

HACKETT HEADLINES

“Teaching, Learning and Achieving Together . . . Embrace the Dream.”

45 Delaware Ave.
Albany, New York 12202
Phone: (518) 475-6475

Principal’s Update

Happy New Year to all! We are already in the month of January and winter has only just begun! Please be mindful that during inclement weather, it is important for our students to dress in layers and bundle up well. The second semester is about to begin and although the school year is half over, there is still much to do. With that in mind please continue to remind your children how important it is for them to continue to focus on academic achievement. We are now focusing on preparing all students for the New York State English Language Arts and Math examinations coming up in the spring.

The annual district-wide Spelling Bee was held here at Hackett Middle School on Tuesday, January 8th, 2013. Our own 1st place winner, Alani Roc, competed against other Albany City School District building winners for the district title. We are pleased to announce that Alani Roc placed 2nd in this competition, and she and five other students will go on to represent the district at the Palace Theatre in March.

The month of February promises to bring several exciting activities for our students, staff and families including our Valentine’s Teen Night on Friday, February 8th and our Mid-Winters Feast/Black History Month Celebration on February 12th, 2013 at 6:00 pm. We will enjoy a brief Black History Celebration in our auditorium and then fellowship in the cafeteria with a full dinner. The second marking period will end on January 25th and we will then begin our second half of the school year. On Wednesday, February 27th, we will host a morning ceremony celebrating our 2nd Quarter Honor Roll students beginning in the Auditorium at 8:30 am. Please also be mindful that we will have winter recess February 18th-22nd.



February/March Events:

Feb 6	PTA Meeting	Mar 1	Science Fair
Feb 8	Hackett Valentine’s Teen Night	Mar 1	Third Quarter Interims – Grades Close
Feb 12	Mid-Winters Feast/Black History Month Celebration	Mar 6	PTA Meeting
Feb 18-22	WINTER RECESS	Mar 7	College and Career Fair
Feb 27	Honor Roll Ceremony	Mar 9	NYSSMA at HMS
Feb 28	Science Fair	Mar 13	All City Chorus at Myers
		Mar 20	All City Band at Myers
		Mar 27	All City Strings at Hackett
		Mar 29	NO SCHOOL – GOOD FRIDAY

Guidance Corner

As we conclude the first half of the school year, these are a few upcoming events/dates to keep in mind:

- The 2nd Quarter ends on January 25th, so you should expect your child’s report card around February 5th. If you do not receive a report card after that date, please contact your child’s counselor in the guidance office at 518-475-6486.
- Our 2nd Quarter Honor Roll Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, February 27th at 8:30 am in the auditorium.
- All 8th grade students will be meeting with their counselors over the next several weeks to discuss and choose classes for their 9th grade year at AHS. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact your child’s guidance counselor.
- Students 14 years or older are eligible for working papers. Please see Ms. Brown in the guidance office for an application.

If you have moved, please update your address at Central Registration located at 75 Watervliet Avenue. This will help with keeping our lines of communication open at all times.

Always remember that no concern is too small and any way that we can help regarding your child is just a phone call away. We look forward to working with you for the remainder of the school year.



The Hackett Headlines will be sent home to you each month, so keep an eye out in your child’s backpack! In addition, each month’s issue will be put up on the school’s website: <http://hackett.albany.k12.ny.us/>



Ms. Kelly: English Enrichment

We are learning and analyzing how to read magazines, as well as how to write a magazine article. Please buy or subscribe to a favorite magazine to encourage reading!!

Science

Parents and family are welcome to join us for the science fair after school on February 28th and March 1st to celebrate our students' hard work and accomplishments. Hope to see you there!

Mrs. Webb: Math

The students are working on algebraic equations and how to solve these problems in real world applications. Our next unit will be on graphing.

Ms. Vacca: English Language Arts

The 6th graders are hard at work writing their feature articles. We have been researching a topic of interest on the Netbooks and should be finished writing our articles in the next couple of weeks. The students are adjusting well to the transition of teachers. We are looking forward to having a great rest of the month!

