

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Jan. 24-31, 2014**

**Intermediate Assistant Principal, Amy Siegel, leaves district after 19 years of service** - Amy Siegel will be leaving the Hamilton Local School District, and her position as Hamilton Intermediate School Assistant Principal, on February 14, 2014. Amy's husband recently accepted a job offer in Raleigh, North Carolina and the family will be relocating to that area.

Amy began her education career with the Hamilton Local School District as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher in August of 1995. After serving as a 6th grade team leader for three years, and a math coach for two years, Amy began her administrative role in 2007.

Mrs. Siegel has been dedicated to the students, parents, and community of our school district for 19 years, and we appreciate all that she has done to have a positive impact during her time at Hamilton Local.

We wish Amy the very best of luck in her future endeavors.

**Buxton and Thompson move to new buildings in their administrative roles** - I would like to announce that Mrs. Kelly Buxton, a 19-year veteran of education, will replace Mrs. Amy Siegel as the Hamilton Intermediate School Assistant Principal. She began her career in education in 1995 as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at Hamilton Middle School. Kelly has served as an assistant principal in the district for eleven years. She will soon begin her transition to Hamilton Intermediate School.

I would also like to announce that I have chosen Mr. Matt Thompson, a 21-year veteran of education, to serve as Assistant Principal of Hamilton Middle School. He began his education career as a physical education teacher at Hamilton Central Elementary in 1993. He has also served as a high school teacher, department chair, coach, and Dean of Attendance. During the past two school years, Mr. Thompson served as the Dean of Students for Hamilton Alternative Academy and Hamilton Township High School.

Matt's knowledge of the community and district as a resident, parent, and school employee will enable him to be a very effective assistant principal at Hamilton Middle School. He has proven to be a very hard working, dedicated, and loyal employee. Over the next few days, Mr. Thompson will begin transitioning to the position of Hamilton Middle School Assistant Principal.

**Kasich Appeals to Lawmakers for More Snow Days** - Gov. John Kasich asked the General Assembly to temporarily raise Ohio's cap on school snow days Monday, citing student safety and the stability of local education budgets. Two lawmakers stepped up with a proposal within hours.

As another wave of sub-zero temperatures moved into Ohio, Kasich said one-time relief is warranted given that unusually severe weather has led so many Ohio schools to exceed the five-day limit. He asked the Ohio Department of Education to work with lawmakers on a proposal.

"School closures can, of course, be an inconvenience, but student safety always comes first. Many schools have already hit the maximum number of snow days, or will soon, and if they exceed it and have to extend the school year it can wreak

havoc with schools budgets and schedules. Giving schools a few extra snow days this year will be helpful and let everyone stay focused on the top priority when weather hits, keeping kids safe," Kasich said in a statement.

John McClelland, spokesman for Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina), said the governor's request will be added to the agenda for a GOP caucus meeting set for Tuesday.

In the House, Reps. Tony Burkley (R-Payne) and Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) announced plans for legislation adding four additional calamity days.

"Approximately a third of the state's school districts have already used five or more calamity days, and the winter is far from over. One of my districts is approaching ten calamity days," Burkley said in a statement. "I credit my constituents for bringing this issue to my attention."

"The recent cold, snow and ice have put Ohio schools at a necessary stand-still in order to keep our kids safe," added Hill. "I'm confident that those at the local level can be trusted to adapt to the change in calamity days and ensure that students are taught the needed curriculum they will need to succeed before the end of the school year."

Mike Dittoe, spokesman for House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina), said members will discuss the proposal soon. "We appreciate the governor's sentiment and look forward to reviewing any forthcoming legislation in the coming days," Dittoe wrote in an email.

Asked about specific proposals, Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols said the governor is confident the department and the Legislature can handle the details. "We purposely didn't specify how many more extra days there should be," Nichols said in an email.

Kasich signed legislation in his first year in office to revive the five-day limit, reversing a reduction to three calamity days that was included in former Gov. Ted Strickland's education reform plan. Strickland had sought to phase out calamity days as part of his bid to increase the length of the academic year. Kasich said at the time that his school-age daughters helped to convince him to seek the increase.

