



DRAGON TIMES

February 2010

February Dates to Remember:

1st, 2nd, 4th	8th Grade Boys Basketball Regional Here—Times TBA
1st— 9th	BOOK FAIR in the Library
2nd	GVB 6:00 at Greenville
4th	GVB—Here 6:00 Litchfield
5th	DISMISS at 11:35 ***** WINTER DANCE 6:00—8:00
6th	7GVB Times TBA at Pana 7th Grade Tourney ***** Harlem Wizards 7:00 at HHS
9th	GVB Here—6:00 Pana
11th	GVB 4:00 at Vandalia ***** SCIENCE FAIR 6:00—7:00 in Cafeteria
12th	'Straight A' Lunch
15th	NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day ***** GVB Here—6:00 Greenville ***** SCHOLAR BOWL 4:00 at Pana
16th	GVB 6:00 at Litchfield
18th	GVB Here—6:00 Lincolnwood
23rd	GVB 6:00 at Pana ***** SCHOLAR BOWL 4:00 at Raymond
24th	Miles of Smiles
25th	GVB Here—6:00 Vandalia

January came and went with a bang at HJHS. Our boys' basketball season came to a close this month with some exciting action at the regional tournament hosted on our home floor. The boys' season saw many highlights and gives everyone great anticipation of the young men for future success on the hardwood. Our girls' volleyball season got underway with a number of games. Our eighth-grade team is looking very strong, and we anticipate an exciting season from them. Our seventh-grade team has likewise collected some tough wins from some good teams, and it's amazing to see both units improve as they transit through the season. Hillsboro will be hosting both volleyball Regional Tournaments this year. On January 22, we held our second-quarter Honor Roll Fun Night at the Junior High School. Honor roll students were treated to an evening of an inflatable obstacle course, karaoke, open gym, video games, food, music, and the Dragon Den recreation room. Many of our 220 honor roll students were in attendance, and the evening was a big success. The Dragon Fire group attended their second-quarter Fun Night on Saturday, January 23, with a pool party at Fusion Fitness and Aquatics. Many students attended, and a big 'thank you' goes out to the staff at Fusion for helping to make this a great event. More Dragon Fire projects are in the works. We will hold our annual Winter Dance from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Friday, February 5, and the 'Straight A' lunch at Gianni's Pizza will be held Friday, February 12. The Harlem Wizards basketball team will be at Hillsboro High School on Saturday, February 6, and we're hoping that this amazing group will make an appearance at HJHS for our students the Friday before. We will be hosting the Miles of Smiles dental clinic on Wednesday, February 24. More information on this can be obtained by calling our school nurse's office. Our annual Science Fair will be on Thursday, February 11, from 6:00 to 7:00 in the Dragon Café. Another bit of good news to share: Hillsboro Junior High School, along with numerous other schools in the district and area, has received a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to receive a number of audio books and electronic readers. These audio books correspond to literature we currently use within our curriculum. They provide an avenue for struggling readers to access the curriculum and enrich lessons taught for all of our learners. We will receive many audio books of our choice over the next few years and this should prove to help us in our school improvement initiatives. We're very excited about this program and feel fortunate that we are able to participate.

ISAT TESTING


All students will take the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in March. The ISAT is a state-mandated battery of tests that assesses the extent to which each student has mastered state standards and objectives. The results from the ISAT will also provide data that tells how each student's performance compares to other students in our school as well as all other students in Illinois.

This year's testing days are March 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th, and 10th. The HJHS teachers are working diligently on preparing our students for the ISAT tests and would like your help on test days.

Please mark these dates on your calendar so that you can help your child do his/her best on these tests by:

- 1) Making sure that your child attends school on the testing days
- 2) Making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing
- 3) Providing breakfast on the mornings of testing
- 4) Reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he/she does not understand the test directions
- 5) Letting your child know that you have confidence in his/her ability to do his/her best
- 6) Advising your child not to worry about the test—just do the best he/she can

We will review the test results along with information from our local assessments to help us improve our school program. In addition, you will receive feedback of your child's performance on these tests. Please call your child's teacher if you want additional information or have any questions about these tests.



BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair begins February 1 in the Library. Hours are 7:30 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. each weekday except for Friday, February 5, when the Book Fair will close at 3:00 P.M. When shopping after regular school hours, please use the Old Gym entrance doors by the ticket booth. Sales tax will be charged. Paperback books average about \$5.00. Hope to see you there!

Spelling Bee Winners

A school-wide Spelling Bee was held in January. Winning and representing each grade/team in the final round were: Rhett Blankenship, 6A; Seth Watson and Joey Lopez, 6B; Jesse Glover, Alexis Hefley, and Hannah Beers, 7th grade; and Josie Smith, 8th grade. Jesse Glover proved to be the best speller this year and will advance to the Sub-Regional Spelling Bee in Carlinville on Wednesday, February 3. Good Luck, Jesse!



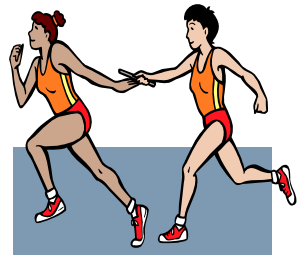
ATTENTION 8TH-GRADERS AND PARENTS

All eighth-graders and their parents are encouraged to attend Freshman Orientation on Monday, February 22, at 6:00 P.M. in the High School Gym. Someone from each department will give a brief description of the courses offered.

