



# Sleepy Hollow Middle School Hollow Highlights

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2008

## Principal's Corner

by Beth Lopez

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year! I hope you had an exciting and fun filled summer vacation with family and friends and are enjoying the last few days in August. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share my excitement about being the new principal at Sleepy Hollow Middle School. I feel very fortunate to join a school culture focused on student-centered learning, a commitment to high expectations, innovation and collaboration. I am looking forward to meeting each of you and working together with you this school year.

I would like to share some information about my educational and professional experience. I graduated from Queens College with a BA and MS and began my professional career in New York City where I taught sixth and eighth grades for eleven years. I then served as a literacy staff developer at both the school and district level.

I earned an MS.Ed in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University and became an Assistant Principal at the middle school level for several years. More recently,

I served as the principal of a large K-8 school in the Bronx and as a Senior Achievement Facilitator for the New York City Department of Education.

On a more personal note, I have much to celebrate. Not only am I excited about being the principal at SHMS, I am also celebrating my son's graduation from high school and transition to college this fall.

I have begun to meet with the middle school staff this summer to learn about the unique strengths, traditions and practices of Sleepy Hollow Middle School, and as always, the anticipation of the new school year is an exciting time. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our students on September 3rd, and the start of a fantastic school year. On a regular basis throughout the school year, I will provide you with important school information through our newsletter, The Hollow Highlights. Please take a few moments to read it through and share the information contained in it with your child.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months and hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

### Inside this issue:

First Day of School Schedule	page 2
Student Handbook/agenda	page 2
Bell Schedule	page 2
Drop Off/Pick Up	page 2
Transportation	page 3
Code of Conduct	page 3
Book Bags & Backpacks	page 4
Dress/Attire	page 4
Attendance	page 4
Save the date	page 4
New Faculty	page 5
7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teams	page 5
The 4 Bee's	page 6
Principal Coffee	page 6
Contacting the Middle School	page 7
Important Dates	page 8
Construction Updates	page



## First Day of School

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will follow a special schedule on this day. All seventh graders will report to the auditorium at 7:45 AM for their opening program. They will be followed by the eighth graders who will begin their day at 8:45 AM with an opening program in the auditorium. The rest of the day will be filled with team orientation and activities, a free barbeque lunch for all middle school students, and conclude with a modified schedule of their academic courses. \*please note: First period will not begin until Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Student Handbook/Planners

On opening day each student will receive a planner to be used daily to track assignments and plan efficiently. In the front of this planner is a student handbook detailing school rules and regulations. Every student is responsible for familiarizing him/herself with these rules and abiding by them. A copy of the student handbook is posted on our website for your references. If you would like a copy sent to you, please call our main office. On the first day of school, you will be asked to review these rules with your child and to sign a form acknowledging receipt of this book and the responsibility of knowing an following school rules.



## Bell Schedule

The Sleepy Hollow Middle School bell schedule is included with this mailing. Please note that first period begins at 7:45 AM and is for performing arts classes and other select classes, therefore, if you are not scheduled for a first period class, your school day does not begin until second period, at 8:30 AM when students are permitted to go to their lockers. All middle school students eat lunch during period 4. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders eat during lunch B and 8<sup>th</sup> graders eat during lunch A. The school day ends with the conclusion of eighth period at 3:00 pm.



## Drop off/Pick Up

Students may be dropped off or picked up using either the Bedford Road or Broadway entrances. A turn around loop has been created in front of the Middle School and Administration buildings by the Broadway entrance. This will allow cars to drop off or pick up students and then return to Broadway. An additional turn around loop has also been created at the north end of he building to facilitate the pick up or drop off of students entering the Bedford Road. Parents, please pull as far forward in the loop as possible prior to picking up or dropping off and obey the directions of all school and police personnel.



## Transportation

This year the transportation department has issued bus passes for all middle school students who are eligible for transportation. If eligible, your bus pass is included in this mailing. Only students presenting bus passes will be permitted to take the bus. Two morning bus pick ups are scheduled to accommodate students scheduled for period one classes. Beginning, September 8<sup>th</sup>, late buses will be available at 4:15 PM and 5:15 PM for all students eligible for transportation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Cyril Hughes, the transportation supervisor, at 631-3663.



## Code of Conduct

All school rules and procedures are established in accordance with District's Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct was developed with input from teachers, parents, students, administrators, and the Board of Education and is based upon the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, appreciation of differences, honesty and integrity.

The Code of Conduct was written to help ensure a safe and orderly learning environment for all of our students, in each of our buildings, that encourages responsible behavior without disruption or interference. The Code of Conduct applies to all students, staff, parents, and visitors when on school property or attending school functions.

Each new student will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct by their homeroom teacher on the first day of school. We ask that you pay particular attention to the student dress code on page 6 and the restrictions on use of electronic and communication devices on page 8.

Please take the opportunity to carefully review the Code of Conduct with your child, contact the school Principal if you have any questions or concerns. If you would like an additional copy of the Code of Conduct, please contact the middle school office.



## Book Bags and Backpacks

Students are not allowed to carry book bags or backpacks during the school days. The teachers will work with students to teach them how to stay organized and plan ahead. This way, not only will student have less to carry, but also as they continue to grow, their backs will stay strong and healthy.



## Dress/Attire

Students have the right to express themselves through clothing choices. However, you come in clothing that is appropriate for school.

