

THE PONY EXPRESS



Winter I 2013



Important Dates!!

12/17- Band Concert
6:00 PM @ SRHS

12/18- Ugly Sweater
Contest

12/23-1/3 Winter
Break, students re-
turn 1/6/14

1/6- PTO meeting @
6:30 in Library

1/15- Civil Rights
Assembly

1/17 -No School,
Teacher Training Day

1/20-No School, MLK
Day

1/24 Early Release
and Report Card Prep
@ 10:40

2/17- No School,
President's Day

2/25- Family Science
Night, 6:00-7:30 PM
in the Commons



From Mrs. Burns' Desk



Dear Parents,

Horse Heaven Hills Middle School has been busy and the year is really flying by!! I would like to inform parents of the following:

- * Congratulations to the **380** students who were on the Honor Roll for the first quarter. Your hard work and dedication shows in what you do!!
- * Mid-quarter progress reports will be mailed home on December 12th for those students receiving a D or F in any of their classes. First and Second quarter grades are averaged to produce the first semester grade. If your student fails semester classes, he/she will be placed on academic probation. Failure to improve grades at that point could result in mandatory summer school or retention in the same grade.
- * The Kennewick School District has placed a levy on the February 11th ballot to help the district continue to pay for many school activities and staff members not funded by the state. This includes : Music programs, librarians, security officers, counselors, and the many sports programs and clubs that our district provides for our students.
- * This holiday season, the best gift you can give your child is a good education. And the best place to get that education is in school. Every day. On time. (En estos días festivos, el mejor regalo que usted puede dar a su hijo es una buena educación. El mejor lugar para obtener esa educación es la escuela. Cada día. Con puntualidad)
- * A copy of the FERPA and Family Educational Act is enclosed in this Newsletter. Please take a moment to review this important information. If you do not want your student to be photographed or video taped, please stop by our office and complete a Media Denial form.
- * Our staff would like to wish you and your family a relaxing and safe holiday season. We look forward to seeing our students on January 6, 2014!

Sincerely,

Diana Burns
Principal

**Please Read!!!
PRIVACY ACT**

The Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 permits the Kennewick School District to release certain information known as "directory information," to certain people or institutions, unless parents request, in writing, that such information not be released.

In many cases, requests for this type of information come from news media or the armed forces for recruiting purposes. Directory information may include: 1) student name, address, and telephone number, 2) date and place of birth; 3) participation in officially recognized activities and sports; 4) weight and height of athletic team members; 5) dates of attendance; 6) photographs or other similar information. Photographs may occasionally be taken of students for use in the news media or school district publications.

Model Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

[Optional] Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the *School District* to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5920

[NOTE: In addition, a school may want to include its directory information public notice, as required by § 99.37 of the regulations, with its annual notification of rights under FERPA.]

Our H3MS drama production of:
 "The Little Town of Christmas" was huge hit!!!
 Applause to our Drama students and Drama Coaches
 (Mrs. Steinborn, Mrs. Simpson, and Mrs. Briggs)!!!
 The silent auction raised \$245.00 for our Drama club.
 Thank you so much to our many donors.
 Stay tuned for upcoming information for their Spring
 Production.



2013-2014 HHHMS UpComing Band Concert Dates: and Info:

The band concerts for this school year have been scheduled and are listed below. All concerts will be held in the **SRHS Auditorium**. In addition, students will have the opportunity to perform at the Region Solo/Ensemble event in February, and the 7th and 8th grade students will perform in the Region Band Festival in March (daytime event).

Winter Concert	December 17, 2013	6 pm
Spring Concert	March 13, 2014	7 pm
Final Concert	June 2, 2014	7 pm

Also, Congratulations to 8th grade H3MS Band student Patrick Porter, who was selected from hundreds of auditions to perform in the WMEA All-State Junior Honor Band on trombone. This honor band will be held in Yakima on President's Day weekend in February.

