

Hey Hawks

September 2009 • vol. 4 issue 1

NEWSLETTER OF HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

calendar

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
**PTSA board meeting,
6:30-8:30 pm, HIMS library**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Curriculum Night, 6-8 pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Early Dismissal (12:35 pm)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9
**Professional Development Day –
No School**

For current news and calendar updates, go to
WWW.HAMILTON-PTSA.ORG

PTSA BOARD NEWS

CHRISTIE RODGERS,
PTSA PRESIDENT

Over the summer, I have been getting acquainted with the 12 other parent members of the 2009-10 PTSA board. We held a board retreat in June and our first official board meeting in August. It's an energetic and committed group of volunteers – half of whom, with their students, will be new members of the Hamilton community this fall. In addition to parent leaders, we look forward to working with our new principal and two staff representatives, Jordan Gussin and Deirdre Fautleroy.

Two priorities identified by the PTSA board for the year are to strengthen our communication system and fo-

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Hamilton Hawks,

As the new principal of Hamilton International Middle School, I would like to welcome you to the 2009-2010 school year! This will be an exciting year for the Hamilton community. In addition to a new principal, we welcome assistant principal, Jo Shapiro, who will join Jesely Alvarez to form our administrative team. We will also be embracing new students, families and staff who were formerly served in the Washington Middle School service area. Whether you are new to our school or returning for another year, we want you to know that we welcome you as a partner in our students' education.

Although I am the new principal at Hamilton, I have worked in Seattle Public Schools as a teacher and principal for seven years. Additionally, I was an assistant principal in the Highline School District for four years. I have been a teacher at both the elementary and middle school levels. Besides my role as a principal I am also a father of three. My oldest son will be in the 8th grade, my daughter will be entering the 4th grade, and my youngest son is three years old. My wife is also a schoolteacher in SPS. I am proud to say my professional and personal experiences give me great insight to our young men and women and to their needs, development, and potential.

Hamilton will grow to approximately 900 students this year! HIMS is bringing together a number of programs. These will include Accelerated Progress Program (APP), while we continue to grow our arts program by adding band, orchestra, and choir as course offerings. These additions, along with our current international arts and world language programs, will provide all of our students access to outstanding learning experiences. We are also looking forward to moving back into a remodeled HIMS for 2010-2011. With all the new changes a priority will be building our community together.

Below are some important items:

Our new start time is 8:05 am. Dismissal is 2:35 pm. Morning breakfast opens at 7:35 am. There are also new bus arrival and departure times, so if your child rides a bus, you should have received details in the mail. If you need to reach the Transportation Department, the number is 206.252.0900. You may also email TRANSDEPT@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG or visit the web page at [HTTP://WWW.SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG/AREA/TRANSPORTATION/INDEX.DXML](http://WWW.SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG/AREA/TRANSPORTATION/INDEX.DXML).

If your child is on a wait list for a school, you can check the wait list status by calling 206.252.0212.

Initial WASL data is coming in. Hamilton has shown improvement in many areas. We will continue to look at our scores to inform our areas of focus for the coming year. We will communicate more specific WASL results early this fall.

Everyone at HIMS is eager to greet and welcome every student and family member. We look forward to working with you to provide a quality education for all students at Hamilton International Middle School.

Respectfully,

Christopher Carter
Principal

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 Fauntleroy
DGFAUNTLEROY@
SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG

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PTSA BOARD NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cus on community building. A communications committee met during the summer to launch a new website (coming soon!) and examine new models for electronic communication. As in the past, future editions of this newsletter will be mailed to every student household as an in-depth connection to the life of the school. As a community-building strategy, we are implementing PTSA grade-level communicators to work with staff on communicating class news and to coordinate grade-level social events outside the school day.

Work on the PTSA calendar of events is underway. First up this fall will be a "Meet the Principal" general meeting in October (date to be announced). We are planning to organize grade-level socials later this fall. Monthly board meetings are open to the Hamilton community and will be held on 3rd or 4th Tuesdays of the month, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Hamilton library (see the calendar at HAMILTON-PTSA.ORG for updates). We welcome your ideas and participation in event planning – please let us know what would be meaningful to you!

It's hard to believe that this school year will be my third as a Hamilton parent and that my daughter will be entering 8th grade! Because middle school lasts only these brief three years, I encourage all of you to join in and find your volunteer niche; it is the best way to stay in touch with your child's middle school experience!

Please feel free to contact me at any time via email, CLRODGERS@OHANA.ORG

Parent Volunteers Are Well Loved at Hamilton!

BETSEY CURRAN, PTSA VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Volunteering helps ensure that our school thrives and is fun and rewarding! We have identified many ways that parents can pitch in at Hamilton this school year. Take a careful look at the Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet that is included in your child's first day packet. Maybe you have a special skill that you can offer our school, or perhaps you like to help at events. Whether you like ongoing volunteer opportunities like shelving books in the library, or one-time projects that can be done on your own schedule, like creating a flyer, there is sure to be something on this list that will fit your needs. Here's just a sampling of what we need ongoing parent help with: **data entry • writing articles • grant writing • legislative and levy support • event support • school tours • staff appreciation • photocopying • library support • leading an after school program • and student tutoring.** We hope that you will step forward now and sign-up as a volunteer and help the teachers and staff at Hamilton stay focused on what they do best!