The following is a brief summary of items that are “NOT” to be worn during the school day?

- Hats, bandannas, or do rags
- Clothing that advertises alcohol, tobacco or weapons.
- Clothing that promotes illegal activity, drugs, or violence.
- Items with ethnic or racial slurs, vulgar expressions, curse words, or are derogatory to others.



## Attendance

If your child will be absent or tardy, **PLEASE** call, Ms. Perez at 332-6276 after 7:30 AM and a written note **MUST** also be provided.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Sleepy Hollow Middle School**  
**Back to School Night**  
**Date: Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Time: 7:30 PM**  
**Place: Sleepy Hollow MS**



## New Faculty

As always, as the new year begins, we are welcoming new staff to Sleepy Hollow Middle School, and we are very excited about each and every one. Ms. Rachel [redacted] will be joining the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams as Social Studies and Mr. [redacted] will also be joining the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team as science. Dr. Magalie Paschke has rejoined the middle school as the school psychologist.

We look forward to working with all of these teachers, and hope you help welcome them to Sleepy Hollow.



## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teams

This year, Sleepy Hollow Middle School is continuing with a true interdisciplinary team structure, each grade level is divided into two teams. A “team” consists of the same core academic teachers, sharing the same students, at the same time. This structure is an integral component of successful high performing middle level schools. Teaming is the foundation for building a strong learning community with its sense of family, where students, teachers and parents know one another well, feel safe and supported, and are encouraged to take intellectual risks.

### **Team 7A**

Rich Tejada, ELA  
Audra Emmerich, ELA  
Brian Kolar, Social Studies – Team Leader  
Susan Habicht, Math  
Michael Garguilo, Science

### **Team 8A**

Heidi Larsen, ELA  
Rachel Shrinsky, Social Studies  
Maria Sabbouh, Math – Team Leader  
Debbie McCarl, Science

### **Team 7B**

Mary Setness, ELA  
Angel Linteau, ELA  
Darryl Atkinson, Social Studies  
Barbara Wilson, Math  
David Benedict, Sr. – Science- Team Leader

### **Team 8B**

Peter Kennedy, ELA  
Cara Doran, Social Studies  
Lisa Albuquerk, Math – Team Leader  
Deidre Sullivan, Science



## The 4 Be's

This year we will continue to focus upon recognizing and developing positive behavior in all our students. In order for our school community to flourish each member must act appropriately and responsibly at all times. In support of this focus we will be emphasizing the “4 Be’s” which represent the basic principles necessary for both individual and collective school success. Parents, please spend some time reviewing the “4 Be’s” with your child and discussing how they could support his/her intellectual and social-economic success.

For Students and Staff:

**BE HERE...EVERY CLASS, EVERY DAY**

**BE PREPARED....TO DO YOUR BEST WORK**

**BE RESPECTFUL...OF SELF AND OTHERS**

**BE POSITIVE...THINK YOU CAN, AND YOU WILL**

For Parents:

**BE INVOLVED...CALL AND VISIT OFTEN**

## Principal's Coffee

Ms. Lopez has scheduled several “Principal’s Coffee” discussion during the course of the school year. These information meetings are open to anyone who is interested in what’s going on at SHMS. Each meeting will have stated topics and general questions will also be answered.

Parents of incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders are especially invited to our first “Principal’s Coffee” in the Principal’s Conference Room on August 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. Please RSVP to Carol Ressa at 332-6275 by Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> if you are planning to attend.

The other “Principal’s Coffee” dates are as follows and will begin at 8:00 AM in the Principal’s Conference Room.

### Dates:

October 7<sup>th</sup>  
January 13<sup>th</sup>  
May 19<sup>th</sup>

## Website Offers Quick and Useful Information



The Sleepy Hollow Middle School website is a useful site for students, parents, and the larger community to access information about Sleepy Hollow Middle School. School News, **Hollow Highlight**, daily announcements, monthly event calendars, team assignment calendars, and much more can be accessed by going to [www.TUFSD.org](http://www.TUFSD.org) and clicking upon the Sleepy Hollow Middle School link on the left side of the page.



## Contacting the Middle School

### **Main Office – 332-6275**

Ms. Elizabeth Lopez- Middle School Principal – 332-6275.

Ms. Carol Ressa, Principal Secretary – 332-6275

Ms. Marta Perez, Attendance Officer – 332-6276

Mrs. Cheryl Greene – Director of Guidance and Special Education 7-12 – 332-6209.

Mrs. Bertie Cohen, Nurse – 332-6217

### **Guidance and Counseling**

Ms. Miriam Ocasio, Middle School Counselor – 332-6279

Ms. Jamie Stagno, Middle School Counselor – 332-6277

Dr. Magali Paschke, Psychologist – 332-62

Dr. Cheryl Burton, Social Worker – 332-6278

### **Department Chairpersons:**

Ms. Gail Persad, Fine Arts - 332-6223

Ms. Judy Kelly, English/Language Arts- 332-6222

Ms. Katherine St. Vincent, ESL – 332-6227

Mr. Jamie Begazo, Foreign Language – 332-6224

Ms. Mary Hernstadt, Library Media Center – 332-6220

Ms. Jennifer Walsh, Mathematics – 332-6225

Mr. Jason Choi, Science – 332-6226

Ms. Jessica Hunsberger, Social Studies – 332-6228

Ms. Kelly Kutch, Health/Physical Education – 332-6301

Mr. Charles Scarpulla Athletics – 631-3664



## Important Dates

### August

Principal's Coffee

### September

- 1 Labor Day
- 2 Staff Development Day No School for Students
- 3 First Day of School  
Modified Sports Begin
- 11 Back to School Night 7:30 PM
- 20 Sleepy Hollow Performing Arts Booster Car Wash
- 22 PTSA Meeting Cafeteria 7:30 PM
- 24 Photo Day
- 26 District Wide Emergency Evacuation Drill
- 30 Rosh Hashanah – School Closed

