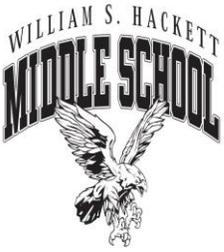


 <p><i>A Professional Learning Community</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY</b>  <b>WILLIAM S. HACKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL</b></p> <p align="center">45 Delaware Avenue  Albany, New York 12202  Phone: (518) 475-6475  Fax: (518) 475-6477  Michael Paolino, Principal  Judith G. Collins, Assistant Principal  David Amodeo, Assistant Principal  Stephon Frost, Home School Coordinator</p> <p align="center"><b>MISSION STATEMENT</b></p> <p align="center"><i>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.</i></p>	
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### *Principal's Corner:*

Happy Holidays to all! As we are well into the winter months, I take this opportunity to remind you that during inclement weather it is important for our students to dress in layers and bundle up well. With the start of each school day, students must remember that all hooded sweatshirts, coats, jackets, hats and gloves need to remain in their lockers. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all students.

Student Council elections were held for grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We would like to congratulate the following students on their elected offices: Grade 6 – President Lani Tate, Vice-President Hagen Foley, Treasurer Lina Morse, Secretary Diamond Harris, Class Rep Kmwee Dee; Grade 7 – President Morgan Johnson, Vice-President Tiffiya Robinson, Treasurer Jahsharee Scott, Secretary Jennifer Powell, Class Rep Camilo Mosquera (7A) & Aaron Murray (7B); and Grade 8 – President Starasia Smith, Vice-President Nas Zah Liek Giggetts, Treasurer Heaven Grey, Secretary Talha Talha, Class Rep Caitlyn Carlson.

Hackett Middle School held its annual building-level Spelling Bee on Wednesday, November 27. Approximately 28 students competed for the opportunity to represent Hackett Middle School at the Albany City School District-Wide Spelling Bee Contest. Congratulations to this year's Hackett Middle School champion, sixth grader Amina Hassy, who did a wonderful job representing Hackett in the District-Wide Spelling Bee on Tuesday, December 3.

On Wednesday, December 4, Hackett held its first Honor Roll Ceremony of the school year with 229 students noted for outstanding and exemplary academic achievement. We are proud to recognize these students and extend our most sincere congratulations to them.

Our Hackett Winter Concert took place on Tuesday, December 10 and the band, chorus, and orchestra were absolutely outstanding! Also on this day, the PTA held their annual Dessert Raffle. I would like to thank everyone who donated baked goods which were raffled off during

the Winter Concert later that evening. Proceeds from the bake sale went to our PTA to support school-related programs and events.

This year, Hackett Middle School participated in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The mission of the Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children. Hackett also sold stars for the Northeast New York Make-a-Wish foundation to help make dreams come true for some very special young people. We thank our staff and students for taking part in this year's campaigns and thank everyone who donated to these worthy causes.

Please be reminded that our holiday recess will be from Monday, December 23 through January 3, 2014. School will resume on Monday, January 6, 2014. As we approach the second half of the school year, I ask that you please remind your children how important it is for them to continue to focus on academic achievement. As June will be upon us before we know it, I want to remind all parents of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of the requirements regarding the Moving-Up Ceremony. Students eligible to participate in the Moving-Up ceremony must pass ALL core and special area courses as well as be in good behavioral standing.

Please also be reminded that the second quarter will conclude on Friday, January 24, 2014. Encourage your child to speak with their teachers and arrange time after-school to make-up work or receive extra reinforcement.

We wish everyone a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

### **JANUARY EVENTS:**

**JAN. 6 – CLASSES RESUME (FOLLOWING HOLIDAY RECESS)**

**JAN. 8 – PTA – 7:00 PM – LIBRARY**

**JAN. 20 – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY – NO SCHOOL**

**JAN. 24 – 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER GRADES CLOSE**

**JAN. 31 – SUPERINTENDENTS CONFERENCE DAY – NO SCHOOL**



Season's Greetings  
From the  
Department  
of Human  
Resources



Kathleen Culligan,  
Human Resources  
Administrator



## TRAININGS:

Please sign up on My  
Learning Plan  
(MLP)

## Preventing Harassment in the Workplace



December 18<sup>th</sup>  
3 to 5 p.m.  
@ H.G. Media Center



January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
4 to 6 p.m.  
@ H.G. Media Center



## Coming in February and March:



Preventing Workplace  
Violence  
and  
Valuing Differences



Check MLP for these  
upcoming trainings



December ❄️ January  
Happy New Year 2014

## Retirement plans for June 30, 2014?

- \* Contact your New York State Retirement System to see if you are eligible and meet the necessary requirements.
- \* Don't forget to submit your letter of intent to retire by January 15<sup>th</sup>, prior to the date of retirement, in order to be eligible for benefits under your contract. Please send to the attention of Paola Ragonese, *Administrative Assistant*, Human Resources.
- \* PLEASE refer to your contract or contact your union representative with any questions.



## Teacher & Teaching Assistant Certification

If you need any guidance regarding certification, please call Marissa Cannon, *Assistant Human Resources Administrator*. She can assist you in this area.  
475-6058 or ext. 10031



## BEDS Portal

Reminder to all Principals  
BEDS portal is open and WE HAVE UNTIL  
December 13, 2013 to have all data entered for  
the District.