Ms. Van Dyke: Social Studies

We are studying the beginnings of the world's three main monotheistic religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Students will look at how religion has had an effect on history, and the development of civilizations. We will then study the civilization of ancient India: studying the geography, history, government, economics, and culture of that region.

Science Club

In 7A Science Club, we have been creating beats and science lyrics. We have created replicas of Adinkra symbols from Ghana, West Africa and have learned about their meanings. We have also created our own symbols and have given them meaning. We made stamps out of all of the symbols and had the opportunity to Adinkra Stamp our Hackett T-Shirts in our own Hackett style. In addition, we are learning about Kente Cloth, we had the opportunity to weave, and we are maintaining our Ghana-Hackett Connection with Enoch and his students at the Ayeduase school in Ghana. We have learned to positively critique our own work and the work of others. For the rest of the year, we will learn about making a radio show and will make our own radio show of investigative and educational reporting with interviews of adults and students on science topics, especially those related to human impact on the environment, in addition to the relationship between science and social issues.



The science club with Mrs. Carey

Team 7A

English

We are currently working on our nonfiction unit. We are reading *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary* by Walter Dean Myers. We are working on skills such as clarifying words; connecting text to self, media, world and text; predicting; and summarizing. We are working extremely hard on pulling evidence from the text to support a claim. The students are running on a 5 day cycle and every 5th day they have a short test including vocabulary and an extended response. From here, we will transition into looking at literary elements in both fiction and poetry. So far we are off to a great start for 2013!

Math

Over the past few weeks the students have been learning about proportions and how they are useful in everyday life. Some examples include calculating unit rate, percentages, discount, commission, interest, tax, and tip. The students will be taking their post-test at the beginning of February.

Science

Our current unit in 7A Science is Cells and Levels of Organization. We have been studying cell structure and function, levels of organization, homeostasis, microscope, photosynthesis, and cellular respiration. Our next Unit Test is 2/13/13.

Team 7B

PAGE 3

ELA

This month in ELA, we are finishing our nonfiction, social justice unit using primary and secondary sources from World War II. Students should select their next book to read at home. Their quarter three book project will be due on March 21st.

Science

In 7th grade science we have finished our unit on Chemistry and have moved on to topics in Biology. We are starting with learning about the cell and the proper use of the microscope. Our next Post-Unit exam will be on Wednesday, February 13th.

Starting in the 3rd quarter, we will be starting an after-school club that will be working to re-use electronics and creating radio technology. This club is being organized by Ellen Foster, a graduate student at RPI, through the Triple Helix partnership between Hackett and RPI.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you have any questions for any of us, you can reach us at the following e-mail addresses:

ELA: Ms. Howard- choward@albany.k12.ny.us

Ms. Lydon- jlydon@albany.k12.ny.us

Math: Mrs. Bennett- tbennett@albany.k12.ny.us

Science: Mr. Hutchins- jhutchins@albany.k12.ny.us

Social Studies: Ms. Hogan- shogan@albany.k12.ny.us



Team 8A

AIS

In Miss Stone's AIS 8A we are focusing on improving fluency and comprehension through various reading and writing exercises. As a result of hard work, we are gaining more confidence in reading! I'd like to remind all students and parents that AIS 8A reading homework is 20 minutes per night, Tuesday through Thursdays with reading codes and reflections. In Writer's Workshop, we are finishing up our Informational Books and Presentations. I'd like to commend all students for working very hard for the past 5 months! Keep it up. Hard work will pay off!

Science

Dear Parents,

As you may already know, I have just recently become your son or daughter's science teacher in 8th grade. I was previously teaching Science 6 here at Hackett. I am very excited to get to know the 8th grade students and support them as they learn, grow, and strive to achieve great success.