### October

- 1 Rosh Hashanah – School Closed
- 7 Principal 's Coffee 8:00 AM
- 8 Yom Kippur - School Closed
- 12 Columbus Day – School Closed
- 14 Interim Reports Mailed
- 20 PTSA Meeting Cafeteria 7:30 PM

Interested in Purchasing a Middle School Yearbook for 2007 – 2008 School Year. The cost of the yearbook is \$32.00. In order to secure a yearbook you must submit a \$16.00 deposit. We will only order yearbooks for students who bring in a deposit. Deposits must be submitted to Ms. Ressa by December 21st. Remember if you don't bring in a deposit by December 21. You will not be able to get a yearbook, no extras will be ordered!

Page 2

We have been extremely impressed by both the personal achievement and the positive example these students set for their peers. These students make all of us at Sleepy Hollow Middle School proud! The Students honored thus far are:

**September**

Jennifer Onwe - Team 8B - The Blue Beasties  
 Ali London- Team 8A - The Ghost Riderz  
 Amanda Grullon - ESL  
 John Lara-Mota - Team 7A - Middle School Monsters  
 Ronniel Munoz - Team 7B - Red Hot Legendz

**October**

Barbara Good - Team 8B - The Blue Beasties  
 Caryn Hummel - Team 8A - The Ghost Riderz  
 Jose Camilo - ESL  
 Anna Ferreiras - Team 7A - Middle School Monsters  
 Shavon Henegan - Team 7B - Red Hot Legendz

**November**

Team 7A - Middle School Monsters - Philip Norwood  
 Team 7B - Red Hot Legends - Natalie LaRue  
 ESL Department - Surelys Bonilla  
 Team 8A - Ghost Riderz - Kieran Brennan  
 Team 8B - Blue Beasties - Andrew Eagan

**Getting Involved at SHMS!**



Sleepy Hollow Middle School offers students a variety of opportunities to get involved in activities after the 3:00 dismissal bell rings. The athletic teams, clubs, and activities cover a wide range of student interests. It is also not too late to become involved! Below is a list of the clubs and activities we offer at SHMS with the name and email address of the advisors. If you see something of interest please contact the advisor for more information.

History Club	Ms. Doran	<a href="mailto:CDoran@tufsd.org">CDoran@tufsd.org</a>
Hollow Helpers	Ms. Turnesa	<a href="mailto:TTurnesa@tufsd.org">TTurnesa@tufsd.org</a>
Cinemanía	Ms. Ressa	<a href="mailto:CRessa@tufsd.org">CRessa@tufsd.org</a>
Strategic Games Club	Mr. Garguilo and Mr. Gordon	<a href="mailto:Mgarguilo@tufsd.org">Mgarguilo@tufsd.org</a>
		<a href="mailto:Bgordon@tufsd.org">Bgordon@tufsd.org</a>
Science Explorations	Mr. Benedict	<a href="mailto:DBenedict@tufsd.org">DBenedict@tufsd.org</a>
Mathcounts	Ms. Alburkerk	<a href="mailto:Lalburkerk@tufsd.org">Lalburkerk@tufsd.org</a>
Hollow Herald	Ms. Linteau and Ms. Emmerich	<a href="mailto:Alinteau@tufsd.org">Alinteau@tufsd.org</a>
		<a href="mailto:Aemmerich@tufsd.org">Aemmerich@tufsd.org</a>
African Am. History Club	Dr. Burton	<a href="mailto:CBurton@tufsd.org">CBurton@tufsd.org</a>
Ski Club	Ms. Noll	<a href="mailto:MNoll@tufsd.org">MNoll@tufsd.org</a>
Yearbook	Ms. Ressa	<a href="mailto:Cressa@tufsd.org">Cressa@tufsd.org</a>
Literary Magazine	Mr. Kennedy	<a href="mailto:Pkennedy@tufsd.org">Pkennedy@tufsd.org</a>
Modified Athletics	Mr. Scarpulla	<a href="mailto:CScarpulla@tufsd.org">CScarpulla@tufsd.org</a>
CSI Programs	Ms. Sandy Ocasio	<a href="mailto:Socasio@tufsd.org">Socasio@tufsd.org</a>
Homework Center	Mrs. Katharine St. Vincent	<a href="mailto:Kstvincent@tufsd.org">Kstvincent@tufsd.org</a>

## Team 7A

## "Middle School Monsters"



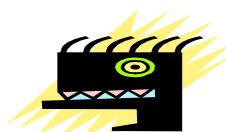
The time from Halloween to the holiday recess is always a fun time in a middle school especially here at Sleepy Hollow. Team 7A is up and running strong. The "Middle School Monsters", are in the classrooms and hard at work in all academic areas.

