January - February 2012

January 9—BOE @ 7:30pm @ JAS
January 10—Council Meeting @ HHS 9:45am Heritage Rm.
January 10—PTA Meeting 6:15pm
Parent University ‘New ELA Assessments’ Angela Berner @ Woodhull
January 16—Martin Luther King Day School Closed
January 18—National History Day competition @ HHS 7:00pm for HHS students
January 19—Band & Orchestra Concert @ HHS 7:30pm
January 23—Health & Fitness Week
January 25—Family Fitness Night
January 27—Report Cards Go Home
January 30—BOE @ 7:30pm
February 9 and 10—Woodhull Play performance—"Aladdin Jr."
February 13—BOE @ 7:30pm
February 14—PTA Meeting @ 9:45am Happy Valentines Day!
February 20-24—Winter Recess School Closed
February 27—PARP Begins

Dear Parents and Staff,

We have had several fun family events throughout November and December. Our PTA sponsored our annual Barnes & Noble evening with many staff members cheerfully serving food, reading books and running trivia contests and games.

Fifth grade family movie night was December 2nd and great fun was had by all! Our children came in pajamas and brought their blankets. Popcorn was served and they enjoyed the movie.

The PTA will be sponsoring Health and Fitness week during the week of January 23rd. Our local vendors will be promoting healthy living along with yoga and Zumba classes. The igame4 Company will set up our gymnasium with stations for classes to rotate through with interactive physical fitness activities that incorporate an active lifestyle. There will be a family night on Wednesday, January 25th (more information to follow) to have siblings and parent experience this fun active program while enjoying other family and friends.

The choral concert was on December 13th at Huntington High School. It was an incredible evening of talent and fun. Every year I am in awe of the musical talent and proud of our inspiring music teachers. Mrs. Canales was as enthusiastic as ever! I am really looking forward to our band and orchestra concert on January 19th at HHS 7:30pm. Please put this date on your calendars.

Have you ever heard of the series “39 Clues”? If so, you will be excited to learn that the author of this series, Peter Lerangis will be at Woodhull on January 13th. This New York Times best selling children’s book series is a ground breaking multi-media adventure series for ages 8-12 that spans ten adventure books, hundreds of collectible cards and an on-line game (www.the39clues.com) that allows readers to play a part in the story and compete for prizes.

Please encourage your son/daughter to become familiar with this series so as to participate in this great author talk sponsored again by our Arts in Education Committee. Our library has several copies of eight out of the ten books and we will be purchasing more. A flyer will be following to order books for your son/daughter’s library.

Our Shared Decision Making Team has been working hard to collect e-mails from every parent. If you have not done so, please call Lindsey @ 673-2030 or send in a note to your teacher with your e-mail address to receive messages from the district and Woodhull when all addresses are inputed.

Our Shared Decision Making Team is also planning to hang children’s art work in local store windows. Our children’s artistic talent under the direction of Mr. Hiscox is amazing and needs to be showcased. Please watch for it when you are shopping in town.

At our next PTA meeting on January 10th @ 7:30pm, our PTA President, Julie LaBella and the Board will have updates on the committees and board of education meetings. At 6:15pm on that same evening, we will have another informational “Parent University”. Angela Berner will be our guest speaker discussing the new English Language Arts Assessment.

The New York State ELA Assessments are scheduled for April 17, 18 and 19th. The NYS Math Assessment will be on April 25, 26 and 27th. Please be aware of these dates as we approach them and keep in mind that your child needs to be at school on time and well rested. A good healthy breakfast is always helpful too!

Please help your son/daughter to remember their homework, instruments and to remember you of after school activities. Students are lining up, placing phone calls each morning in the office for these reasons. As always thank you for your cooperation.

Congratulations to Matthew Hearl!
Matthew’s entry in Reflections photography category will be going on for judging at the State level. Great job Matthew.
**Music Department**

I would like to Congratulate all fifth and sixth grade choru members, including the four percussionists who played for us. It was a fabulous concert! The concert took place on Tuesday, December 13th at HHS. All students took on a great responsibility and demonstrated the highest level of professionalism as they sang their hearts out. The fifth and sixth grade combined finale was so powerful, it was the perfect way to end the concert and wish the audience a great holiday season! Chorus will resume in the middle of January with more information to come.

Mrs. Canales

Congratulations to both 5th and 6th grade chorus on a wonderful holiday performance! We also had many students entertaining the crowd at Woodhull’s Barnes & Noble Night. Please mark your calendar for our next event! The band and orchestra for both grades will present their Winter Concert on Thursday, January 19th.

We will be playing for the Woodhull students and staff during the school day and performing for family and friends at 7:30pm. The evening concert will be held at HHS. More detailed information for each performing group will be coming home in a letter soon.

Mrs. Adams

**5th Grade Chorus will resume the week of January 16th Tuesday and Friday @ 8:15am**

**6th Grade Chorus will resume the week of January 16th Monday and Thursday @ 8:15am**

**Physical Education News**

In the month of December, students will be involved in the following unit.....

**Soccer** At the end of this unit students will be able to demonstrate the following skills:
- Dribbling: Speed and Control
- Passing
- Shooting
- Side Line Soccer
- Game Like Situations

Early morning intramurals are over for the fall. Keep your eyes open for the spring intramural newsletter.

**Inclement Weather Stops**

Due to geographic nature of our area, when adverse weather and/or road conditions exist, we sometimes need to adjust the normal bus route. To better prepare you for such an occurrence, the district along with Huntington Coach has identified problem areas and determined alternate stops to be utilized when adverse conditions exist. These stops are called “Inclement Weather Stops.” A decision to use the inclement weather stops will be made as early as possible and announced on the following radio stations: WALK 97.5; WBLI 106.1; WCBS 880; WBZO 103. Drivers will do everything possible to make all other stops on their routes. However, due to road conditions beyond our control, there may be times drivers will be unable to reach other stops. The school and district transportation will do everything possible to notify parents of any changes.

**9th Period Enrichment**

Our students are actively engaged in enrichment activities for literacy and math every day. Please only pick up your child from school early in emergency situations.

**Attendance and Tardiness**

Please make sure your child is on time to school and here until dismissal. Attendance is taken throughout the day. The day is mapped out at 9:20am and at 3:35pm, the homework and packing up all needed materials is conducted. It is important for all students to be present. Thank you for helping us teach the importance of being here and ready to learn.

**Parents**

Would you mind checking your homes for any textbooks that may have not been handed in from previous years. We seem to be missing quite a few and would appreciate it if you could look around. You never know when a sibling has forgotten to return it. Thanks

**SEARCH Program News and HFEE Grant Program**

SEARCH Grade 5 is finishing up their Genetics unit. We will be extracting DNA from strawberries before vacation. January begins their unit in jurisprudence.

SEARCH Grade 6 is finishing their Shakespeare unit and reading through Julius Caesar. January 6th, each of the SEARCH classes will be scheduled for a 1 hour workshop in stage fight choreography. After this, we will begin our forensic science unit.

Math Olympiad classes are preparing for their next scheduled Math Meet, which will be held January 10th of 2012.

Grade 6 Express Yourself workshops (made possible by a HFEE funded Star Grant) are ongoing in each sixth grade classroom. The third of five sessions has been scheduled for January. Heather Thorgersen is teacher every class the cameras to film each group’s presentation for the purposes of evaluation and critiquing what improvements need to be made.