

Hey Hawks

October 2009 • vol. 4

issue 2

NEWSLETTER OF HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

calendar

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9
Professional Development Day – No School

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
**Meet the Principal, 7 pm,
Hamilton library,
4400 Interlake Ave. N.**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
**PTSA board meeting,
6:30-8:30 pm, HIMS library**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
**Meet the Principal, 6:30 pm,
Beacon Hill Public Library,
2821 Beacon Ave. S.**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
Early Dismissal (12:35 pm)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Election Day

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
**End of 1st Quarter
Annual Giving Campaign
Kick-Off Event**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
Veterans Day – No School

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

Make Sure You Stay In The Know

Bookmark our new web site and check it frequently –
www.hamiltoninternational.org

Sign up for our e-bulletin at
<http://hamiltoninternational.org/ptsa/e-bulletin/>

– you'll get weekly updates on everything you need to know!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Hamilton Hawks,

The school year has gotten off to a strong start! Our students are getting familiar with Hamilton International Middle School learning routines, they have found their lockers, and most important our students are meeting new friends and helpful HIMS staff!

As we begin to gain momentum, I want to emphasize our strong focus toward continuing to build our community. We are looking forward to finding ways for EVERY family to meaningfully get involved. Meaningful involvement may include:

- **Participation at school events** like Curriculum Night, academic nights offered throughout the year, and PTSA sponsored events and socials. Please check our school calendar for more information, WWW.HAMILTONINTERNATIONAL.ORG/HAMILTON-CALENDAR.
- **Reviewing your student's planner everyday** as a support to their learning.
- **Checking The SOURCE** at WWW.SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG, and feeling comfortable to communicate with your teachers when you have questions.
- **Volunteering at HIMS.** You can connect with our Chris Rossman, CAROSSMAN@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG, or Elizabeth Chase, EACHASE@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG, from our HOST program at 206.252.5831, or PTSA Volunteer Coordinator Betsey Curran, BETSEYCURRAN@COMCAST.NET, for volunteering opportunities.
- **Joining our active PTSA group.** Be a part of the largest child-advocacy organization in the state. For membership, contact Jody Fuentes, JODYFUENTES@MSN.COM

It is the policy of Hamilton International Middle School to encourage and support family involvement in education, at home, in our schools and communities, and in school governance. We recognize the diversity of family structures, circumstances, and cultural backgrounds and respect families as important decision-makers for their children's education. We believe these partnerships to be critical to the success of every student. We are looking forward to our partnership with you this year.

Go Hawks!

Christopher Carter
Principal

Meet the Music Teachers!

KATHY TANAKA, CO-CHAIR OF FOMAHI (FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL)

With the addition of the instrumental and vocal music program (concert band, jazz band, orchestra and choir) to the school day at Hamilton this year, two new teaching positions have been added to the school. In September, Hamilton welcomed Naomi Mandojana as our orchestra and choir instructor, and Dan Rowe (who taught after-school music at Hamilton last year) as the instructor for our concert and jazz bands. Both teachers bring a wealth of musical talents and experiences to our students.

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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

AMY LIDDICOAT AND
LEDA GONCHAROFF, PTSA Co-VPs OF EVENTS

Meet the Principal in October

Don't miss our first PTSA meeting of the year. Come with your questions and meet the Hamilton administrative team; including Hamilton Principal Christopher Carter, Assitant Principals Jesely Alvarez and Jo Shapiro and House Administrator Julia Leonas. To provide more opportunities for Hamilton families to attend, we're holding this event twice:

- **Hamilton Library**, Thursday, October 15th, 7-8:30 pm
- **Beacon Hill Public Library**, Thursday, October 22nd, 6:30-8 pm, 2821 Beacon Ave. S.

We hope to see you there.

Coming Events!

A number of events for this school year are in the planning stages. We are thinking of inviting speakers to address underage drinking, internet safety, and/or adolescent development. As the two new VPs of PTSA Programs, we are open to your suggestions – drop us a line via email if you have any ideas!

Also in the planning stages are grade-level events. With luck, we will hold 6th and 7th Grade Nights in November. If you have a 6th or 7th grader and would be willing to help organize or help work at one of these events, please contact Betsey Curran, the PTSA Volunteer Coordinator, at BETSEYCURRAN@COMCAST.NET. We'd love to have your help!

