Dr. Kevin M. Hurley Middle School Parent Newsletter
Education...A Journey Without End
March 16, 2012

Visit our web page at http://hms.seekonk.sharpschool.com/

This newsletter will be sent out weekly by e-mail to keep you informed of programs and events at Hurley Middle School. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns at jfargnoli@seekonk.k12.ma.us.

Upcoming Dates:

March 16 – Snowflake Ball – PTO sponsored annual Father/Daughter Dance
March 18 – Jazz Dinner 3 to 6 PM at the HMS cafeteria
March 19 – Baseball and Softball tryouts begin at 2:45 PM
March 20 – MCAS testing - ELA composition for grade 7 only
March 20 – School Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM
March 21 – 8th grade informational meeting open to all parent for the Alton Jones trip 6 PM @ HMS
March 21 – 8th grade parent meeting for high school course selection 7PM @ HMS
March 24 - Peer Leadership Group meeting @ HMS 9:30 to 11:30 AM
March 26 – MCAS testing for all grades – Reading Comprehension
March 27 – MCAS testing for all grades – Reading Comprehension
March 30 – School Dance from 7 to 9 PM
April 3 – School Committee meeting @ SHS 7 PM
April 4 – Band Parents Association Meeting 7 PM in the bandroom
April 5 – 3rd quarter ends
April 6 – No school – Good Friday
April 9 – 6th grade breakfast sponsored by the PTO
April 9 – Opening event for the 200th Anniversary at HMS – the entire school will be open for a display of student work and a band performance
April 10 – Baseball / Softball game – Case @ Seekonk 3:15 PM
April 11 - Seekonk 200th Anniversary Celebration Early Release at 12:15
April 12 - Baseball / Softball game – Seekonk @ Middleboro 3:15 PM
April 16 – 20 – Spring Break
April 23 – Spring pictures
April 25 – Hurley Middle School Honor Society Induction Ceremony @ 7 PM
April 26 - Baseball / Softball game – Seekonk @ Rehoboth 3:15 PM
April 27 – Spring Math Meet @ Rehoboth
May 2,3,& 4 – Grade 8 Alton Jones trip
May 11 – Alice in Wonderland, Jr. edition @ 7 PM
May 12 - Alice in Wonderland, Jr. edition @ 1 PM

The Seekonk School Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, race, color, or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
MCAS Testing begins on March 20th, March 26 & 27th

Students will be taking the MCAS this month. On March 20th the 7th graders will complete the ELA Composition test and on March 26th and 27th all grades will complete the ELA Reading Comprehension test. We held a motivational pep rally on Friday, March 16th to stress the importance of these tests. We talked about using the following strategies during testing:

- The key to success is to remain calm, maintain a positive attitude, get a good night sleep, and to eat a nutritious and delicious breakfast before testing.
- Don't hand your test in until you are 100% comfortable and confident with your work.
- Take mental breaks in between questions to sharpen your thought process.
- Make lists and charts for literally every question even if it's extremely easy.
- Take pride in your work and celebrate your knowledge.

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, commonly shortened to MCAS has three primary purposes:

1. To inform and improve curriculum and instruction.
2. To evaluate student, school, and district performance.
3. To determine student eligibility for the Competency Determination requirement in order to award high school diplomas.

Please make sure that your child gets a good night sleep the day before the testing and comes to school with a plan to succeed.

8th Grade Dance

Anyone interested in helping with the 8th Grade Dance

First planning meeting March 28 at 7 pm
in the HMS library.

We’ll brainstorm ideas for a theme and see what needs to be done.

June will be here before we know it!!

If you can’t make the meeting but would like to help
please e-mail Liz at marulism@comcast.net

World Education Games

Last week, many of our classrooms participated in the World Education Games. This is an annual online competition that matches up students from around the world so that they may compete in 60-second competitions related to math and spelling. It is a great way to strengthen math and spelling skills!

