

# News from the Elementary & Middle Schools

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## The Principal's Pen

Dear Parents,

The 4th Annual Girls in STEM is being held on Saturday, April 26. Girls in grades 4-8 are encouraged to participate from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Hudson Valley Community College's TEC-SMART in Malta. This **free** event features engaging hands-on learning activities including building wind turbines, using heat sensing cameras and more. Learn more and register here: [http://www.hvcc.edu/news\\_events/newsstory.html?id=8432](http://www.hvcc.edu/news_events/newsstory.html?id=8432)

On Wednesday, March 8, at 6:30 PM our PTA will be meeting in the Middle School Library. On Friday, March 17, we are scheduled for a Superintendent's Day—staff development, so there will be **no school for the students**.

**NYS Testing for the ELA is scheduled for March 28-30.** Please plan your vacation accordingly. Also, if you are planning on refusing for your child to take the state test(s) (i.e.—"opting out"), please send a letter stating such to the office by **Friday, March 17**.

The Grade 8-9 course selection process is in full swing. Course selection is an opportunity for students and their parents to meet with their Guidance Counselor and map out their course of study and schedule for the following academic year. If you are the parent of an eighth grade student and have not scheduled a course selection conference, please call us at 758-7575 to schedule a conference time.

If you ever have a question or a concern, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Sincerely,  
*Tim Farley*  
Principal

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 4th Annual STEM (April 26)
- Supt. Conference Day
- NYS Testing (ELA)
- Course Selection

## From the Nurse's Office:

### IMPORTANT DATES:

3/1 - Physical Maturity Exam for Athletic Placement to be administered by Dr. Baillargeon in MS Health Office @ 8:30 am.

3/10 - All Modified permission forms due to the nurse.

- Sports Physicals will be given by School physician in MS Health Office by \* appointment only

3/20 – Modified Baseball & Softball begins

3/27- Modified Track & Field begins

\*All Permission forms for Spring sports may be obtained from Mr. Jause & Ms. Geiger during PE Class.

A sports physical is required to participate in the athletic program. Physicals are valid for 12 months. Students will be notified by the school nurse should a sports physical be necessary. \*The School Nurse will conduct a preliminary exam during the school day which consists of height, weight, blood pressure, and pulse. Sports physicals will be conducted by a School Physician. Students requiring physicals will be scheduled by the nurse and given an appointment to meet with the School Physician.

Sports Physicals will be given on **Friday, March 10** in the MS Health Office\* **by appointment only**. If student requires a Sport Physical by School Physician, they **MUST** hand in the permission form by **March 6th** so they may be scheduled for an appt. or they will need to have a physical exam by their private physician.

Students with a valid sport physical will be interviewed by the nurse to update the health history and determine eligibility.

\*Middle School students interested in signing up for a sport that is higher than the modified level (i.e. JV or Varsity), must pass the Physical Maturity Exam by the School \*Medical Director & the NYS Selection Classification test prior to trying out.

## **Sole Hope Project:**

There are children in Africa who do not have any shoes to wear. They walk, work and play all day long and their bare feet often become infected, with jiggers and sand fleas, and in some cases, it can cause paralysis or worse.

This month Student Council is getting involved in the Sole Hope project. Students will be repurposing jeans by cutting out patterns for shoes and decorating them. We will be sending them to the Sole Hope headquarters in North Carolina where they will be sent on to Uganda. The people in Uganda, who are in need of a steady income to help provide for their families, will assemble the cut out patterns into shoes, and add rubber soles. They will be given to the local children in need. Sole Hope's mission is to "build relationships with a team of Africans so that together, they can sustainably impact the problem of jiggers in their own communities."

If you have jeans you no longer need and want to donate them, or volunteer your time and join us during one of our "shoe cutting parties," please contact Student Council Advisors, Gail Colton or Lindsay Meyers.

The simple act of donating jeans or volunteering time to cut out shoe patterns will help change lives, and "spread the hope," to many African children.

**SOLE HOPE**

The logo for Sole Hope features the words "SOLE HOPE" in a bold, black, serif font. The letter "O" in "HOPE" is replaced by a black silhouette of the African continent, which is integrated with a footprint design.

## Pennies for Patients:

Beginning March 20th, and running for three weeks, the Elementary and Middle Schools will be joining 29,000 schools nationwide in the fight against blood cancers by participating in the “Pennies for Patients” program.

For the next few weeks, we will help people who are sick with blood cancers like leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. Students will be given an informational letter and a collection box to collect coins. Students bring the boxes back to their home room teacher or drop off in the office.

