

HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

HMS Happenings – December 22, 2017

Happy Holidays



At this time of the year, we all take a moment to reflect on the past year. As the administrative team, we are proud of our students and staff, and their numerous accomplishments. We wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to 2018.



HMS Student Council (STUCO) Spreads the Holiday Spirit: Over the past week the HMS Student Council sponsored numerous events to help students and staff get into the holiday spirit, such as theme days, a door decorating contest, and an ugly sweater contest. Mrs. Koch's 6th grade class, Ms. Hornburg's 7th grade class and Ms. McNally's 8th grade class won the door decorating contest for each grade level and earned a special breakfast. Brianna Rodgers 6th, Abby Sullivan 7th, and Jordan Williams 8th were recognized for their unique sweaters and won giftcards for their creative fashion statements. Thanks to Mrs. Wells & Ms. Carlson and the rest of student council for helping to make it a special week.!



Upcoming Events

- Winter Break - December 23rd - January 1st
- HMS Girls Basketball Tryouts - January 3rd & 4th - 3:20-5:00 PM
- HMS PTSA Meeting - January 8th - 6:30 PM
- HMS Ice Skating Party Forms & Payment Due - January 10th
- HMS - PTSA Ice Skating Party - Mt. Lebanon Ice Rink - January 14th - 6:00-8:00 PM
- No School—In-Service Day - January 15th
- No School—In-Service Day - January 23rd
- First Day of the Third Nine Weeks - January 24th

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



Highlights

Holocaust Survivor Speaks to 8th Graders: Harrison Middle School was honored to host Ms. Shulamit Bastacky on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 19. Ms. Bastacky is a survivor of the Holocaust from Poland, and she shared her life story and the lessons that she has learned as a result of her experiences. In preparation for her visit, the eighth grade ELA classes have been studying the holocaust alongside their reading of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The students wrote many thoughtful questions for Ms. Bastacky and collected dozen of stuffed animals to give to the patients at UPMC Children's Hospital in her honor. Twelve students who are participating in the Holocaust Arts and Writing Competition were chosen to have lunch with Ms. Bastacky before her presentation and served as her guides throughout her visit. Additionally, several dozen of our students will attend a field trip to the Pittsburgh Holocaust Center to meet another survivor and experience the "Butterflies" exhibit, which is part of an attempt to create one ceramic butterfly for each of the 1.5 million children who were lost in the Holocaust. After their visit, these students, in cooperation with our art department, will paint butterflies to contribute to this international campaign.



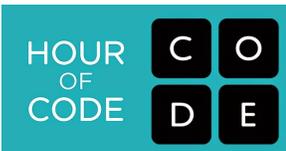
HMS Music Concerts: Harrison Middle School students who participate in band, chorus and/or orchestra performed in multiple grade level holiday concerts. Their talent showed through as they performed numerous holiday pieces that entertained their audiences while getting them into the holiday spirit. A special thanks to Ms. Hawk, Ms. Verno, Ms. Virgin and all our student musicians for the series of outstanding concerts.



Students Celebrate Their Success: Thanks to the overwhelming response to our fall fundraiser it was an overwhelming success. Over forty students sold enough cookie dough to earn a special limo lunch at Dave and Buster's in the Waterfront where they were able to enjoy a great lunch and have some time to practice their video gaming skills.

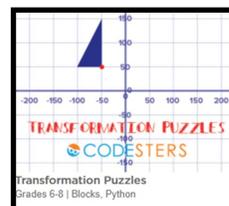


Damos Gracias Por... We are thankful for.... Students in Mrs. Bianchi's Spanish classes used their "manos" to create "Tomás El Pavo" for "EL Día de Acción de Gracias". Each student wrote five things in Spanish that they are thankful for this year to share with their classmates at HMS.



Hour of Code: During the week of December 4th through December 8th, students at J.E. Harrison Middle School participated in a nationwide event "Hour of Code". During this event students were instructed on editing code in Python, a programming language, that aligned to their instruction in mathematics. Students completed one lesson on the hourofcode.com

website through their math classes. A big thanks goes out to the mathematics department for their support of the nationwide event and their flexibility of learning code to support the students. Students in the eighth grade participated in an activity titled "Transformations Puzzles". Students in 6th and 7th grade participated in an activity on the Coordinate Plane. These lessons were designed by Mrs. Short and Mrs. Willman to align to the mathematics PA Common Core Standards.





Highlights



The Power of the Pen: To prepare to read Charles Dicken's, *The Christmas Carol*, students in Mrs. Himes' Seventh Grade ELA classes researched and presented various topics, specific to the Victorian Era. Many students chose to complete additional work to enhance researched materials thus bringing history to life in the classroom. Upon the completion of their presentations, students will be asked to evaluate the impact of the Victorian period by analyzing the historical effects of the author's story. Through history, students will witness the positive influences of writing on society.