HIMS PTSA Annual Giving Campaign to Begin in October

ISABEL D'AMBROSIA, PTSA VP OF FUNDRAISING

Hamilton International Middle School is undergoing so many exciting changes this year! So the HIMS PTSA will keep our fundraising efforts very simple and straightforward. The focus this year is on the Annual Giving Campaign, which starts in October. (The only other PTSA fundraisers this year will be HIMS t-shirt/sweatshirt sales and E-scrip. E-scrip requires only a quick registration online at WWW.ESCRIP.COM.)

The Annual Campaign is so simple! When you receive your Campaign information in October, please donate what you can. It's that easy.

Public schools in Washington State are chronically underfunded, and Hamilton is no exception. Teachers and staff need funds for classroom libraries, repairs to science equipment and field trips. The after-school classes our kids love will need our financial support more than ever. PTSA funds can also play a critical role in keeping our central library up to date and maintaining Hamilton's distinction as an international school.

If you are interested volunteering to help administer the HIMS PTSA Annual Giving Campaign (we need help with communications, accounting, and event planning), please contact Isabel D'Ambrosia at N.DAMBROSIA@COMCAST.NET or 206.545.7275. Thank you in advance for your support. It makes HIMS a great place to learn!

How Can We Limit the spread of H1N1 virus (swine flu)?

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The most important thing is to keep sick people away from healthy people. So if your child is sick, you must keep your child home. Staying home when sick stops the spread of the flu and helps the sick person get well.

Answer these questions every morning before sending your child to school or daycare:

1. Does your child have a **fever** (100° F or 37. 7°C)? If you don't have a thermometer, feel your child's skin with your hand. If it is much warmer than usual your child probably has a fever.
2. Does your child have a **sore throat, cough, runny nose, body aches, vomiting, or diarrhea**?

If you answered "yes" to both questions above, your child might have the flu. Keep your child home from school for 7 days or until symptoms are gone for 24 hours, whichever is longer.

If you checked "yes" to only one of the questions above, keep your child home from school until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

For more information and on-going updates:

- Fact sheet: "H1N1 virus (swine flu) facts for families of school-age children," WWW.KINGCOUNTY.GOV/HEALTH/H1N1
- Public Health Flu Hotline, Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm, 1.877.903.KING (5464), TTY Relay: 711
- Public Health – Seattle & King County, WWW.KINGCOUNTY.GOV/HEALTH/H1N1

Important Information From the ELL Instructor

DEDY FAUNTLEROY,
ELL INSTRUCTOR

Here is a list of instructional assistants that can be contacted if parents have questions and need to speak to someone in their home language. They are as follows:

Thuy Ho (Vietnamese) at Hamilton Tuesday and Thursday

Boon Siew (Chinese) at Hamilton Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Fikre Yohannes (Tigrinya and Amharic) at Hamilton Monday & Tuesday

Barbara Langland (Spanish) at Hamilton Monday to Friday

They can all be reached by either calling the office or calling 206.252.5852.

We are going to get a Somali instructional assistant as well but have not secured one as of yet.

Office Depot \$\$ for Hamilton

LINDA HARVELAND,
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Our school earns 5% back on qualifying school supply purchases at Office Depot all year long! Just remember to present our school ID (**70107287**) every time you shop. If you do not remember to bring the ID, just tell the Cashier you would like the 5% to go to Hamilton International Middle School. 5% of our qualifying purchases will be tallied and offered to us as an Office Depot Merchandise Card to use for FREE supplies.

LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING

HEIDI BENNETT, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Heads-up on some key issues affecting our students! Stay tuned for more information.

Conversation with WA House Speaker Frank Chopp – September 17, 2009, 7pm: House Speaker Frank Chopp will talk with us about on-going work to improve education funding in WA State. (Location TBA).

General Election – November 3, 2009: Register to vote online or by mail (October 5) or in person (October 26), then get information about the candidates – and vote!

Seattle Schools Levy Renewal – February 9, 2010: Every three years, Seattle voters vote on both an operating levy and a capital levy to support Seattle public schools. These levies provide basic funding for our school programs and buildings.

For more information, please contact Heidi Bennett at HEIDI@BENNETTDIRECT.NET, or 206.781.5566.

Welcome back to Hamilton International Middle School!

LINDA HARVELAND,
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

If you have moved, please be sure the school has your correct address and phone numbers for emergencies. Changes also must be made official through the district to ensure that you receive important mail regarding the application process, requesting sibling priority, and transportation. Paperwork is available in the school office and changes can be made through the U.S. mail or FAX. My office hours are 7:00 – 3:30 each day.

