

The Hackett Herald

September/October 2013

“Empowering all students to create fulfilling lives in a changing world.”



A Professional Learning Community

**CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY
WILLIAM S. HACKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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Michael Paolino, Principal
Judith G. Collins, Assistant Principal
David Amodeo, Assistant Principal
Stephon Frost, Home School Coordinator

MISSION STATEMENT

We celebrate the strength of our diversity and foster a learning community based on mutual respect and supportive relationships to achieve our full potential as leaders, learners and citizens.



GO HAWKS!

Principal's Corner:

The 2013-2014 school year has gotten off to a wonderful start! It is hard to believe that the first month of school has already passed. Before we know it, we will be taking time to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, and cleaning the fluffy white snow from our cars and sidewalks.

During the first week of school, students were presented with their new “Agenda Books.” The agenda book has been an extremely useful resource for all students. In addition to its primary role as a “passbook”, the agenda book has assisted students in recording their homework and school-related assignments, provided clarity to various school-related expectations and policies, as well as served as a communication tool between teachers and parents. Students should be reminded to keep their agendas with them at all times.

The month of September provided a few memorable moments for Hackett Middle School. Our annual **Hackett PTA Fun Day Barbeque** took place on Friday, September 13 during lunch shifts. It was a great success and is always a favorite among staff and students. We extend our appreciation to Stewarts Ice Cream Shops for donating ice cream for dessert. A special thanks to the Hackett Middle School PTA for their assistance in cooking the food and serving ice cream sundaes to all students. Your help and support ensured a great kick-off to the first week of school.

On Tuesday, September 17, Hackett hosted a **“Dads Take Your Child to School”** day. Approximately 25 fathers attended a morning reception to discuss the importance of paternal involvement and plans to hold this event on a monthly basis throughout the school year. Refreshments were provided as well as treats donated by Panera.

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On Wednesday, September 25, the President of the University at Albany, Robert J. Jones, Ph.D., joined Albany City School District Superintendent, Marguerite Vanden Wyngaard, Ph.D. in a visit to Hackett's sixth grade students for an event that gave our students a taste of college. The event entitled "**Advancing and Celebrating The Albany Promise Cradle-to-Career Partnership**" was led by UAlbany staff and students and gave our sixth graders a taste of college in fun, interesting workshops, including such topics as "It's All About Your Future" and "College and Career Readiness". This event was a valuable tool as we strive to give every child in the City School District of Albany the chance to be successful in school and in life.

October events begins with our annual "**Go Home Early**" drill on Friday, October 11, 2013. Students will be released 15 minutes earlier than their normally scheduled time in order to test the early dismissal response procedures of our District's Emergency Management Plan. All after-school activities, as well as athletic practices will be cancelled.

On Friday, October 25, Hackett's PTA will host a "**Hats for Hackett**" fundraiser. With a \$1 donation to the PTA, students and staff members will be allowed to wear their favorite hat all day in school. Donations help fund school-related activities. That same evening, we will have our first **Teen Night** of the new school year. Teen Nights provide an opportunity for Hackett Middle School students to participate in various activities, such as dancing, watching a movie, playing board games or playing basketball in the gym, as well as to connect and relate in a positive and fun manner in a safe environment. This month's Teen Night theme is, of course, "Halloween"!

Picture Day will be held on Wednesday, October 30 and Thursday, October 31, with a make-up day to be announced at a later date. More information and order forms will be sent home shortly.

Turning our attention towards other school-related matters, first quarter grades will close on November 8, 2013. Report cards will be reviewed for accuracy and mailed home the following week.

October/November Events and Activities:

- October 11 "Go Home Early Drill"
- October 11 Interim Grades Close
- October 14** **No School – Columbus Day**
- October 16 School Board forum at AHS, 7:00 pm
- October 25 "Hats for Hackett" Fundraiser
- October 25 Halloween Teen Night, 6-8:30PM
- October 30 & 31 Hackett Picture Day, 8-3PM
- November 6 PTA Meeting, 7:00PM
- November 8 1st Quarter Grades Close
- November 11** **No School - Veteran's Day**
- November 22 Parent/Teacher Conference Day
- November 28-29** **No School - Thanksgiving Recess**



Important Phone Numbers:

- Attendance 475-6488
- Full Service 475-6495, 6496, 6497, 6498 or 6499
- Guidance Office 475-6486
- Lunch Office 475-6493
- Nurse's Office 475-6482
- School Psychologist 475-6491
- Security 475-6489

Human Resources Newsletter

INTERVIEW TRAINING

- October 2nd
4-5 p.m. @ Essex
Conference Room
- November 5th
4-5 p.m. @ Essex
Conference Room
- December 4th
4-5 p.m. @ Essex
Conference Room