The English classes have been hard at work dissecting The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. Students are learning how to use reading strategies to formulate theories about characters based on their actions in the novel. In addition, students will be working on a characterization project. Each class will be broken into groups of 3 or 4 and they will trace one of their bodies onto a giant poster and make that poster into one of the characters in the book. Details of the character's "costume" from the book will be an integral part of the project as well as quotes from the characters. While students are reading realistic fiction, they are also writing realistic fiction. Using their Writers' Notebooks, students have begun to brainstorm ideas for main characters, as well as storylines for their own work of realistic fiction. Students are supporting each other in this writing journey by discussing ideas and giving feedback to their fellow peers.

In Social Studies the students have been introduced to the historical process. In particular we examined the archeological record at Jamestown, Virginia. Students drew inferences and developed hypotheses as to determine what life was like in Jamestown colony. We are currently studying the Puritans in Salem, Massachusetts and the causes of the witch hysteria. Some activities include an Internet web quest, analysis of primary sources and the use of maps to draw inferences on whether food poisoning could possibly explain the strange occurrences in 1692 Salem.

In science the students have been covering sound and light intensively. We have had hands on experiences with the invisible world of waves around us. Tuning forks, a giant metal slinky, and a wave pool are only a few of the interesting objects that can be seen being used in science class. Getting into the fall spirit the class experimented with leaf sizes and shapes to realize another invisible force called "air resistance". The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Sleepy Hollow Leaf Races were a lot of fun in science class on Halloween day. The Honors class has been working on motion. Rolling bowling balls down the hall, engineering air resistant pieces of paper, and slamming spherical objects into each other are only a few of the experiments conducted. The rest of the year is going to bring even more fun and hands on activities.

The Math 7 focus this fall has been lots of Algebra. Students are working, without a calculator, on order of operations, integers, and solving equations. Students have been improving their skills on a regular basis with in-class practice, homework assignments, and after school help sessions. Study skills are encouraged through "Bonus points." A few breaks from Algebra have included the study factors and multiples, and an in-class project called "What Should I Wear to School Today?" – a chance to practice tree-diagrams. These are currently being displayed in the math classroom. In addition to all of the above, the Math 7H class has also worked on multi-step equations, combinations and permutations and Euclidian Geometry.



## Team 7-B

## "The Red-Hot Legends"



The seventh grade Team 7B is off to a great start. The teachers are impressed by the preparedness and positive attitude exhibited by our students.

In early September the student's voted to change our name from 7B to the "Red-hot Legends." The students also selected our Team color to be "Red."

The teaching members of the Red-hot Legends by Department are: English Language Arts: Mrs. Linteau and Mrs. Setness; Mathematics: Mrs. Wilson; Social Studies: Mr. Atkinson; and Science: Mr. Benedict, Sr.

The first coordinated emphasis by the Team was in the area of study skills: listening, notetaking, outlining, highlighting, SQ3R...A Guide for Reading Comprehension Improvement, use of the textbook and notebook organization. The above strategies will be further developed and reinforced throughout the school year.

We ask parents to check their child's Agenda Book and Notebook on a daily basis to keep abreast with their daily progress.

On Tuesday, October 2, 2007 the members of The Red-hot Legends participated in an adventure-based learning initiative at the Madden Outdoor Education Center in Kent, Cliffs, NY. The program is designed to teach team work, respect and problem solving skills to our students. The students and staff enjoyed participating in activities that included the Alligator Trolley, Quick Sand and Kookaloo Platform. Our goal of establishing a school community and learning the importance of working together to accomplish a task was a success.

Have you caught your seventh grader reading? It may be that your child is immersed in an engaging book. In our reading classes, we have established the routines of selecting, signing out, and returning books from our classroom library. For homework each day, students are assigned thirty minutes of independent reading of a book they've selected. Students set daily reading goals and record their thoughts about the book they're reading in their Reader's Notebook. Thinking about their reading helps to improve comprehension.

Most recently, students wrote letters to their ELA teachers to demonstrate how deeply they understood their books. Students formed theories about characters based on the main character's actions, appearance, spoken words, and the comments of other characters. Letters with supporting evidence from the book scored well on a four-point rubric. In our classes this week, we are eagerly reading S.E. Hinton's book of realistic fiction, *The Outsiders*. Students are impressed by the fact that the author wrote her first novel for young adults when she herself was a teenager.

We have launched a genre study of short stories. Learning about the elements of fiction and particularly the progression of events in plots, we've been immersed in the genre. In writing class, students are developing a character for their own short stories. Emerging from the developing characters are conflicts for them to explore and resolve. We're reading stories as writers and discussing characterization techniques and plot frameworks used by authors. Students are trying out these methods in our own writing. We're all excited about the class collections of published short stories that will be available in the near future.

In science the students began the school year with a new Integrated Science Program and textbook. To date, the students have adapted very well to the new program and have completed their first unit of study dealing with the Evolution of Earth's Crust.

The students in the Accelerated Science program have been studying and experimenting with the concepts and laws of electricity and magnetism.

The English as a Second Language students have completed their first unit of study dealing with the Earth, Moon, Sun and Tides. In math, we have started the year reviewing the many things we learned last year. All classes can now convert units of measure and calculate integers. We have started working with algebra equations and will soon be writing our own examples. In math enrichment we began the year creating a fish tank given many requirements and restrictions. The class has just finished working in cooperative study groups to create golf courses, meeting many more constraints. It was a fun project that resulted in several well-planned and creative courses that Tiger woods would love to play on.

