



# HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## HMS Happenings – November 10 2017

**Red Ribbon Week** The week of October 20 to October 27, 2017 was designated as Red Ribbon Week at J.E. Harrison Middle School. The Harrison PTSA and staff have joined together to participate in a week of activities designed to provide students with information about the abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, as well as, an understanding of the strategies for dealing with the peer pressures often associated with these issues. The scheduled activities and programs, included a reading of a proclamation from Mayor Nowalk, were all aimed at helping students understand the dangers associated with substance abuse. They also served to reinforce the importance of choosing a healthy drug-free lifestyle. [Click to download Flyer.](#)



**Saltworks Theater Company:** As part of Red Ribbon Week, on Friday, October 20, 2017, Harrison Middle School hosted the Saltworks Theater Company as they present the play, "Off 'Script". Saltworks Theater Company creates, produces, and performs original pieces of theater in an effort to address issues that face today's youth. The theater company believes that theater is not only entertaining, but also a powerful tool for positive social change. Their goal is use theater to educate, challenge, and inspire students to make healthy choices. "



### Upcoming Events

- [Anti-Bullying Week](#) - November 13th - November 17th
- Scholastic Book Fair - November 13th - 16th
- 1st Nine Weeks Report Cards Issued - November 14th
- Early Dismissal - November 16th— 12:00 PM
- Parent Conference - November 16th - 12:50-3:35 PM & 4:35-7:20 PM
- HMS Turkey Trot - November 22nd - 8:45—11:30 AM
- Early Dismissal - November 22nd - 12:00 PM
- Thanksgiving Break - November 23rd - 27th
- 6th Grade Steel Center Fieldtrip - December 1st, 5th & 13th
- Hour of Code Week - December 4th - 8th
- HMS-6/7th Grade Band Concert @ BHS - December 5th - 7:00PM
- HMS - 8th Grade/BHS Band @ BHS - December 7th- 7:00PM
- BWSD Strings Concert @ BHS -December 8th- 7:00PM
- Interims Posted on Skyward - December 11th
- HMS - 8th Grade Chorus @ HMS - December 11th - 7:30 PM
- HMS - 6th & 7th Grade Chorus @ HMS - December 12th - 7:30 PM
- HMS PTSA - Sarris Candy Sale Pick-Up - December 13th - 3:30-7:00 PM

[Click to Access the HMS Daily Announcements](#)





## Upcoming Events

**Parent Conferences:** Communication between home and school is extremely critical towards providing an effective instructional environment for our children. As we prepare for Parent-Teacher Conferences, we look forward to your insights regarding your child's education and input about the school year. As a parent, you provide valuable information for your child's teachers, so they are better able to address your child's needs. Our teachers truly appreciate the support that you give to your child in his/her education while at home.

During your conference, your child's teacher will be sharing information about district curricula, your child's achievement, work habits, and peer relationships. Please feel free to write down any questions that you may have for the conference.



## Highlights

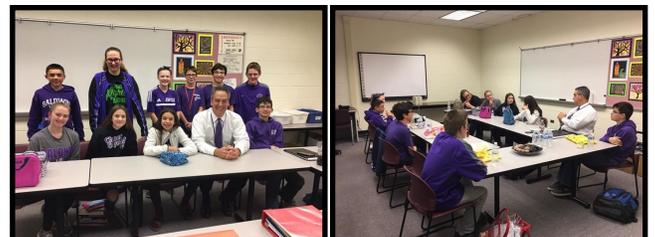
**HMS Halloween Dance :** On Friday, October 20th, HMS held the annual Halloween Dance. The night was filled with a variety of both fun and ghoulish costumes. Thanks to the Ms. Fisher, Ms. Willman and the HMS Dance Committee for planning and organizing such a fun and exciting evening.



**HMS Celebrates Halloween:** On October 31st, the HMS students and staff celebrated Halloween by each grade dressing up following a difference theme. 6th Grade dressed up scarecrows, 7th grade dressed up as super heroes, 8th grade dressed up as spices, and the office staff dressed up as the characters from 101 Dalmatians.



**Lunch with Dr. Lutz:** On October 27th, selected 8th grade HMS students sat down with Dr. Lutz, Baldwin-Whitehall Superintendent, to have lunch and to have the students share their opinions and ideas for the district. The discussions included highlighting qualities of a favorite teachers, identifying the positives occurring within the school, possible ideas for new extracurricular activities, along with ideas to help further improve HMS.





