

Hey Hawks

February 2010 • vol. 4 issue 5

NEWSLETTER OF HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
2 hour early dismissal
Staff Appreciation Lunch
by PTSA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15
President's Day – No School

FEBRUARY 16–19
Mid-winter Break – No School

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
PTSA Board Meeting – 6:30pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
PTSA General Meeting w/Guest
Speaker Julie Metzger – 7pm
HIMS Young Musicians Concert
Lincoln Auditorium – 7pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3
2 hour early dismissal
Staff Appreciation Lunch
by PTSA

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL TBD
International Dinner/Fair

THURSDAY, MAY 6
International Arts Celebration
with JSIS

THURSDAY, MAY 13
Last General PTSA Meeting

For current news and calendar updates, go to
<http://hamiltoninternational.org>

PTSA Student Directory Available Now

As of Feb 1, copies of the long-awaited **2009-10 HIMS student directory** will be available in the school office. Students or parents are welcome to stop by and pick up one copy per household. Thank you for your patience!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Hamilton Hawks Parents and Guardians,

The staff at Hamilton International Middle School would like to thank all of our parents and guardians for your on-going support. Students and staff continue to work hard and actively participate in school activities toward strengthening our learning community. We have just ended the first semester. The second semester begins February 1st. First semester report cards will be mailed home during the week of February 8th. Please connect with your teacher and/or grade level counselor for questions regarding your child's academic progress.

Update – Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

We have completed our Fall and Winter assessments in reading and math. With your first semester report card will be a copy of your child's MAP assessment scores along with a Family Guide to help explain what the scores mean and how HIMS staff uses this information to inform classroom instruction.

Update – New Student Assignment Plan (NSAP)

The SPS School Board voted January 20th to finalize the transition plan for student assignments for the 2010-2011 school year. Again, current HIMS 6th and 7th grade students who live outside of the new assignment plan boundaries may continue at HIMS through their 8th grade year with transportation.

Update – HIMS Community Survey

I would like to thank everyone who was able to respond to our survey. Though we received a limited number of responses it is helpful toward gaining input. Your responses revealed that many of you had further questions, needed more information, and/or shared concerns about the questions themselves. Your responses will be shared with our Building Leadership Teams. Again, the survey was a strategy to try to broaden the input from our HIMS community as we look forward to strengthening our current school and programs.

Important Dates

February 2: Open House and School Tours for prospective 6th grade students and their families (at our current interim Lincoln site)

OPEN HOUSE: Tuesday, February 2nd from 6:30-8:30 pm in the auditorium

SCHOOL TOURS*: Tuesday, February 2nd 8:30-10:00 am OR 1:00-2:30 pm

Thursday, March 11th 8:30-10:00 am OR 1:00-2:30 pm

*School tours are limited to 150 people. Please call Sheila Dela Cruz to reserve a slot 206.252.5810

February 9: First all mail-in ballot for SPS school levies

February 11-15: Mid-Winter Break (No School)

We are looking forward to an outstanding second half the school year. Go Hawks!!

Principal Carter

**Levy Renewal –
Mail your ballot by
February 9, 2010**

HIMS PTSA BOARD 2009-10

PRESIDENT

Christie Rodgers
CLRODGERS@OHANA.ORG

SECRETARY

Paige Collins
PAIGE11@GMAIL.COM

TREASURER

Nancy Grega
NSMGREGA@COMCAST.NET

VP-COMMUNICATIONS

Jo Cross-Whiter
CROSS-WHITER@COMCAST.NET

VP-FUNDRAISING

Isabel D'Ambrosia
N.DAMBROSIA@COMCAST.NET

VP-PROGRAMS

Leda Goncharoff
LEDA.GONCHAROFF@GMAIL.COM

VP-PROGRAMS

Amy Liddicoat
AJLIDDICOAT@COMCAST.NET

AT-LARGE, NEWSLETTER

Steven Sterne
STERNE@PAIR.COM

AT-LARGE, 6TH GRADE COMMUNICATOR

Grace Cooley
COOLEYGAWA@HOTMAIL.COM

AT-LARGE

Jennifer Veninga
JVENINGA@MSN.COM

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Betsey Curran
BETSEYCURRAN@COMCAST.NET

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Heidi Bennett
HEIDI@BENNETTDIRECT.NET

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Jody Fuentes
JODYFUENTES@MSN.COM

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Jordan Gussin
JGUSSIN@
SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Deidre Fautleroy
DGFAUTLEROY@
SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG

Hey Hawks is edited by Steven Sterne. Linda Sewell takes care of layout and design. The newsletter is printed at Minuteman Press.



