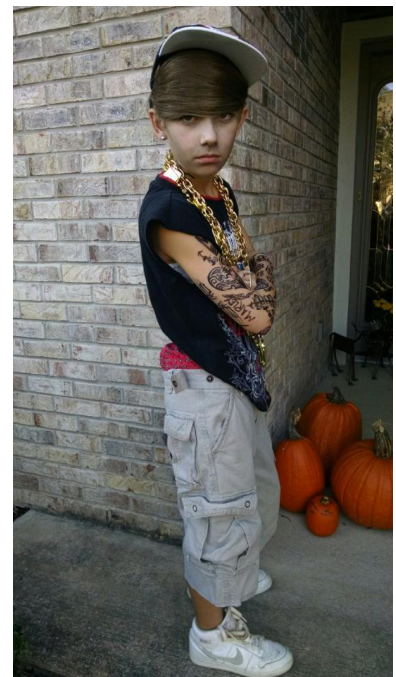
With the funds we raised last year, we were able to purchase one smart board for a classroom currently without one. We are also contributing to the purchase of a wildcat mascot costume to be worn by a student at future sporting events and assemblies.

The Wildcat Crawl, which was on the calendar for Nov 8, has been cancelled for 2014, but we hope to reschedule in 2015.

Make sure to friend us on Facebook at "Hixson Middle PTSA" and also check us out on the Hixson Middle School website at hms.hcde.org.

We appreciate everyone who made our membership drive so successful.
Sincerely,
Sheila Rector, PTSA President

Have a safe & fun Halloween!



Taylor Milliron
Best Girl Costume
(voted by students)

SCHOOL CALENDAR



ATHLETICS:

Wildcat *Sports*

GO WILDCATS!



Football & Cheerleading

8th grade players and cheerleaders were honored at a recent HMS football game. Also in attendance was an HMS pep band led by Mr. Rose.



Softball

Congratulations to Makayla Packer for making the All County Softball team!

Cross Country

It was a great season for the Cross Country team! 8th grader Jordan Lewis was recognized at the HCAC tournament for finishing in the top 15 in the county!



Soccer

Congratulations to the boys' soccer team for the win against Hunter. Cooper Hamilton and Aaron Duke scored 2 goals each and the defense led by Pablo Ramirez held strong in a 4-0 shutout. Christian Hedges had 9 saves in goal!

Archery

The HMS Archery Team will begin Nov 4 after school. Permission forms must be in to Coach Lewis before Nov 4.



T-shirts are currently on sale to support Paycen Higdon, an HMS student recently diagnosed with cancer. The T-shirts will be on sale in the cafeteria during lunch from Oct 27 – Nov 7. The cost is \$20 per shirt and a portion of each sale will go to Paycen on his road to recovery. Payment due at the time the order is placed.

Thank You!

Academic Update

6th Grade

Writing

This quarter, 6th grade students will be working on persuasive essays. Persuasion is at the core of American society. It is imperative that citizens are able to recognize persuasive techniques, make informed decisions based on sometimes complicated rhetoric, and frame their own arguments in a way advocates for themselves and for causes and ideas they find important. The very framework of American culture is rooted in persuasive argument; there is no more American ideal. To that end, 6th grade writers will focus on learning to craft their own arguments, about issues that are at the forefront of their lives - issues like bullying, peer pressure, friendship, and social media. Middle school students have a wealth of opinions about a variety of things and many times they feel that their ideas are not heard. The persuasive unit will encourage them to raise their voice, support their ideas with logic and reason, organize their thoughts effectively, and acknowledge counterclaims, and develop conclusions that come from reflective thinking and understanding.

Students will begin by brainstorming ideas about what issues are important to them. They will then develop these ideas, making a claim and focusing on a small moment in their lives that might related to and lend support to its legitimacy. They will study mentor authors to learn how to appropriately construct their arguments by mimicking the

techniques of master persuasive writers. Students will learn how to find evidence for their claim, determining the best way to connect it with their thinking and strengthen their ideas. They will learn to organize their essays, to inform the audience at the beginning and leave them with a lasting impression.

Each of these steps will further student understanding of persuasion and allow them discover much about themselves and what matters to them. They will be taking their first steps into joining an American tradition.

Social Studies

As we study Ancient Egypt, Ancient India and Ancient China during the second quarter, investigation will be made into evidence archaeologists and historians used to determine the economic environment of Kush and Egypt. Some exciting activities to look forward to include working with, digital collections of Egyptian Pyramids, such as touring 3-D images of the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza and interactive historical maps. Pyramid Texts on the wall of the burial chambers and creating advertisements relating to mummification will also be explored. Excerpts such as those from The Upanishads and Buddha's lessons will be incorporated.



Reading

Our 6th grade readers have been learning to notice and reflect on characters' inner strengths and

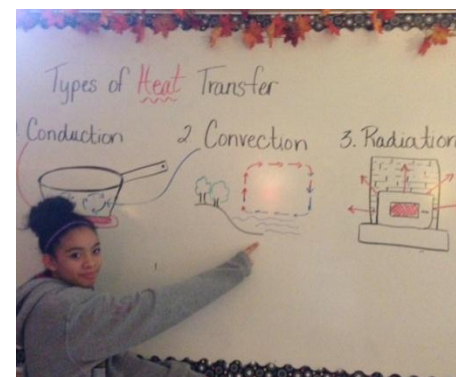
weaknesses, recognize characters' perspectives and motivations, and analyze how characters change and learn. They have also been further developing their understanding of plot and theme. These skills and strategies will be needed as we move into non-fiction literature.