Currently in social studies the students are exploring the New World. The students are excited about learning elements of Jamestown and Plymouth. Through classroom work and assignments the students are studiously building solid skills in writing, reading, speaking, listening, and note taking. The studying of these particular subjects has generated a great deal of interest in how America began and the controlling ideas that have shaped our country to this day. We have high expectations for our students and look forward to guiding them to reach their fullest potential.

## Team 8-A "The Ghost Riderz"



Team 8A or as the students decided to be called, "the Ghost Riderz", are enjoying a wonderful beginning to the school year. Both students and teachers have become familiar with each other and have joined together to form a continuing bond which we believe will strengthen as the year goes on. Of course, academics are our first goal, and classrooms are busy with various lessons, activities and projects.

During the first quarter in Ms. Larsen's English classes, students are examining short stories and their narrative elements. The short stories are taken from a collection called 13, which contains "thirteen stories that capture the agony and ecstasy of being thirteen." Students are using these short stories as models for writing their own original short story. Students are taking a real conflict facing someone who is 13 and fictionalizing it. In addition, the English classes participate in a six-day workshop with David Surface, a writer who teaches classes at The Hudson Valley Writers' Center. Mr. Surface teaches strategies for finding the details for descriptive writing.

Mrs. Sabbouh's Math 8 classes are currently on the 3<sup>rd</sup> unit of study. They have been working on lots and lots of algebra and are now experts in the topic. The current unit relates to solving percents, which is a topic that we can apply to every day activities such as: discount, sale price and tax.

In the Integrated Algebra class, students are occasionally reminded they will be taking a Regents Exam in June. Topics have included algebra as well as complex word problems. The class has just completed a unit on geometry. Our next unit of study pertains to perimeter and area of polygons as well as operations with radicals.

In Honors and regular science classes, Ms. McCarl's students have been learning about cells and use of the microscope. They are learning how to make their own wet mount slides for use in class and are practicing on the microscopes. The next topic is genetics and everyone is looking forward to the trip to the Dolan Research Center where the focus is on genetics. The ESL science class has just finished a review of measurements in the lab and is also "focusing" on microscopes! (pun intended).

Social studies classes started the year reviewing the Civil War and Reconstruction and continued this topic by focusing upon the Civil Rights Movement. Emphasis was given to the role of Supreme Court decisions in 1896 and 1954 and how they impacted the lives of Americans. Timelines were made showing and explaining important events in this Movement. The importance of the right to vote was given a practical application when students selected a Team color, white for the Ghost Riderz, and voted for student government officers. Recently, study returned to a more traditional chronological approach of the post-war era known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Industrial Revolution. The role of immigrant workers will be enhanced with a trip to Ellis Island, and a visit to President Teddy Roosevelt's home in Sagamore Hill.



Mr. Kennedy



Ms. Albuquerk



Ms. Jackson



Ms. Doran

## Team 8-B "Blue Beasties"

The Blue Beasties, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team formerly known as 8B, began the year with several exciting units of study in all content areas. In addition, curriculum alignment to the new standards continues to develop to ensure student success on the state assessments that have undergone some structural changes in the past couple of years. Since the English Language Arts Assessment will be administered in January, all content-area teachers are emphasizing literacy skills in their classes to help prepare students for this important examination.

In Social Studies classes, students have been learning about Reconstruction in the South through the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, as well as the Industrial Revolution. The students have also completed their first DBQ, strengthening their critical thinking and analytic skills. During the next unit, Immigration, the students will complete their first research project of the year.

This year's English curriculum has students exploring different genres while continually working on reading comprehension and skill development. In addition to their independent reading books, students will read selections in genres such as realistic fiction, memoir, drama, poetry, editorials, and mystery/horror/suspense. Each class begins with a grammar practice or quickwrite to keep students' writing skills sharp and spark creative impulses. Much of the student work is done in their Reader's Notebook, which is an effective way for students to maintain a record of their reading, develop an appreciation for good writing, and respond critically to texts. In the Writer's Workshop component of the class, students will compose pieces in various genres, with emphasis on narrative techniques, proofreading, and drafting. As a class novel, we will be reading *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar (*An ALA Best Book for Young Adults, and a BCCB Blue Ribbon Book*), a comedic look at the trials and tribulations of high school, with lessons on friendship, family, loyalty, and love.

The Math 8 classes started a new curriculum last year to conform to the new New York State standards. The curriculum includes several new topics that will be included in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade state assessment in March. We began the year with a group project focusing on problem solving techniques followed by a study of the properties of real numbers and operations of integers. Our second unit of study examined solving algebraic equations. This topic will be revisited later in the year with some more challenging verbal problems. Our third unit includes proportions. We examined real-world situations including discounts, sales tax, commissions, and map scales. In the fourth unit we will study operations of monomials. Students will examine Geometry in two different units this winter as well as an introduction to graphing. The Math 8 Honors classes started the year studying the real number system and moved quickly through two units of algebra. Students reviewed the processes of solving equations and inequalities. We took an algebraic approach to solving real-world problems as well. Students began their first of several geometry units that spiral the use of the previously studied algebra topics. The Double Accelerated Math students started the year with a study of motion, including distance, rate, and time followed by a unit of abstract mathematical systems. Our third unit included a review of factoring quadratic equations and solving equations containing algebraic fractions. Students were very excited to learn how to use TI-83 plus graphing calculators during their fourth unit while studying parabolas.