PTSA BOARD NEWS

BETH DENNIS
PTSA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Annual Fund Dollars At Work

Things are about to get cooking in World Language classes! The PTSA is pleased to announce the award of 13 teacher mini-grants made possible by the generosity of HIMS parents, including the Learning Languages through Cooking program.

Says Spanish-immersion teacher Liz-Wittman Todd, "Food is a critical component of culture and we believe that this type of lesson is both highly engaging and practical and will encourage students to continue studying languages and increase their interest in the culture and language they are studying."

Students will learn food vocabulary, cooking terms and real life-skills, while thinking about language in ways other than traditional memorization.

Spanish-speaking students will be making, tasting and judging salsas, handmade tortillas and tapas. Japanese speakers will try their hands at sushi rolls and bativos, a form of smoothies; a fun way to learn about different fruits.

Other grants recently approved include funds for Student Book Club books, the Natural Helpers program, supplementary science books for struggling readers, music in the gym, P.E equipment, percussion equipment, a Flip video camera, a Karaoke player, and Spanish books.

All of this is possible because of the generous gifts from our parent community. We thank you profusely and are thrilled to be putting the wheels in motion as we "Build our Future" together. Due to space restraints, we aren't able to publish the lengthy list of contributors in this publication, but all names are currently listed at WWW.HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG. As we raise more funds, we'll fund more great programs like these. It is never too late to contribute to our children's future!

Join Today...

JODY FUENTES, PTSA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a grassroots organization made up of parents, teachers and others around the state that have a special interest in children, families and schools. By joining our HIMS PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association), you become part of the largest child-advocacy organization in the state – over 150,000 strong across Washington – speaking for the interest of all children and their education, health, welfare and safety; giving us a state-level voice to the legislature and on committees addressing public policy issues affecting families and children.

Please email JODYFUENTES@MSN.COM for an electronic copy of our membership form, or pick up a hard copy from the PTA office.

February PTSA General Meeting

Date: Wed., February 24
Time: 7–9 pm
Place: HIMS Library
Cost: FREE!

Please attend our next General Meeting – learn what your PTSA is up to, and enjoy our feature presentation:

STAYING CLOSE WHILE STANDING BACK...

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF
PARENTING ADOLESCENTS
By Julie Metzger RN, MN

One of the greatest balancing acts parents face in today's world is knowing when to step forward to guide their children's lives and when to let their child make independent decisions and choices. These moments can be as simple as what to wear and as significant as a decision to not attend college.

- How do families work together in a partnership of trust and respect?
- What are specific ways we can encourage our children to be resilient, accountable, and independent in a fast-changing world?

The work of adolescence

- What is the developmental space of teens – physically, emotionally, socially, and cognitively?
- What makes them unique and uniquely vulnerable to taking risks?
- What are the myths and truths about choices teens are making today?

The work of parenting adolescents

- What are strategies on communication, connecting and staying informed?

Music News

SYLVIA CHAMBERS, FOMAH I CO-PRESIDENT

In the next two months, Hamilton music students will be participating in a number of music festivals and competitions around the region. These events are a vital component of a music education, providing our students the chance to perform before an audience in a variety of venues and to hear other young ensembles perform.

In February, our Bands will take part in the Pacific Northwest Band Festival at the University of Washington. This event attracts 1,200 students, and gives our students an opportunity to perform onstage at Meany Hall, one of the Northwest's premier performing arts facilities. Hamilton students will participate in "master classes" taught by UW faculty, and teachers will attend a seminar on the state of music education in public schools.

Symphonic Strings and the full Symphonic Orchestra will attend the Western Washington University Orchestra festival in March. A student who attended last year said, "one of the best parts of the WWU festival is getting to hear so many different groups from so many different areas. We can learn from the other groups. This helps us get a sense of our progress as well."

The costs associated with festival and competition attendance are supported by Friends of

Music at Hamilton International. To fund experiences like these, on February 24th Hamilton music students will participate in "Musicathon 2010," a 12-hour music marathon in return for pledges that benefit the school's 12 ensembles. The last event of the day, the Young Musicians Concert, will feature selected ensembles, combos and groups. Please join us in the Lincoln Auditorium at 7 pm on February 24 for what promises to be a delightful evening.

A listing of these events and more can be found on to our web site at WWW.FOMAH I.ORG.

HOW TO SUBMIT TO "HEY HAWKS"

Please send your article to Steven Sterne via email by **Monday, February 22nd**. If you do not have access to email, please call Steven at 206.706.0255 to arrange an alternate means of submitting your article.

counseling tip of the month

One of the best ways to develop a strong relationship with your student is to spend time doing things together. Collaborate with your child to identify activities that you both enjoy. Your middle school student will feel loved and valued when you are really present in his/her life. The gift of time is a true expression of love and a real relationship builder.



LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING

HEIDI B. BENNETT, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Focus Day in Olympia was a huge success

Thanks to all the HIMS parents and families that came to Olympia on the MLK holiday. Over 900 people rallied on the Capital's steps, meeting with legislators and more. Way to go HIMS advocates!

46,000 kids in Seattle Schools are depending on your vote! Levy Renewal – Mail your ballot by February 9, 2010

Don't forget to mail your ballot and remind all your neighbors and friends to do the same. We need every vote possible. There's \$700 million at stake – our kids can't afford to lose these funds. These levies are renewals not new taxes.

Proposition 1: Capital levy funds 100% of critical safety, health and maintenance improvements as well as academic and technology updates to our schools and grounds citywide.

Proposition 2: Pays for 25% of the SPS Operations costs.

The campaign still needs donations and volunteers. Please go to WWW.SCHOOLSFIRSTSEATTLE.ORG to help and for more info. Thanks to Darline Gassaway for being our Levy Captain and running our HIMS phone bank.

Stay tuned for Legislative Updates

This year's session in Olympia will be action-packed as we try to get education reform bills passed. Sending emails and calling legislators will be critical to have our voices heard. If you want update notices, please send me your name and email.

For more information, contact Heidi Bennett at HEIDI@BENNETTDIRECT.NET. Together we can make a difference.

Hamilton Basketball Report

GINA GERLITZ

HIMS 7TH GRADE TEACHER & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Coach Buchanan: The Lady Hawks Varsity Basketball season is off to a good start. We are 4-2 so far with 3 games remaining. The girls have been working hard, having fun, and coming together as a team with the playoffs in sight. We intend to finish strong and represent – Hawk Pride!

Coach Volkmoth: In addition, the Girl's JV team has participated in two Jamborees, one at Eckstein and one at Whitman, and are enjoying playing basketball.

Coach Rossman: The HIMS Boys basketball team has enjoyed wins against Madrona and McClure. We have also played close games with Washington and Whitman. Returning 8th graders from last year's championship team Nigel Kelleppan and Jerry Ly have been joined by newcomers Owen Vickrey and Roland Woodiest to form a strong nucleus. HIMS was also able to field a boys developmental team this year. This program will help ensure that HIMS continues a winning basketball tradition.

Hamilton International Middle School PTSA
at Lincoln

4400 Interlake Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103

www.hamiltoninternational.org

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 6906

Main Office

Hours: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm
206.252.5810
Fax 206.252.5811

School Hours

8:05 am – 2:35 pm

Principal

Christopher Carter
CECARTER@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG

POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS



HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL YMCA COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

MR. ROSSMAN AND MS. LIZ | 206.252.5831

The Winter/Spring 2010 session of Hamilton Out of School Time (HOST) is off to a great start! Programs run Monday–Thursday and are FREE. It's not too late to sign up for classes as interesting and varied as rock climbing and Bilingual Art! Just turn in a HOST registration form to YMCA office (room113), or to our mailbox in the Main Office. Please call the YMCA Community Learning Center 206.252.5831, or log on to WWW.HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG/AFTERSCHOOL for more information.

We held the first-ever **HOST Day Carnival** on December 11th. We displayed work that students in HOST classes made during the Fall session, and gave prizes to some lucky students who managed to visit every table. After the Carnival, we held an assem-

bly that showcased the skills mastered during the Fall. Students from programs such as, Hip-Hop & Break dancing, NIA Fitness & Dance, Drama, Martial Arts, Chinese, and Yoga dazzled the packed house! Another HOST Day is being planned for June.

A huge "THANK YOU" goes out to all who donated to the Hamilton Holiday Help program! The Holiday Help Committee (Counseling Department, Nurse Kelly, and the YMCA) identified 55 students and families that received assistance. **Our community raised \$1,825 for this cause.** In addition, the Meredith Mathews East Madison YMCA organized a **Giving Tree** and collected dozens of gifts (iPods, books, clothing, toys, etc.) for HIMS families. Our families were extremely grateful!

Honor Roll Recognition assemblies will be held following the end of the first semester at a date to be determined. Students will be honored during grade level assemblies and awarded with a prize during their lunch.

The YMCA Community Learning Center (CLC) is currently trying to raise \$7,000 for our annual Partners With Youth campaign. The funds raised will support youth programming at all our local YMCA centers, such as YU LEARN (educational summer program attended by HIMS students). All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible. Please contact the YMCA CLC to find out how you can help!

Any parents/guardians or community members interested in volunteering at HIMS can contact Ms. Liz at 206.252.5831.