For the 8th Grade Family Night, we plan to provide an opportunity for current 8th graders to hear from former HIMS students about their high school experience. If you currently have a child attending a high school in the Seattle Public School district, please let us know.

Thank you! We will see you at one of our October PTSA meetings! Meanwhile, contact us to ask questions, or to volunteer. Amy can be emailed at AJLIDDICOAT@COMCAST.NET and Leda at LEDA.GONCHAROFF@GMAIL.COM.

MEET THE MUSIC TEACHERS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ms. Mandojana is new to the Seattle area, having previously taught orchestra at the elementary, middle and high school levels in Wisconsin and California. She has performed with several orchestras around the country, and is a strings specialist with an emphasis on violin and viola. Additionally, Ms. Mandojana has experience in flute and vocal performance, and is looking forward to teaching choir. Ms. Mandojana began her teaching career as a member of AmeriCorp in Chelan, Washington.

Mr. Rowe has taught instrumental music for the Seattle Public Schools for 25 years. He worked in the Elementary Instrumental Music department for several years, teaching at various schools throughout the District. Before coming to Hamilton, he taught band, piano and jazz improvisation at Eckstein and has given private lessons for many years. Besides teaching, Mr. Rowe enjoys composing music for the ensembles he teaches and has done some film, theater and video scoring, an activity he continues to pursue. He also performs jazz piano for corporate and social events, and plays the trumpet in community concert and jazz bands. For recreation, he enjoys being with his family, golfing and staying fit.

Ramshackle Enchanter

TIGERLILY COOLEY
(6TH GRADE)

O that swinging west wind,
hurling over makeshift
brick roads
on which we would dance,
the sun burning our toes.

We called him the
Ramshackle Enchanter,
and yet he pulled on –
swinging to the Old West beat,
and behind him we danced along.

He bounded dusty highways,
multitudes of us behind.

The rain was on the northside
so the sun ruled our sky.

He enlashed all his path,
leaving but their corpse behind.

Leaving it to the future
family, friends and passerby
to find.

We danced in our burlap caps
our boyhood now a dream.

Calling, "Maryeta!
O, dear, Maryeta!"

Dreaming of blue hues,
of an icy stream.



BY BEANPUP

When I get on the bus in the cold morning, with my scarf bundled around my neck, everyone is quiet...well, except the eighth graders, they hang in the back of the bus and don't pay attention to anyone else. Even if your closest friends are on the bus in the morning, they still give only a short hello and maybe ask for you to sit by them.

Riding the bus at seven a.m. with little warmth is very different from when everyone goes home in the afternoon, when it's warm and friendly. People would disagree with me, but personally I think it's all due to that big blazing star in the sky, that lights our world.

First of all, you have to understand, I like the bus. I agree with what the bus driver told us, "It's a free ride!" We don't pay for the gas, cleaning or the insurance. In fact, taking the bus to school is very handy.

The only part about riding the bus that I don't like is that we have to make so many stops that it takes a century to get to your own stop. But a longer ride means I get more time with my friends, so I guess I shouldn't be complaining.

I like the bus in the afternoons and how I get to relax, gazing out the window in hopes the ride will become smoother rather than the old BUMP, BUMP, BUMP!

I'm officially laughing as I type this, but why are buses all yellow? And why not blue, violet or lime green? For one, it would make them much easier to identify. Instead of students having to ask the vice principals for directions and then almost hopping on the wrong bus...oh, that was quite embarrassing! I was about to sit, when I looked at the unfamiliar driver and asked, "Is this the 411?"

She didn't exactly smile or scold me, she simply shrugged. "No, it's the one behind me."

My friends didn't have to think twice about laughing at that one! I laughed too, with my heart all in it, not just pretending out of embarrassment.

Laughing is the one thing I try to avoid everywhere especially on the bus when it comes to my own distinct laugh. How could something so joyful be so painful at the same time? But the real pain came at the end of the first day as the bus slowly turned the corner to my stop.

I was totally freaked out that I would miss my stop. The entire ride home I pictured myself all alone in the empty bus parked in a lone bus barn. But in reality, everything turned out fine.

Now I have a pretty nice time on the bus. But the mornings are still as cold as ice.