We will be covering many interesting topics both in Living Environment and Science 8. Students can expect to take part in many demonstrations, hands-on activities, labs and group work as they investigate and learn about science. I will also be available for extra help after school during the extended day program every Thursday. Other extra help arrangements can be made as well.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your son or daughter's progress in science, please feel free to contact me. You can also stay current with what we are doing in class as well as homework assignments on my class website- www.sciencewithmrascher.com

-Mr. Ascher

Save the Date!

Join us on February 6th from 5:30-7:00 in Hackett's Library. Get to know the ELA and Math Common Core Learning Standards through games and conversations. Snacks will be provided!

**Research at your fingertips**

Are you looking for quality information to support your research? Try one of our subscription online databases available at <http://hackettlibrary.wikispaces.com>. Online databases provide users with access to hundreds of peer-reviewed and scholarly articles from magazines, newspapers, multimedia and other reference resources for research. There are some great benefits to using online databases:

If you have a computer with internet access, then you can access them any time or anywhere with login information.

They are free of advertisements or commercials, so there are no distractions.

They provide quicker up-to-date information than a printed book.

You will also find that many online databases provide a citation generator, which is helpful when creating a work cited page.

For login information, please contact Mrs. Greenaway in the library.

Building-Wide Mathematics with Ms. Netter

Happy 2013! Students at all grade levels are working diligently to meet the demands of the new Common Core Math Standards. We have roughly three months until the new Common Core Mathematics Assessments; they will be administered April 24th through April 26th.

Algebra is a major focus in the new grade 6–grade 8 curriculum. Currently, 6th graders have begun an extensive unit involving expressions and equations. Ask your 6th grader to show you how to follow the Order of Operations to evaluate a numerical expression. 7th grade students are wrapping up their current unit by working with percents. Using equations and proportions to solve percent problems reinforces the proportional thinking that they have developed. Ask your 7th grader to help compute discounts and sale prices when you are out shopping together! 8th grade students are moving into a unit on functions, after having spent a couple of months on linear equations and systems of equations. This function unit will allow students to apply what they have learned about linear equations, as well as give them an opportunity to explore other types of relationships.

Our Problem-of-the-Month for December required students to create a colorful design on grid paper, while meeting mathematical criteria involving perimeter, symmetry, fractions and percents. It was a fun way to tie together art and math. Congratulations to all students who entered a design in the contest!

The following participants were contest winners:

Jeremiah Byers (Grade 7)

Jennifer Powell (Grade 6)



FACS

As we wind down the 1st semester of FACS for 6th and 8th graders, we are working on some real life skills that our students will use many times in their future lives. In 6th grade we are working on some basic sewing stitches: the stay stitch, pearl stitch, and chain stitch. We talked about why students may need to use these stitches. Students said they could repair seams that come apart or basic hems, and some believed they could fix a torn book bag. With our last few weeks we intend to use the stitches we learned to make a small pillow. Students will be able to bring them home when complete, so look for them. Our 8th grade students have been working on Nutrition and Food Prep since before the holidays. We have been teaching about the MyPlate food guidelines, creating grocery shopping lists based on feeding a family for 1 week, learning about cholesterol, food and kitchen safety, and label reading. We have been working in the food lab preparing some basic foods, learning how to measure and follow a recipe, and making foods from scratch. We have made egg omelets, tacos, healthy snacks and cookies. As FACS is a 1/2 year course in both 6th and 8th grade, they will have completed their requirements for this year. 6th graders will receive another 1/2 year when in 8th grade to give them the required amount of the course for middle school.

Faculty Member of the Month!

"A part of kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve." -Joseph Joubert

Markeith Brown, a school counselor, was nominated by Hackett Middle School faculty for his positive attitude, new initiatives, dedication to student's success, support of other staff, being a great role model, and going above and beyond. When he is not at work you can find him hanging out with his family, watching horror movies, playing video games, and playing with his puppy. Mr. Brown's favorite thing about Hackett Middle School is its diverse population of students. Can't think of the name of the actor from a recent movie you saw? Ask Mr. Brown! He knows a lot of pop culture trivia and is great at remembering actors, movies, and singers. He enjoys cooking, baking, sports, video games, and movies. Mr. Brown's favorite subject in school was social studies and his favorite book is *Flat Stanley*. His parents are his biggest inspiration because they taught him how to make good choices and to avoid peer pressure.



