

Marine Monthly

FEBRUARY 2018



IMPORTANT DATES:

- Feb. 2nd- PTO Popcorn Friday
- Feb. 7th- Quarter 3 Mid-term
- Feb. 14th- PTO Buffalo Wild Wings Family Night @ Angola Location (6-8pm)
- Feb. 16th- **MAKE-UP DAY**; School in session
- Feb. 19th- **NO SCHOOL** (Presidents' Day)
- Feb. 26th- March 9th **ISTEP+ Applied Skills testing**
- March 2nd- PTO Popcorn Friday
- March 7th- PTO Skate Night
- March 8th-20th- PTO Candy Bar Fundraiser
- March 12th- 16th- **I-READ 3 testing**
- March 13th- End of 3rd Quarter
- March 26th- 30th- **NO SCHOOL** (Spring Break)

Mission Statement:

"Engaging today's learners to be tomorrow's leaders."

Vision Statement:

"Small school. Small town. Big dreams."

From The Principal's Desk

Mr. Piatt



With the second semester well under way, we want to thank everyone for your continued support of our students, teachers, and school as we collectively strive to provide optimal opportunities for learning each and every day. In addition, we want to also welcome our new families to Hamilton and trust that you will find yourselves part of an outstanding and supportive community of learners.

During the month of February, we will be raising funds to help support Riley Hospital. Be on the lookout for information coming home soon. Our slogan this year will be "Get Red for Riley." If students match or beat last year's contribution of \$850, my hair will most likely end up being a different color. I hope everyone is looking forward to this fun and rewarding event that assists so many children and families from around the world!



General School Information

- Elementary school hours are from 8:15am-3:05pm Monday-Friday.
- A 2-hour delay schedule would begin at 10:15am and end at 3:05pm.
- Please try and call the office **before 2:00pm** if there is a change in how your child will go home.

Upcoming Testing Windows:

ISTEP+ Applied Skills Testing Window: **Feb. 26th- March 9th**

3rd Grade I-READ Testing Window: **March 12th- March 16th**

ISTEP+ Multiple Choice Testing Window: **April 16th- May 4th**

**** It is extremely important to make sure your child is in attendance during these testing windows. ****

Reminders:

- **Student Absences:** Call the office @ 488-2101 before 9:30 a.m. Otherwise, your child's absence will be marked as "Unexcused."
- **Student Dismissal:** No child may change his/her usual method of transportation home without a written note or a phone call **from a parent**. If we do not receive communication from parents, students will be sent home their regular way.
- **Visitors must come and sign in at the elementary office before heading to a different area of the building.** Visitors must also sign out in the elementary office before they leave.
- Please make sure you are checking your child(ren)'s folders, assignment books, book bags, etc. **DAILY** for important paperwork coming home.
- Hamilton Elementary has a **NO GUM- CHEWING** policy. Please do not send gum in with your child for any reason.

2017-2018 Textbook Rental

You may send cash or a check (exact amount) made out to Hamilton Community Schools.

If you have a child attending Hamilton Community Schools and do not have sufficient means to furnish your child with books and/or lunch and need assistance, you should complete a State School Form. They are available in the elementary office. We would also be glad to help you work out a payment schedule should you need to. Please contact Colleen Karas in the superintendent's office at 260-488-2513.

Kindergarten- \$72.63	4 th Grade- \$96.07
1 st Grade- \$60.20	5 th Grade- \$76.74
2 nd Grade- \$51.38	6 th Grade- \$68.60
3 rd Grade- \$85.10	

Cafeteria News

The cafeteria will now be serving breakfast on 2-hr delay days. Should there be a 2-hr delay from here on out, breakfast will begin at 9:50am and conclude at 10:10am



Just a Reminder...

Friday, Feb. 16th

is a

MAKE-UP

Day!

School IS in session and students are expected to be in attendance. Please plan accordingly.

Can You Guess the Elementary Staff Member?

Make sure to read the clues very carefully before you make your guess! Put your guess down on a piece of paper with your first and last name and turn it into the elementary office. The first person to be drawn with the correct name gets a small treat. Good luck!