**Mark Your Calendars for Some Awesome
Horse Heaven Hills
Orchestra and Choir Performances!!!!**

**March 11th @ 7pm Orchestra and Choir
May 29th @ 7pm Orchestra Only**

All Concerts will be held @ SRHS and best of all they are free!!



PTO Corner!!!

The Halloween Boo Grams were very successful and the sales helped pay for the Family Math Night that was held this first week of December. Thank you to all of the parents and students!!

Next PTO Meeting will be 1/6/2014 @ 6:30 PM in the Library

The Horse Heaven Hills staff would like to say thank you to our PTO for the following support:

1. Providing a wonderful and delicious Taco Bar for our teachers during Student Conferences.
2. Purchasing lunches for our Math Students attending the 2013 "Inland Math Workshop" @ WSU (Pullman) in November

Nurse Bakker's Page



Vision and Hearing Screenings:

Mandated 7th grade vision and hearing screening has been completed. Students that did not pass the screening had referrals mailed to their home. Prompt attention to the referrals are appreciated. 6th grade and 8th grade students do not have their vision and hearing screened unless there is a notable concern.

We know about 80 % of what children learn is attained visually. Children with poor eyesight, have more difficulties in school with reading and how quickly they learn. If you are wondering whether your child is having vision difficulties, here are ten possible signs: 1) squinting, closing or covering one eye; 2) holding a book close to the face; 3) losing his/her place while reading; 4) headache, nausea or dizziness; 5) excessive clumsiness; 6) tilting the head to one side; 7) frequent daydreaming; 8) using a finger as a place mark while reading; 9) performing below potential; 10) rubbing eyes repeatedly.

Thank you,

Nurse Bakker

Kindly Reminders!!!!!!

- 1. Parents please make sure that our office is up to date on your student's emergency contact information (new cell/home phone numbers, address, authorized persons to pick up your child) is current.**
- 2. Please remember to call our attendance line at 222-6596 if your child is absent or will be absent**



Attention Parents of 8th Grade Students!!!

Out of District Transfer requests are now being accepted for students wanting to attend high school out of their home boundary. Forms may be picked up in the school office and must be submitted to the Kennewick School District Administrative offices by **January 31st**. Any requests submitted after this date will not be reviewed until late August.

Weather is changing!!!

Not sure if there is school today? You have a couple of options!!!

1. KSD offers a free text based service concerning school closures and information!! Please read on how to sign up today!!!

Parents and students wishing to receive Kennewick School District weather closure/delay announcements via text message or email can sign up by going to: <http://flashalert.net/news.html?id=2176>

When you get to that page, start the process by entering your email address and setting a password. Once the account is established, you may add one or two additional email or cell text addresses. Each new entry will require you to launch a test message to that address which will contain a three-letter code which must be entered back onto your account page to ensure that the address(es) are valid. If you already have an active account, you do not need to sign up again.

2. Listen/View local radio or television stations

3. Visit the KSD.org webpage (you will need to click your refresh button periodically as the page is updated) This information will be located on the Announcement section.

Please Do Not Call the School!!!!!!!!!!

Attention 8th Grade Parents!!!!!!!

We need to start planning a
Celebration for our 8th graders as they prepare to move on up to
High School...YIKES !!!

If you can, we would like to meet at
Swift Rehabilitation on December 16th At 6:30 PM located at 6917
W. Grandridge BLVD in Kennewick to starting planning this won-
derful event for our kids.....
If you have any questions, please feel free to send Caroline an e-mail
@ clynch@swiftrehab.com

Have You Purchased Your Students' Horse Heaven Hills Yearbook?????????

**The final day to purchase this year's yearbook is December 20th!!!
The cost is \$25.00 .**

No late orders are accepted and we do not purchase extra copies.

Winter Sports 2 Signups!!!

Girls Basketball and Wrestling sign ups are underway!
The fee is \$30.00. Students must have a KSD physical, purchased ASB, and turn in their paperwork.
Forms and money by 12/20/2013

Practices will begin on January 6th, 2014.
Game/Match Schedules have not yet been determined.