If your student(s) plan to participate in our sports programs, they cannot participate without a physical exam, and the form must be on file here at the school. The physicals are good for two years from the date the doctor signs them. If a student is unsure that a current form is on file in the office, please contact Sheila delaCruz, Assistant Secretary, at 206.252.5821. She has a list of current forms and expiration dates. Sheila is on duty from 7:30 – 4:00 each day.

Our Attendance Secretary, Lynn Hartung, has relocated her office to the South Wing on the Second Floor, Room S206J. Her number remains the same – 206.252.5814. Lynn's hours will be 7:20 – 3:50 each day.

Elizabeth Peila is the new Registrar and is also located in the south wing, Room #S206A and her phone number is 206.252.5832. Her hours will also be 7:30 – 3:50 each day.

The school is constantly in need of Kleenex. If anyone would be able to donate a box or two, it would be greatly appreciated. Just drop them off in the main office.

For a copy of the Family Handbook, please contact Linda Harveland in the main office, 206.252.5812. The Handbook will be available on-line soon – watch this space for more information!

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, and would love to publish student written material. We will publish everything we can, subject to available space, with a priority for items from the school staff and items that promote coming events. At times, we may delay publication of a submission that is not time sensitive.

To submit items for publication in the October issue, please send the article to copy editor Steven Sterne as an email (text or .doc file) to STERNE@PAIR.COM no later than 6:17 pm on September 20th. 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

CHRIS ROSSMAN AND LIZ CHASE, CLC/HOST PROGRAM DIRECTORS

The Hamilton International YMCA Community Learning Center (CLC) welcomes everyone back for the 2009-2010 school year. CLC Director Chris Rossman is entering his 5th school year at HIMS while Liz Chase will be entering her first full year with the school. One of the first things we want to let everyone know about is the new location of the **Student Lounge**. It is now located in **room 105** right outside the lunchroom. Be sure to drop in during lunchtime to play foosball, listen to music, and play some of your favorite games with friends!

Did you know that students from HIMS participated in the YU LEARN summer school program at Madison Middle School? They were part of a group of 120 current 7th and 8th graders from all over Seattle that participated. We would like to take this time to congratulate our HIMS scholars that attended: Kume Abduraham, Kasey Burgmeier, Tyra Cummings, Kimberly Hernandez, Amanda Le, Daija Levias, Mijoy Rackley, Dimitri Cobb, Josh Forrest, Fynniecko Glover, Javier Nelson, Eric Thongdee, Andrew Wu, Alejandra Garcia-Ibanez, Brenda Morales-Ramos, Jesse Batie, Jonathan Del Cid, Elijah Edwards, and Luis Gomez.

Mark your calendars! **Hawk Out of School Time (HOST) starts Monday, September 28.** HOST offers a great mix of academic, recreational and enrichment programs that are free to all. Rock Climbing, Math Academy, Movie Club and Dodgeball are just a few of the many classes that will be offered. This Fall session of HOST will conclude on December 11. Registration forms are scheduled to be distributed on September 21 and can be picked up in the YMCA office (room 113).

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

Are you or someone you know interested in running a HOST class? Contact Mr. Rossman at 206.252.5831 or CAROSSMAN@SEATTLESCHOOLS.ORG. New ideas for classes are always welcome!

The Hamilton YMCA CLC is also conducting a **school supply drive for HIMS**. Items of need include college ruled notebook paper, spiral notebooks, 1/2 inch to 1 inch binders, black ink pens and #2 pencils. Donations can be given to the YMCA office in room 113 and are greatly appreciated.

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

We are looking forward to another great school year!

Respect.Responsibility.Honesty.Caring.Faith.Fun

Introducing Hamilton Music and FOMAHI

SYLVIA CHAMBERS AND KATHY TANAKA, FOMAHI CO-PRESIDENTS

Starting in the fall, Hamilton welcomed daily music classes to its program, with multiple ensembles from beginning to advanced in jazz, concert band and orchestra; choir; and two full-time instructors.

To support the new music program, Friends of Music at Hamilton International ("FOMAHI") was formed in May 2009. FOMAHI is an organization of parents and guardians of Hamilton music students, whose mission is to support Hamilton's ensembles, by providing access to music education and performance opportunities for students. The organization also provides volunteer assistance to music teachers, in a combined effort to help strengthen and build Hamilton's music program. Volunteers support student participation in daily music classes, and in a variety of

concerts and festivals. To this end, FOMAHI also provides financial support for Hamilton's music program through its fundraising activities.

FOMAHI is a Washington corporation, that has applied for nonprofit status (under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) and with the State of Washington as a organization authorized to solicit charitable donations. It is governed by a Board of Directors ("Board"), and most of the parents involved in organizing FOMAHI, and serving on its current Board have previous experience on PTA boards and with music organizations at Eckstein, Washington, Roosevelt and Garfield.

Contact Sylvia Chambers and Kathy Tanaka, FOMAHI Co-Presidents, at FOMAHI.MUSIC@GMAIL.COM