## Scheduled Surgery, Maternity, Paternity or Adoption

Please contact Katie Pugliese, *Insurance Technician*, to complete your Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) paperwork at least 30 days prior to your leave.  
475-6090 or ext. 10034

- \* If you are an eligible employee you can take up to 12 weeks of FMLA leave in any 12 months period to care for your spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition and when you are unable to work because of your own serious health condition.
- \* If you are planning to have surgery or you are pregnant, you must give your employer at least 30 days advance notice.



## ID Badges

Put your ID badge in a safe place, so you remember where it is.  
We get a lot of replacement requests in the month of January. Contact Kathy Mulligan, *Receptionist* 475-6057 or ext. 10033



## Subfinder

Please contact Jestine Thompson, *Typist*  
475-6000 or ext. 10001

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

Happy Holidays!

Miss Stone's AIS 8 is working hard on improving critical reading, vocabulary, and independent reading comprehension skills. Each student rotates around skill centers each day of the week to improve a different reading skill. Students also have the opportunity to work and collaborate with peers to achieve a common goal, which is an integral part of 21st Century Learning. Students are doing a great job and many papers are going up on the "Wall of Excellence" in class for everyone to see. Keep it up!!

Miss Stone's Writer's Workshop 8 is engaged in informational research and book writing. We are using a great program called Noodletools which enables us to store all of our research and drafting. The best part is, our partners can add to it and exchange information with us. Thank you to Mrs. Greenaway (our school Librarian) for introducing us to such a valuable 21st century learning tool! Students will be completing their books before break and giving a brief presentation to their peers about their real world issue using an online media platform, (also 21st Century Learning.) It will be our first time presenting our work to our peers in class, parents are welcome to join. As of right now, the presentation dates are December 18,19, and 20.

Wishing everyone a safe holiday season.

Students in Ms. Howard's 8th grade English class will be starting the novel To Kill a Mockingbird this month. When students do not have written homework, they should read for at least 20 minutes. Students will have a book project due on January 16th. This project will be based on the book they are reading outside of class.

## Foreign Language

The French 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade fieldtrip to Quebec City is still going. Please help support our students by getting a carwash with Hoffman Carwash. We appreciate any and all donations people gave or are willing to give.

Katharine Walsh

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

7A Science has started our unit on Acids, Bases, Solutions, and Energy. We are now able to distinguish acids from bases based on their properties, uses and pH. We even had a chance to test common household items and to investigate the impact of acid rain. After finishing this unit with a study of solutions and energy, our unit test will be on 1/10/14. Study! This is the last summative assessment for Quarter 2.

7A Science Club has continued to work with our RPI computer programs and has maintained our communication with our friends in Ghana, West Africa. We just mailed Enoch and his students a box of pens, cases, and rubber band bracelets.

## Band/Music

Winter Concert was Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who attended.

## Fundraisers

Don't forget about mentioning the french 7 & 8 fieldtrip to Quebec City and that we are still fundraising with Hoffman Carwash and appreciate any and all donations people gave or are willing to give.

We are in desperate need of warm clothing for our refugee families.

They need not only warm coats, waterproof lined boots, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves, but also long-sleeve shirts, sweaters and pants. Any sizes for both boys and girls as well as for adults would be greatly appreciated. Nearly all of our students have siblings and adult family members who do not have proper clothing for this bitter cold. (This is a great time to clean out your closets!)

Please drop off any items to Mr. Leggiero, Ms. Kelly or Ms. Chaves in rooms 005 and 001 as soon as you can so we may distribute them to the most needy before the winter break.

Thank you all so much!

Suzanne Chaves

Kaitlin Kelly

Steve Leggiero

## Anti – Bullying:

Siena College's Anti-Bully Advisors have finished the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. We reinstated the need for having an open-mind at school and act as a positive support to friends and classmates who are being bullied. The anti-bully advisors are going to be involved with grades 7 and 8 in early February.

## Technology

Mr. McNally's Technology classes learned the basics of Computer Aided Design (CAD) in SketchUp and recently finished a brief unit about programming that coincided with the "Hour of Code" initiative celebrating Computer Science Education Week. After learning the basics, students programmed our LEGO Mindstorms NXT robots to complete a challenge in the classroom. Next we will be beginning a project in the wood shop!

## 6th Grade

Sixth Grade Advisory held an assembly on December 6th for Toys For Tots. We collected toys and money donations and were able to collect about 40 toys for this year's drive!



We would like to thank Petty Officers Bruce and Cano for helping us and sharing their life stories with us.

In Ms. Van Dyke's social studies, students have been studying ancient Egypt. We have been looking at the geography and culture of this ancient civilization. We also were excited to have Dr. Masson from SUNY Albany come in and speak to us about archaeology.

In 6th grade SMART Math we are working now on Fractions and Decimals. Students have found some interesting games on [www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com) it is a fun way to review and at the same time have some fun. Please encourage them to go on at home and try some of the games especially in the Ratio and Fraction section. Mrs. Webb