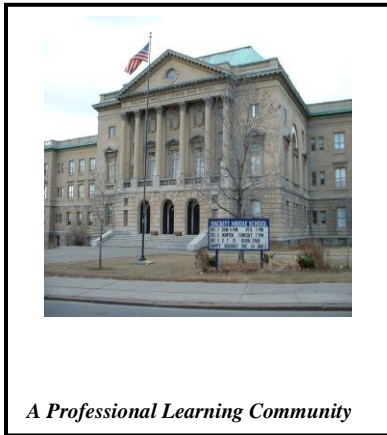


Hackett Herald: January 2014

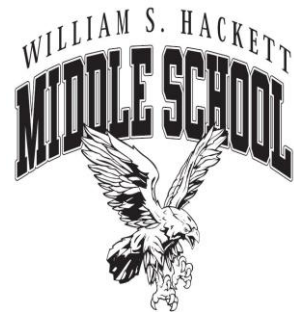


**CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY
WILLIAM S. HACKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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



Principal’s Corner:

Happy New Year to all! We are already in the month of January and as the cold and snow indicates, winter is definitely here! Please be mindful that during inclement weather, it is important for our students to dress in layers and bundle up well. The second marking period ended on Friday, January 24 and we have begun our second half of the school year. With that in mind, please continue to remind your children how important it is for them to continue to focus on academic achievement.

Our school recently became part of one of the nation’s oldest and most respected character education programs. “Project Wisdom” has been helping students make wiser choices since 1992 and has been implemented in more than 19,000 schools across the nation. Our goal is to announce daily “Words of Wisdom” that encourage everyone to do and be their best. These thought-provoking, inspirational messages promise to uplift and promote a more positive and effective school climate. This month’s theme, entitled “Stumbling Blocks or Stepping-Stones”, reflects upon resolutions and goals that help us determine where we are going and how we will get there. We have every confidence that this program will help develop a more positive school climate and produce benefits that will not dissipate with time.

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We are now focusing on preparing all students for the New York State English Language Arts and Math examinations coming up in the Spring. **New York State 2014 Assessments** are less than three months away. Please note the following important examination dates:

- **English Language Arts Grades 3-8: April 1-3**
- **Math Grades 3-8: April 30-May 2**
- **Science Performance Grade 8: May 21-30**
- **Science Written Grades 8: June 2**

All schools were closed on Monday, January 20, 2014, in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Also, there will be no school for students on Friday, January 31, 2014, as it is declared by the Superintendent to be a Conference Day for all staff.

The month of February promises to bring important and exciting activities to our students, staff and families. On Wednesday, February 5, 2014, Hackett will host the 2014-15 Budget Meeting from 7:00-8:30 PM, to discuss the Budget forecast, how it may affect our school, your priorities for funding and what you can do to help. This is a great opportunity for you to get involved and let your voice be heard. Also on February's agenda is our Valentine's Teen Night on Friday, February 7, at 6:00 PM and our Mid-Winters Feast/Black History Month Celebration on Tuesday, February 11, 2013 at 6:00 PM. We will enjoy a brief Black History Celebration in our auditorium followed by fellowship in the cafeteria. Please also be mindful that we will have winter recess February 17-21.

February/March Events:



- Feb 5** **2014-15 Budget Meeting**
- Feb 7** **Hackett Valentine's Teen Night**
- Feb 11** **Mid-Winters Feast/Black History Month Celebration**
- Feb 17-21** **NO SCHOOL – WINTER RECESS**
- Feb 28** **Science Fair**



- Mar 1** **Third Quarter Interims – Grades Close**
- Mar 5** **Honor Roll Ceremony**
- Mar 5** **PTA Meeting**
- Mar 12** **All City Strings at Hackett**
- Mar 19** **All City Band at Myers**
- Mar 26** **All City Chorus at Myers**
- Mar 29** **NYSSMA at HMS**



Christina Howard 8th Grade –In January, students are continuing to read To Kill a Mockingbird. In class, we have started working on making inferences using text-based evidence. Students quarter three book project will be due on March 27. Please encourage your student to read for twenty minutes everyday!

Miss Stone's 8A students are working on increasing their vocabulary through various word work activities. We are also improving our critical reading skills by using Study Island and the Jamestown Series. We are doing a great job. I am very proud of our team's students for making notable gains on their winter NWEA test and Aims Web fluency test. Keep up the hard work. Writer's Workshop students are engaged in research on colleges of interest. Students are learning all about the requirements of what it takes to get into their college of choice. After thorough research, we will be writing formal college letters of inquiry and sending them out to prospective schools in an effort to get personal responses and useful college preparation information. Also, we will be engaging in mock college interviews in class to improve our public speaking skills. For your reference, all unit materials are uploaded to my Edmodo account and all Writer's Workshop students know how to access it.

Edwin Newell (Band Teacher) – Hackett will host Albany's own New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Solo & Ensemble Festival on Saturday March 29. This all-day festival is an opportunity for young musicians to be evaluated on band instruments, string instruments, piano and voice. The deadline for registration is February 7. If parents have questions, please contact Mr. Newell

Ms. Van Dyke

6th grade Social Studies

Students just spent time learning about the major world religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. We looked at each religion's beginnings and how they impacted the world. Our next unit of study will be ancient Greece, which will fit in nicely with the timing of the Winter Olympics!

6th Grade ELA: Ms. Vacca's 6th grader's are finishing up Bud, Not Buddy. We will be starting our new book Dragonwings by Lawrence Yep. It is a high-interest novel about an eight-year-old boy from China who joins his father in San Francisco in the early 1900s. With this book comes an extensive curriculum we have adapted from the state and it is all Common Core aligned. This curriculum can be found on engageny.org (Look for Module 3A). This unit is exciting since the students will be completing research projects and will have the chance to use the netbooks in class

7A Science with Mrs. Carey - We are currently half way through our unit on Cells. Our next Unit Test is 2/14/14. Science Club sent a box of supplies to our friends at the Ayeduase school in Ghana, West Africa and to accompany it we created a video documentary/commercial for Science Club (<https://vimeo.com/84150089>). Between now and June, Knitting Club will collaborate with the Science Club to study the relationship between science, math, computer science, and knitting (science and economy of textiles, math, algorithms, computer programming). Plans are for RPI to create a Knitting Design Tool based on this project. Mrs. Carey's students will also create a documentary for the knitting project and a display.

Box tops: Thanks for donating Box Tops! We are closing the collection on February 10th.

Hackett's Anti – Bully program will begin Monday, January 27th with the 7th grade. This program will last four weeks with the 7th and then we will progress to the 8th grade for four more weeks. We will learn about: correctly identifying bullying, why it is wrong, how to stop it, and most importantly how to prevent it.