Do you know what blood cancer is? It is a disease that occurs in the blood crowding out healthy blood cells so they can't do their job. When someone has a blood cancer, they have to go through treatment for a long period of time - sometimes as long as 3 years! Did you know that some of the treatments for blood cancers are chemotherapy, radiation, and bone marrow transplant ?

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Donations from “Pennies for Patients” help to pay for medicines, the doctor, and other treatment-related expenses, in addition to help funding research on finding a cure. If our schools raise a minimum of \$500.00, the top selling home room will earn a pizza party. Additionally, each homeroom that raises \$100-\$199 will earn a bronze pennant, \$200-\$299 will earn a silver pennant, and over \$300 will earn a gold pennant to proudly display on their home room. Every student that brings back their box will have their name put up on the “Pennies Wall” for all to see. We'll round out the campaign with “Stuck for a Buck” where students can donate a dollar for a piece of duct tape to help tape their favorite Principals to the wall!

Your efforts are helping kids with cancer and funding research around the world to help find cures. Please join Student Council along with our schools and help support the “Pennies for Patients” program.



## Honey—The Service Dog:

In September, a social service dog program was introduced to the ES/MS students. This program has been a huge success. Laura Sarno is Honey's owner/handler. She is also the program's creator and visionary. Laura recognized the positive contribution this program would have on our students. I don't think even she envisioned the WOW factor it would become! Honey is being utilized in our reading program. Students read, talk, lie on the floor and interact with her. Reading to Honey has helped give many of our students the confidence they need to become better readers. Honey makes reading fun!

Honey's kind face and soulful eyes have touched both students and staff alike. When you watch Honey and Laura walk down the hall, what you see is a tail surrounded by a cluster of elated students and staff members. They pet her, wave to her, or simply stop and talk to her. The students write her letters, and Honey writes them back, with a little help from Laura. Honey is our rock star! The entire school loves her, and she loves us right back!

However, it seems there is just not quite enough of Honey to go around. The success of this program has led to Laura's decision to invest in a second therapy dog. Kathryn Walter, our special education reading specialist, shares Laura's vision. Kathryn has seen the results firsthand. Because of the success of the program, Kathryn has decided to participate with Laura in the certification process. Over February break, Kathryn and Honey will take the TDI test so Kathryn will be certified to be Honey's co-handler. Kathryn and Laura will attend training sessions together to be co-handlers for the new puppy.

The Ichabod Crane Elementary and Middle School family is greatly anticipating the birth of the new puppy, which will be born by the time this goes to print!! Yay!! The excitement is palpable and the building is buzzing with puppy-itis!

We will be doing a series of fundraisers for the ES/MS Social Service Dog program:

- Voting for the Puppy's name...There will be four choices. The students and staff will be able to cast a vote for \$1.00 each. The voting will take place March 6th-March 10th. The four names will be posted throughout the building and also listed on the morning announcements.
- Pennies for Puppies... A jar will be placed in each classroom. This fundraiser will begin March 6th and will run throughout the month of March. The idea is for students and staff to put their pennies in the jars. Whichever homeroom raises the most money will have the first meet and greet with the new puppy!
- Dog kerchiefs...These will be sold for \$3.00 each. Laura has hand made them and they are quite stylish!

Stay tuned...Get your dog biscuits ready...It's going to be a tail wagging ride!!

P.S. Parents, Laura invites you to visit Honey's Facebook page with your child. This site can be accessed by typing in "ES/MS Social Service Dog Program" on the FaceBook search bar.

## Ichabod Crane CSD

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### Non-Discrimination Compliance Statement

The Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers educational opportunities including vocational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Ichabod Crane Central School District, Valatie, NY 12184 (518) 758-7575. A copy of the "In Compliance with Section 1.4 (a)" is available in the Superintendent's Office.

# Happy St. Patrick's Day!



## Upcoming Events:

### March

- |       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| 2     | - | 8th Grade High School Orientation—6:00 pm               |
| 7     |   | BOE Meeting, 7:00 PM, HS Library                        |
| 8     | - | PTA Meeting, 6:30 PM MS Library                         |
| 10    | - | 3rd Quarter (Grades 6-8) Interim Reports<br>Go Home     |
| 17    | - | <b>NO SCHOOL</b> (Supt. Conf. Day)<br>St. Patrick's Day |
| 23-25 | - | 42nd Street, 7:30 pm, High School<br>Auditorium         |
| 28-30 | - | <b>NYS ELA Testing</b>                                  |