

# The Dragon's Tale

Hamden Middle School  
Student & Family Newsletter



## FEBRUARY 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HMS PTA SPREAD THE LOVE				
<p>13 A3</p> <p>Early Dismissal (12 p.m.)</p> <p>Professional Learning</p>	<p>14 B3</p> <p><b>HMS School Spirit: Wear Pink &amp; Red</b></p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Anime Club Dungeons &amp; Dragon Mock Trial Rainbow Club</p> <p><b>Aladdin Jr. Musical Auditions</b></p>	<p>15 A4</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Card Club Diversity &amp; Equity Club Math Club</p>	<p>16 B4</p>	<p>17 A5</p> <p>Last Day for Retrieving Items in the Lost and Found!</p>
<p>20</p> <p>No School Presidents' Day</p>	<p>21 B5</p> <p><b>Team Stanton's Pancake Breakfast (8-9:30 a.m.)</b></p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Aladdin Jr. Rehearsal Anime Club Dungeons &amp; Dragon Mock Trial Newspaper Club Rainbow Club YES Club</p>	<p>22 A6</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Card Club Diversity &amp; Equity Club Math Club Student Council</p>	<p>23 B6</p> <p>Early Dismissal (12 p.m.)</p> <p>Professional Learning</p>	<p>24 A7</p> <p>Coffee Talk with Ms. Coogan, HMS PrincipAL (8:00 a.m.)</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Aladdin Jr. Rehearsal</p>
<p>27 B7</p> <p>Early Dismissal (12 p.m.)</p> <p>Professional Learning</p>	<p>28 A1</p> <p><u>After-School Programs</u> Office Hours Aladdin Jr. Rehearsal Anime Club Dungeons &amp; Dragon Gaming Club Mock Trial Rainbow Club Student A Team Yearbook Club</p>			



## HMS PTA HOST “SPREAD THE LOVE” WEEK

Show your appreciation to our HMS school community by helping spread the love to our teachers and classrooms, which in turn helps all of our children. Students can give donations directly to their Team Leader during the week of February 13th. Parents can also drop them off directly to teachers during Report Card Conferences on Tuesday, February 7th. We are suggesting donations of the following items:

★ **Monday 2/13:** Box of Tissues

★ **Tuesday 2/14:** Write a note and/or send in a token of appreciation to a special teacher or staff member

★ **Wednesday 2/15:** Pack of Pencils, Pens, Markers, or Colored Pencils

★ **Thursday 2/16:** Pack of Post It Notes, Highlighters, or Stickers

**Friday 2/17:** Hand sanitizer, band aids, or cleaning wipes

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## HEALTHY HEROES AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

HMS is partnering with Monitor My Health non-profit to provide after-school programming designed to support students with completing homework, learning health education tips and getting exercise. All students will also receive healthy and balanced meals prepared by a reputable Chef. All HMS students are eligible to enroll in this program. We can accommodate 100 participants. It will take place on Monday and Friday afternoons between 2:44 p.m.-5:15 p.m. The benefits of the program include improved academic performance, health literacy, and mental and physical health for both parents and students. Interested? Get your child's name on the waiting list by emailing Michelle Coogan at [mcoogan@hamden.org](mailto:mcoogan@hamden.org).

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## COFFEE TALK WITH MS. COOGAN, HMS PRINCIPAL

We can learn so much from each other. Let's embrace more opportunities to gather for conversation. Ms. Coogan will host interested parents on Friday, February 24th at 8:00 a.m. It is an opportunity to connect and share information. Parents must visit the main office to sign in and get a pass. We will gather in the library media center.

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## LAST CALL LOST AND FOUND

This week, all items retrieved in Lost and Found are on display in the main atrium. We will encourage students to look for their items. On Friday, February 17th, all remaining items will be donated to GoodWill.

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## VIEW OUR STUDENT NEWSPAPER: THE DRAGON'S POST

Our HMS Newspaper Club and its talented student contributors are thrilled to share their latest issue with you! [View the latest issue, the student-created website & all of The Dragon's Post issues here.](#)

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## HMS SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you following us on social media? We would love you to join us on FaceBook (Hamden Middle School), Twitter (@HMSDragons), and Instagram (hms\_dragons). You won't be disappointed!

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## HMS PTA PRESENTS A PAINT NIGHT FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

It is important that our students and their parents feel connected to other members of our school community. The HMS PTA is planning a special evening on Tuesday, March 14th. It is a special evening for students and a parent or guardian to participate in a Paint Night. We will send home additional information in future newsletters. Stay tuned!

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## **CHARGING FOR SCHOOL MEALS AT HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 1, 2023**

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 will be the last day for free school meals at Hamden Middle School. Charging for school meals will begin on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. A notification explaining this change was emailed to all households on January 10<sup>th</sup>. To see the notification and other pertinent information please visit [www.hamden.org/families/lunchmenu](http://www.hamden.org/families/lunchmenu) and click on your school. There, you will find information on applying for free and reduced-price meals, breakfast and lunch prices, the MySchoolBucks payment system, the meal charging policy, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). If you haven't yet applied for free or reduced-price meals, please visit [www.hamden.org/mealapplication](http://www.hamden.org/mealapplication) and do so now.

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## **STUDENT CELL PHONE POLICY REMINDERS**

Please remind your HMS student(s) about the current cell phone policy. Students must keep cell phones away during instructional time unless an adult requires the cell phone use as part of the classroom assignment and for educational purposes. Cell phones should not be visible during instructional time.

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## **YEARBOOK SALES**

Students are working with Ms. Bellmore to design the 2023 HMS Yearbook. It will feature all students, faculty and staff, and it will highlight the events of this year. It is time to order your yearbook by visiting [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com). Search for Hamden Middle School. The cost of the yearbook is \$30.00.

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## **THE HAPPINESS PROJECT: A BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN**

Calling all artists! HMS students are encouraged to create a visual piece designed to motivate and inspire others to make positive choices. Entries are due by March 1, 2023. **For more detailed information and an entry form, [CLICK HERE](#).**

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## **HPS VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARD**

<https://www.hamden.org/families/flyers>

We are often asked to share community flyers. Our district has created a virtual bulletin board for parents to visit and check out local news. Please click on the link above to review recent flyers.