

Hey Hawks

Newsletter of
Hamilton International
Middle School PTSA

January
2008



FROM THE PTSA

Your PTSA Dollars At Work

Each year, the Hamilton PTSA holds Fund Drives. These drives are an opportunity for parents to fill the gaps between the limited Seattle School District budget, and the basic needs of Hamilton.

How are these funds spent? HIMS *Hey Hawks* interviewed HIMS counselor Neil Yeda regarding a grant he received from last year's fund drive.

School Year 2006/07 \$400 grant for Natural Helpers Scholarship

What is Natural Helpers?

The Natural Helpers is a peer helping program. It is based on the single premise: Within every school, an informal "helping network" exists. Students with problems naturally seek out other students – and occasionally teachers or other school staff – whom they trust. They seek them out for advice, assistance, or just a sympathetic ear. The Natural Helpers Program provides training to these students who are already "natural helpers." It gives these students the skills they need to provide help, and particularly provides them with essential helping resources for serious problems students or their friends may encounter.

Who are the Natural Helpers at Hamilton?

Natural Helpers are a cross section of students identified through an anonymous schoolwide survey. After representatives of all subgroups in the school community are selected, they are invited to participate in the Natural Helpers Program. These students receive at least 30 hours of training in a retreat setting. The training includes instruction on contacting helping resources when serious problems exceed their limits of ability,

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Dear Families,

Welcome to 2008! We hope you had a restful and energizing winter break. We want to briefly mention a few big events happening this month for Hamilton Hawks.

The annual International Business Breakfast is on January 17th from 7:00-8:45 a.m. at the W Hotel in downtown Seattle. Seattle's global business community will gather to celebrate the late John Stanford's vision of international education in our public schools. Our thriving programs at John Stanford International School and Hamilton International Middle School are nationally recognized models of success. The expansion of the International Education program will increase access, equity and diversity of the program for Seattle Public Schools students and families. The International Education program is preparing students for college and as future leaders in a global economy. A "Fund-a-Dream" Paddle Raise will support our existing programs and new initiatives for international education programs. For more information, go to IBB@seattleschools.org.

Fifth grade school tours begin for Hamilton on January 22nd (check out our website for our complete tour schedule). This will be an opportunity for incoming families and students to experience teaching and learning

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Upcoming Dates for HIMS

- 1/9 **826 Seattle Publication party,**
6-8 p.m. HIMS auditorium
- 1/17 **HIMS/JSIS Business Breakfast**
- 1/21 **MLK Jr. Holiday, NO SCHOOL**
- 1/22 **First day of HOST**
. **School tours start**
- 1/25 **End of semester**
- 1/28 **Day between semesters,**
NO SCHOOL
- 2/6 **2 hour early dismissal**

Dear Families,

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in the classroom and learn about all of the fantastic programs and activities we offer our students. There will also be an evening tour at our remodel school site at Lincoln High School (located only two blocks away from Hamilton) on February 12th. We will be housed at Lincoln from 2008-2010 and return to a remodeled Hamilton for the 2010-2011 school year.

Remember that the last day of the semester is on January 25th. Now is a good time to check in at home with students and review their academic progress before the end of the semester. Our staff does a very good job in communicating and teaming with families to enhance their students' learning. Please feel free to contact your child's teachers if you have any questions/comments at any time throughout the school year about your child's progress.

Take pleasure in the slower pace of winter and cease the opportunity to curl up with some good books, perhaps one in a language your child is learning at school.

Thank you, Gracias, Arigato,
Katie Cryan Leary, *Principal* and Jesely Alvarez, *Assistant Principal*

FROM THE PTSA

Your PTSA Dollars At Work

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and how to better care for themselves. Natural Helpers are not professionally trained therapists or counselors.

Why is this grant needed?

Hamilton's Natural Helpers Program is totally self-sufficient. We receive no building or district financial support except for the grants that the PTSA has so generously provided us in the past. The cost of sending a student to a three day two night training retreat is \$110.00. At Hamilton 60% of our students receive free and reduced meals. The \$110.00 Natural Helpers cost is out of the price range for a lot of our families. Last year, because of the PTSA grant we were able to give partial scholarships to 9 out of 31 students.

How has this helped improve the Hamilton student experience?

Natural Helpers find the skills they learn in working with others are beneficial for relationships with friends, teachers, and family. These students make new friends in the program and break down some of the barriers that exist in any community. They also make vital referrals to professionals, to keep their friends and our school community safe.