Don't forget to sign up
on My Learning Plan

Go to
mylearningplan.com
(Username is your
district email
address)

Can't log in?
Contact the help desk
@ 475-6195

Coming soon...
Preventing
Harassment in
the Workplace

**Not sure who to contact? Let us
help you.**

Kathleen Culligan
Human Resources Administrator
475-6055

- * Affirmative Action Officer
- * Employee Relations/Labor
Relations
- * Compliance Issues

Marissa Cannon
Asst. Human Resources
Administrator
475-6058 x10031

- * Unemployment
- * Substitutes
- * Certification & Licensing

Paola Ragonese
Administrative Assistant
475-6055 x10030

- * Board of Education Agenda
- * Civil Service Liaison
- * Verification of
Employment/Tuition
Reimbursement

Kathleen Mulligan
Receptionist
475-6057 x10033

- * Job Postings/Coordinates
Interview Process
- * OLAS
- * Fingerprinting/Employee
Identifications

Friendly Reminder:

Don't forget to report your absences.
Call Subfinder 1-877-898-0694 or go
to www.albanyschools.org and click on
the Subfinder link.

Jestine Thompson
Typist
475-6000 x10001

- * Subfinder
- * Accountability Sheets

Katelin Pugliese
Insurance Technician
475-6090 x10034

- * Health Benefits
- * FMLA

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Don't forget to schedule
your yearly mammogram and submit
the cancer screening leave form.
You are entitled to four hours of
paid leave annually without charge
to leave credits, for breast and
prostate screening.

Riddles

1. I am small and furry
I am tan, white and have a black stripe
I run really fast
I fill my cheeks
I eat nuts
2. I am small and furry
I am black and white
I live in cold places
I have wings but cannot fly
3. I am orange black, and white
I run like the wind
I have teeth like daggers
4. I have white fur
I swim in the water
I am very big
I live in a cold place
5. I come out at night
I eat meat
I am reddish white
6. I am brown
I like to hang out in the water
I like my house in the water
I chop wood with my buck teeth

Hackett Middle School thanks our sponsor The Daily Grind of Albany
204 Lark St. in Albany, New York 518.427.0464



FACS

Ms. Gaetano and Mrs. Greeran's 8th grades are exploring colleges to attend and career options that interest them. Students in 6th grade are learning about kitchen safety and management and are cooking up some delicious food! A HUGE thank you to **Price Chopper** and **Hannaford**, both located on Delaware Ave; they have been kind enough to donate supplies to the students for their cooking labs.

Grade 6

Ms. Van Dyke Social Studies students are focusing on the life of the early humans. We learned about their nomadic life, how they hunted for food, and how agriculture began. We also focused on map and timeline skills. Our next topic will be the civilization of Mesopotamia.

Grade 7

SAGE STUDENT-ATHLETES LOOKING TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY



Albany, NY – The Sage Colleges' athletic teams are firm believers that community service is an important part of their collegiate experience. Athletic Director Dani Drews and The Sage Colleges believe it so much that it is one of the first things that they have asks their 15 varsity teams to do at the beginning of each season.

"Each student-athlete in our program is fortunate to be able to attend college," said Drews, who directs the Sage Department of Athletics and Recreation. "We believe that teamwork is the best way to ensure that

everyone succeeds. So, we have asked that our Gators give a little bit of their time and effort to help some of children in our community."

Drews suggested to the 2013-2014 Sage student-athletes that when they reported to campus for their preseason camps in both Albany and Troy, that each student-athlete bring with them a shoe box filled with school supplies to be donated to a local school

The William S. Hackett Middle School was built in 1926 and named after Albany's 67th mayor, William S. Hackett. Michael Paolini is currently Hackett's lead principal. Hackett serves over 600 students in grades sixth through eighth and qualifies as a Title I school. The majority of the students attending Hackett qualify for the free lunch program, making this student body a wonderful selection of beneficiaries that can greatly profit from the Sage student-athletes' donations.

Sage has selected the William S. Hackett Middle School of Albany, New York for the "School Supplies for Kids" initiative.

On Tuesday, August 27 at 12:30 p.m. Sage student-athletes will gather at the Kahl Campus Center and load a van of back to school supplies for a mid-afternoon delivery of the items to the William S. Hackett Middle School.

With this new community service project the list of activities Sage's student-athletes have participated in the area communities continues to grow. Over the last few years, Sage student-athletes have held a food drive for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, participated annually at the New York State Special Olympics Fall Games and the New York State Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Sage's student-athletes have also volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House preparing meals, while last year one team also performed community service at the Albany Rescue Mission; while another group helped to decorate the pediatric wing at Albany Medical Center.



