

Hey Hawks

November 2009 • vol. 4

issue 3

NEWSLETTER OF HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
Veterans Day – No School

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
**Meeting about
“Twice Exceptional Learners”,
7:00-9:00 pm, HIMS library**

DETAILS AT WWW.HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
**PTSA board meeting,
6:30-8:30 pm, HIMS library**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Early Dismissal (12:35 pm)

THURS.–FRI., NOVEMBER 26-27
**Thanksgiving Holiday
– No School**

For current news and calendar updates, go to
WWW.HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG

BUILDING *our* FUTURE

HIMS ANNUAL FUND

We have the power to make our childrens' futures exciting, creative, challenging and meaningful by helping the PTSA fund things like stipends for teachers, library and technology resource enhancement, artist-in-residence programs, student scholarships, earthquake kits, and infusing an international focus into our classrooms.

Please support HIMS with a donation to the Annual Fund.
Details at WWW.HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Hamilton Hawks,

We have reached November, always an interesting time of the year. The shine and newness we always see at the beginning of the school year often begins to fade a little, and some students may begin to exhibit inconsistent and unproductive study habits. Organization and time management can be very challenging for some middle school students. Some students are able to stay on top of things and continue doing well. For other students it can look drastically different. A student's grades usually let parents, guardians, and school know how things are going.

The methods used at HIMS to communicate grades are report cards, progress reports, and the SOURCE (WWW.SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG). In addition, students all have planners that should reflect what they are learning on a daily basis. Of course, phone calls and emails are other effective ways to communicate with your student's teachers. Grade marking periods are times throughout the year to be expecting a grade report.

Grade Marking Periods

1st quarter ends November 6, 2009 – Report cards will be mailed home the week of Nov. 16.

2nd quarter ends January 28, 2009 (End of semester) – Report cards mailed home the week of February 8.

2nd quarter mid-quarter progress will be brought home by your student on December 11.

3rd quarter ends April 16, 2010 – Report cards mailed home the week of April 26.

3rd quarter mid-quarter progress reports will be brought home by your student March 12.

4th quarter ends June 22, 2010 (End of semester) – Report cards mailed home the week of June 28.

4th quarter mid-quarter progress reports will be brought home by your student on May 14.

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Assessment

All Hamilton International Middle School students took the MAP assessment this fall term in Reading and Math. We are reviewing the results now and will be communicating these results to you before Thanksgiving break. MAP assessment will be used this year as one way to measure and monitor the academic growth of our students this year.

Please connect with your teachers or grade level counselor if you have questions regarding academic progress.

Louise von Walter, 8th grade counselor 206.252.5827: LVONWALTER@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG

Juli Keith, 7th grade counselor, 206.252.5830: JCKEITH@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG

Neil Yeda, 6th grade counselor, 206.252.5828: NYEDA@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG

Go Hawks!

Christopher Carter
Principal

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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

JO CROSS-WHITER
PTSA VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

PTSA Communications Update

Do you need a PE waiver form? A copy of the Hamilton Family Handbook? A H.O.S.T. registration form? Information on upcoming events? Not sure how to contact your student's teacher(s)? It's all there on the new Hamilton website at [HTTP://WWW.HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG](http://www.hamiltoninternational.org)

So, take some time and have a look, if you have not already done so. Additional page content will be added as the website develops.

Coming soon – more information on Athletics at Hamilton.

Also new this month is the weekly e-Bulletin via Constant Contact. If you are not already subscribed to the e-Bulletin you can go directly to the home page of the new website and sign up. The box is at the bottom of the page – just type in your e-mail address and select which year group you would like to belong to. If you wish to unsubscribe at any point it is easy. Just select 'safe unsubscribe' at the end of any e-mail you receive.

If you have any suggestions about the website, or ways in which you feel the PTSA can improve communications, please let me know!

Jo Cross-Whiter
JO@HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG

Hamilton Volunteer News

BETSEY CURRAN, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

A huge thank you to the nearly 300 families that submitted a "Volunteer Interest Form." We have now put all of this information in one central spread sheet and sorted it by interest area. Some of you have already heard from various parent volunteers about upcoming volunteer opportunities. We will continue to reach out to parents by your indicated interest areas as those needs arise. Additionally we still have an urgent need to identify willing parents to step-up and fill "coordinator" roles so that we can move forward on some key efforts. Needed positions include:

- 8th grade promotion coordinator or co-coordinators
- International Potluck Dinner coordinator or co-coordinators

Thank you to the parents that have already stepped up to coordinate many other areas. If you are interested in one of these coordinator or co-coordinator roles, please email: BETSEYCURRAN@COMCAST.NET

HOW TO SUBMIT TO "HEY HAWKS"

STEVEN STERNE,
COPY EDITOR

We'd love to see your item in print! We welcome any article of general interest to the Hamilton Middle School community.

To submit items for publication in the December issue, please send the article to copy editor Steven Sterne as an email (text or .doc file) no later than 6:17 pm on Tuesday, November 24th. If you do not have access to email, please call Steven at 206.706.0255 to arrange an alternate means of submitting your article.

Thank you!

Thank You Annual Fund Volunteers

ISABEL D'AMBROSIA
PTSA VP FOR FUNDRAISING

A big thank-you to all the volunteers who designed our Annual Fund "BUILDING OUR FUTURE" campaign this fall! Thank you to **Beth Dennis, Judy Mahoney, Janet Pelz** and **Kathy Tanaka** for writing the letter, managing the online donations and sending all those reminders to donate! Thanks to **Ronnie Dennis** and **Linda Sewell** for the fantastic graphic design on the letter. Thanks to **Molly Anderson, Dena Angelos, Alice Boytz** and **Andrew Walsh** for planning our November 6 Kick-Off party. And thank you in advance to **Paige Collins, Debbie Douglas** and **Nancy Grega** for processing all of your many, many donations. And, of course, special thanks to **each and every donor** to the HIMS Annual Fund this year.