*Originally reported by Focus Education, a service of Hannah News Service.*

**House Bill (HB)416 to add four calamity days reported out of committee - CALAMITY DAYS INCREASE (BURKLEY T, HILL B)** To permit payment in fiscal year 2015 to school districts and STEM schools that exceed, by up to four days, the number of permitted "calamity" days in fiscal year 2014 and to declare an emergency.

To view the latest bill text as introduced click [here](#).

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Building Operations** - Thanks again to our highly dedicated custodial and maintenance staff members for their assistance in dealing with our extreme temperatures. Our facilities have been secured and managed through the extreme temperatures on nearly a 24-hour per day basis. Our community can be

very proud of their service and dedication to keeping our buildings running safely and effectively.

**Student Information Services** - Reporting Period K has been extended. The period identifies funding for regular and special education student.

**Transportation** - Our transportation department will continue to look for local drivers to join our team. If interested, please contact Mrs. Barbara Haughn at 491-8044 ext. 1238

**Residency** - Mr. Stevens, our truancy officer, reviewed twenty-five (25) different residency concerns this week in an effort to confirm appropriate attendance. Mr. Stevens reviews attendance and residency concerns and also confirms new enrollments by verifying their residency.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

### **HTHS Teacher of the Month - Mrs. Katrina Walker**

*"I would like to nominate Katrina Walker for the staff member of the month. She has worked hard in organizing the White Out nights for the basketball teams. She has worked with me on getting the girls t-shirts for the game as well as balloons for the game." - HS Teacher*

*"My nomination for Teacher of the Month is Katrina Walker. Katrina goes above and beyond in her work with whatever it entails, & she looks out for organizations as well: NHS, prom committee, French Club etc. She offers supplies and good ideas to these organizations. In addition she compliments and encourages co-workers in their teaching." - HS Teacher*

*"Mrs. Walker oversees the digital dollar program which is one of the largest student positive incentive program that the HS currently has at HTHS. This is a very detailed responsibility on top of her regular teaching duties because it involves weekly orders, inventory, student manager training, and collaboration with HS administration regarding the large transactions that it takes in order to keep the program successful." - HS Staff*

*Mrs. Walker stated, "What is my day like as a teacher at HTHS? I arrive early, usually by 6:40 to work in the classroom or The Spirit Shop. As an older teacher, I try to find new ways to teach to reach my students and not just rely on my proven lessons. HTHS has some amazing people so I try to observe and learn from these staff members. I also rely on some of our awesome students to help me throughout the day. They help me as student instructors not student aides. This is probably why I was selected as January Teacher of the Month." - Walker*

*"This semester, I have five classes of Personal Finance and one period of i-market. This is my fifth year of teaching Personal Finance and my first classroom teaching on macs. My classes have started using several web sites/software programs that help teach. I require that the students have ear buds so that each student can learn at their own pace (some fast, some slower, but they all get done). Fourth period, I am in the Spirit Shop with our i-market students (senior manager and MH student employees). The Spirit Shop/i-market is really a marketing lab (similar to an unpaid internship.)" - Walker*

HTHS Congratulates Mrs. Katrina Walker for earning HTHS Teacher of the Month.

### **HTHS Support Staff Member of the Month - Mrs. Melissa Samples**

*"Melissa is always eager to help teachers with anything they need. She also worked really hard to clean up this month's water damage. She was very considerate of teachers' belongings that may have been damaged, including pictures which she aired out to dry. Melissa does all this while maintaining a positive attitude." - HS Teacher*

*"I nominate Melissa Samples. She is a hard worker and cares about doing a good job. I'm glad she's responsible for my area." - HS Teacher*

*"Anytime I have ever asked Mrs. Samples to help me or adjust her schedule or normal routine to get something done, she has gone above and beyond to get the job done. She is definitely a team player." - HS Staff*

*Samples stated, "I would like to say thank you, for nominating me for staff member of the month. It is such a great surprise and I am honored.*

*It feels good to know that my hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.*

*It's not just the cleaning, sweeping and vacuuming, moving desks and chairs, cleaning the white boards, changing ceiling tiles and light bulbs, taking out trash, shoveling snow or locking up our high school at the end of the day, it's a service. I do my best to match my service with people's needs. Without a question asked, I'm always ready and willing to help.*

*Keeping our high school safe and clean is a responsibility that I take very seriously. To me this isn't just a "job," the way I look at it is, we are also involved in educating our HTHS students, by giving them a comfortable, distraction free environment to learn in.*

*Thank you for acknowledging that what I do on a daily basis is appreciated. I'm not just a custodian, I'm a Ranger!" - Mrs. Samples*

HTHS Congratulates Melissa Samples for earning HTHS Support Staff Member of the Month.