This staff member...

- 1) went to a parochial school for 6 years
- 2) is the middle child between an older sister and a younger brother
- 3) is scared of mice
- 4) married his/her high school sweetheart
- 5) lives in the same place he/she grew up
- 6) repeated Kindergarten because of dyslexia
- 7) his/her sister's birthday is the day after his/hers
- 8) has wanted to be a teacher since the 1st grade
- 9) loves to watch his/her kids in the sports they enjoy
- 10) did not start his/her career out as a teacher, but actually as a home visitor



The elementary staff member from January's newsletter was: **Ms. Elzey**. Congratulations to **Copper Farnham** for the correct guess!

Parent Pick-Up Protocol Reminder

If you pick up your student at the end of the day, please follow these guidelines to make pick-up a smooth and easy process for everyone involved:

- Please pull all the way forward, leaving no large spaces.
- Please be aware of the movement of the vehicles in front of you.
- Please stay in your cars. **DO NOT** park in line and come up to get your student.
- Please be patient. Some students are still being buckled into boosters and it takes them a little longer. We understand that parents may need to get out to buckle a student. That is fine if parked in the loading zone.
- The loading zone for students is from the Fire Lane to the end of the sidewalk in front of the school.

If a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other family member is picking up your child, please pass this information along. We hope to make the pick-up process as safe, easy, and prompt as we can. If you have any questions, please call the elementary office at 260-488-2101. Thank you!



Instead of exchanging gift for Christmas, 1st grade students collected items for the Community Humane Shelter of Steuben County. On January 10th, students got to take a trip to the shelter to drop off their donations and play with the animals.

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic String Quintet performed at Hamilton Elementary on Wednesday, January 17th. The quintet members performed a variety of instrumental pieces, talked about their different instruments, and quizzed students on music terms/vocabulary.



On January 25th, 4th grade students were police escorted down to Fort Wayne with all other Steuben County Schools where they got to enjoy a morning at the Shrine Circus thanks to the Pokagon Shrine Club. Pictured here are Malorie Magginnis, Mrs. Dutton, and Ariana Mapes.



PRIDE Club Requirements

Personal Responsibility In Delivering Excellence

In order for your child to make the PRIDE Wall of Fame each quarter, he/she has to have:

- 1.5 absences or less
- 2 tardies or less
- 0 DRI (Daily Recess Intervention) received from Mr. Piatt
- 0 "Teacher's Choice" or "Parent Contact" marked in his/her Data Notebook
- No missing homework/school work assignments
- A "C+" or higher in each subject

Congratulations to the following students for making the Quarter 2 PRIDE Hall of Fame:

Audrey Mapes	Kara Wiegand	Kylie Wiegand
Chase Olson	Mackenzey Garman	Lucas Taylor
Lilli Cline	Mollie Dick	Mason Moughler
Clayton Spaw	Alyvia Chipman	Brayden Smith
Maddie Nester	Addison Grubb	Linda Wagler
Aleigha Pfefferkorn	Paige Snyder	Piper DePriest
Alicia Bodiker	Zoey Bassett	Theo Hicks
Ariana Mapes	Abbott Lingo	Amara Campbell
Copper Farnham	Sophia Steigerwald	Brylee Nickols
Gavin Clark	Iley Dunakin	



The "Valentine Tree" is up and beautifully displayed by the elementary gym. Thank you Mrs. Getts for creating a piece for each of our elementary students and staff- the heart of our school!



2017-2018 PTO Officers:

President - Holly Bireley
E-Mail: hollyjlb@gmail.com
Phone: 260-316-4200

Vice President- Myleigh Cool
E-mail: myleighcool@gmail.com
Phone: 260-316-6729

Secretary/Treasurer- Laura Hoard
E-Mail: laura.hoard@hcs.k12.in.us
Phone: 269-823-3264

If you are interested in joining the PTO or helping out with any of their activities, please contact one of the officers listed above.