Eighth grade Regents Living Environment and Life Science classes began the school year with an overview of living organisms and the common needs of all living things. This will serve as one of the "lenses" that students will use to explore the biology topics studied this year. Students are hard at work in the classroom and in the lab expanding their critical thinking and investigation skills to allow them to apply their knowledge to different situations. Living Environment students also designed their own experiment and learned about factors that affect seed germination. Photosynthesis and cellular respiration were examined in depth. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade science students have used the microscope and made slides. They now recognize what a very useful tool this instrument is!

On Friday, October 5, the Blue Beasties participated in the first of what we hope will be many interesting field trips this year. Students and staff went to the Madden Outdoor Education Center in Kent Cliffs, New York. The excursion helped students use teamwork strategies to navigate through obstacle courses of various levels of challenge, including several groups of students who helped one another scale a 12-foot wall with only a single rope dangling on the other side! We look forward to our second series of field trips to Ellis Island, Dolan DNA Center



The annual ESL Thanksgiving Feast at Sleepy Hollow Middle and High School afforded our immigrant students a chance to try turkey with all the trimmings, as well as pumpkin and apple pie. The feast was held in the school cafeteria on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and attended by the students and faculty of the ESL program. In the tradition of the Pilgrims who invited the Native Americans in order to thank them for their help in adjusting to their new land, the students welcomed their teachers as invited guests.

Highlighting the event were presentations from the students of the various ESL classes. Ms. St. Vincent's ESL 2 class presented a Thanksgiving "rap" that spelled THANKS. Mrs. Hull's and Mrs. Gramonte's classes did a Virginia Reel. Ms. McGraw's class performed a "readers' theater" of a Thanksgiving poem. A creative enactment of the Thanksgiving Story was provided by Ms. Calabrese's ESL I middle school students. Finally, Lucia Mogená shared her essay about her gratitude for what she has.

Fall is the time of year in which ESL students learn about many of the traditions and customs that are unique to the United States and to this community. They became familiar with Halloween and "trick or treat" and studied adapted versions of Washington Irving's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

The ESL teachers are preparing students for updated testing requirements, which mandate that all students who have been in this country for at least "a year and a day" sit for the English Language Arts assessments. This latest ruling by the State Education Department also allows for the inclusion of former English language learners who have exited the ESL program within the last two years in the District's accountability scores.

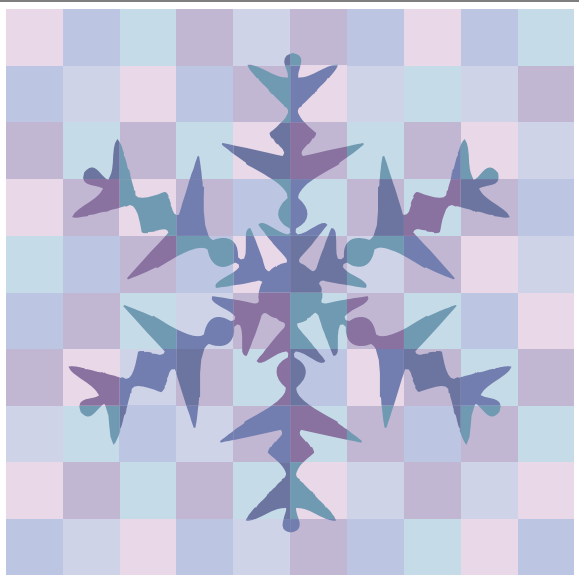
### **TRADUCCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL:**

La cena anual para el día de Acción de Gracias tomó lugar el día 20 de noviembre en la cafetería de la escuela superior. Los estudiantes tenían la oportunidad para probar el pavo, y pasteles de calabaza y manzana. Asistieron los estudiantes y los profesores del programa de inglés como segundo idioma. Siguiendo la tradición establecida por los peregrinos hace cuatrocientos años, en que los ingleses querían dar las gracias a los indios por su ayuda en la nueva tierra, los estudiantes dieron la bienvenida a sus maestros como invitados en la fiesta.

Los estudiantes de las varias clases de inglés hicieron presentaciones para celebrar la acción de gracias. Algunos estudiantes de la clase de la Sra. St. Vincent hicieron un canto sobre el Día de Dar Gracias. Los estudiantes de las clases de la Sra. Hull y la Sra. Gramonte hicieron un baile típico norteamericano que se llama el "Virginia Reel." La clase de la Sra. McGraw hizo una presentación dramática de un poema. Un espectáculo creativo sobre la historia del Día de Acción de Gracias fue presentado por la clase de inglés de Sra. Calabrese. Finalmente, Lucía Mogená compartió con los espectadores su composición sobre la gratitud que siente por todo lo que tiene.

El otoño es la época en que los estudiantes nuevos aprenden mucho sobre las tradiciones y costumbres que son especiales en los Estados Unidos y en nuestra comunidad. Estudiaron las tradiciones de Halloween y leyeron versiones adaptadas de "La Leyenda de Sleepy Hollow," por Washington Irving.