Congratulations to the following students who answered the most number of questions during the competition period:

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World Spelling Day – March 6, 2012
Over 77,400 correct answers were given by our participating HMS students!
The following students ranked in the top ten for our school during the competition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Number of Correct Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Petronio</td>
<td>797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jillian Machado</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Ho</td>
<td>727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexia DesRochers</td>
<td>711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Kerr</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayley Bartlett</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Roy</td>
<td>662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Pardey</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Vincente</td>
<td>641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azurae Cruz</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

World Math Day – March 7, 2012
Over 110,900 correct answers were given by our participating HMS students!
The following students ranked in the top ten for our school during the competition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Number of Correct Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Porto</td>
<td>1226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Kerr</td>
<td>1186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armen Eghian</td>
<td>1164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Salois</td>
<td>1105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayden Gill</td>
<td>1096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Belliveau</td>
<td>1060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudette Elkhoury</td>
<td>1034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dylan DeAmaral</td>
<td>1033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason Martin</td>
<td>982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leanne Silva</td>
<td>906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jennifer St. Michel, MLIS
School Librarian

Mrs. Geddes’s Pi Day
The winners of the Pi Recitation Contest in Mrs. Geddes’s Pi Day math classes were:

1st Place: Julia Vieira (54 digits)
2nd Place: Jordan Moskowitz (40 digits)
3rd Place: Michael Lawrence (36 digits)

Congratulations to these students and all of the participants for a job well done!
The Blue Team On a Roll Awards
The Blue Team is proud to announce our January/February On a Roll students:

Tyler Goncalves  Monica Maziarz  Luke Doherty
Amber Maghakian  Andrew Santos  Holly Carroll
Morgan Anderson  Amanda Lyman  Julia Vieira
Joshua Machado  Meghan McCormack  Sophie Zirkel

They will be honored (along with their parents) at a breakfast on Friday, March 16, 2012.

Baseball News
Tryouts for the boys baseball is as follows:
Friday, March 16th- 8th graders only (Fielding try-out)
Monday, March 19th- 6th graders only (hitting)
Tuesday, March 20th-7th graders only (hitting)
Wednesday, March 21st- 8th graders only (hitting)
Thursday, March 22nd- (if necessary)
Friday, March 23rd- (if necessary)

Google Docs Compatibility Issues
If you child is having trouble using Google Docs at home (such as files that can be read but not able to be edited), it could be a compatibility issue with the browser on your home computer. According to our tech department, Google Docs needs to be run on the latest version of Firefox (version 11), Google Chrome, or Internet Explorer version 8 or 9. All of these browsers are free downloads from the Internet. You may access the download by searching for these products in your current browser and choosing the product that is appropriate for your operating system.

Career Day
Plans are underway for the 4th annual Career Day which will be held on May 23, 2012 at the Hurley Middle School. Our goal is to expose our students to as many career choices as possible. If your schedule permits we would love to have you to join us this year on Wednesday, May 23rd from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to share your profession with our students. A contact form is included at the end of this newsletter. Please consider being a presenter.
Year Book Sales

The last day for orders for the HMS yearbook is March 30, 2012. If you have not yet ordered your child’s yearbook, please do so now! Students really enjoy reminiscing with the yearbook and gathering signatures on the last day of school. It is also a lasting memory of your child’s middle school years.

Checks must be made payable to Town of Seekonk. No cash is accepted. Online payments via credit card are accepted at https://ybpay.lifetouch.com

- Softcover: $22.00
- Hardcover: $27.00
- Name imprinted on cover is an additional $2.00

Don’t be disappointed, order your yearbook today!

Jennifer St. Michel, MLIS
Yearbook Advisor

Band News

Dates to keep in mind:
- 200th Anniversary Performance- April 9th
- Memorial Day Parade- May 26th
- HMS Band Festival- June 4,5 & 8
- Elementary Tour- June 12

From the School Nurse

Important Announcements from the School Nurse

To the parent/ guardians of all 6th grade students please note: Massachusetts School Immunization requirements for entry into 7th grade for September of 2012 includes some additional vaccines needed. It is now a requirement to have 2 MMR vaccines, 2 Varicella vaccines, and one TDap vaccine. Please check with your child’s Health Care Provider to make sure your child has had these vaccines. If your child needs these vaccines, please make an appointment with your child’s Health Care provider as soon as possible and supply documentation to the school nurse. Your child will not be allowed to enter 7th grade without these vaccines per Massachusetts School Immunization regulations, 105CMR220.00.

Vision and Hearing screenings are currently being done on all 7th graders. Please make sure your child brings his/her glasses to school. Vision screenings are performed with glasses on for those students who wear them.

The Seekonk School Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, race, color, or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
Substitute School Nurses needed for our school system at all levels. You must be a Registered Nurse in the state of Massachusetts. Please contact the Seekonk Public Schools employment office for more information.

Jill Dumont, RN, BSN
School Nurse

Doorways Food Pantry needs your help
Doorways is in need of the following food items:

- baked beans
- jelly
- canned fruit
- pasta sauce

If you are able to provide any of these items please drop them off in our school office. Thank you for your support!

Stop & Stop A+ School Rewards Program

Please register your Stop & Shop card and become part of the A+ program. All you have to do is:

Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online

OR

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support.