## Highlights

**HMS Autumn Bowl:** On Monday, November 6th the students and staff celebrated the fall season by participating the HMS Annual Autumn Bowl festivities. The 8th grade girls defeated the 7th grade girls in a very close the powder puff game, 46 to 41. The HMS student council (STUCO), along with many of the HMS staff members organized a variety of games where students could try their luck, while also offering food and treat selections. Thanks to the Ms. Wells, Ms. Carlson, HMS Student Council, along with the countless HMS staff members and HMS PTSA who helped to make the afternoon a truly memorable event.



**Sled Dog Adventure:** Over the course of a week The PA Sled Dog Association visited the HMS Mission Ops as an extension of the 7th Grade ELA Curriculum. Students are currently reading *Call of the Wild...* a story that partly focuses on Dog Sledding, Alaska and the history of this time period / region. Students gained a better understanding of what is dog sledding, the history of it and the equipment used. The best part was they were able to see and pet actual sled dogs, which are beautiful and experienced runners. As part of the experience, the HMS administrators provided an "Iditarod Dogs" lunch for the presenters along with the HMS Staff.



**Pandemic Mission in the IKS Highlander:** As part of the HMS health classes, students in Mr. Giglotti's 6th grade health class were able to fly through the human body as they participated in the Pandemic Mission in the IKS Highlander simulator. The various missions within the IKS Highlander use science fiction and fantasy storytelling and blends the various STEM topics. The simulator's mission is game-like in the fact that students are involved in interactive storytelling using role-playing and open-ended scenarios. The experience transforms a room into a themed environment simulating a ship that can travel through time and space where students accomplish educational missions. As an extension to the simulation, students participated in a number of hands on activities that focused on body systems while in the Mission Ops room.





## Highlights

**American Sign Language (ASL) Club:** On October 12th, the first meeting of the American Sign Language (ASL) Club was held and there was a great turnout! Some students were interested in learning sign language for the first time, while others had some prior knowledge of the language and wanted to practice. Students went over the alphabet in ASL as well as how to sign their name. The plan for the school year is to continue to learn conversational sign language and interact with their peers at the meetings using ASL. The next meeting is held after school until 4:00 PM on Thursday, November 2nd. If you weren't able to make it to the first meeting, please join us for the next one!



**C'est octobre, c'esr Halloween:** The French students have been working on spooky fall vocabulary. They have created skeletons with bones labeled in French, researched French tombstones and famous French citizens, and labeled fall themed decorations inside the room.

**Día de Los Muertos:** To learn about how Día de Los Muertos is celebrated, Mrs. Bianchi's Spanish I students first created showbox ofrendas to honor someone that passed away. The ofrenda boxes ranged from family members to historical figures to favorite athletes and musicians. The students presented their boxes to the

class in Spanish and also interviewed other classmates using the target language. The Spanish I classes also learned how to make sugar skulls, calaveras de azucar, by participating in a Spanish cooking lesson during class. The students learned baking items, ingredients, instructions and measurements in Spanish. The next day in class, the students decorated their sugar skulls with icing, decorating gel and sprinkles.



**Healthy Heart Rate Activity:** During the week of October 18th through the 20th, the three 6th grade health classes completed a nutrition and fitness based activity. The students learned first about nutrition and how the body uses the fuel they take in on a daily basis. They then learned about maximum heart rate and their target heart rate. These two pieces of information were the basis for their understanding of how their bodies would work during the heart rate activity. The students performed five different activities at three different time increments. The five were walking, jumping jacks, running, stair climbing and sit-ups. Each activity was completed at 30 second, 1 minute and 3 minute intervals with them checking their heart rate immediately after. After finding their heart rate and calculating the amount, they rested a little to try and allow the heart rate to come back down to normal. They then did the same for the next two time increments. When all the circuits were completed they were to recheck their calculations for the final day of the project.





## Guidance & Social Work

**National Bullying Prevention Week:** The week of November 13th - 17th shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers, and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year. In order to bring awareness and attention to bullying, our schools are hosting theme days the week of November 13 - 17th. We encourage all students and staff to participate in the theme days. In addition, you will find a few parent resources listed each day, either short videos, parent guides or websites for more information. We hope you can find some time in your busy day to review these resources with your child when appropriate. If you have any questions or concerns we encourage you to contact your school's social worker, guidance counselor, or principal. [Click for additional information.](#)

**Monday, November 13, 2017**

"**United We Stand**" – In Honor of Veteran's Day, students and staff are encouraged to wear **Red, White & Blue** to show support and thank our veterans for their loyal service to the United States of America.