Los profesores están preparando a los estudiantes por los nuevos requisitos de evaluación, que exigen que todos los estudiantes inmigrantes que han estado en la escuela por "un año y un día" o más tienen que hacer el mismo examen de inglés que hacen los norteamericanos. El cambio en el mandato permite que se incluye los resultados de los estudiantes que salieron del programa de inglés en los últimos dos años cuando calculamos el reporte del



## Safety and Weather Information

### TARRYTOWN SCHOOLS EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND/OR DELAYED OPENINGS

The decision to close school or have one or two hour-delayed openings is a very important one. When it becomes necessary to close the schools prior to the start of the school day or delay their opening due to heavy snow or other hazardous weather conditions, announcements will be made on the following television and radio stations:

WCBS TV

FOX 5 TV

WNBC TV

News 12 Hudson Valley TV

WABC TV

In addition, notices will be posted to the district website, sent out via the automated K-12 call alert system, and an outgoing message will be placed on the main district number 914-631-9404.

## Construction Update

As you drive along Broadway you have probably noticed that our construction project has made considerable progress since the opening of school. The West Wing addition, which faces Broadway, will be completed and ready for occupancy by high school students in January. The new gymnasium will also be completed by mid-year with the new auditorium expected to be ready by April. We are currently working on plans to relocate classes from the South Wing to East Hall and the new gymnasium during the end of January. This will allow the renovation of South Wing to commence with an anticipated occupancy for September 2008. We will send out a more detailed mailing and hold an informational evening meeting regarding this move within the next few weeks.



## Internet Guidelines for Parents

By taking responsibility for your children's online computer use, parents can greatly minimize any potential risks of being online. Make it a family rule to:

**Never give out identifying information**— home address, school name, or telephone number— in a public message such as chat or bulletin boards, and be sure you're dealing with someone that both you and your child know and trust before giving it out via E-mail. Think carefully before revealing any personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information. Consider using a pseudonym or unlisting your child's name if your service allows it.

**Get to know the services your child uses.** If you don't know how to log on, get your child to show you. Find out what types of information it offers and whether there are ways for parents to block out objectionable material.

**Be sure to make this a family activity.** Consider keeping the computer in a family room rather than the child's bedroom. Get to know their "online friends" just as you get to know all of their other friends. **Are you familiar with the websites below?**

[My Space.com](http://MySpace.com)

[YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com)

[New Grounds.com](http://New Grounds.com)

[FaceBook.com](http://FaceBook.com)

[RateHispanic.com](http://RateHispanic.com)

[Miniclip.com](http://Miniclip.com)

[Myface.com](http://Myface.com)



# Make a Difference RECYCLE

Your used printer cartridges and cell phones can make a difference  
We've just started a new recycling program- collecting used inkjet and laser printer cartridges and cell phones.

We are helping keep the earth clean while earning cash for the Washington DC trip. You can make a difference and help us earn even more by saving your used cartridges and cell phones.

Student Council has partnered with Fundingfactory.com to help the Green Initiative keep the earth clean. Every cartridge and cell phone we collect is money towards DC.

Please deliver your items to the Middle School main office drop box or 26S (Ms. Doran's room).



## Sleepy Hollow Middle School Dates To Remember

### December

- 12/17 – Interims Mailed  
Winter Concert at WI -7:30 PM
- 12/19 – Snow Date for Winter Concert
- 12/24 – 01/01 – School Closed for Holiday Recess

### January

- 01/02 – School Reopens
- 01/08 – Principal's Coffee – 8:00 AM
- 01/14 – PTSA Meeting – 7:30 PM – Cafeteria
- 01/15 & 1/16 Grade 7/8 ELA Exams
- 01/17 SHHS Grade 9 Orientation 7:30PM
- 01/21 – School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 01/25 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period

### February

- 02/08 – Performing Arts Booster – Easter Bunny Breakfast – 9:00 – 11:00 AM
- 02/11 – PTSA Meeting – 7:30 PM – Cafeteria
- 02/11 – 2/14 SHMS Spirit Week
- 02/13 – Variety Show – 7:00 PM – WI
- 02/15 – 02/22 – School Closed - Winter Recess
- 02/25 – School Reopens



Congratulations to all our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who earned a place on the Honor Roll and High Honor Roll for the first Quarter!!

85- 89 Average = Honor Roll

90+ Average = High Honor Roll

### Grade 7 Honor Roll

ALEJANDRO, JOVANA  
ALFARO, BRENDA  
ALVAREZ, CRISTIAN  
ARDAIX, SEBASTIAN  
BENCOSME, STEVEN  
BRADY, ELIZABETH R  
CARAYOL, MARLEE  
CARDENAS, GISSELLE  
CASPARI, NATHANIEL  
CAVERO, RAQUEL  
CHRISTIAN, NATHANAEL  
CORONEL, LAURA  
CUNHA, DAVID  
CURANAJ, FRANK  
DELAURENTIS, DYLAN  
DESIDERIO, IAN  
DIAZ, ROSANNY  
ECHT, BENJAMIN  
FALCONER, JONATHAN  
GARY, JAMES B  
GONZALEZ, CRISTIAN  
GORDILLO, MARIA  
GUARIN, MA. TRICIA  
HAMILTON, DORIAN  
HANNON, JOSEPH  
HARGROVE, DAVID  
HENEGAN, SHAVON  
KLAMI, STEPHANIE L  
LAPPIN, JESSE  
LARA-MOTA, JOHN  
LAZO, CHRISTOPHER  
MALDONADO, GABRIELLE  
MARTINEZ, JASON  
NERIS, DARLENY  
NOBREGA, GIANCARLO  
OSPINA, JEAN  
PACCHA, CHRISTIAN  
PISAPIA, ELIZABETH  
POSCA, JOHN  
PUGO, KATHERINE  
RIVERA, BRANDON  
ROSARIO, JUSTIN  
ROSENBERGER, ZOE