7th Grade Science - We have finished our first Unit on Measuring, Graphing and Scientific Method. We have now started our second Unit on Describing Matter, Changing Matter and Chemical Reactions. Every Monday students are given back graded work and an updated grade sheet for Science. Your students should be able to show you their Science grade sheet when they come home every Monday. Students are allowed to turn in work late, though they lose points for it being late. They are also allowed to correct almost all graded work and turn it back in to raise their grade.

Students in Science were also taught how to go on to PowerSchool, the district on-line grade book. Now, they can look up their grades for all of their classes. If you are not familiar with PowerSchool, ask your student. They should be able to show you how to log on. If you still have questions, please contact me or Ms. Bell in Guidance. Our next unit Test will be on Thursday, November 21st.

7A Science with Mrs. Carey - 7A Science just completed their first unit on Scientific Method/Tools and Measurement/Graphing. Their next unit is on Matter/Chemical Reactions with a Unit Post Test on 11/21/13. 7A Science Club meets after school on most Tuesdays and Thursdays. They started off the year working with the computers and RPI design tools that promote culture, science, technology and math. They created beats and lyrics to accompany the beats. They have started working on their community site in which they will continue their Hackett-Ghana Pen Pal Connection with their friends at the Ayeduasse School. They are currently selling Hackett T shirts and Hackett pride bracelets to promote Hackett pride and to fund raise to send a LCD projector or a netbook computer to their school friends and their teacher Enoch, in Ghana.

There are still free school supplies left thanks to Sage College of Albany's athletic director, Dani Drews, and her student-athlete volunteers! Miss. Drews organized a large collection of "Back-to-School" supplies that included items such as lined paper, binders, highlighters, folders, pencils...etc...and contributed it to Hackett Middle School in time for Hackett's first Parent Orientation Night. Drews is quoted as saying, "Each student-athlete in our program is fortunate to be able to attend college. We believe that teamwork is the best way to ensure that everyone succeeds. So, we have asked that our Gators give a little bit of their time and effort to help some of children in our community." Three students won book-bags filled with school supplies in Mrs. Harris-Samuels's classroom on Parent Orientation Night. As we move forward with the school-year, please inquire about remaining supplies!

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

ELA- Ms. Harris - aharris@albany.k12.ny.us

Ms. White - vwhite@albany.k12.ny.us

Math- Ms. Bennett - tbennett@albany.k12.ny.us

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

Social Studies- Ms. Madison kmadison@albany.k12.ny.us

ELL (English Language Learners)- Mr. Leggiero (sleggiero@albany.k12.ny.us)

Grade 8

Happy October! Fall is in the air! In Miss Stone's 8A classes we are focusing on close reading skills, including reading for gist, identifying author's purpose, making meaningful and accurate inferences, and providing textual support. Also, we are learning how to work effectively with peers in preparation for skill center work. In Writer's Workshop, we are engaging the process of writing. This includes starting to draft Literary Analysis essays through critical reading and writing responses. Keep up the hard work!

8A with Mr. Lustig

In ELA on the 8A side of the building we are in the middle of reading the novel Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai about a ten year old girl and her family who are refugees during the Vietnam War. They have just escaped during the fall of Saigon and are currently on a ship floating out to sea. We are hoping it all turns out okay.

Mediation Matters

During advisee, an associate from the nonprofit Mediation Matters is lecturing Mr. Hutchins class. His seventh graders are developing collaboration and conflict resolution skills.

Anti-Bullying Program

We are entering the second year of Hackett's Anti-Bully program. With the help of Siena Anti-Bully advisors, sixth grade advisees are learning how to diffuse, prevent, and become positive advocates.

NCBI

This is Hackett's first year being involved in the National Coalition of Building Institute or NCBI. Employees were trained both in the Summer and the start of the school year. This coalition exhibits building a caring school environment through welcoming diversity and violence prevention. We will be involved with NCBI throughout the year.

Answers to the riddles:

1. Chipmunk
2. Penguin
3. Siberian Tiger
4. Polar Bear
5. Fox
6. Beaver



Hackett Middle School will be participating in **Box Tops for Education**® this school year.

Over the course of the year, staff and students will be encouraged to bring in clipped box tops from home. For every box top Hackett collects, the school receives 10 cents. Box tops can be found on many products, such as **General Mills, Hefty, Pillsbury** and **Betty Crocker**. Students are encouraged to hand in clipped box tops during their advisory class. The first collection of the year will end on November 22. In addition to clipping box tops, the school can also receive box tops from online shopping. On the Box Top website there is a Marketplace where registered shoppers can earn box tops through online shopping at stores such as **CVS photo, DSW** and **Nook**. To find out more information about box tops, to check on our school's earnings, and to sign up for the Online Marketplace please visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com>.