On February 18, Mrs. Wrisburg will be here from the High School to talk with eighth-graders about next year's class schedules. She will hand out information and class-selection forms. Parents, please review this information with your child. Mrs. Wrisburg will return on February 25 to collect the class-selection forms from the students.

TRACK SEASON

Track season is just around the corner! Those students interested in participating in track this spring need to have all paperwork turned in to the office prior to practice beginning on March 1, 2010. Paperwork should include a current athletic physical from your doctor, an insurance waiver form signed by a parent or guardian, and a code of conduct form also signed by the athlete and a parent or guardian. Practice will begin Monday, March 1, immediately after school and last until **5:00 p.m.** Practice will be held each day after school unless canceled by a coach or no school due to bad weather. All athletes are expected to be at practice every day unless a legitimate excuse is presented by the athlete to the coach prior to the absence. Two unexcused absences and the athlete will no longer be part of the team. All home meets require **HELP** from parents and/or guardians to be successful. **Every** athlete will participate in the home meets, unless ineligible for academic or other school-related reasons. The away meets are limited to the top two athletes in each event. There are no meets on weekends with the exception of our Dragon Invitational, which is on a Saturday, and the Sectional and



HOOPS FOR HEART



The PE Department will be sponsoring a Hoops for Heart program the week of February 8th through the 12th. We are asking students to seek cash donations from family and friends only. We ask that your child not go door to door or ask from strangers. Checks should be made payable to the American Heart Association. Our goal is to raise \$4,000.00. The money we raise will help fight heart disease.

We will also sponsor a memory/honor wall where students can add the name of the individual they are representing. Several students have friends and family members who suffer from heart disease. Please support our effort. You may contact Patty Swearingin or Donald VanGeisen for more information at 532-3742.

Monthly newsletter, daily assignments, athletic schedules, menus, and more are available on the web at www.hillsboroschools.net

We are collecting General Mills box tops and Campbell's labels. Students should turn them in to their LAIR teachers.

6A News

Congratulations to our Citizenship winner for February : Kiersten Cleveland

Literature: Textbook short stories and ISAT Practice

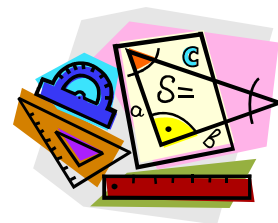
Language Arts: Spelling continues, ISAT Practice, Adjectives and Adverbs

Math: Geometry and ISAT Preparations

Science: Energy

Social Studies: Finish Ancient Greece

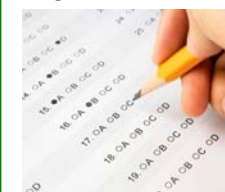
—Mrs. Connor and Mrs. Mathews



6B News

Please remind your child to keep up with daily AR reading. They should be reading approximately 20 pages each day. If you have any questions or concerns, the 6B teachers are available from 8:35 to 9:45A.M. and from 3:15 to 3:45 P.M. daily, or you may write a note in your child’s agenda. Please sign the agenda each day to keep up with your child’s academic assignments.

Congratulations to the 6B Citizenship winners— Tyten Nalley & Madison Hamby.



Below is a list of the things we will be studying in February.

Language/Spelling: Persuasive Letter; Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections; Spelling

Literature: Units 4 and 7, ISAT prep, and Biography book reports

Math: Probability, Graphing, ISAT practice

Science: Populations and Communities

Social Studies – Chapter 6, The Rise of Ancient Greece

7th Grade News

Congratulations to all of those students who made it to the 2nd quarter reward sundae party and to our January Citizenship Award winners, Alexis Hefley and Tommy Lane.

We hope the third nine weeks will begin a successful introduction to the last half of the school year.

Language Arts: Writing, spelling, and grammar

Math: Equations, inequalities, and functions

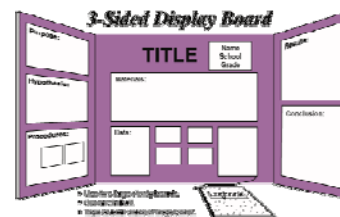
Science: Study of space; Science Fair Thursday, February 11

We will open the Science Fair to students and parents at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria.

Students need to bring their completed projects to school by Friday, February 8.

Social Studies: The New Nation

Literature: Unit 3 on Theme and continue reading AR



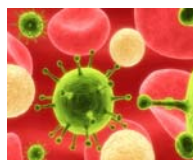
8th Grade News

Congratulations to the 8th grade Citizenship Award winners: Nicole Jeffers and Devan Jeffers.

Math: Students will work on Chapters 10 and 11 and prepare for ISAT.

Algebra: Students will be working on Chapter 8 and be preparing for ISAT.

Social Studies: Students will start the Cold War chapter. Andy Taylor, our student teacher, began the last week of January and will be here until the beginning of May.



Science: Students will be learning about Fungus, Bacteria, and Viruses.

Language Arts: Students will be working on grammar mechanics and persuasive essays.

Literature: We will finish our novel unit and do practice ISAT exercises.

Mr. Durand: Language Arts—Continuation of essay writing and adding details. **Literature**—Students will be reading *The Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

D.C. UPDATE



We currently have 31 participants who have paid their deposit. There’s still time to join us on our history trip. We’ll have fun while learning about history and seeing amazing sites and monuments. Best of all, the students will grow and learn with their friends and classmates and make memories that will last the rest of their lives. Visit www.worldstrides.org/dctripinvite to get a firsthand look at this amazing experience and to register to join us.