### **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Middle School Honors** - For the month of January, James Fulton was chosen as the Student of the Month, Jean Herendeen-Ackerman was chosen as the Teacher of the Month, and Robin Mickens was selected as the Support Staff of the Month. Congratulations go out to all of these deserving honorees!

**STAR Rangers Chosen** - Each quarter the teachers are asked to think about a student or two who demonstrate respect to others. We call these students STAR Rangers. STAR stands for Students Taking Action for Respect. The following students were chosen for 2nd Quarter: Ashley Akers, Baja Brazier-Reid, Cameron Calhoun, Essence Carter, Brianna Coleman, Drysten Crallie, Veronica Dellerba, Aaron Fitzsimmons, James Fulton, Connor Garry, Emily Holl, Cindy Koch, Emily McCarty, Blake McKay, Isabelle Moore, Chantelle Nobles, James

Ratcliff, Lauren Rose, Susami Seth, Dayjour Shackelford, Daylin Sharpe, Logan Shiflet, Hannah Sobony, Angel Taylor, Sean Thanthanavong, Nikki Tipton, Joe Tyus, Dustin Williams, Parker Williams, Reagan Willingham, and Austin Young. Congratulations and keep up the respectful behavior!!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Devin Sharpe Student of the Month** - *“I would like to nominate Devin Sharpe for February's Star Student of the month. Devin is quite a hard worker and strives to do his best. He made Honor Roll both the first and second quarters. He always volunteers in class with a smile on his face. Whenever there is a community service challenge he always tries to participate. Every morning he comes into the classroom and puts down the empty chairs without being asked. Devin is well liked by all and a great asset to any class. Congratulations Devin on a job well done.”* - H.I.S. Staff Member

**Brittany Smith Teacher of the Month** - *“I would like to nominate Brittany Smith as Ohio Lottery Teacher of the month. Brittany Smith is a caring and giving teacher that aims to make connections with her students on a daily basis. She also works diligently to make sure that her students are successful in and out of the classroom.*

*Besides her work as a teacher, she is striving to teach the students of Hamilton Intermediate the importance of giving and helping others. She coordinates our community service projects within our building and has given many items and dollars to different agencies throughout our community, as well as the state. She works with a team of students that collect the donated goods in our building. This work has earned her community service group the Organized Labor's 2013 Youth Services Award. This award is given annually at the George Meany Awards Banquet to recognize students who have given their time to help the less fortunate in their community.*

*Brittany also coordinates our Battle of the Books organization for our 5th and 6th graders. She spends countless hours outside of school to meet with the students so that they are prepared for the competition. This is just another ways she works with students to prepare them for their future.*

*Brittany has also worked with the 6th grade students in order to prepare them to take the ACT. The students take this test to see how they compare to other students and how they would perform at a college level. It also allows parents to know what their children are capable of, and educators to help their brightest students achieve their goals.*

*Brittany is a true asset to Hamilton Intermediate School in and outside the classroom!”* - H.I.S. Staff Member

**Emily Parks Support Staff Member of the Month** - *“I would like to nominate Emily Parks for the February Star Support Staff of the Month. Emily does a great job working in our library. She makes sure the books are shelved and in order so they are easily available for our students. Also, Ms. Parks helps our students find books for projects and for enjoyment. Lastly, she takes the time to ask students questions about their reading interests to help them locate the book that best meets their needs. Way to keep our students reading Ms. Parks!”* - H.I.S. Staff Member

## HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Elementary Students Recognized at Success Assemblies** - Every nine weeks, Hamilton Elementary teachers recognize their students during their team's success assembly. To wrap up the second nine weeks of this school year, each grade level team held an assembly where students received certificates of recognition for Principal's Honor Roll, Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Most Improved Student, and Most Respectful Ranger. The assemblies were well attended by parents, and the students were very excited to receive their certificates.

