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HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BLUEHAWK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 1



**Hudson Senior High School
Hudson Junior High School
M.C. Smith Intermediate School
John L. Edwards Primary School**

**THE BLUEHAWK E-NEWSLETTER IS A PERIODICAL FROM THE
HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.
IT OFFERS A LOOK AT ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS GOING ON IN
OUR BUILDINGS. IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE REGULARLY
FEATURED ARTICLES FROM DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS
THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT COVERING A VARIETY OF TOPICS.
PLEASE LOOK FOR THE LINK ON OUR DISTRICT WEBSITE:**

www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT: MARIA SUTTMEIER

SECRETARY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT: DAWN McDONALD EXT. 2101
HUMAN RESOURCES SECRETARY: BONNIE DYKEMAN EXT. 2108



To emphasize our academic sense of urgency, the Board of Education set one goal last year. Increase the graduation rate 15% percent over three years beginning with the 2012 rate of 58%. And, the State identified us as a FOCUS district due to our low graduation rate over time. We are being challenged to reach our target by creating a community which works together so all Hudson City School District students will reach their highest potential and graduate ready for life beyond our school walls.

Destination Graduation...A journey that cannot be left to plan in the corridors and classrooms of our high school. The first steps must begin in kindergarten. It is a thirteen-year walk from building the fundamentals of the alphabet and number system to the critical thinking needed to grapple with complex text and mathematics.

The school board is focused on a future where students arrive fully prepared for success in the 21st century interconnected age. Our conceptual model of schooling is grounded in the responsible investment of resources to drive continuous improvement. Through our shared vision, we commit to providing a high quality education for all students. The vision's rationale comes from applying recent and relevant research on best practices in teaching, learning and leading.

Five core beliefs pave the road to **Destination Graduation**. They are:

- All students are worthy of intellectual respect with a rigorous curriculum;
- Great teaching matters;
- Quality education demands genuine appreciation of differences;
- We are all learners and leaders: and
- Parents are our partners.

The Hudson City School District, our communities and indeed the entire city rightly take pride in and celebrate diversity and acceptance. In a predominantly rural county, we stand out as a small microcosm of the world. Our students are male, female, gay and straight. Our students are white, yellow, brown and black. They come from functioning families, dysfunctional homes, and some are homeless. They come from the working middle class and from the unemployed impoverished class. Our students are gifted with the need to be challenged. They are disabled with special needs. They come from 13 countries and speak nine different languages. It is important to remind ourselves that these are our students. They belong to the Bluehawk family. Therefore, it is up to us to provide them with a strong school system ready to respond to their uniqueness. We must embrace our diversity by creating opportunities for our students to become global thinkers and active citizens.

Preserving the status quo or calling for incremental change will only leave our children further behind. We will not let that happen. We need to act quickly and boldly. We must reset our priorities, continue to map out our road to success and maintain a tireless focus on improving student achievement until our students reach **Destination Graduation**. It will take herculean efforts to get there, but together we are extraordinarily powerful in the lives of our children.

The future of teaching and learning calls for aligning quality instruction in our classrooms with the common core of creativity, collaboration, and communication. Student success depends on the collective capacity of our hardworking and committed teachers and investing in them is an essential priority. But, as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, we must continuously improve how we run our district by making everyone accountable for results. To this end, we are establishing benchmarks and setting expectations to meet and exceed them. Our goal is to achieve the lowest-cost operations possible while improving the quality of services delivered to our schools. No easy task, but if done properly, this will result in more money available to spend on our children.

This is not the superintendent's plan. This is not even the school board's plan. This is the plan of the Hudson City School District and the communities that make it up for the future of education and our children. We must call on everyone to play a role in the continued transformation of our school system and the goal we have embraced.

In a culture of collaboration, let us take initiatives to propose changes for the good of the school. John Fitzgerald Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." The Children are the future - we must never lose sight of this. That's not to say we don't have some important educational traditions. We do, and we are anchored by them. But change is inevitable. Let us not feel threatened and fearful, but rather encouraged and inspired by hope and confidence.

We need everyone's support – parents, taxpayers, community leaders, faith-based institutions, and business leaders – to help us and our school board push through the bold changes we need to give our children the best education we can.

Together we are the compass and the guide that will move us forward and lead every student and family to the pride and exhilaration of walking across the stage as a Bluehawk Grad.

Let's work together to make Hudson a destination school district. Let's give our children the gift that will last a lifetime. They deserve nothing less.

COORDINATOR OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

**COORDINATOR OF
SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT:
APRIL PRESTIPINO**

**LEAD EVALUATOR:
STEPHANIE
FORSYTHE**

**SECRETARY:
MARY JANE AMES
EXT: 2134**

A Message from Dr. King, NYS Commissioner of Education:

Dear New York State Parents and Families,

We have released, our 2013 test results. You will notice that more students struggled on this year's test than in previous years. This is because we changed the expectations for New York State students when we adopted the Common Core State Standards. The Board of Regents adopted these standards in 2010 and teachers and principals have been working to make important changes in student learning over the last 3 years. It is exciting that these changes have already begun, but our test results tell us that we have a long way to go.

We are making this change to the Common Core State Standards because we want every single one of our students to be on track for college and careers by the time they graduate from high school. Our former standards did not prepare all of our students for 21st century college and careers. The Common Core State Standards will:

- help students gain the knowledge and skills that they need to think and work at that deeper level
- create opportunities for all students to excel at reading, writing, speaking, listening, language and math
- support students to think critically about what they read and the math that they do
- allow teachers and students to focus on fewer critical concepts in mathematics more deeply
- build students' abilities to apply what they have learned to the real world
- ensure that all students can communicate strong ideas and arguments in writing and react powerfully to what they read

The Common Core State Standards are new, challenging standards and we know that students won't be able to meet these standards without the support of teachers, parents and communities. In particular, we have been working with teachers and principals to understand how instruction should change to get students where they need to be. Teachers and principals have been working to make these important changes to help their students to achieve at higher levels.

You have likely seen and will continue to experience noticeable changes in what and how your child is learning in school. This could include what you see in classrooms, finished work that comes home, or even homework assigned to your child. We have created a *Parents Backpack Guide to Common Core Standards* to help you look for these changes and many other resources to help support your children's learning (see <http://www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>). For a better sense of what the Common Core looks like in action in classrooms across the state, see the short video entitled "Teaching is the Core" at: <http://www.engageny.org/resource/teaching-is-the-core>.

I want to make it very clear that the change in test scores (including, possibly, one in your child's score) does not mean that students are learning less or that teachers and schools are performing worse than last year. Proficiency rates – the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standards – on the new Common Core assessments cannot be compared with last year's proficiency results since the old scores are from an old test based on the former standards. This is a new beginning and starting point that will provide better, clearer information to parents, teachers, and principals about what our children know and are able to do. The results from these assessments will help you and your school directly address the learning needs of your child so that he or she gets and/or stays on track for college and career success.

Parent reports are currently being prepared and will be sent to you near the start of the school year. With these reports, we will provide you with detailed information on how best to understand the results and resources that you can use to help support next steps for your child.

We all want the same thing: for all of our children to succeed in 21st century college and careers, to be good citizens, and to contribute to their community. The changes that we are making now provide us a new opportunity to make sure that every single New York State student graduates from high school prepared and able to make choices about his or her own future in a dynamic and competitive economy. Seeing a change in scores can be challenging for any parent, school, community, or state, but we know that where we are now only marks a beginning.

It is my great honor to work for you and your child every day.

Sincerely,

John B. King, Jr.

Commissioner of Education



DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

DIRECTOR OF
STUDENT SERVICES:
KIM LYBOLT

SECRETARIES:
HEATHER BROWN
EXT: 2111
DOLORES DEBOER
EXT: 2112
JOAN SIMMONS
EXT: 2113



It's All About Kindness;

From Ms. Foronda's Life Skills Class...

Ms. Foronda and Ms. Ferrusi's Life Skills Class will be kicking off their Kindness Cart Project September 16th. Students will serve adults freshly brewed Strongtree coffee and delicious breakfast goodies in an effort to spread kindness throughout the campus. This experience is a learning opportunity where students will develop functional life skills like socialization, communication, confidence, math skills, responsibility, generosity, kindness and more! The cart is self-sustaining and any revenue by way of donations will be used for the class' participation in the May games of the NYS Special Olympics, community experiences and also donated to the McKinney Vento Kindness Closet which the class will be operating as well.

In addition, Ms. Foronda's students will be participating in a variety of volunteer work experiences both on and off campus. Ms. Cathy Drumm from the Food Service Department will be mentoring students as will Ms. Mary Jane Ames in the District's Business Office. The students will be going to Tomorrow Tomorrow Animal Rescue Farm in Livingston every Tuesday starting in October and volunteering under the direction of Michael Bucci. Ms. Gaudiosi has welcomed the class back to Goodwill in Hudson and has agreed to expand the successful experience to every Wednesday from October through June.

Furthermore, the class will also be working with Ms. Tara McSherry-Wolfe and the McKinney-Vento Kindness Closet. The students will be responsible for laundering and organizing all of the donations received and maintaining the storage space that will soon be located in a storage room adjacent to their classroom.



A special thank you to Scott diMonda for helping the class construct the cart that was donated by Williams Lumber, Nora and Chris at Strongtree Coffee and Continental Mills.



JOHN L. EDWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

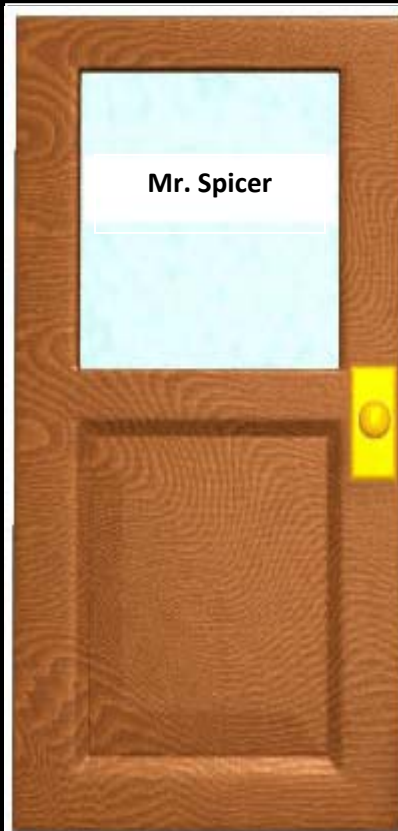
PRINCIPAL:
STEVEN SPICER

SECRETARY:
ADRIANNE BLANKS
EXT: 4300

SECRETARY:
APRIL CARRASCO
EXT: 4317



360 STATE STREET
HUDSON, NY



Parking at JLE can be difficult at times. In order to best utilize the space we have, we need all parents to observe the following guidelines so that a bad situation doesn't turn into a dangerous one:

- Do not block other cars in.
- Never leave your car running.
- There is NO PARKING in loading zones, no-parking zones, the "Reserve" parking spaces or in the bus loop at ANY TIME if there are buses loading and unloading students.

Thank you for your cooperation.



School Banking

Parents, if you would like your child to participate in this fun and rewarding program, send a note in to your child's teacher, and they will forward you the information that you need.

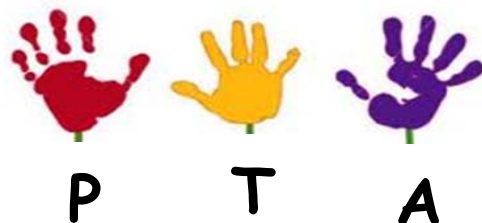


dreamstime.com

PTA

The John L. Edwards PTA would like to welcome all their new members. If you are not signed up yet, please get a form from the main office. It is only \$6.00 a person or \$10.00 a couple to join.

John L. Edwards



M.C. SMITH INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**PRINCIPAL:
MARK BRENNEMAN**

**SECRETARY:
AMY LASHER
EXT: 1112**

**GUIDANCE COUNSELOR:
LIZ NOVINE**

**GUIDANCE SECRETARY:
MARSHA MOORE
EXT: 1117**



**102 HARRY HOWARD AVE.
HUDSON, NY**



Last week over 100 of our 5th and 6th grade students eagerly boarded buses headed for Nature's Classroom in beautiful Silver Bay, New York. This outdoor classroom provides a very hands-on approach to learning that focuses on team work, respect for one another, and an appreciation for natural resources and wildlife. The students experienced four days of outdoor excitement, cooperative games, and academic discoveries. Daily field groups introduced students to new and exciting skills such as plant identification, camouflage techniques, and building shelters. MCSIS students certainly demonstrated their powers of determination by completing a four-hour hike! Their reward was a beautiful waterfall and amazing views of the Adirondack Mountains. Each afternoon students were able to participate in specific classes that interested them. Our students created water rockets, identified fungi, and even performed pig and star fish dissections! Nightly activities included cooperative problem solving, night hiking discoveries, and the ever popular Underground Railroad simulation. Everyone who attended had a fantastic time and returned home with lasting memories.



HUDSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL:
DEREK REARDON

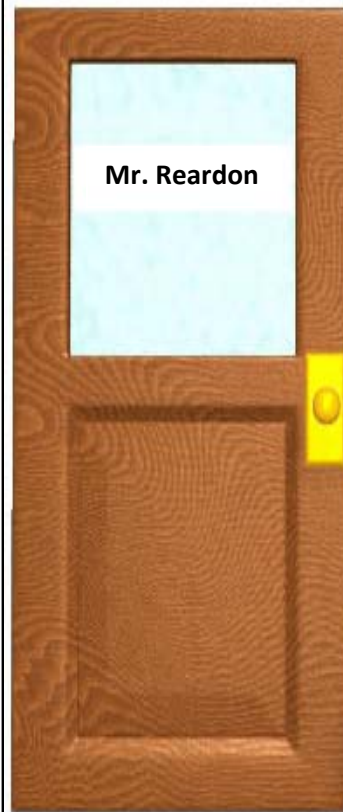
SECRETARY:
LORRAINE DELLAVECHIA
EXT: 8100

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR:
ROSALIE CORNELL

GUIDANCE SECRETARY:
SUSAN PULVER
EXT: 8308



215 HARRY HOWARD AVE.
HUDSON, NY



October is National Bullying Prevention Month. The Junior High School will be participating in several awareness events this month to help educate our students about this important message.

Students who are interested in helping other students who are being bullied go to:

www.pacer.org

The WE WILL Generation
Students leading the Bullying Prevention Movement

Project Connect

Project Connect joins students, schools, and communities to make a powerful statement about uniting against bullying. The process is simple. Students write a message on a strip of **ORANGE** construction paper.



- Cut sheets of 8 ½ x 11 **ORANGE** construction paper into strips of 1 ½" to 2" wide and 11" long. The strips are then stapled or glued together, resulting in one long, connected chain that visually represents the power of uniting for a common cause.

Here are two options or create your own!

- Ask students to write what they do to make their school a safe place for their peers.

-The message is — while one person can speak out against bullying, our message is much stronger when we come together to make a difference.

- Ask students to write a quality they have that makes them proud to be who they are.

-The message is — even though we are all different, we are all a part of this community.

HUDSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL:
ANTONIO ABITABILE

SECRETARY:
ELLEN MILLER
EXT: 3114

DEAN OF STUDENTS:
ROBERT LACASSE

SECRETARY:
JODI KEYSER
EXT: 3118

GUIDANCE
COUNSELORS:
JAY ARONSON
ROCKY PAYNE

GUIDANCE SECRETARY:
SHANNON HOOSE
EXT: 3111



215 HARRY HOWARD AVE
HUDSON, NY



1st qtr. PR 10/4
1st qtr. RC 11/8
2nd qtr. PR 12/13
2nd qtr. RC 1/30

Homecoming Festivities



On Wednesday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m. (rain date Thursday, October 10th) at the John A. Barrett Athletic Field, the long tradition of celebrating the Fall sports teams will return to Hudson Senior High School after a hiatus since 2007.

All students playing on a team will be introduced and cheered with their coaches to show Bluehawk pride. It's a long-standing community event to demonstrate school spirit.

The Homecoming Football Game against Cohoes High School is Friday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m. Seniors vying for the Homecoming Court are selling admission/raffle tickets for \$2.00 for an adult and \$1.00 for a student. At half-time the announcement of the Homecoming Court will be made and the presentation of the crowns by last year's king, Zachary Torchia and queen, Hannah Jepsen will be conducted. The formal coronation will be held at the Homecoming Dance open to all students of Hudson Senior High School on Saturday, October 12th from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at HSHS Café. Tickets for the dance are \$20.00 and must be purchased in advance at the Guidance Office.

ParentEdge

ParentEdge is a service designed to get parents involved in their child's educational activities.

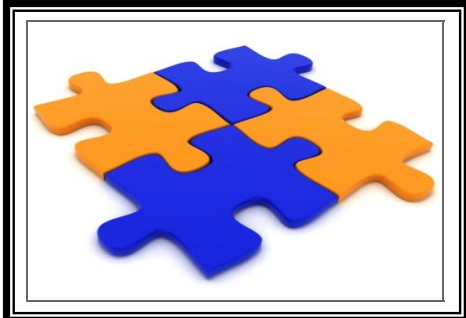
Once a day parents will receive a personalized text message directly to their phone telling them what their child needs to do for school the next day. In addition, an email is automatically sent out at the same time with the same information to as many as three email addresses per student. Therefore, texts and emails about daily assignments can be sent to both the parents and the student, thus preparing the student for the rigors of college and beyond.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:
RACQUEL (KELLY) FRANK,
 PRESIDENT
TIFFANY HAMILTON,
 VICE PRESIDENT
JOSEPH CARR
JERI CHAPMAN
CARRIE OTTY
PETER RICE
WILLIAM GLASSER, STUDENT REP.

DISTRICT MEMBERS
FRIEDA VAN DEUSEN, CLERK
ROBERT YUSKO JR.,
 SCHOOL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE
MARIA SUTTMEIER,
 SUPERINTENDENT



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE

October 21 Special Meeting JLE
 November 4 Special Meeting HHS Library
 November 25 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 December 9 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 January 13 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 January 27 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 February 10 Regular Meeting M.C. Smith Cafeteria
 February 24 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 March 10 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 March 24 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 April 7 Special Meeting HHS Library
 April 22 (Tues.) Special Meeting (RCG BOCES Budget & Board Vote) HHS Library
 May 12 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 May 20 (Tues.) Special Meeting (Budget Vote & Board Election) JLE - 9:00 p.m.
 June 9 Regular Meeting HHS Library
 June 23 Regular Meeting HHS Library

Board of Education Vacancy

There is one vacant seat on the Board of Education with a term that expires May 20, 2014. Please submit a letter of interest to the Board Clerk, Hudson, City School District, 215 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson, New York 12534 by close of business on October 15, 2013.



ELECTRONIC COPIES OF THE "BLUEHAWK NEWSLETTER" ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE:

www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com

DIRECTORS & DEPARTMENTS



**SUPERINTENDENT
BUILDINGS
&
GROUNDS:**

**GEORGE KEELER
EXT: 2131**

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFETY PROCEDURES

We want to bring a few specific points related to school visitors to your attention:

- All visitors and school employees shall wear identifying badges prominently displayed on their person at all times on school property during the course of their duties.
- All visitors entering a school building shall report to the appropriate office, sign in on the visitor's log and show positive identification (e.g. drivers' license).
- A visitor's badge will be issued only when a drivers' license or an item of equivalent value (e.g. keys, cell phone) is exchanged for the badge.
- The visitor is required to display the identification badge in a prominent fashion on their person at all times while on campus.
- At the conclusion of the visitor's business, they shall return to the office to sign out on the visitor's log, return their badge and receive their collateral property.

Visitors who do not comply with the district's requirement for identification shall be asked to leave school grounds.

The purpose of the access control system is to enhance building security and ensure that each visitor has legitimate business with the school district.

The safety of our students is our primary concern.

**DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY:
TERRY HARCLEROD
EXT: 2118**

**NETWORK
ADMINISTRATOR:
BILL CLARK
EXT: 2119**

**DIRECTOR OF FOOD
SERVICES:**

CATHERINE DRUMM

**SECRETARY:
DIANE
KONDERWICH
EXT: 2105**

**DIRECTOR OF
TRANSPORTATION
&
REGISTRAR:**

**NIKKI DeDOMINICIS
EXT: 2103**