Please be sure to register your card to benefit HMS using ID # 07074.

Thank you for helping our school!

Troop 1 Open House and Court of Honor

Please see the end of this newsletter for more information.

Seekonk High School Hosts WYLAND Traveling Exhibit

Seekonk High School will be sponsoring an educational traveling art exhibition of Wyland, a famous marine artist and conservationist. The exhibit is open to the entire Seekonk community and will be on display in the main lobby of the high school, the week of April 9-13, 2012.

This educational opportunity for our town, and student’s has been made available by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and The Seekonk Arts Council.

Resources for teacher’s (K-12), will be arriving at your school’s the week of March 19th. Additional resources will be made available on the "staff shared" folder.

Thank you for your continued support of the Visual Arts program. Please see the end of this newsletter for more information.
Wednesday, May 23, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

It’s time for the HMS Career Expo 2012! Each year we hold a Career Expo to encourage our students to think about their futures. Our goal is to expose our students to as many career choices as possible. If your schedule permits we would love to have you to join us this year on Wednesday, May 23rd from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to share your profession with our students. Please confirm your availability via email to:

robitaillec@seekonk.k12.ma.us or fargnoli@seekonk.k12.ma.us

You can also fax this form to the school office at 508-761-9630.

☐ Count me in!
☐ Sorry, I can’t make it this year!

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________
Career: ____________________________________________

PLEASE RSVP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Note: We are always looking for new presenters for our Career Expo. If you know of someone you think might be interested in participating, please let us know.

If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life. ~Author Unknown

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Join us for a day of fun & excitement!
Sunday, March 25th @ 4:05 pm

Providence Bruins vs. Portland Pirates

ALL TICKETS ONLY $15
To purchase your tickets, fill out the order form below and return it to the school office in an envelope marked “PTO-Hockey Night” with cash or a check payable to the Town of Seekonk March 16th. For more information, please contact Amy Dressler at aimfred1@aol.com

* ALL FRIENDS & FAMILY ARE WELCOME! *

Game Date: March 25 _____ # of tickets @ $15.00  Check#:_____
_____ # of FREE hats (1 hat per student)

Student’s Name: ____________________________________________

Teacher’s Name: ___________________________  Grade: ________

Parent’s Name(s): _______________________________________

Phone: ____________________  Email: ____________________

GET YOUR TICKETS

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TROOP 1 OPEN HOUSE AND COURT OF HONOR

Troop 1 invites 5th through 8th grade boys and their parent and/or uncle and/or aunt and/or grandparent to visit our Troop and learn more about Boy Scouting.

Tuesday March 20, 2012 @ 7 p.m.
American Legion Hall
351 Fall River Avenue (Route 114A)
Seekonk, MA 02771

Refreshments will be provided.
For more information contact Mark at 508-336-0902 or email at mickikbm@comcast.net.
Troop 1 serves the Seekonk and surrounding area.

Did you know Scouting helps build character and self esteem?

Neil Armstrong – Eagle Scout and Astronaut, first man on moon.
Steven Spielberg – Eagle Scout and movie producer.
Henry Aaron – Eagle Scout, Baseball player, homerun king – the Mobile Press Register quoted Henry as saying that the greatest positive influence in his life was his involvement in scouting.

In a letter to his Father –
...I put in my plea for a raise of thirty cents for me to buy scout things and pay my own way ...

John F. Kennedy,
12 year old Scout, circa (1929)
President of the United States
Seekonk High School Hosts WYLAND Traveling Exhibit

Art, Science, and Conservation Combine in Marine Life Exhibit!

April 9-13, 2012, Seekonk High School will be displaying a Teacher’s Discovery Traveling Exhibit featuring the fascinating paintings of Wyland, world-renowned marine life artist. The students and staff will enjoy four giant silk panels reproductions. The main panel entitled “The Reef” measures 12x5.5 feet. Also included in the exhibit are three free standing panels measuring 4x6.5 feet which take you underwater to another world to explore the earth’s oceans and reefs without even getting wet!

Water Planet and Year of the Reef, Wyland’s most acclaimed paintings truly celebrate art, science, and conservation!

We welcome the entire Seekonk Community to view this enchanting educational and moving exhibit, which brings to light the importance of conservation, concern for marine life and most importantly its impact on our environment.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Seekonk Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

This event will include interdisciplinary educational activities for students grades K-12. Resources for activities include mathematics, web quests, career opportunities, art, critical thinking, conservation, technology, English and geography. Educators throughout the system can access these materials at: