

Hey Hawks

Newsletter of
Hamilton International
Middle School PTSA

June
2007

A farewell of sorts ...

This is my last article as PTSA President at Hamilton. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in that way for the past two years. I have learned a lot and have met some amazing and wonderful people.

I am grateful to my Board for all their hard work. **Ethan Bradford** has served as Vice-President (Programs) this year and has been invaluable for his historical knowledge of Hamilton and for always being ready to help and do what needs to be done. Ethan has served on the PTSA Board for several years & his other offices have included Treasurer and At-Large.

Kari Monsen is Vice-President (Communications) and she has worked on the Hey Hawks PTSA Newsletter and also co-chaired the Staff Appreciation events. She is a master at planning parties/lunches! I have enjoyed her enthusiasm and creativity.

Bruce Adair has been on the Board for three years, serving first as Treasurer and currently as Secretary. He spent many, many hours on the paving and landscaping project in the front of the school and his input on the Board has been very much appreciated.

Audrey Hicks joined the Board as Treasurer this year and her humor and efficiency in that office has brought a lot of liveliness to our meetings!

Katie Klein served for part of the year in the At-Large position and was a gracious host for many of our meetings.

Jennifer Veninga joined us as another At-Large this year and will be stepping in as President. What a thrill! She will bring people together and work on behalf of all Hamilton students.

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Dear Hamilton Families,

It's been a great pleasure having served you as Hamilton International's principal. I've enjoyed every minute of my time spent at Hamilton. I've been so fortunate to have such a talented team to develop Hamilton as a school that is on the rise.

I'll never forget my first year as the planning principal and the concerns I had about taking this position. I knew it was going to require a lot of energy and hard work to develop the school into what I envisioned, but I knew it was what I wanted to do.

We have come a long way but I know there's always more to do. I can't say enough about the students, families and staff. Without your participation and help we could not have made such positive changes.

The new administrative team will do an excellent job of making sure that Hamilton International continues to develop into a top notch school. They are already working hard to make sure the 2007-2008 school year will be a success.

Again, I just want to thank everyone for making my stay at Hamilton International such a wonderful and positive experience. It has gone by too quickly.

I will always keep the students and families at Hamilton International close to my heart. I wish you all well.

—Terry Acena, Principal

CALENDAR

- 6/14 . . Evening concert, 6:30pm at HIMS
- 6/19 . . All school athletic banquet
- 6/21 . . 8th grade promotion, 7pm at Lincoln
- 6/22 . . Last day of classes, one hour early dismissal

A farewell of sorts ...

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Bill Chiles continued for his second year as Membership Chair, spending many hours inputting our ever growing membership. He has been a great support.

Chris Davis and **Emily Christiansen** have served as our two Staff Reps. It has been very helpful getting the staff perspective! Emily and Chris are both coaches for a number of sports throughout the year and we are grateful for how much they give of themselves.

It has been a joy to work with all of these people. Our Board meetings are never dull! I am grateful for having had the chance to serve with them. The Board will be even bigger next year, with a 3rd At-Large position added and it promises to be an exciting year with some new energy and continued care and concern for all Hamilton students.

Thank you all for allowing me the chance to serve in this way. You have made it all worthwhile. I have one more year as a Hamilton parent and look forward to seeing you all!

Have a fun, fabulous & safe summer!

—Nancy Clinkenbeard, PTSA President



Hamilton Marimba Pride

The Hamilton marimba group has been busy practicing and performing. Working under the direction of Lary Barilleau and Stephen Golovin this group of 15 to 25 students practices twice a week after school. The marimbas the students use today were built two years ago by Stephen, Lary and a group of students. This was made possible with financial help from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Hamilton PTSA. Stephen continues to offer marimba building to students in the after school program sponsored by HOST.

The Hamilton Marimba Pride was honored to play at the Alliance for Education Breakfast and the annual meeting of the YMCA at Benaroya. Most recently they performed at Folklife. Future plans include school graduation parties and the Zimbabwe Music Festival in Olympia this summer.

The popularity of the program continues to grow in large part due to the hard work and enthusiasm of Stephen and Lary. Next year they plan to offer advanced and beginning marimba playing with some of the advanced students helping to teach the beginners.

2006-2007 HIMS PTSA BOARD

Nancy Clinkenbeard - *President*
nancyclink@earthlink.net

Ethan Bradford - *Vice-President (Programs)*
ethan_bradford@StanfordAlumni.org

Kari Monsen - *Vice-President (Newsletter)*
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zeynep_cuce@hotmail.com

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emclineschmidt@seattleschools.org

Chris Davis - *Staff Representative*
cedavis@seattleschools.org

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 September issue is August 17th.

Adobe Youth Voices at Hamilton

In 2006, HIMS was selected to be one of 37 schools and non-profit organizations throughout the United States, United Kingdom, and India to participate in Adobe Youth Voices (AYV). AYV is a global philanthropic initiative designed to empower young people to engage with and comment on their communities through the use of video, audio, digital photography, animation and web design. AYV works collaboratively with Arts Engine, iEarn, Listen Up, What Kids Can Do, Reel Grrls and Educational Video Center.

Since being selected to participate, Ms. Patty Smith and Ms. Robin Lambert have been busy gearing up for the project. Preparations have included researching and purchasing equipment, many hours of training, and organizing a lab. With funds from the Adobe grant, The International Business Breakfast, and the PTSA, HIMS has purchased thirteen video cameras for student use, and ten computers powerful enough to support video production. Most recently, the PTSA approved a request for the purchase of a new server to support this project, in addition to helping to meet existing memory needs.

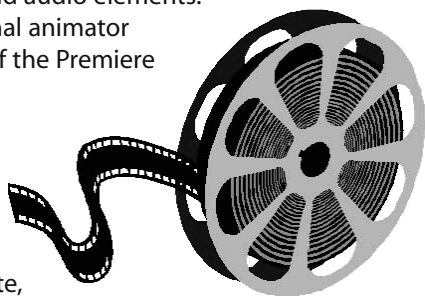
Ms. Smith and Ms. Lambert report that the students are very excited and anxious to begin filmmaking. The students have learned to analyze Public Service Announcements for effective use of video and audio elements.

Last month, a professional animator demonstrated the use of the Premiere Elements software to create stop motion animation. Currently, they are working in groups of six to create their own PSA. When the projects are complete, they will be posted to the iEarn website.

Students from all of the year one cities will share their work and have an electronic forum for viewing and commenting on each other's projects.

This project has included the collaboration of many people. Sue Ranney wrote the successful grant application, mentors Lila Kitaeff and Sukhi Sanghera from Reel Grrls have been incredibly helpful, Steve Nobel from Seattle Public Schools, and Ryan Yeh from the University of Washington were great sources of support getting the computers imaged and connected to the network.

Ms. Smith and Ms. Lambert look forward to continuing this work with students next year. They also plan to help other HIMS teachers learn how to use this technology with their students.



Hamilton International PTSA Board 2006-2007

With the approval of the general membership May 24th, the Hamilton International PTSA elected the following four new board members for next year.

Three board members will start without a specific portfolio (i.e. they'll be "at large" members): **Gary Shigenaka**, **Mark Miller**, and **Meryl Shier**. **Jan Fitzpatrick** will be stepping into the job of newsletter editor and VP of Communication!

Gary has enjoyed being active in his sixth-grade son's education, including chairing his preschool and being the room representative.

Mark has a sixth grader at Hamilton and a second grader at Lawton. He's been an active volunteer at Hamilton this past year and at Lawton for many years. He is also the chairman of the (very active) Spectrum panel for all of Seattle.

Meryl is a professional educator and musician who's also been a very active school volunteer. Among the many things she's done for Hamilton this year is co-chairing the Staff Appreciation group. She has a sixth grade son at Hamilton and another son in high school, where she also runs staff appreciation.

Jan has a seventh grader at Hamilton. She's an occasional professional writer, and was a communications coordinator for the Pacific Crest School. Jan also has a sophomore at Garfield High school and she is the school's volunteer coordinator.

Returning to the board in new positions are **Jennifer Veninga**, moving from "at large" to president, and **Kari Monsen**, moving from VP Communication to Secretary. The remaining board members will keep their current positions: **Audrey Hicks**, Treasurer, **Bill Chiles**, Membership Chair, and **Ethan Bradford**, VP Programs.

Staff & Teacher Wish List

MAGAZINES Chris Davis is requesting more magazines and blue painter's tape. He is grateful for the donation of magazines. Keep them coming!

A Year in Seattle

María Contreras-Herce is a teacher from the south of Spain currently working at Hamilton as a sixth and seventh grade “immersion assistant”. She was placed at Hamilton by the Spanish Department of Education as a “Cultural Ambassador”. Here, she reflects on the experience she has had in our school...

When I was asked to write a short article about my experience at Hamilton I knew it wouldn't be an easy task. How to express with words my gratitude to the school?

I still remember my doubts when I was told that I had been selected to work as a Language Assistant in the United States. I knew that going to a new country to teach would be hard. Having to build a new environment, getting to know where things are, making new friends, in other words, feeling constantly in need of other people, was not going to be easy. Would I be able to cope with it?

All my doubts were dispelled shortly after I arrived. Although things at the beginning were not easy, I quickly realized that people were willing to help. Whenever I needed anything, they were right there to support me. I doubt I could have gone through all this if it had not been for the many generous people I have met. My host family, the Melkersons, are some of the most loving and kind people I have ever met. I have also been fortunate to have very patient co-workers, Ms. Wittmann-Todd and Ms. Sandler. They have been real spirit boosters throughout the course of the whole program. But the list of people making every single day of my staying here a very pleasant one is countless. I receive everyday acts of kindness that help me feel as if I truly fit in and that I am appreciated. My students would be surprised if they knew what a difference they have made in my life... I certainly will miss them... and I will definitely go back to Spain a better teacher thanks to what they have taught me. I just hope I have been able to impact their lives as much as they have impacted mine...

Now that my time to go home is close, I am constantly asked if I am ready to go back. I do not know. I feel such a weird sensation... I know that my place is there, in Spain, with my “real” family, but I know I will miss this other family, my “Hamilton family”, my family in The States. My experience in Seattle has helped me grow as a person. With help from my Hamilton family I met the challenges I faced. In the classroom, I have learned new methodologies and activities. While working here, I have gained a new understanding of the global role of educators. I have been refreshed with new experiences and I have memories that will remain for many years after I leave the United States. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS UNIQUE GIFT.

Hamilton International YMCA Community Learning Center News

The spring session of Hamilton Out of School Time (HOST) is still running strong. The last day of HOST classes is Friday, June 8. Planning is already underway for next school years HOST sessions. Please call the Community Learning Center for more information.

Math Volunteers needed! Our popular HOST Math Academy is held Mondays through Thursdays and could use extra helpers. Any parents, guardians or community members interested in volunteering for HOST or during the school day at HIMS can contact Amy or Chris at (206) 252-5831.

The 2007 Youth and Government trip to Olympia was a fun-filled success! Fourteen HIMS 8th graders were joined by a group from Washington Middle School in addition to hundreds of youth in Olympia from around the state. The students met Governor Gregoire, passed bills and rocked the state capitol during the Friday night Governor's Ball. HIMS Student Sabrina Saxen was also recognized as 8th Grade Senator of the Year. We are already counting down the days until next year's weeklong trip...

The Seattle YMCA CLC's are gearing up for YU LEARN summer school. Twenty Hamilton students going into the 7th and 8th grades next year will take part in this fun learning experience. This six week long program is held on the campus of Seattle University along with students from Aki Kurose, Madison, Meany, and Washington middle schools. For more information please contact the Hamilton CLC.

Looking for something fun and memorable to do this summer? YMCA Resident Camps Orkila and Coleman offer great summer experiences. Log on to the YMCA Camping Services site at www.seattleyymca.org/page.cfm?id=cs or contact Ms. Amy in the CLC for more information.

The Hamilton International YMCA CLC is also conducting a school supply drive for HIMS. Items of need include pencil pouches and 1 inch to 2 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 Chris Rossman at (206) 252-5831.

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

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who donated "sandwich fixings" for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon on May 10. We couldn't have done it without you!

Amy Burke, Mary Heim, Nancy Clinkenbeard, Adrienne Blue, Michelle Umeda, Kari Monsen, Jan Fitzpatrick, Jean Meyers, Karen French, Beth Rollinger, Barbara Stahler, Jennifer Veninga, Tricia Rendina, Kate Martin, Angelica Germain, Katie Campbell, Meryl Shier, Angela Painter, and Leilani Saar. Thanks for the help with clean-up, Kelly Bradford, and thanks for the flowers, Jan Fitzpatrick!

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.himsnewslettersubmissions.org.

Main Office

Hours: 7:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
(206) 252-5810 • Fax (206) 252-5811

Attendance Office

(206) 252-5814
Call if your child will be late or absent.

School Hours

7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Principal

Terry Acena
tacena@seattleschools.org

Seattle Youth Fitness and Sports Conditioning Camp

LIFE'S A GAME, PLAY TO WIN!

Looking for a great summer activity for your child? Consider Seattle Youth Fitness Camp.

Seattle Youth Fitness Camp helps kids get in shape and develop skill related components of fitness, including balance and coordination, movement efficiency, speed, agility, and power. Care is taken to explain the how and why of each exercise. An emphasis is also placed on working hard while maintaining a positive attitude and having fun. Camps run Monday-Thursday beginning the weeks of July 16, July 23, July 30, and August 6 and are held at Roosevelt High School.

All sessions are run by Matt Katinas CSCS, ACSM H/FI, a Roosevelt High School physical education teacher and strength and conditioning coach.

Who:

Youth ages 9-11 and 12-14; Coached by Matt Katinas, Physical Education Teacher, NSCA & ACSM Certified Trainer

Where:

Roosevelt High School Field, 1410 NE 66th St., Seattle

When:

Monday - Thursday's the weeks of July 16th, July 23rd, July 30th, and August 6th
(9-11 year olds 3-4 PM and 12-14 year olds 4:15-5:15 PM)

Why:

Prepare for your sports season; get in shape, HAVE FUN! Just to name a few reasons!

Cost:

\$60 per participant per weekly session, \$55 per participant for each additional session - price includes a free t-shirt

*Register by June 15th and receive a free sports bottle!

For more information and registration please visit:

www.seattleyouthfitnesscamp.com

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Seattle, WA 98103

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POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS

Writers in the Schools at Hamilton

By Jennifer Veninga

This year, Ms. Greenberg's, Ms. Miller's, and Ms. Chacon's LA/SS students have participated in Seattle Arts and Lectures Writers in the Schools program (WITS). Since 1994, this program has brought professional writers to public schools to, "inspire students' understanding of the human experience through reading, writing, and performance." That these goals were achieved was evident at Literacy Night this spring. In front of a packed auditorium students took the stage and read their original work. Teachers benefit by working with professional writers and gain new curriculum for use with other students.

Seattle poet and educator Laura Gamache worked with students to create *Joy of Cooking Peace*, a collection of poems in the form of recipes for peace. Poems from this collection were read aloud by the authors at Trophy Cupcake Café at the Wallingford Center. WITS treated the students to cupcakes and milk.

Recently, I had the opportunity to observe Ms. Gamache work with a group of Susanna Miller's students. Ms. Gamache is clearly very comfortable working with middle school students. As they entered the classroom, she greeted them by name and looked eager to begin work. She then introduced the project. They were going to create poetry using only the titles of books. After going to the library, Laura read a poem she had created using this method. Once they were given the green light, the students were eager to get to work. They went to the shelves and began writing book titles on strips of paper. Once they were satisfied, they returned to the tables and began composing by arranging and rearranging the titles. Some students worked independently and some worked collaboratively, reading their work aloud and getting feedback from peers. The students were happy to share their

work with me and didn't display any of the anxiety one might expect to see accompanying a poetry writing assignment.

WITS also helped support a visit by local author Arthur Dorros. Many HIMS sixth graders read his book, *Under the Sun*. Mr. Dorros entertained the students with an autobiographical slide show and humorous tales of his childhood. Mr. Dorros described his circuitous path to becoming an author, which included carpentry and photography.

Under the Sun is during the Bosnian war and tells the story of the war through the eyes of Ehmet, a young boy. Mr. Dorros told the students about the research he did for the book, including a trip to the town the setting of the book is based on. He talked to the students about conversations he had with children who had lived through the war. He ended his talk by taking questions from the audience and signing books.

Recipe for Peace

By Juana

Mix your love into the bowl
Stir the happiness in the bowl
Beat the sadness and loneliness out of the bowl
Bake the cookies with friendship
Dip with laughter
Cook with wonder
Pour with trust and care
Throw away the anger