

December 18, 2014



HAMMOND TIGER TALES

Hammond Elementary School provides a safe, nurturing learning environment that fosters individual success through academic excellence, and appreciation of diversity, to ensure lifelong learners.

Important Dates*

December 21	First Day of Winter
DECEMBER 24-JAN. 2	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED /WINTER BREAK
January 8	Spirit Day/Pajama Day
January 12	National Clean Off Your Desk Day
January 12 – 16	Universal Letter Writing Week
January 17	Bald Eagle Appreciation Day
JANUARY 19	SCHOOLS AND OFFICES CLOSED/MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
JANUARY 22	SCHOOLS CLOSE 3 HRS EARLY/PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
JANUARY 23	SCHOOLS CLOSE 3 HRS EARLY/END OF MARKING PERIOD
January 27	Holocaust Memorial Day
January 28	Winter Concert – Beginning Instrumental Concert 7pm
FEBRUARY 6	SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS/PROFESSIONAL DEV.
FEBRUARY 12 & 13	SCHOOLS CLOSE 3HRS EARLY/ CONFERENCES
March 2 – 6	Kindergarten Registration
March 25	5th Grade Field Trip /Mt. Vernon 9am – 3pm

“PAWS OF PRIDE”

As the winter break draws near, I would like to wish all of our families a safe and joyous vacation! It is a pleasure to work with your children daily and to see them grow in so many ways. During the break, I hope that you experience a slower pace with some time to relax and build fond memories that will be treasured in the years ahead. May 2015 bring a year of happiness and good health to you and yours!



Kimberlyn S. Pratesi

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Volunteer Reading Program

Mrs. Smith is starting a program for students to work on reading fluency after winter break. We are looking for volunteers to read with students one on one. It requires an adult to read aloud with a child for 15 minutes a day to model good fluency. We are looking for volunteers who can give an hour of their time one day a week. They will work with four students for fifteen minutes each during this time. A description/training of the simple research based method will be reviewed with volunteers ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 19 AT 9:15 IN MRS. SMITH'S ROOM. Feel free to send questions to Laura Smith, reading specialist, at [Laura M Smith@hcpss.org](mailto:Laura_M_Smith@hcpss.org)

Bravo Winter Concert!

Congratulations to all of our students in the Advanced Orchestra, Advanced Band, and 4th and 5th Grade Chorus. They performed beautifully at the Holiday Concert on December 11th. We are so proud of everything they have learned and accomplished. Bravissimo!!!

The Beginning Orchestra and Beginning Band students will be performing on Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00PM in the HMS gym.

Multicultural Night Volunteers Needed

For several years, Hammond Elementary has enjoyed celebrating the many cultures that comprise our school community. If you are interested in participating in this year's event, or would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Armstrong at christinia_armstrong@hcpss.org
FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Recently there has been an increase in the number of students who are ill. In order to keep our students as healthy as possible, we ask you to assist us by keeping children home from school when they are ill. The isolation of ill students at home can help to prevent the spread of illness in the school. Also, remember that despite concerns about school attendance, your children's health (and the health of other children) is most important. For this reason, we ask you to please:

Keep your child home if he/she has a fever of over 100.0. A fever indicates that your child has an infection that could be passed to other students. If you give your child Motrin or Tylenol, the fever will, of course, disappear but he/she will still be contagious to others. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school!

Call the school nurse (410-880-5893) to let us know if your child is absent with a contagious illness such as strep throat, or the flu etc. Please provide any documentation from your physician about diagnosis and release to return to school. (Ear and sinus infections, while often a reason for keeping a child home, are usually not contagious.)

Frequent hand washing is known to reduce the spread of disease. Please encourage your children to wash their hands frequently, especially after toileting, before eating and when ill.

Thank you for your help in keeping all of our students healthy!

MORNING DROP OFF

The doors to the school open at **8:45am**. Prior to this time staff members are not outside to supervise students who arrive early. If your child walks to school or if you drive your child to school, please have him/her arrive between **8:45am** and **8:55am**.

Please label coats and clothes!

Hammond's lost and found grows very quickly, especially throughout the winter months. Please label your child's coat, sweatshirts, etc. with their last name and if there is room their first name as well. This will help ensure that we can return their coats/clothes if they lose them.

