

Hopkins Public Schools



Hopkins Middle School Newsletter



"Committed to Quality Education for our Children's Future"

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year from the staff here at Middle School!
Christmas Break begins December 22nd
School Resumes January 5, 2015*



*December
Student of the Month
Kaitlin Bluhm
Madison Douglas
Haley Duimstra
Briana Miller
Jeremy Schultz
Drew Weber
Congratulations!*

*December
Citizen of the Month
Rachel Black
Jordon Burch
Valerie Nagengast
Olivia Smit
Andrew Stallard
Ashtyn Sund
Congratulations!*

Year Books

Order forms are available
In the office The cost of the
yearbook is \$20.00 before January
31st . After that date they will cost
\$22.50 until the final order date of
March 31st.

Thanks to all of the parent
volunteers that made our
Christmas cookie station
possible. Students were
able to frost and decorate a
cookie during lunch on
Thursday. The teachers
enjoyed this fun event with
their students.

2015 Variety show

Performances

*Friday, January 16, 7:00p.m.
Saturday, January 17, 3:00p.m.*

Two identical shows

Tickets: \$5

*Available at Hopkins school
offices and sold at the door*

Family packages available

For more information contact:

Jacob Oaster—Director

269-793-7407

JacoOast@hpsvikings.org

Next Partners Meeting
Tuesday, January 6th
7:00pm Middle School

2014-2015 Ski Club

Cards for Bittersweet Ski
Area are available at all school
offices. Forms are due to the
school office by January
14th and the final delivery
date for the year is January
23rd. \$16 for Adult and
Student Cards. Make checks
payable to **Hopkins Public
School.**

Robotics

Hopkins Middle School students competed in the 2014 FIRST Tech Challenge. This is the third year that Hopkins has participated in this event. Every year the game is completely different.

This year the challenge was to build a robot to pick up whiffle balls and place them into scoring tubes of various heights. The goals are on wheels and if the robot can move the goals into a home zone or up a ramp they receive extra points. The robots are operated by remote control.

Participation and expectations were again high for the team. We split into two teams to give everyone a chance to learn and grow. The robot design and fabrication was completed by the students.

This year we even taught everyone how to weld aluminum. The electrical/programming team wired and programmed the robot to not only follow the commands of the driver but to execute an autonomous program for extra points.

The two teams competed at Allendale and Kentwood. This is the third straight year that the team from Hopkins has qualified for the Michigan State Championship. The top 64 teams from around Michigan will be at the Championship on January 10th at Lakewood High School in Battle Creek Mi.

The team would like to thank the high school robotics team members and adult mentors who worked so hard to make this year a success.



6th Grade Girls Basketball

The Hopkins Girls Basketball program is running a mini basketball camp on January 12, 26, February 9, and February 23 at Hopkins Elementary. The camp is \$20 and all players will receive a t-shirt. Flyers are available in the office.



Hopkins middle school students were impressed with their first hand experience with a 3-D printer. Tom Healy and Annette Norris from DASI Solutions visited Hopkins on Tuesday, December 16 to demonstrate to the robotics teams the wonders of a 3-D printer. We thank them for coming and inspiring our next generation of problem solvers!

In Eighth grade history we have finished the start up of our government under the Constitution and the beginning of political parties. We have spent time comparing the political parties of Washington and Adams time with the platforms and stances of the political parties today and found many similarities still being held. We will be starting with the Jefferson Era (1800 through 1824) after the first of the year. We will look at our countries expansion from sea to sea with the Louisiana Purchase and the Corp of Discovery Expedition led by Lewis and Clark. We will look at the economic growth and final recognition of our country by the world powers after the War of 1812 and the establishment of the Monroe Doctrine.

Michigan FFA State Service Project has a goal of collecting 2000 lbs. of pop tabs. Hopkins FFA Chapter is collecting them and you can help by saving your tabs and bringing them into the office. All proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald House

Fly Tying Club

Next meeting is January 14th in Mr. Reszka's room 3-4 pm Every other Wednesday. \$15 one time cost

Boxtops: Middle School collects box tops all year long. You can have your child drop them off in the office. This is a great way to earn money for our school! Thanks for your support

From the Counseling Department:

I walked into a local store the other day and there was a family, all four of them ringing bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle. They really looked like they were having fun together. It must be a tradition that the family really enjoyed. This got me thinking there are many family traditions and activities that families enjoy and kids look forward to over break, like cutting down the family tree, Elf on the Shelf, Carols, and cookie baking. Keep doing them, children will remember them for years to come and they love to tell us about them.

But there are many students who do not look forward to Christmas break. For many it is a time of increased stress and anxiety. Things like divorce, remarriage, and loss of a loved one, can really add to the Holiday stress. Things to look for in children who might be stressed are, withdrawn, easy to tears, headaches and stomach aches. There was an article which I came across that has a list of tips for parents to reduce stress in children over holidays these include:

1. Discuss holiday plans well in advance, and let kids participate in decisions to the extent possible. Kids need some degree of predictability. Prolonged uncertainty, constantly changing plans or last-minute decisions can all increase stress.
2. If you're traveling, leave plenty of extra time and bring child-friendly snacks, books, games and/or music.
3. Don't over schedule. You may not be able to do everything or see everyone. Kids can easily get "burned out," overtired and cranky during the holidays.
4. Give kids some "downtime." Don't expect them to be "on" all the time. Leave room for some quiet activities, like listening to music, walking in the woods or reading a book.
5. Make sure kids get plenty of sleep. While it may be exciting to stay up late, lack of sleep often leads to increased irritability.
6. Let kids be honest about their feelings. Don't force them to act happy and excited if they're feeling quiet or down.
7. Don't promise things you can't produce. For example, don't promise that a parent will be home in time for the holidays if the decision is really out of your control. Don't promise that someone will call if they're in an area with limited phone service.
8. Uphold and maintain family traditions even if a parent is absent. Kids count on certain traditions, which can have an important grounding effect by letting kids know that even though some things have changed, other things have remained the same.
9. Don't try and compensate for an absent parent with extra gifts or toys. It won't work. What most kids really want is time, attention and reassurance.
10. Take care of yourself. Try and avoid getting overloaded with obligations. If you feel stressed, it increases the pressure and tension on your children.

Tips from -

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-fassler-md/children-holiday-stress_b_785513.html

Mr. Crook



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HMS Contact Information

ADMINISTRATION:

Ken Szczepanski, *Principal*
Scott Stockwell, *CQO 6/7*
Pat O'Dell, *CQO 8*
Crook, Todd, *Counselor*
Jocelyn Wright Newman, *Counselor*
Jan Lodenstein, *Secretary*

EXT:

3509
3507
3112
3508
3510
3500

STAFF:

Aleman, Kathleen
Barry, Joseph
Brooke Brenner
Bub Brainard
Byville, Suzanne
Crook, Todd
Dommenick, Tim
Francis, Cody
Francomb, Christopher
Hazen, Rick
Irwin, Irwin
Johnston, Jennifer
Marckini Katelyn
Oaster, Jacob
Orme, Timothy
Pitsch, Judy
Quist, Carrie
Reszka, Richard
Rose, Lindsay
Rynsburger, T.J.
Smith, Julie
Smith, Lesa
Snoeyink, Susan
Stein, Karen
VerMerris, Steve
Weible, Alexis

EXT:

3002
3001
3551
3540
3103
3009
1117
3592
3114
2117
3006
3552
3552
3109
3106
3562
3104
3007
3105
3003
3005
3550
3009
6541
3008
3102



Important Dates to Remember

<i>Dec. 22-Jan. 2</i>	<i>Christmas Break</i>
<i>Jan. 6</i>	<i>Partners Meeting 7:00pm Hopkins MS</i>
<i>Jan. 16</i>	<i>Variety Show 7:00pm Hopkins MS</i>
<i>Jan. 17</i>	<i>Variety Show 3:00pm Hopkins MS</i>
<i>Jan. 21</i>	<i>P/T Conferences 4-7:00pm</i>
<i>Feb. 3</i>	<i>Partners Meeting 7:00pm Hopkins MS</i>
<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>Mid- Winter Break</i>
<i>Feb. 23</i>	<i>Data Day no school for students</i>
<i>Mar. 3</i>	<i>Partners Meeting 7:00pm Hopkins MS</i>
<i>Mar. 6</i>	<i>2nd Trimester ends</i>
<i>Apr. 3</i>	<i>Good Friday No School</i>
<i>Apr. 6-10</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
<i>Apr. 14</i>	<i>Partners Meeting 7:00pm Hopkins MS</i>
<i>May 5</i>	<i>Partners Meeting 7:00pm Hopkins MS</i>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

Please call the Middle School office within 24 hours of your students absence. You may leave a message on our voicemail system day or night. When reporting illness, please inform Secretary of what type of symptoms your child is experiencing.

Fever, sore throat, ect. If your child is absent 2 days or more, you may request homework. If absent only 1 day, homework can be picked up from their Teacher the next day.

PHONE CALLS

Telephones in the office are to be used for illness and emergencies only. Thank you for your cooperation.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Please report all immunizations that your child has had so we can keep our school records up to date. All new students and all 6th graders must be completely up to date on all immunizations. Please contact the HMS office if you have any questions.

MEDICATION

ALL medications dispensed to the students must be supplied from home. The school does not provide any type of medication. All prescription medication must be provided in a pharmacy labeled bottle. Tylenol/Aspirin must be brought to the office in an unopened bottle. All students requiring any type of medication must have a medication form completed by their parents.

CHANGES in Phone Numbers, Home Address & E-Mail

Please inform the office any time there are changes in your address or phone numbers. We need to have this information so we can update our records.