Most people are curious about the lives of others, from historical figures to today's athletes and stars. Students will have the opportunity to peek into the lives of many fascinating people through biographies and autobiographies, journals, and memoirs. They will analyze how these individuals have developed and identify examples and anecdotes from the text. They will also determine the theme, or central idea, through the details about a key individual. Through this biography unit, students will be able to deepen their understanding of character development, motivations, and perspectives while learning about some very diverse and often intriguing people.

Science

Thing are "Heating Up" in 6th grade Science. We have been learning about how heat is transferred from one object to another. How the uneven heating of the Earth's surface causes local and global winds.

We will be learning next how heat causes ocean currents. Let us "wave" you good bye for now.



Bible History

A new group of students arrived recently for 9 weeks of Genesis. We just finished making "How we got the Bible" charts. Charts are being put on the wall. Our next project will be to make creation charts (working in pairs). This is based in the account found in Genesis chapters 1 and 2.

7th Grade

Science

Wow, the new quarter is already upon us, and we are working diligently to be the best scientist we can be. The study of motion, speed, and acceleration in conjunction with velocity have taught us that while these concepts sound simple, they are really very complex. For example, average speed is a combination of all our rates of speed during a given time averaged; however, if we add a direction, it becomes velocity. It was very interesting listening to an Indie race car driver explain how they use velocity to improve their turning rates in a race. We are learning how Newton's three laws of Motion are building blocks to the study of physics and how the world around us works. The month will be closed out with applying these concepts to the understanding of how simple machines work, being able to identify them and how they make our lives easier.

Social Studies

7th grade students in World History/Social Studies had an exciting 1st quarter. We now have moved into studying Imperial China. Students are analyzing the geographic, political, economic, social, and religious structures of the civilizations. Next, we move to Japan and then wrap up our 2nd Quarter exploring The Middle Ages of Western Europe.

Please continue to check your student's agenda for daily homework assignments. Thank you for your support.

Writing

7th Grade Writing Workshop
In Writing class we are exploring ways to develop our thinking and increase our pleasure in, and fluency with, writing about reading. Students have been practicing expressing their ideas and supporting them with text evidence by writing and talking. As a culminating activity, students will respond to literature in creative and innovative ways. Projects are due November 5th! The instructions for this project can be found on the school website, at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/udh8aauvyary1bf/Writers%20Respond%20to%20Literature%20in%20Creative%20and%20Innovative%20Ways.docx?dl=0> and each student was given a paper copy in class. Please contact Mrs. Bishop at Bishop_C@hcde.org with any questions.

Bible History

We recently studied about the Children of Israel experience as journeyed to Mount Sinai. Students recently sketched and colored pictures. One was Moses on the mount with Aaron and Hur holding up the arms of Moses while the people under Joshua fought against the Amalekites. The next scene was Mount Sinai on fire when the God of the Hebrews came down and talked with Moses. The illustrations were to be according to what was recorded in Exodus chapter 19. These have been put on the wall. We looked at some on-line pictures of this to see how they were different and how they were the same compared to the description given in the Bible.

We have started to study the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20 thinking about modern day situations.

8th Grade

History

Eighth grade U.S. history classes are in the middle of studying the American Revolution. We are completing activities which investigate the meaning of parts of the Declaration of Independence. Also, students are learning about the major battles of the Revolutionary War and how the Patriots eventually won the war. As the year progresses, please consider visiting some of the historic sites in our area so that the student's study of history may be further enriched. Please see www.henderson-history.weebly.com for suggested sites in Tennessee and North Georgia.

Math

Quarter 2 has begun and the graphing commences. Graph paper will be a must in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3. Be sure to check Edmodo for homework, notes, links, and tests. Math is practice and practice makes perfect! We just started our Math Curse project. Each student has a different due date that was written in their agendas. This is not a project that can be done in one or two nights; do not procrastinate!

Science

In 8th grade Science, Mr. Spann and Mr. Lewis are teaching states of matter and elements, compounds and mixtures. There will be several interesting demonstrations in both classes as well as some hands on experiments and activities.

Stay tuned for news about the 8th grade Career Crunch field trip. This is a great way for 8th graders to

begin thinking about future professions, education and what it will take to achieve their professional goals. Permission slips should be given out in the next few weeks.

Bible History

We just finished studying some of the miracles of Jesus. Students selected one of the miracles to illustrate as a picture (giving appropriate information). These will be put on the wall in the classroom. Our current studies are the teachings of Jesus of which some are recorded in Matthew chapters 5,6,7. These are referred to as the "Sermon on the Mount."



Congratulations to the HMS Chorus for a terrific concert!



Clubs & Activities

Technology Student Association

Hixson Middle School's **Technology Student Association, TSA**, is looking for members to participate in Tennessee TSA's Regional and State Conferences. Students who participate will be given the opportunity to display their leadership and technological knowledge and skills in representing Hixson Middle School, Chattanooga, and Hamilton County.

Members are needed who have at least a 2.0 grade point average without any grades that is D or below; who have not been suspended; who are in good standing with their teachers and administrators; and who will be able to attend TSA meetings after school.

There is a **\$15** membership fee for all students that must be submitted for state and national affiliations.

Please contact Mrs. Bulls for additional information at **847-4810**, extension **261** or bulls_beverly@hcde.org.

Student Council

Anyone who submitted an application is approved pending grades. We have voted on the new t-shirt and the activities that we will be involved in this year. Join us! The membership fee is \$20 which pays for t-shirt, national dues, and state dues. Upcoming events will be held in December. We are still looking forward to our first leadership conference coming soon.

Congratulations also go to student Charlotte Dickerson whose drawing was selected by the Lions Club. Thanks to all HMS students who participated.



The Student Section

Big Fun – the 2nd Annual Wildcatpalooza!