**Jackie Breidenbach Named Ohio Lottery Teacher of the Month** – Reigning HES teacher of the month Jackie Breidenbach was also selected as the Ohio Lottery Teacher of the Month. Ms. Breidenbach was selected in part because of the nomination of a fellow staff member who had this to say, "Jackie is always kind to staff and students. She never speaks unkindly and is very considerate of others. She goes out of her way to do what is best for all of her students and her efforts and caring hand do not go unnoticed." Congratulations Miss Breidenbach!

## HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

**Bear Hunt at the Preschool** - Bear week at the Preschool is finally here! Our bear week was full of "beary fun activities." In centers we made bear color and size patterns, we practiced matching our upper and lower case letters with bears, we painted bears, we sorted bears by color and size, we read bear books, we sequenced events from the story *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What do you see?*. We also practiced spelling color words and number words with letter bears, we wrote around the room with a bear, we put together a big bear floor puzzle, we counted bears and matched them to numbers, and we played a bear game! In art, we made a bear puppet. In math we got gummy bears to sort and graph, and then we ate them! In writing, we wrote about bears in our journal. Friday was our big BEAR HUNT DAY! We brought bear friends to school, found clues to bear activities throughout the school. We found the bear's favorite game-musical chairs and played. We found the bear's favorite snack and ate it. We found bears favorite story and read it. We found bear's favorite special-gym and played. We found bears favorite movie - *Cat in the Hat Explains Hibernation* and watched it. We found bear's favorite art project and made it. Then as we followed the clues, we found the...BEAR! All students had a great time and made "beary" special memories!

## OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

**Exploring College Options** - Mr. Brickey and Mr. O'Reilly have been reviewing the results from a survey our students took during the fall of 2013 called "My College Options". This survey was a personalized College and Scholarship Match Report. This report outlines institutions that match our students' college preferences. Student responses were grouped into five categories; Your Profile, Your Top College Choices, Your School Matches, Your Scholarship Matches, and Your Next Steps. The categories contained students' top academic interests, type of college they would attend, preferred college size, and social behavior rules. Students will use these to help them determine future academic plans.

## OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

**Cabin Fever?** – Family alternatives to TV or playing video games while confined due to the cold and weather can be fun and provide learning opportunities as well:

Most **games** require basic math, reading, and strategic thinking and provide fun family interaction and competition.

**Creative thinking activities** can include drawing, arts and crafts, and writing stories or poems. Children can stay busy most of a day creating a play from a story they've read or written, making props, designing costumes, adding songs or music or dance, and finally presenting their creation to other family members.

Baking or meal planning and **cooking** requires reading, measuring and an opportunity to contribute to the family.

And for quiet time, everyone can find a comfortable spot and **read**. At the next mealtime, each person can talk about what they read. This reinforces reading comprehension as well as oral communication skills.

If families want to get out of the house, the public libraries have story times and other family activities. Librarians are a great resource to help select reading material for the family. On Sundays, admission to the Columbus Museum of Art is free. And for more options, check out [www.experiencecolumbus.com](http://www.experiencecolumbus.com)

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

**Varsity Girls' Basketball Honors Seniors, Defeats London** - The Girls' basketball program honor their four seniors on Thursday night: Ariona Brown, Kaylee Davis, Blaire Gray-Harrison, and Kristina Pickett.

The Varsity team also won Thursday night by a score of 63-36. They were lead in scoring by Ariona Brown with 14 points, Josie Kasprzak with 12 points and Lauren Longbrake with 11 points. The following Rangers also contributed to the scoring efforts: Kaylee Davis with 8 points, Blaire Gray-Harrison with 6 points, Devyn Stevens with 2 points, Lyndsey Hankins with 2 points, Ali Belcher with 2 points, Kristina Pickett with 2 points, Anna McClain with 2 points, and Zadei Edwards with 2 points. This brings their overall record to 10-7.

The Lady Rangers will travel to Logan Elm Saturday, Feb. 1.

**JV Girls' Basketball Wins Thriller** - The JV team won in overtime Friday night by a score of 40-39. The Rangers were led in scoring by Chase Gray-Still with 13 points, Brooke Wilhite with 9 points, and Anna McClain with 6 points. The following Rangers also contributing to the scoring efforts: Zadei Edwards with 4 points, Autumn Blosser with 3 points, Lyndsey Hankins with 2 points, Ali Belcher with 2 points and Heaven Bridges with 1 point. This brings their overall record to 9-6.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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