Why Yoga? Teens today have so much on their plates, with super-competitive academics and sports, packed schedules and parental pressure. The students in Wellness use their yoga practice to chill out and get in tune with their bodies. Their practice grows, their posture improves, their confidence shines, their energy increases, their minds become peaceful, and their stress levels decrease. When yogis are free from their daily stressors, they freely smile, laugh, and enjoy life. Isn't that what it is all about?



CLO's A Christmas Carol: The 8th grade chorus had the privilege to sing at the Byham Theater on Dec. 9th prior to the CLO's production of *A Christmas Carol*. The students performed songs from their Winter Concert to entertain the crowd prior to their being able to watch the performance of *A Christmas Carol* which featured former HMS and BHS student, Justin Fortunato as Fred.



Hockey Champions: Team Full Send won the championship of Mr. Squeglia's

Team Sports Hockey Unit. They posted a perfect record of 13-0-1. Team Captain was Collin Kuch – team members consisted of Justin Lawson, Colin Noone-Hirosky, Cody Randal, Eh Pwe Shwe, Heidi Douglass, Nishal Dkagal, and Isiah King.



Guidance & Social Work

Steel Center Field Trip – Grade 6 Steel Center Career and Technical School hosted a Field Trip for the Class of 2024 this month. Our sixth graders toured the facility, had lunch, and were able to engage in hands-on experiences in the different trades offered at Steel Center.



STEEL CENTER

for CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Here are some of the activities that they were able to participate: Culinary—Making Bagel pizzas, Building Trades—Hammering nails into wood to create their initials, Computer Information—Learning the internal parts of a computer, Health Services—Assembling a skeleton puzzle to learn the bones of the body, Protective Services—Fingerprinting, CPR, and trying on the heavy firefighter gear, Welding—Perfecting preciseness of welding using a simulator, Auto Mechanics—Filling car tires with air and learning about engines, Cosmetology—Having students create fake “wounds” using theatrical makeup, Diesel—Pulling switches to operate brakes/horns. The students will be able to participate in several opportunities offered at Steel Center throughout Middle School. Look for Summer Camp registration forms in May 2018. For more information about Steel Center, contact Career Educator, Mrs. Alicia Schmidt at 412-469-3200.





Highlights

HMS World Language Students Celebrate Holiday Traditions from Around the World



Camp Soles



December 15, 2017 there was an informational meeting for all eighth graders about the Camp Soles field trip scheduled for May of 2018. The meeting was held during periods 2, 4 and 7, during the students PE, musical class, or study hall. An information packet was given to all students in attendance to take home to parents. The packet consists of important dates and parent permission forms. A second meeting will be held in March. Please contact Mr. Kealey at jkealey@bwschools.net with any questions.



HMS Athletics



Tryouts for Girls Basketball will be held Wednesday, January 3rd through Thursday, January 4th after school in the Harrison Middle School Gym from 3:20 – 5:00 pm. All student athletes interested in trying out for the team must be in good academic standings and have a completed Baldwin Whitehall physical packet prior to the first tryout January 3rd. Physical packets are available students at school and on the [Baldwin Whitehall District Athletic Website](#). Any questions please contact Mr. Cherico or Mr. Squeglia.



Staff Recognition

HMS Staff Share Innovative Uses of Technology

On Thursday, December 14th members of the English Language Arts (ELA) Department conducted a professional development session with all of the staff members at Harrison Middle School. The ELA teachers focused on effectively implementing technology and other instructional techniques in their lessons to improve student engagement and achievement. Mrs. Laughlin, Ms. Parks, Mr. Shaner, Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Dillon provided training on integrating writing across the curriculum inspired by a recent session with John Collins at Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU). These writing strategies can easily be implemented in all classes and they promote students to articulate their ideas through writing. They also presented how to develop an interactive online Google Classroom which provides immediate interaction and feedback between teachers and students. Teachers also demonstrated Pear Deck, an app that allows teachers to enhance the dynamic and interactive classroom, while providing instant formative assessment feedback to the teachers which enables them to make instant adjustments to instruction.



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” o 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>



HMS PTSA Collecting Box Tops: The HMS PTSA is collecting Box Tops for Education. Please send in your box tops in an envelop or sandwich bag, and place them in the PTSA mailbox in the main office.

**HMS PTSA PRESENTS—HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL ICE SKATING PARTY
SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2018—6 P.M. – 8 P.M.—MOUNT LEBANON ICE RINK**



Located in Mt. Lebanon Park complex, just off Cedar Blvd in Mt. Lebanon
HELP YOUR PTSA TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN BY BEING A PART OF THIS FUNDRAISER AND HAVE FUN TOO!

COST: \$8.00 PER PERSON FOR HARRISON FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND STAFF.

SKATE RENTAL AVAILABLE AT THE RINK DOOR FOR \$2.00/pair.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FORM AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT
TO HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE (PTSA MAILBOX) BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10,2018**

[Click to download a printable form.](#)

QUESTIONS - CONTACT SHARON VOIGT AT 412-860-0697(cell) OR 412-885-7647 (home)