Technology

Mr. McNally's Technology classes spent the last rotation in the computer lab learning about Computer Aided Design using the Autodesk Inventor parametric 3D modeling software - the same software used in industry to design products for manufacturing! - as well as about image manipulation using GIMP, a free, open-source image editing software. We are spending our last two weeks of Technology class in the shop completing a wood project - the 7th grade students are creating a flying toy called a "Puddle Jumper," while the 8th grade students are creating a project of their own design. I hope you've enjoyed Technology this semester!

PAL Extended Day Program

The Extended Day Program is currently mid-way through its second session. This session has ushered in new programs including bowling, swimming, JUDO, and babysitting certification. As we look forward to planning for the third and final session of the year, we want to remind students and parents that the program operates Monday thru Thursday, 3:00 pm-5:30 pm. Dismissal takes place between 5:15 and 5:30 pm in the cafeteria. It is important that all students report to the cafeteria upon dismissal so an accurate account for students can be made. By doing this we ensure the safety of all the students and faculty within the building.

Hackett Middle School was awarded a \$250,000 College Access Challenge Grant for the 2012-2013 school year. The CACG provides funds to offer 7th and 8th grade Hackett students daily afterschool programming in the areas of Academic Support, College Connections; College and Career Readiness and Apprenticeship experiences. The CACG will supplement the existing Extended-Day program by providing structured college and career access and readiness activities for students and families, as well as supportive transitional activities for students moving up to AHS in September 2014. As part of the CACG, Hackett Middle School will work in collaboration with Siena College, the University at Albany, the Lark Street Bid and SEFCU to meet these after-school expectations.

All students are encouraged to participate in the Thursday college and high school prep program. In session three we will begin career exploration and will take students on a journey through various careers and trainings. **If you have an interesting career or know someone who may be interested in talking to our students about their career**, please contact Justine Rosen by calling the main office and asking to be transferred to her office, or by emailing jrosen@albany.12.ny.us.

Other upcoming events planned within the Extended Day Program include field trips to RPI on Saturday, February 2, 2013 (STEM Fest 2013! Connecting Minds to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math through Music & the Arts), and college tours to SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Herkimer and Siena College. We will also offer a College, High School, and Military Fair on March 7th from 4:00-6:30. Students and parents are encouraged to attend to explore the various options students have during and after high school.



Time Dollar Program

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

The Hackett Time Dollar Program is part of a collaborative effort between the Albany City School District and the school of Social Welfare at University at Albany to develop and expand the Time Dollar programs and family resources in the Albany schools.

Last June, students and staff from the Williams S. Hackett Middle School partnered with the Lark Street Business Improvement District to clean up the Lark Street- Hackett neighborhood. This year we are planning a joint art project with student-created window displays focusing on the value of community service.

The Time Dollar program is based on a national model developed by Edgar Cahn, founder of the Time Dollar Institute. The Time Dollar program empowers communities, encourages volunteerism, and makes schools and neighborhoods stronger. Time Dollar participants give their personal time to help others. For every hour that a Hackett student or their parents volunteer in the school or in the community, they will receive a Time Dollar. Time Dollars can then be used to receive a variety of goods from the Time Dollar store located on the main floor at Hackett. The store contains various items such as schools supplies, backpacks, DVD players, skate boards, cell phones, and gift cards to local businesses.

Resources for the Time Dollar Program come from donations from community stores, businesses and organizations. We would like the opportunity to meet with you to talk about the Time Dollar Program and how we might be able to work together.

You can contact us directly by calling Zena Dorsey, Hackett Time Dollar Coordinator at 518-475-6505 or 518-330-2716, or email her at zdorsey@albany.k12.ny.us.

Respectfully,
Zena Dorsey
Time Dollar Coordinator