You can see from this one example how the annual fund really impacts the quality of student experience offered at Hamilton. Please support the annual fund, even if you can only donate a small amount. Every bit helps!

2007-2008 HIMS PTSA BOARD

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Hey Hawks is edited by Jan Fitzpatrick 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 February issue is January 18th.

Hamilton Web Site Resurrected, or, How Alex Chiles Saved the Web Site

The Hamilton web site has a new look, new additions (check out Mr. Levin's weather station page), and updated information. This is thanks to Alex Chiles, an 8th grader at Hamilton, who approached me in September with an interest in working on the site. She had learned HTML and created a PowerPoint showing her ideas for the site. I was impressed with the new look and blown away by her initiative (which even motivated me to spend time updating the calendar and other time-sensitive information). Alex works on the site after school one day a week.

Check out what she has done at:
www.seattleschools.org/schools/hamilton.

—L. Kipp, Librarian

FALL FUND DRIVE UPDATE

To date we have raised over \$6000 from our Fall Fund Drive. This money will be used for programs and events at Hamilton which include the following:

Support for International Arts Program.

This support includes festival transportation and Artist-in-Residence supplies.

8th Grade Promotion

The Student Directory
Hey Hawks newsletter

The PTSA Board met recently to approve staff grants, which included:

Library books to support Social Studies curriculum
Money to support the Spring Ultimate Frisbee team
Technology to support Mr. Lutzenhiser's afterschool orchestra program.

Thank you to the many families who made contributions. It is not too late to make a donation.

Thank you,
Jennifer Veninga, PTSA President

HIMS School Tours

January 22nd, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

(geared toward immersion language students)

January 29th, 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m.

February 5th, 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m.

February 12th, Evening tour at Lincoln, time TBD

Get Involved!

For parents, getting involved in Middle School can be intimidating. In fact, try walking from one end of the hall to the other during a passing period, not easy. There are many ways to support Hamilton without working in your child's classroom. If you enjoy working with students, the YMCA has a need for parents and adults to support the afterschool homework club and individual teachers have asked for help during class time. There is help needed in math classrooms and help needed with literacy circles in Language Arts classes. Staff are prepared to give you the support and training you need to feel comfortable.

We are preparing for school tours and need parent support to make them successful. We are looking for parents to accompany small groups on tours of the school and/or to visit with prospective families and their students. You don't need to be familiar with all of the programs Hamilton has to offer. In addition to a formal presentation by Ms. Cryan-Leary and Ms. Alvarez, we will have plenty of printed materials outlining the many programs and our partners. If you are interested in being involved please contact Christie Rodgers at christie@ohanna.org or 548-9588.

There are a few all-school events coming up. In a few weeks, dates will be announced for Literacy Night and Math Night. Literacy Night features student readings and the showcasing of student work. This is an exciting event. We need parents to help staff the bookfair and provide other support to make the evening run smoothly. Math night is a more low-key event. In the past, families have come to play math related board games and math department staff are on hand to discuss curriculum and lead a math lesson.

Soon, we will begin recruiting new PTSA Board members for the 2008-09 year. The February newsletter will have more information about this nominating and election process.

Finally, we are always seeking new ideas, initiatives and feedback. Please let us know what we can do to improve home to school communication, school events that you would like to see, information you would like to find on our website, etc. The beginning of a new year is a great time to gather ideas and make improvements.

Thank you,
From the PTSA

Get Involved!

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

www.hamilton-ptsa.org



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POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS

**Hamilton International YMCA
Community Learning Center News:
Greetings and happy new year from the Hamilton
YMCA Community Learning Center (CLC)!**

The Hamilton Boy's and Girl's Basketball seasons are off to fantastic starts! The District website shows all game times and locations for the 2007-2008 school year at www.seattleschools.org/area/athletics/index.dxml. Let's go Hawks!

The winter/spring session of Hamilton Out of School Time (HOST) will be starting Tuesday, January 22. HOST registration forms will be available shortly after return to classes in January. Forms will be distributed to students at school. Please call the Community Learning Center for more information.

The Hamilton International YMCA CLC is also conducting a school supply drive for HIMS. Items of need include pencil pouches and 1/2 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 Chris Rossman at (206) 252-5831. Volunteers could especially be used in our popular HOST Homework and Math Academies!

We are looking forward to another great school year!

Respect. Responsibility. Honesty. Caring. Faith. Fun.

—Ms. Amy & Mr. Rossman

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

Katie Cryan-Leary
ktcryan@seattleschools.org