



**HAMMONDSPORT
CENTRAL SCHOOL**

Laker Lines

September 2009

Champions In the Making



From left: Senior athletes Amie Pizura, Trevor Parke, Annalee Mishrell and Justyn Schuck have been working hard since pre-season practices began on August 17th. For a full schedule of Fall sporting events, please visit our website at hammondsportcsd.org.

Aiming High

*News from Hammondspport Central School
District Superintendent Kyle Bower*

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Hammondspport Central School was recognized by the State Education Department as a "High Performing School District" for the 2008-2009 school year. That award is based on the following:

- The performance of the "all student" group on all accountability criteria was above the State Standards in 2007-2008.
- The District was held accountable for the academic performance of at least three accountability groups in ELA and math in 2007-2008.
- The District has made adequate yearly progress on all accountability criteria for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years.

Hammondspport Central School has received this recognition for the last three years (each year the recognition has been available). Congratulations to all of our students, faculty, staff and families on another well deserved honor in recognition of all of their hard work!

On the financial front, below is some factual data related to the District including implications for the tax levy and tax rate for the 2009-2010 school year.

- The equalized tax rate of \$9.16 is down \$.15 per thousand dollars of taxable value or 1.65%.
 - The equalized tax rate of \$9.16 is down \$1.81 per thousand dollars of taxable value over the last two years, or 16%.
 - The overall tax warrant approved by the District of \$7,420,979 for 09-10' represents an \$8,730 increase in the tax warrant over the past two years, or a one thousandth of one percent increase in the amount of school taxes collected over a two year period.
 - The school tax rate may go down, yet school tax bills may go up. The state has decreased the STAR exemptions in all areas for 2009-2010. Example: Enhanced STAR exemption in Wayne for 2009 is \$85,070. This amount is approximately \$5,000 less than the enhanced STAR exemption amount in Wayne for 2008. This amount is determined by the State, not the school district.
 - Our tax base is made up of six townships. Four of these towns have an equalization ratio of 100%. Two of these towns have an equalization ratio of 50%. This will result in a tax rate that is approximately twice as much in the towns with a 50% equalization rate.
 - The school district has no control over property assessments, STAR exemption amounts, or equalization ratios.
- As always, Hammondspport Central School continues to be committed to being a fiscally responsible member of the community.

Laker Lines is the official newsletter of the Hammondspport Central School District. It is distributed to all district residents. HCS Board of Education members include: James Zimar, President; Frank Curran, Vice President; Richard Drain, Nancy Torp and Christine Kolo.

The Board meets the third Wednesday of each month in the Library of the Main Street School.

From the Desk of H.S. Principal Tad Rounds

Elementary News

by Elementary Principal Michele Sincerbox

Congratulations to the new Hammondsport Senior Class as they take the leadership role of serving as positive role models for the student body. A special thank you to members of the Senior High and Elementary Staff who attended the *Hope Conference* in Niagara Falls. This conference focused on integrating research proven best practices into the school fabric. Also in the area of curriculum and instruction, the Math Department has worked hard with a curriculum specialist on aligning curriculum with assessments to increase student performance. This includes matching local assessments with Regents exams and providing interventions at check points along the year. This will be an ongoing process of assessment analysis and curriculum review.

The Junior High Team will spend much of the year designing a 6-8 structure in anticipation of the move of the Curtiss population to the Main Street campus. This team will be charged with devising a program that prepares students for the academic rigors of a senior high school by ensuring that the principles of effective middle schools are executed in grades 6-8. Also in the realm of the middle school experience, Hammondsport Junior-Senior High is honored to have a number of faculty presenting at the annual Middle School Conference being held in Watkins Glen this October. The faculty and presentations are as follows:

- **Rachael McCloud-** *Success in Math is Possible: Even if Students Are Extremely Weak*
- **Brande Flaitz-** *Slice of Pi*
- **John Kloiber-** *The Constant Gardener: Improving Behavior in Middle School Without Becoming An Ogre*
- **Barbara Recchio-Demmin-** *Using Voice Threads in a 6-8 Classroom and Using Glogster in the 6-8 Classroom*

Thank you to these teachers for promoting innovative teaching at the state level.

September is such an exciting time. As we prepare for school to begin, we anxiously anticipate and welcome the arrival of familiar and new smiling faces. I hope everyone has had a restful and relaxing summer. Teachers have prepared their classrooms and curriculum over the summer in preparation for the 2009-2010 school year.

With the new year upon us it is time to adjust to new routines. New for September of 2009 is the movement of Fourth Grade into the Main Street building in preparation for the close of the Curtiss School. We look forward to the addition in Main Street. Also new for 2009, printed letters will be taught in Kindergarten, DIBELS will be used as a screening tool for Kindergarten through Second Grade, and Project Wisdom has been added as part of our character education program.

Please keep in mind that staff, parents, and students each have responsibilities to ensure a positive learning community. The staff has worked hard this summer preparing for the Response to Intervention in K-2 and a new Social Studies series for 2-6. Teachers and staff have done all this in preparation for increasing student learning and preparing students for the ever changing world of today. Parents should work to ensure their child attends school each day well rested and ready to learn. Students should be prepared and willing to participate in the learning process in a positive manner.

As we begin the new year, I am aware that I am a new yet familiar face in the Elementary School and would like to extend an invitation to meet with me on Tuesday, September 15, from 6-7 in the Curtiss School Library.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 569-5200 ext. 5233.

From the Bus Garage...



