

Hey

Hawks

Newsletter of
Hamilton International
Middle School PTSA

February
2007



From the PTSA

Sometimes I wonder. Why am I involved with the PTSA? Why do I bother to put the time and energy towards this organization? How did I get here?

It was the people and the need for coffee. As the hospitality person at my children's elementary school, I picked up coffee for the meetings. I got to know and like the PTSA Board and had a growing desire to do more for the school. The Seattle Council PTSA & Washington State PTA provided training and constant support as I dipped my toes into the PTSA waters. I really plunged in when I served for two years as a Co-President at John Stanford International. I thought I was done with the PTSA after that, but then my oldest came to Hamilton. Somehow my hand went up when they asked for a volunteer to head up Staff Appreciation. Through twists and turns, I was asked to step in as Secretary one year, then President last year and I am now serving my second year as President.

That was the how. But why keep doing this? The people brought me in, the children keep me here. It is wonderful to meet the parents and the staff and to be stretched and challenged and to grow as a person due to my experiences with the PTSA. But more than that, the thing that is at the heart of it all, is the fact that in both small and big ways, we are affecting the lives of the children at Hamilton, in Seattle and beyond.

The HIMS PTSA has purchased textbooks, microscopes, library books, classroom supplies, Artists-in-Residence support and many other items that directly benefit the students. We also have several events throughout the year that brings families into the school. It leaves an impression on our children when we attend a school event with them – or help them with homework or ask about their day at school. It shows them school is worthwhile. That is an important message!

The Seattle Council PTSA and the Washington State PTA are also very busy with their work of advocating for children throughout the city and the state. Our membership dues help to support that work. It is not too late to join the Hamilton PTSA! Join us as we continue to look for ways to support both our children and the staff at Hamilton. What keeps me going through some rocky patches is thinking of all that we've accomplished and how much more we can do!

—Nancy Clinkenbeard, PTSA President

(Interested in joining the Hamilton PTSA? Please feel free to contact any of the PTSA Board members, whose emails are listed in this newsletter. You may also reach Nancy Clinkenbeard at (206) 634-2491)

Dear Families,

January was a busy month here at Hamilton International Middle School. Students and teachers are busy wrapping up the first semester, which ends February 1st. Watch the mail for report cards to come home soon. We will be having grade level awards assemblies the first week of March to recognize students for academic excellence and perfect attendance.

In January, we had an assembly honoring Japanese Taiko drumming and culture with students from Mr. Barilleau's performing arts classes and One World Taiko (with Gary Tsujimoto and Nancy Aoki). The staff and student audience participation made this a wonderful celebration.

As we enter the second semester of the 2006/2007 school year, we are making plans for next year. Later this month, we will be finalizing our annual budget, staffing and scheduling plans for next year.

School tours for 5th grade students began in mid-January and will be held once a week until mid-February. High school tours are also happening for 8th grade students. More information about 8th grade tours can be found on the District website.

Enjoy the occasional sun breaks and have a happy 2007!

Sincerely,

Terry Acena, Principal and Jesely Alvarez, Assistant Principal

CALENDAR

2/6 **Vote yes on Propositions 1 & 2**

2/7 **Two Hour Early Dismissal**

2/8 **PTSA General Meeting, 7 pm**

2/19-23 **Mid-Winter Break**

3 classrooms receive a \$10,000 grant to fund classroom libraries

A special thanks to a good friend, Barbara Peterson, and her foundation, the Dickey Fund, who have graciously donated \$10,000 to Hamilton International Middle School to fund three classroom libraries.

I met with Barbara before winter break and was informally speaking with her about literacy and reading and how so many of my students were struggling readers who read far below grade level. Barbara knows first hand about struggling readers and is home schooling her daughter, Maggie, who suffers from dyslexia.

Meeting with Ms. Alvarez, our Vice Principal, we came up with a plan for funding and with giving at different funding levels. I met with Barbara after Christmas and she decided to give \$10,000 fund three classroom libraries. The libraries would be in my room, Ms. Patty Chacon's 6th grade inclusion classroom, and to Ms. Anna Nuno's 7th grade inclusion classroom. Ms. Robin Lambert, 8th grade inclusion, will receive a library from the district in the spring.

The libraries' titles will be modeled after the nationally known Teachers College at Columbia University in New York. For years they have been developing the Reading and Writing workshops in the classroom and the minimum amount of books they recommend is 600, a mixture of fiction and expository books. These books would be high-interest, multiple grade leveled books. I have ordered the Bluford series for each classroom now, and by the look of kids reading them and checking them out, it is working. I am meeting with Janine King, Seattle Public Schools literacy coach, who is helping with the ordering of the books.

Presently I am preparing to meet with the owner of Dunn Lumber to see if they can donate the materials for 24 bookshelves for the classroom. Then I will ask for volunteers to build the bookshelves.

I want to deeply thank the Dickey Fund and Barbara Peterson for this gift. Reading is key to education and I believe this gift will benefit our students. It will help them to become readers and become excited about books that will open up for them the world of ideas, the depth of characters, the ability of comprehend and ask questions, and hopefully will enable the students to be life-long learners and better citizens.

—Jim Jarosz

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Wanting to sell that extra bike? Outgrown the skis? Looking for a bike rack? Want a new puppy or giving away kittens? Selling the fish tank and dresser for cheap? Need a babysitter? This is the place to offer and solicit goods and services to buy, sell or trade that might be of interest to Hamilton students and their families. Type up your ad and send it to:
www.himsnewsletter submissions.org.

2006-2007 HIMS PTSA BOARD

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thanks

Thank you to John Appel of The UPS Store at Oak Tree for printing this edition of "Hey Hawks."

Hey Hawks is edited by Kari Monsen and Jennifer Veninga. Amy Chinn takes care of layout and design. The newsletter is printed at the UPS store at Oak Tree. We welcome the submission of articles and calendar items that would be of interest to the Hamilton community. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. *Hey Hawks* is published monthly. Articles for the newsletter can be submitted by hard copy to the PTSA box in the main office or by email to HIMSNewsletterSubmission@gmail.com.

The deadline for the March issue is February 16th.

Welcome to Our 25th Year!

Sanity Circus

A free six-week series for parents and teachers who want more cooperative, respectful, and joyful relationships with children and youth.

Sponsored by the Highland Park School PTA and the Puget Sound Adlerian Society, funded in part by the Horizons Foundation

Presented by Stephanie Cross

February 26-April 2, 2007

Highland Park Elementary School

1012 S.W. Trenton St., Seattle

Mondays for six weeks, 7:00-8:30 pm

Childcare available for potty-trained children.

Register with PSAS, psas@att.net, noting ages of children coming for childcare.

Call PSAS, 206-527-2566, for questions.

(Please register early so that we have time to prepare handout materials.)

Clock-hour and CE credit available for teachers and counselors.

February 26

Choosing Our Parenting Style:

Autocratic/Permissive/Democratic

A Sense of Belonging: The Primary Goal of Children and Adults

Mistaken Goals: Undue Attention, Power, Revenge, and Display of Inadequacy

March 5

Encouragement: Helping Your Child To Live with Courage

March 12

Communication: Listening and Expressing Yourself, Respectfully

March 19

Getting Out of Power Struggles:

Problem Solving, Cooperatively

March 26

Discipline ≠ Punishment: Teaching Self-Discipline, Tearlessly

April 2

Family Meetings: Caring and Mutual Respect

Suggested Reading: Positive Discipline or Positive Discipline for Teenagers, by Jane Nelsen, Ed.D. A book of handouts and a resource table with books, tapes, and videos to borrow or purchase will be available.

Disciplina con valor, amor, y firmeza

Una serie gratis de siete semanas para padres de familia y maestros que desean relaciones más cooperativas, respetuosas, y aliadas con los niños y los jóvenes.

Patrocinado por la Asociación de Padres, Maestros, y Estudiantes de la escuela Highland Park y el Puget Sound Adlerian Society, pagada en parte por el Horizons Foundation

Presentado por Lupe Fisch

Desde el 26 de febrero hasta el 2 de abril, del 2007

Seis lunes, desde las siete de la tarde hasta las nueve de la noche
Highland Park School, 1012 S.W. Trenton, Seattle

Guardería de niños ya entrenados.

Regístrese con Lupe Fisch, 206-542-0407.

Regístrese temprano, de esa forma podemos preparar los materiales.

26 febrero

A través de culturas/Introducciones/¿Cuál es su estilo?

5 marzo

Por qué los niños se portan mal/Estableciendo límites apropiados

12 marzo

Ánimos/Castigos/Consecuencias/Soluciones

19 marzo

Juntas familiares

26 marzo

Conflictos/Peñas de niños

2 abril

Más herramientas/Juntándolo todo

Sugerencia para leer: Disciplina Positiva, por Jane Nelsen, Ed. D., disponible en la clase.

The Puget Sound Adlerian Society is a nonprofit educational organization. Alfred Adler, M.D., founder of Adlerian Psychology, believed that healthy families, classrooms, workplaces, etc., rest on a cornerstone of mutual respect. PSAS helps people learn and model the skills and attitudes of mutual respect. Please call 206-527-2566 to learn more about PSAS or see our Web site at www.pasadler.org. The Parenting Calendar, a quarterly listing of parenting classes and support groups sponsored by many organizations in the Puget Sound area, is on the Web site. PSAS also offers a Certificate Program for Professional Studies in Adlerian Psychology (see the Web site). Visitors are welcome to come to our free monthly Adlerian Forums and to use our library. Membership inquiries and donations are most welcome! PSAS is an affiliate of the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology.

Staff & Teacher Wish List

Our SLP, Emily Byers, is interested in some sensory and focus tools to use with some of the kids she works with. For more information please contact Emily. (ejbyers@seattleschools.org)

Boxes of Kleenex - can be dropped off in the office

Cough drops or **throat lozenges** -
can be dropped off with Nurse Kelly

Teachers are always in need of **Post-It notes** -
they can be sent in to the office

coping with adolescent stress

a seminar for parents

Are you concerned that your child or their friends are stressed out, overwhelmed or depressed? Dealing with academic stress or failure?

Stress and depression in adolescents is real, and as parents we need to know how to help our children cope.

Come learn the typical symptoms of stress and depression and when it is appropriate to seek professional help.

Don't just worry; educate yourself!

Presented by:
Sue Eastgard, MSW, Executive Director,
Youth Suicide Prevention Program of Washington State

Sponsored by:
GTHC Counselor Rosie Moore, GHS Nurse Chris Cordell and
the GHS PTSA

For more information, contact:
Chris Cordell at (206) 252-2277

Thursday, March 8th 2007

7:00 pm -8:30 pm

Garfield Community Center

Multipurpose Room
2323 E. Cherry St.
Seattle, WA 98122



YSPP
Youth Suicide Prevention Program
www.yspp.org

Events in the Community ...

Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities

- Share your ideas about family values and roots, communication, finding creative solutions/discipline, success in school. The program is provided at no cost, interpreters are available, and transportation is provided if needed. The program is held on Thursdays, from 5:30-8:00 pm, at Aki Kurose Middle School, 3928 S. Graham, Seattle, WA 98118. For more information, and/or to register, please call Michelle Flick, at 206-252-7747.

Literacy Night

Tuesday, March 13 is Literacy Night at Hamilton.

In addition to the Book Fair Sale, sponsored by The Secret Garden Bookstore, students will be staging a variety of literary performances. We anticipate a start time of 6:30 pm.

A Bookmark Contest to advertise the event is now in progress. Students may pick up blank bookmarks in the Library, with entries due February 16. A treat and gift certificate to Barnes & Noble will be awarded to the winning entry.

Hamilton International YMCA Community Learning Center News

The Hamilton Boy's and Girl's Basketball teams are in the middle of fantastic seasons. Remaining games are February 6th at Summitt and February 8th at Eckstein. Gina Gerlitz is coaching the girls, you can contact her at gigerlitz@seattleschools.org. Chris Davis is coaching the boys, you can reach him at cedavis@seattleschools.org. The start of Boys' Soccer and Girls' Volleyball are also right around the corner. Coach Adam (acfinch@seattleschools.org) and Coach Gerlitz will be leading the teams, respectively. Gooooo Hawks!

Sign up for the Winter session of Hamilton Out of School Time (HOST) while you still can! Magic: The Gathering, Drama Club, Warren Miller Young Entrepreneurs, and Youth Strength & Fitness are just a few of the classes that still have space. Hurry and turn in your registration form today! Forms can be brought to Ms. Amy and Mr. Rossman in room 124 or their box in the main office. The current Winter session of HOST will be ending Friday, March 30.

The Hamilton International YMCA CLC is also conducting a school supply drive for HIMS. Items of need include pencil pouches and half inch to 1 inch binders. Donations can be given to Amy and Chris in room 124 and are greatly appreciated.

Any parents, guardians or community members interested in volunteering at HIMS can contact Amy or Chris at (206) 252-5831.

We are looking forward to another great school year!

Respect. Responsibility. Honesty. Caring. Faith. Fun
—Ms. Amy & Mr. Rossman

Hamilton International Middle School PTSA
1610 North 41st Street
Seattle, WA 98103

Non-Profit
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POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS

Hamilton International Middle School to Expand Advanced Japanese and Spanish Language Programs for Fall 2007

Fall 2007 will see Hamilton International round out its world language program by adding Japanese language immersion and expanding their Spanish language immersion classes. Hamilton already offers three years of either Spanish or Japanese for most students including Spanish language immersion for advanced speakers in the 6th and 7th grades.

"Students are immersed in the target language for two of their six periods: instruction takes place only in that language," explained Assistant Principal Jesely Álvarez. "Next year we're very excited to expand our program offerings for heritage and other advanced speakers through more immersion language classes," said Álvarez. "We are actively recruiting Spanish and Japanese heritage speakers for our incoming 6th grade class." Advanced Japanese speakers in 7th and 8th grades are also encouraged to apply.

The focus of the classes is on Spanish or Japanese literacy, and includes reading, writing and grammar and incorporates subject matter from Social Studies, International Arts and Physical Education. The rest of the day students attend Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Math classes, including honors or Spectrum classes where appropriate. Instrumental music, journalism and other electives are scheduled as part of the free HOST after school program.

For more information, prospective students and their families are invited to attend the first School Tour on January 9 from 8:30-10:00 am, which will include additional information about the immersion programs. Additional tour dates include January 16, 23, 30 and February 8 and 15. There will also be an evening meeting on February 13, 2007, 7-8 pm. For more information please call 252-5810.

For more information, please contact:
Sharon Rodgers
International Education Coordinator
Hamilton International Middle School
sharon@ohana.org
(206) 252-5810