Upcoming PTO Events

Details about upcoming events will be coming home with your child as the dates draw nearer.

- **Friday, February 2nd**- PTO Popcorn Friday
- **Wednesday, February 7th or 21st**- Brokaw Movie Theater Night
- **Wednesday, February 14th**- Buffalo Wild Wings Family Night @ Angola Location (6-8pm)
- **Friday, March 2nd**- PTO Popcorn Friday
- **March 7th**- PTO Family Skate Night
- **March 8th-20th**- PTO Candy Bar Fundraiser

**The next PTO meeting is scheduled for:
Tuesday, February 20th (6pm) in the Elementary Library**

** Events are subject to change **

**** NEW Hamilton Elementary Attendance Policy ****

- Students will have **12** flex days to use throughout the school year for any absence.
- When your student has reached 6 days, you will receive a notification from the school that they are nearing their maximum number of days missed for the year.
- After 10 days missed, (excused or unexcused) you will be asked to attend a conference with administration and resource officer to discuss ways to improve your student's attendance.
- Chronic or extended illnesses or medical issues will be handled on an individual basis.
- **If a call is not made to the elementary office before 9:30am and the office must call you, your child's absence will be "Unexcused."**
- When a student is absent from school, the student bears the responsibility for making up the schoolwork. **The student will be given all appropriate assignments and tests when they return from their absence.** Arrangements are to be made with his/her teacher to complete these assignments within a reasonable time frame.
- Please also make sure students are arriving on time for school.

If you have any questions regarding Hamilton Community Schools attendance policy or Indiana Compulsory Attendance Law, please feel free to contact the school at 260-488-2101.

Contact Information

Please make sure the office has the most up-to-date contact names and numbers for each child registered here at school. We rely on this information to make contact home in a variety of situations, including sending important information home.

Food for Thought: How School Lunch Stacks Up to the Competition

Parents have so much to think about when it comes to planning their kids' lunches. What do the kids like? What's good for them and what's not? Should they take a home-packed lunch, or should the kids eat in the school cafeteria? And what will it cost?

Four deciding factors many parents ask themselves when comparing a school lunch with other options:

- **Is the food high quality?**
- **Is the option convenient for them and their child?**
- **How much will the meal cost in comparison with other options?**
- **And how much control with they have over the quality and quantity of food their child will eat?**

A Cost Comparison

When it comes to price, parents may wonder how school lunches stack up to other options they can choose from. Although prices may vary in different regions of the country, experts have found that a basic lunch composed of comparable items might be priced as follows:

Average cost of a school lunch.....	\$2.50
Average cost of a comparable home-packed lunch.....	\$4.00
Average cost of a comparable fast food meal.....	\$5.00 to \$7.00

A Nutrition Comparison

After the new meal requirements were implemented, parents have begun to wonder, are school lunches as good as something packed at home? Several studies have been carried out in different parts of the country to see how lunches packed at home compared with lunches served by schools. Here are what researchers found:

<u>School Meals</u>	VS.	<u>Packed Lunches</u>
Higher nutritional value		More unhealthy fats and calories
More fiber, fruits and vegetables		More sugary treats and
beverages		
More protein, calcium, and vitamins		More high-fat salty snacks
	BUT	
Less control over options and choices		More personal control over what to eat

School Information

Check out our school website at hcs.k12.in.us to put money in lunch accounts, contact a staff member, and find other important information regarding both the elementary and high school. This will be updated monthly as well!

We also utilize a Facebook page called "**Hamilton Elementary School**" where we post reminders, announcements, and pictures of neat things happening in the elementary.

Taking Care of Business

If you are interested in volunteering in our school OR ATTENDING A FIELD TRIP, please be sure to submit your background check paperwork to the school office. Your background check must be complete before you can begin your volunteer experience. Please be advised that some background checks are taking at least a week to come back. Therefore, you need to get it in as soon as you can. An approval/denial letter will be sent home shortly after you submit your application. If you have any questions or want to request a background application, please contact your child's teacher or the elementary office.