WELCOME BACK EVERYONE! The summer has just flown by and I hope some of you enjoyed the outdoors between raindrops. Our buses are mechanically ready to roll and are clean and shiny. We have changed our cameras this summer to a new digital system which will give us much better picture and sound quality and the added advantage of 2 cameras instead of 1 in each bus. If you have any questions on time of pickup or take home for your child, please call me at 569-5200 ext. 6. Also, please remember the following:

- Have your child ready at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- In the afternoon we need to see a parent or babysitter before discharging any Pre-K through 3rd grade students. The drivers are very cautious about this and want to make sure an adult is home for the little ones.
- If your child is ill or has an appointment please call the Transportation Dept. and let us know.
- Any change in telephone, cell phone or address needs to be given to the Primary Office and Transportation Dept.
- If you know you will not be home on time to meet the bus or in an emergency, call Transportation and we will radio the bus so your child will not be frightened or left home alone. Each child should have the telephone number of the bus garage posted near their home phone and have a plan in place with a neighbor or relative in the event of an emergency. Please tell your children the bus garage will always come for them if they are alone and they need us.
- Please do not send expensive games or toys on the bus. We are not responsible for lost, stolen, borrowed or bartered items. Cell phones should be kept in backpacks and are not to be used on the bus.
- Please remind your child to stay seated on the bus, face forward with feet inside the seat and speak in a soft tone of voice. If your child is having a problem with another student, tell him to speak to the driver and we will immediately view the bus video and try to rectify the problem.

We arrive at 6:00 a.m. each day Monday – Friday and are here until the last bus comes in at about 4:30 p.m. Please call with any questions or concerns and we'll see you soon.



October 3, 2009

Pick-up between 12 - 2 pm
in HS Cafeteria

Tickets can be purchased from any
Girls' Volleyball or
Girls' Soccer player.

September/October Calendar Items

September		October	
8	First Day of School	1	Curtiss Open House, 6:15 pm
9	Senior Magazine Sales Begin	3	Homecoming Weekend
14	PTO Meeting, 6:30, Student Lounge	4	Homecoming Weekend, Volleyball/ Soccer Chicken BBQ
15	Parent Advisory Meeting, Curtiss School Library, 6-7 pm	7	PSAT Registration
16	BOE Meeting, 7 pm	12	No School, Columbus Day
18	Picture Day; ACT Registration deadline for Oct. exam	14	PSAT for Juniors
22	Early Dismissal	20	PLAN Test for Sophomores; Early Dismissal Day
24	Primary Open House, 6:15 pm	21	BOE Meeting, 7 pm
25	Curtiss Club Fair Assembly, 1:45 pm	23	Picture Re-takes, Billy Martin Circus
29	College Fair at Haverling	24	ACT @ Hammondsport

myLunchMoney.com

Last year the cafeteria began a relationship with the website myLunchMoney.com to allow parents more access to their children's accounts. If you haven't already set up an account with myLunchMoney.com you may want to consider it for this year.



Why Should I Visit www.myLunchMoney.com?

- **Easy:** Enrolling and funding is simple and completed online.
- **Convenient:** Once your account is established, you can check balances, view student purchases, set spending limits and fund your child's account from your computer, phone or fax, though there is a \$1.95 fee/transaction. However, you do not have to use it to fund the account; you can still send cash or checks to school. There is NO fee just to review your child's account.
- **Secure:** Your personal and payment card information is protected by an advanced internet security system.
- **Never have to worry about doing it again:** If you choose the *recurring payment option*, money will always be in your child's account. When a low balance is reached, money is automatically deposited.

How Do I Enroll?

- Go to www.myLunchMoney.com and click **ENROLL NOW**.
- Create an account using your child's student ID number, which your child may know, or contact his/her grade level office or the cafeteria manager. Additionally you need your child's date of birth, school and grade. You may then choose to provide credit or debit card information, or the automatic payment option, but this is not necessary to access the account once it is established.

The toll-free customer support center for myLunchMoney.com is 1-800-479-3531 for questions or assistance with enrollment, available Monday-Friday from 8AM to 7PM or email mlmsupport@sl-tech.net.

And, as always if you have any questions or concerns related to the cafeteria, please contact Mrs. Zema at 569-5200 x5263 or email mzema@hport.wnyric.org.

New	
2009-2010 Meal Prices	
K-12 Breakfast	\$1.10
K- 3 Lunch	\$1.50
4-12 Lunch	\$1.75

Preparing for the Flu

With the return of students to school comes the increased risk of the spread of the H1N1 Flu Virus. The District continues to follow all of the recommendations received from health agencies at all levels. The new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control balances the risks of illness among students and staff with the benefits of keeping students in school. As the flu season begins, our District will be in constant communication with our BOCES as well as county, state, and federal health departments. Information will be sent home and posted on our website www.hammondsportcsd.org as soon as it is received.

Families, students, and school staff can keep from getting sick with flu in three ways:

- Practice good hand washing. Wash hands thoroughly and often, especially after you sneeze or cough in your hands.
- Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough. This is the main way that this virus spreads. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough in your elbow or shoulder, not in your hands.

Summer Learning Program

by Elementary Principal Michele Sincerbox

I would like to express gratitude to the teachers and staff who participated in making this another successful summer. The program supported 45 students leaving the teachers with very productive small group sessions that were targeted directly to each student's needs. The students enjoyed reading, writing and mathematics skill building through use of new and different literature. Students studied anything from chocolate to bats to learning how to navigate the hallways and use technology in the classroom.

The breakfast and lunch program went off with much success. I heard great things from the students about the delicious food that was provided. Thank you to all the staff that helped to implement this needed program for our community.

Non-profit organization
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Hammondsport, NY 14840
Permit #8

Hammondsport Central School
District
Main Street
Hammondsport, NY 14840

Box holder