

HARTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

AT ORE CREEK

October 27, 2011 Newsletter

School office telephone number: (810) 626-2400

Absence line: (810) 626-2405

HMSOC PAC NEWS

Our next Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting is Wednesday, November 9 in the HMSOC media center. All interested HMSOC parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Our Fall Fundraiser kickoff was October 21. Students should have brought home information regarding our annual fundraiser. Proceeds help support field trips, assemblies, teacher requests, student assignment books, Challenge Day, student recognition, and student assistance. The sale ends November 10.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY

The October after school activity is Friday, October 28 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. This activity is for seventh and eighth grade students and will include music, open gym time, refreshments, foosball, ping-pong, and more. Admission is five dollars (\$5) without a costume and four dollars with. Please contact Ms. Paulson or Mr. Jellison, our Student Council sponsors, through the Middle School office if you are interested as volunteering as a chaperone.

This is a Halloween-themed activity. Students choosing to dress up must adhere to the following guidelines:

- No masks or props
- No inappropriate or excessively violent-themed costumes
- Adhere to school dress code
- Make up, hair color, etc. must be applied at home (not at school)

Please remember to pick up your child between 4:30 and 4:45 for after school activities and promptly at 9:00 p.m. for evening activities. If you need to pick up your child earlier, you must come in to the building. Please remember that these activities are for HMSOC students only, not siblings or other visitors.

THESE SAME GUIDELINES APPLY TO ANY STUDENTS CHOOSING TO DRESS FOR HALLOWEEN AT SCHOOL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 31.

NO SCHOOL

There is no school for students Tuesday, November 1 due to a scheduled Professional Development day for teachers. There is no school for students Friday, November 11 due to Parent-Teacher Conferences. There is no school Wednesday, November 23 through Friday, November 25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

FANTASY OF LIGHTS PARADE

The HMS Band will be marching in the annual Fantasy of Lights Parade in Howell on November 25.

GEOGRAPHY BEE

The top 30 scorers in our school geography bee roundup (November 7) will take part in the school geography bee on Monday November 21st

Further Information:

- Our school winner will take the state written geography test
- The state of Michigan will then take the top 100 scores to the Michigan NGB
- The student who wins the state NGB will advance to the National NGB
- At the National NGB students have a chance to win a \$25,000, 15,000, or 10,000 scholarship
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COUNSELING OFFICE

If your child is experiencing difficulty with a family divorce or having trouble coping with the loss of a loved one or with family, school, or peer issues, contact Erica McLennan, HMS Counselor, through the school office for information on our peer support groups.

REPORT CARDS/END OF FIRST MARKING PERIOD

The first marking period ends Friday, November 4. Report cards will be available to parents during November conferences. We will send cards home with students on November 16 for any parents unable to attend conferences. Contact the front office personnel with any questions.

ATHLETICS

The Cross Country and Volleyball seasons will be wrapping up soon. Boys Basketball, the Swim and Dive Team, and Cheer and Pom seasons are coming up soon. Boys INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL starts after school on Monday, October 31 and runs through November 4th (no school or basketball November 1). There will be organized games, but no tryouts. This is open to all 7th and 8th grade boys, even if they do not want to try out for the team. We will also offer open gym time before each home game. Official boys basketball tryouts begin Monday, November 7. Students participating in any school sports team or club must have a current physical (dated after April 15, 2011) on file in the Middle School office in order to participate (forms are available in the Middle School office). There is a participation fee for interscholastic sports and school sponsored clubs. A one-time \$95 fee will allow students to participate in any school team and/or club for which they otherwise qualify (this one-time fee covers all sports and clubs throughout the year).

- Boys Intramural Basketball: October 31 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- Boys Basketball Tryouts: November 7, 8, 9 right after school to 4:15 p.m.
- Cheer Tryouts: November 2 and 4 from 6-8 p.m. HMS Aux Gym
- Pom Tryouts: November 7,8, 9 at 4:30 in the HMS Aux Gym
- November 2 at 7:00 p.m.: Cross Country Banquet
- Swim and Dive Team: practices begin November 7 at the HHS pool

ATTENDANCE LINE

Please note that we have an attendance line. Call (810) 626-2405 to report a student absence.

SCHOOL SAFETY

In order to ensure the safest environment possible, we need your cooperation. We are asking that parents make sure to sign students in or out in the front office if arriving late or leaving early. We also need you to wait in the front office, not meet students at lockers or in the classroom area. Other safety procedures that we will be strictly enforcing:

- All visitors must report to the office. Those approved to proceed into the classroom area must have a visitor badge.
- All entrances except for the main doors near the office will be locked.
- We will practice at least two lock down drills with students this school year. An actual lock down would be called if there were any situation where it would be safer for students to remain in classrooms with teachers and not be dismissed to hallways or common areas.
- We will not allow students to be signed out by anyone not specifically authorized by a parent/guardian on the emergency card on file in the office.

HONOR POINTS

Each year, eighth grade students are awarded ten honor points. Students must have at least one honor point remaining in order to participate in the annual eighth grade trip to Cedar Point in June. Honor points are deducted for disciplinary infractions.

FALL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 11 and 15 as follows:

- Friday, November 11 from 7:40 – 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 15 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Some teams have scheduled appointment times (they notify parents directly). All other conferences are in individual teacher classrooms (no “arena” style) on a “drop in” basis (first come, first served). In an effort to see as many of our 900 students’ parents as possible – and to minimize wait times as much as possible -- teachers have been asked to keep conference times brief (5-10 minutes). We hope to see you all during conferences.

FREE/REDUCED PRICE LUNCHESES

To apply for free or reduced price lunch at school, a new completed application must be submitted each school year. These forms have been mailed to all students, and additional forms are available in the school office.

PARENT CONNECT

Parent Connect allows parents with Internet access to monitor their children’s grades. If you had a password assigned last year, it remains the same. Contact Karen Wilson at pc@hartlandschools.us for assistance.

We have added a new feature to Parent Connect called "Transport Info". This will allow parents to see their children's bus number and schedule when logged in.

Also, as a reminder, parents can keep their e-mail and work numbers up to date under the Updates tab. This convenience allows you the ability to keep some basic information up to date without having to call the schools.

TARDY TO SCHOOL POLICY

Please help your child do his or her best. Attendance is a crucial factor for student academic success.

- Students tardy to school (i.e. late to Homeroom) must be signed in at the front office by a parent or legal guardian in order for the tardy to be considered excused.
- Unexcused tardies to school will result in disciplinary action.

Excessive parent excused tardies may be referred to the Livingston County Attendance Officer.

SAFETY IN THE PARKING LOT

The morning "drop off" time before school and afternoon "pick up" time after school means that students who are being driven to and from school must negotiate a very busy parking lot. PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY and put the safety of our students ahead of time issues.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Each school building in the Hartland Consolidated School District has an Instructional Consultative Team (ICT) or Student Assistance Team (SAT) process in place, which is a vehicle for staff members to review student performance and concerns, and collaboratively develop interventions. If you have concerns about your child's development and are interested in more information on special services, contact your child's teacher or building principal. If you have concerns about the development of your infant, toddler, or preschooler, contact the Sue Pearson, Director of Special Education at (810) 626-2102 for more information.

Newsletters will not be mailed home or sent home with students. Updated newsletters will be available approximately every two weeks (every other Thursday) via the school website (www.hartlandschools.us). If you do not have internet access, you or your child may pick up a hard copy of the newsletter in the school office.