Brrrr on the Bus,

Beanpup

LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING

HEIDI BENNETT, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

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

Initiative-1033. This initiative will be on the November ballot. If passed, it would significantly affect funding for K-12 education as well as health and social services for children. State analysis says general fund revenues would be reduced by close to \$6 billion by 2015. Supporters of the initiative, drafted by Tim Eyman, are concerned about property taxes and the growth of taxes at the city, county and state level. Opponents (which include the AARP as well as the Washington State PTA) feel the restraints placed on state revenue growth will damage education, health and social programs.

Additional resources about I-1033:

Secretary of State's Website: [HTTP://WWW.SECSTATE.WA.GOV/ELECTIONS/INITIATIVES/PEOPLE.ASPX](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/initiatives/people.aspx)

No campaign: [HTTP://NO1033.COM/](http://no1033.com/)

Yes campaign: [HTTP://WWW.PERMANENT-OFFENSE.ORG/](http://www.permanent-offense.org/)

Register to Vote for the Nov. 3rd General Election

If you or someone you know (recent HS Grad.) isn't registered, then register on-line or by mail by October 5, or in person by October 26. [WWW.KINGCOUNTY.GOV/ELECTIONS](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections)

For more information, contact HIMS Legislative Chair Heidi Bennett at HEIDI@BENNETTDIRECT.NET 206.781.5566. Together we can make a difference.

Conference on "Best Practices for Inclusive Schools" – Saturday, October 17

JO CROSS-WHITER, PTSA VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

Attend a different kind of parent-teacher conference! The Seattle Special Education PTSA, Seattle Public Schools and the Seattle Council PTSA present a conference on "Best Practices for Inclusive Schools." Featured speaker Dr. Elise Frattura, Associate Dean of Education Outreach at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is an expert in the field of Inclusive Schools and assisted the Seattle School District in the creation of the new ICS model to be in effect next year. After her presentation, you will hear teachers and administrators discuss ICS issues in a roundtable, and see a presentation from a family that has directly experienced and benefited from an ICS program.

We invite all parents and educators to join us for this conference free of charge, but you must RSVP by October 12 to SEATTLESPEDPTSA@GMAIL.COM. Coffee and sign-in will begin at 8:30 am. The conference will be held in the **John Stanford Center Auditorium, 2445 3rd Ave South** and will run from 9 am – 2 pm with a light lunch.

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at Lincoln

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www.hamiltoninternational.org

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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

**HOW TO SUBMIT TO
“HEY HAWKS”**

STEVEN STERNE,
COPY EDITOR

Please send items for publication in the November issue to copy editor Steven Sterne, STERNE@PAIR.COM, as an email (text or .doc file) no later than 6:17 pm on Tuesday, October 20th. **We would especially like more student-written material!** 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!

HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL YMCA COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

MR. ROSSMAN AND MS. CHASE

The newly renovated Hamilton student lounge in room 105 has opened to rave reviews! Be sure to drop in during lunchtime to hang out, listen to music, and play some of your favorite games, like air hockey and foosball on our brand new tables.

Hamilton International fall sports are underway. Coach Liz (EACHASE@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG) has assembled a fabulous group for girls' soccer. The Ultimate Frisbee team is hard at work as well. The District website shows all game times and locations for the season at [HTTP://WWW.SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG/AREA/ATHLETICS/INDEX.DXML](http://www.seattleschools.org/area/athletics/index.dxml). Let's go Hawks!

Hamilton Out of School Time (HOST) is in session! We offer a great mix of academic, recreational and enrichment programs that are free! Martial Arts, Movie Club, Sign Language, and Graffiti Art are just a few of the classes that still have space. This session of HOST will conclude on December 10. Hurry and turn in your registration forms to Mr. Rossman and Ms. Liz in YMCA room 113 or the HOST mailbox in the main office. Please remember there are no HOST classes on Early Release days.

Need a PE waiver? Call the YMCA CLC and ask how you can earn hours!

The CLC is conducting a school supply drive for the school. We need college ruled notebook paper, spiral notebooks, 1/2-inch to 1-inch binders, black ink pens and #2 pencils. Please bring donations to the YMCA office, room 113. HIMS appreciates your generosity!

Any parents, guardians or community members interested in volunteering at HIMS can contact Ms. Liz at 206.252.5831 or EACHASE@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG.

Respect.Responsibility.Honesty.Caring.Faith.Fun