**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

"**We All Shine**" – Students and staff are encouraged to wear **Neon, tie-dyed, or bright color clothing** to show that we all shine.

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

"**We are All on the Same Team**" – Students and staff are encouraged to wear their favorite **team apparel** to show that we are all on the same team in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District.

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**

"**We are True Blue Friends**" – Students and staff are encouraged to wear **blue** to show a strong commitment to being a true friend to others.

**Friday, November 17, 2017**

"**We are All Good Citizens**" – Students and staff are encouraged to wear **purple and white** to show school pride and that we are all a part of the Baldwin-Whitehall community.

**Student Assistance Program (SAP) - A Guide for Parents/Guardians:** A SAP team made up of school and agency staff is available to help you access school and community services for your child. In Pennsylvania, every school district is required to have a plan for identifying and assisting students who experience barriers to learning. The J.E. Harrison SAP team will help you find services and assistance within the school, and if needed, in the community. We do not diagnose, treat, or refer your child for treatment. We will provide you with information and you make the choice(s) that best fit your needs and wishes. As the parent/guardian you are an important part of the team. [Click for more Information.](#)



**Students Learn About the Dangers of Drug Use:** As part of Harrison Middle School's participation in National Red Ribbon Week we had our students participate in an assembly on October 23rd which focused on the dangers drug use. In conjunction with the BWSD Drug & Alcohol Task Force, Harrison Middle School hosted a forum for students which included personal stories from two recent Baldwin High School alumni who will share their experiences with addiction. They explained how their addiction started, the sacrifices they have had to make, and how they continue to remain clean in recovery. Their hope is to prevent adolescents from making the same life-changing mistakes and to promote awareness and education in regards to the use of drugs and/or alcohol.

**6th Grade Drug/Alcohol Awareness Education:** On October 31, 2017, Counselor Intern and former Substance Abuse Counselor, Zach Garfinkel, discussed drug and alcohol topics with students in our sixth grade Health classes. The lesson was a good wrap-up to Drug Awareness month and the conclusion of the first nine weeks Unified Arts rotation. Students used prior knowledge gleaned from recent speakers and presentations to offer superb answers to Mr. Garfinkel's questions. Mr. Garfinkel said, "Teaching you about drugs and alcohol in sixth grade is a great early exposure so that you are aware. This will enable you to make healthy, educated decisions when you may be confronted with situations in the future." The sixth graders had serious discussions pertaining to addiction and concurrently were able to expand their understanding of drugs and alcohol. When presented with scenarios, the students provided excellent responses that demonstrated careful thought and consideration. This year, we have been very fortunate to have had meaningful and informative speakers and programs dedicated to Drug Awareness month.

**Post-Secondary Options:** Our 8th grade students participated in Career presentations this week, with the focus on post-secondary options. A guest speaker, Mrs. Alicia Schmidt, Career Educator from Steel Center discussed post-secondary options. The students were encouraged to begin thinking about various programs and degrees offered after high school. Students asked excellent questions based on their career interests. They enjoyed viewing the "Success in the Economy" video. We encourage you to Google this Video Online.





## Guidance & Social Work

**Steel Center Field Trip – Grade 6** BWSO is partners with Steel Center Area Career and Technical School. Our sixth grade students have been given the opportunity to visit this facility on either December 1, December 5, and December 13, 2017. Not only will our school fulfill career requirements of the District’s 339 Plan set by the state of Pennsylvania, but students will have early exposure to a Career and Technical School. **Be on the lookout for the Online permission form.**



### What is Career and Technical Education?

- Encompasses 94 percent of high school students and 8.4 million individuals seeking postsecondary certificates and associate degrees in CTE fields
- Includes high schools, career centers, community and technical colleges, four-year universities and more
- Educates students for a range of career options through 16 Career Clusters® and 79+ pathways
- Integrates with academics in a rigorous and relevant curriculum
- Features high school and postsecondary partnerships, enabling clear pathways to certifications and degrees
- Fulfills employer needs in high-skill, high-wage, high-demand areas
- Prepares students to be college- and career-ready by providing core academic skills, employability skills and technical, job-specific skills



## Student Recognition

Congratulations to our 1st nine weeks Highlander Pride Award winners! The students below have exhibited dependability and responsibility in and out of the classroom that is second to none! Congratulations to Ms. McNally for being recognized by his colleagues and administration for his dependability to his students. [Click for more information and to watch the video.](#)



## Staff Recognition



**Steelers Leaders in the Classrooms:** Ms. Debbie Reynolds, a 7th grade science teacher at Harrison Middle School, was recently recognized as a Chevron Leader in the Classroom. This recognition is a community program that recognizes local teachers throughout the Steelers football season for demonstrating exemplary leadership and instructional skills. Ms. Reynolds was recognized for making a significant difference in the lives of her students based on her ability to provide engaging instruction and curriculum, encourage lifelong learning and inspire a passion for education beyond

the classroom and into the future. Besides being recognized at Harrison Middle School, Ms. Reynolds will be recognized on-field during a Steelers home game against the Patriots. Ms. Reynolds also received a donation from Chevron and The Grable Foundation to be used for classroom supplies. [Click for more information.](#)





## HMS Athletics

**HMS Wrestling:** Attention all 7th & 8th grade students interested in wrestling this year, the season will begin on Friday, November 17th. Please make arrangements to get a physical if you do not already have one from another fall sport. If you played a fall sport you must have a recertification form completed by a parent/guardian. Remember that you cannot practice without a physical! All forms can be found on the school website under athletics or in the main office. If you have any questions see Mr. Bilbie in room 250.



## HMS Extracurricular

**HMS Yearbook Photos:** The HMS Yearbook is looking for 1st day of school photos, sports photos, and school activity photos for the yearbook. Photos taken on a phone can be submitted through downloading the Yearbook Snap APP. Search for Harrison Middle School and use the code "HMS" to submit photos. Photos can also be e-mailed to Mrs. Bianchi at [hbianchi@bwschools.net](mailto:hbianchi@bwschools.net) or copied to a CD and dropped off in Room 203.



## PTSA

**THE HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA "NONFUNDRAISER!":** We are presenting this fundraiser as an option for our HMS parents, staff and friends to have another way to support the PTSA without having to buy, sell, or deliver various goods and items through traditional fundraising! You can "opt out" of fundraising and still support our children with your simple MONETARY DONATION! (Of course, this does not mean you will not see the occasional fundraiser still sent home from time to time. This is simply meant to be a great "alternative" way to support if you choose. Thank you in advance for your generous support! [Click for more information.](#)

There are many opportunities that await both children and parents. The HMS PTSA supports our children and school educators in many different ways. By providing funds and volunteers for various school functions and initiatives, we serve both our Children and our Community. Below are some examples of how we make a difference! [Click for more information- HMS PTSA Promotion Flyer.](#)

- Teacher Grants for needed classroom items
- Provide funds for the school Nurse's Pantry
- Do The Right Thing support and volunteerism
- Various Fundraisers to support activities for the children
- Volunteerism for school functions and dances

**Would you like to be added to our email distribution list so that we can keep you up to date on PTSA activities or volunteer opportunities?** Simply complete the PTSA Membership Form and send the bottom portion of the form along with the membership fee of \$6.00 (rate is the same for parents and children) to the HMS office in an envelope marked "PTSA Membership - Attn: Kelly Bischoff.

**Would you like to follow the HMS PTSA on our Facebook page?**

You may do so by following this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1834201053474732>



**Sarris Candy Holiday Sale:** The Sarris Holiday candy sale begins Friday, October 13th. All orders due Wednesday, November 15th, and can be placed in the PTSA mailbox in the HMS main office. The delivery date is Wednesday, December 13th and can be picked-up from 3:30 p.m to 7:00 p.m in teachers' lounge (room 129) or use outside entrance #4 (Left of the gym entrance). Please contact Katie Beardsley at [katherine\\_beardsley@hotmail.com](mailto:katherine_beardsley@hotmail.com) with any questions.



**PIZZA HUT Fund Raiser:** HMS PTSA is sponsoring a fundraiser at the Brentwood Pizza Hut on November 21st, from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Just mention the HMS PTSA Fundraiser to your server.

### Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair this year will be as follows:

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| 6th Grade        | November 13 |
| 7th Grade        | November 14 |
| 8th Grade        | November 15 |
| Make-up date is: | November 16 |