### Grade 7 High Honor Roll

ABOU-RJEILI, DANIELLE  
BARBERA, MARISA  
BAUER-MOSHI, MAYA  
BEALS, ALLEGRA  
BISCHOF, JACQUELINE  
BOGUSZ, EMILIE  
BRABAZON, JOHN  
CASTILLO, RANDY  
CHUNG, MELANIE  
COPLEY, MEGAN  
DA SILVA, MELISSA  
DENISE, EMILY  
EPSTEIN, LAURA  
FERREIRAS, ANNA  
FERREIRAS, KARLA  
GAUDIN-GONZALEZ, CAMILA  
GEIGER, EMILY  
GUNDERMAN, BENJAMIN  
HARGITAI, EMILY  
HIGGINS, RYAN  
HINGE, BRIGITTA  
ISHMAIL, AMINA L  
KENDRICK, ALEXANDRA  
LARUE, NATALIE B  
LUCAS, BENJAMIN  
MALDONADO, DAVID  
MCGOVERN, MADELINE  
MUNOZ, RONNIEL  
NORWOOD, PHILIP  
ORELLANA, WILMER  
ORTIZ, KEVIN  
ORTIZ, MADISON  
PARDO, THOMAS  
PENA, PETER  
PEPE, TIMOTHY  
PLOTKIN, ANNIE  
SAMOYEDNY, LIANNA  
SAMPAIO, PATRICK  
SCHNOG, JOHN  
SEGURA, KATHERINE  
SULLIVAN, KEVIN  
SWANSON, ERIKA  
TITCOMB, ABIGAE

SANCHEZ, THALIA  
SARRIS, NICHOLAS  
SERRANTES, MCKERROW  
SMITH, MIKAILA  
TAPIA, MICHELLE  
UDOFF, MATTHEW  
VARELA, ALEXANDRA

TSCHAN, BENJAMIN  
VEDANAPARTI, YAJNESH  
VERAS, ELSA  
YAWMAN, NICHOLAS D  
ZALLO, JULIA



## Hollow Highlights

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll

ALVAREZ, MARIA  
ANDERSON, LAKIA  
ANDRADE, NUBE  
BARNIER, GABRIELA  
BERENGUER, CHRISTIAN  
BIRRITTELLA, ANNELESE  
BISCHOF, ROBERT  
BUCKLEY, CLAIRE  
CAMPBELL, JESSICA  
COSSABOOM, WHITMAN  
DEJESUS, JARED  
FALLON, ZACHARY  
GARCIA-BRITO, EDUARDO  
GONZALEZ, JUSTIN  
GOOD, BARBARA  
HILARIO, WILLMER  
KELLEY, IAN  
KELLY, WILLIAM  
LAPPIN, ALEXANDRA  
LEMA, GENESIS  
MARTINEZ, GENESIS  
MISCIOSCIA, RICHARD  
MORALES, VALERIA  
MUNIZ, JULIAN  
PARENS, SOPHIE  
PENA, HERNAN  
REYES-ROJAS, CARLOS  
ROSEN, JOHANNA  
SHORTELL, ROBERTA  
TENESACA, DIEGO  
TOVAR, GABRIELLA  
TUBA, MONICA  
UYAGUARI, CARLOS

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honor Roll

Alfonso, SARAH  
Becker, RYAN  
Berger, GILLIAN  
Bonvento, AMELIA  
Boumis, ALEXIA  
Brennan, KIERAN  
Bucci, JAMIE  
Bucci, KRISTA  
Camilo, JOSE  
Capulong, AARON  
CENTRA, JACK  
DILTHEY, GEORGE  
DONDIEGO, ROBERT  
Dopico, Alexander  
DOYLE, KATHERINE  
EGAN, ANDREW  
EAGEN, EMILY  
EVAN, KERRY  
FIGUEROA, KRISTINA  
GARRANT II, JERMAINE  
GLOVER, ROSLYN  
GREIGE, NICOLAS  
HUMMELL, CARYN  
JIMENEZ, KIANA  
LANGSAM, GADI  
LILLIS, CATHERINE  
LONDON, ALI  
MAHER, MEGAN  
MCGOVERN, KYLE  
MENDONCA, ALEX  
MORA, STEPHANIE  
MOYA, KEVIN  
O'DONNELL, TYLER  
ONWE, JENNIFER  
PALACIOS, GABRIEL  
PINHO, SOFIA  
POLANCO, VERONICA  
PUGO, FAUSTO  
RENNERT, SARA  
SIMON, SOPHIE  
SMERCAK, CHLOE  
TAPIA, RANGGY  
TAPIA, ROBERCY  
TRAMONTELLI, MARINA  
ULACCO, MICHEALANGELO  
UNGER, PAULA  
VALLO, NICHOLAS  
WARREN, JACOB  
WOOD, TIMOTHY