News and Information about the Music Program

KATHY TANAKA, FOMAH I CO-CHAIR

“ Music is about communication, creativity and cooperation. By studying music in school students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives and experience the world from a new perspective. ”

– BILL CLINTON, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

We hope you will take a look at the new musical offerings for band, orchestra and choir at Hamilton. Hamilton offers ten courses, each of which run for the entire school year, for students, from our Symphonic ensembles and Senior Jazz for the accomplished musician to our beginning groups for those completely new to music.

Beginning orchestra and band courses are designed to introduce students to instrumental music, and to help select the instrument that is right for them. These students spend the first weeks of class exploring and playing a variety of instruments, weighing the pros and cons of an instrument with their music teacher. After selecting an instrument, students begin the process of learning to read music and to play in a group. Band teacher Mr. Rowe reports that because of this process, students tend to be very happy with their choices and get off to a fast and positive start. Both groups will have an opportunity to showcase their skills in fall and spring concerts.

Another group suitable for beginners is Choir which is open to all students; no audition is required. Choir teacher Ms. Mandojana tells us that the group will explore the various styles of music of different cultures throughout the year. The choir will also perform throughout the school year, including assemblies, two concerts and at the Seattle Schools Middle and High School Choral Festival in November.

Rounding out Hamilton's musical offerings are the Cadet Orchestra and Band (for students with one year of music experience); Concert Orchestra and Band (intermediate ensembles); Symphonic Orchestra and Band and Senior Jazz Band (the highest ensembles). These groups will have numerous performance opportunities, with the upper level groups traveling to festivals and competitions around the Northwest.

Hamilton also offers after-school jazz instruction through HOST. This class meets twice a week and is open to all levels. These students will also perform in two concerts during the school year.



LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING

HEIDI B. BENNETT, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Key issues affecting our students. Be informed and get involved – you can make a difference!

Well, the November elections are done and now it's time to focus on the upcoming **School Levies**. SPS needs these levies to pass in order to maintain our current levels of teacher support, provide safe and positive classroom experiences and building environments. **These are not new taxes but renewals of existing levies.**

The operations levy accounts for 24% of the Seattle Public School operating budget and covers teachers, our 6th period in middle and high school (which the State doesn't pay for), foreign language (which the State doesn't pay for), textbooks, classroom supplies, student activities (music, sports and drama), counselors, librarians, custodians, technology, security and more. Just about every aspect of educating our students is affected by the operations levy – it's about one out of every four dollars!

The BTA III – Building, Technology and Academics Levy accounts for 100% of the capital improvements and will touch every school in the district. This pays for hundred of projects all across the district including roofs, waterlines, seismic, walls, electrical, windows, green/efficient energy, nutritional and custodial equipment, and technology upgrades for students, teachers and staff. The academic component includes STEM at Cleveland, capacity planning, athletics (fields, lighting and turf), Skills Center, MAP Assessment, Special Ed, CORE 24 and Early Learning Classrooms. The BTA Levy also includes funds for re-opening the 5 schools included in the assignment plan: Sand Point, Old Hay, Viewlands, Rainier View and McDonald.

The School Board will adopt the levy resolutions on November 18 if there is no special legislative session which could extend the levy amounts. If that happens, the School Board vote will be in December. The Levy Election is on Feb., 9, 2010. **We still need a HIMS Levy Team to help with signs, phone bank and other information efforts from December to the election.** Please let me know if you can help out.

Thanks,

Heidi

HEIDI@BENNETTDIRECT.NET

counseling tip of the month

Help your student focus on academic success by encouraging organized notebooks, use of the planner to record assignments, and productive homework time. Communicate with teachers and school staff about your student's needs and responsibilities.

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206.252.5810
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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. CHASE | 206.252.5831

HOST attendance numbers are at an all time high! Research shows that students that participate in after school programs have fewer absences and higher grade point averages. Be sure to sign up for the Fall session of Hamilton Out of School Time (HOST) while you still can! Movie Club, Sign Language, Nia Fitness & Dance, and Hawk Video Arcade are just a few of the classes that still have space. Pick up and return registration forms in Room 113 or the HOST mailbox in the Main Office. The current session of HOST will be ending Thursday, December 10.

Are you interested in teaching a HOST class? If you or anyone you know has a special talent and would be interested in being an instructor please contact us at the Community Learning Center for proposal information. We love volunteers but we also have money to pay for staff time and materials. Planning for Winter and Spring HOST sessions will take place soon.

Need a PE waiver? Call the YMCA CLC and ask how you can earn hours! For more info, see our web page – HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG/AFTERSCHOOL.

The Hamilton Basketball teams are gearing up for another exciting season, which starts the week of November 16. Information on traveling team try outs, practices and games will be posted as it becomes available. Student athletes are also encouraged to sign up for the Student Athlete Study Hall on Wednesdays during HOST.

We are also conducting a school supply drive for HIMS. We need pencil pouches and 1/2 inch to 1 inch binders. Bring donations to YMCA room 113 – thanks for your help!

Any parents, guardians or community members interested in volunteering at HIMS can contact Liz Chase at 206.252.5831. We especially need help for our popular HOST Homework Clubs and Math Academies!

Respect.Responsibility.Honesty.Caring.Faith.Fun