



# HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## DECEMBER 2023

Houghton-Portage Township Schools

Volume 11, Issue 4

Mr. Cole Klein— Principal

Mr. Patrick Aldrich— Assistant Principal

### Houghton Elementary Winter Concert

Houghton Elementary School's Holiday concert will be on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. To accommodate all of our families and friends, we are holding the concert at varying times .

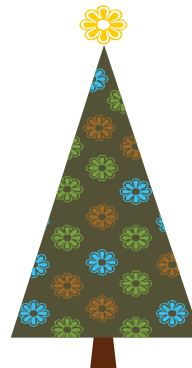
We will have Y5, K, and 1st grades at 9:30 am, 2nd and 3rd grades at 10:30 am, and 4th and

5th grades at 1:30 pm in the elementary school gym.

Family and friends are invited to attend their child's concert time. Please note that there is only one concert time for each grade this year.

Students are asked to dress nicely for the concert.

We also ask that you carpool with family or friends as we have limited parking space available.



### Upcoming Events

- December 7<sup>th</sup>— HES Winter Concert:  
Y/5, K, 1st @ 9:30am  
2nd & 3rd @ 10:30am  
4th & 5th @ 1:30pm
- December 8<sup>th</sup>—Pajama Day Fundraiser (\$1)
- December 15<sup>th</sup>—Jersey Day Fundraiser (\$1)
- December 19<sup>th</sup>— Last Day for Students
- January 3<sup>rd</sup>— Classes Resume
- January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>— Students Dismissed at 12:20 Both Days

### Winter Weather & Inside Recess

Winter is here! This is a good time to remind your child to come to school dressed appropriately for cold weather. Winter coats, snow pants, hats, boots and mittens should be the daily attire for all school children. Recess is great fun for those who are dressed warmly! Please make sure your child comes to school with all the

essential outerwear to enjoy the fun of winter. **Label each item with your child's name!**

We will have inside recess on days that the temperature or wind chill fall below 0 degrees.



Please check our "Lost and Found" located outside the cafeteria before Holiday Break. Anything left will be donated to local charities.



Please slow down in the parking lot when dropping off or picking up students.



## Streaming our Holiday Concert

For parents and grandparents who are unable to make it to the Holiday Concert to watch, we will be live-streaming the concert on Facebook Live. You do not need a Facebook account to access this. Search for the Houghton Elementary School Facebook page.



## Virtual Giving Tree

The HES PTO has set up a virtual Giving Tree for HES Teachers. Visit the Houghton Elementary School PTO Facebook page for more info!



## November TEAM Students of the Month

Every month we are recognizing a student in each class that exemplifies our schools TEAM goals:

**Take Responsibility**

**Earn Respect**

**Act Positively**

**Make it Safe**

These students will enjoy a snack with the principal and receive a certificate. Our November honorees are:

**Young 5's:** Miya Cramer

**K:** Kennedy Vandiver, Ethan Wu, Leo Luoma, Lexi Bustos,

Owen Seppala

**1st:** Ethan Chong, Ben Crowley, Alivia Pihlaja, Yinghao Jiang,

Theo Sams

**2nd:** Vera Ison, Andrew Fungura,

Sam Kass, Brooklyn Gunnari,

**3rd:** Henry Sjoholm Sweitz, Calum Stancher, Morgan Lubinski, Brandon Jukkala,

Susanna Narwold,

**4th:** Anja Chopp, Maci Locatelli,

Layne Massaway, Claire Hillstrom,

**5th:** Kaari Tormala, Josie Haataja, Bentli Bain, Elliot Schwass, Audrey Konkel

**Congratulations!!!**

**TEAM Students**



## Counselor's Corner

Micah Stipech

Hope is as vital as oxygen for your brain. Neuroscientists are investigating the **science of hope**. It turns out that a feeling of hopefulness changes your brain. Your brain pumps chemicals when experiencing the sensation of hope. These chemicals can block pain and accelerate healing. Hope, which involves belief and expectation, cause the brain to release neurochemicals called endorphins and enkephalins which actually mimic the effects of morphine. The result is that the brain can overcome hurdles and move to a place of recovery. In scientific terms, hope and recovery are not causally connected, but they are correlated.

What is one simple thing parents can do to foster hope in children? Tell and read stories that instill a feeling of hope. Peo-

ple have done this forever. The tougher the circumstances, the more humans have told stories of hope and resilience. Stories are the #1 brain state changer on the planet! Stories do far more than entertain.

Neuroscientists believe that our brains are wired for stories. Stories captivate the brain. They release emotions that are inextricably tied to those of the story's characters. Brain scientists call this "narrative transport".] Story telling has become a casualty of our busy, hectic pace of life. Tell stories about our lives, lives of others and make believe stories. Parents, leaders, teachers....everyone needs to lay off the text messages and tell more stories!

# Attendance Matters!

Please check out the bulletin board in the main office. We will be tracking grade levels attendance rates with percent of students who were chronically absent or tardy in the month. This is usually 3 absences or tardies in the month. We want to encourage all families to have students in school on time. We know this will make a big difference!



**Did You Know?**  
 A student is chronically absent if he or she misses as few as **two days** of school a month.  
**2 DAYS PER MONTH x 9 MONTHS = CHRONIC ABSENCE**

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

There are an estimated 5–7.5 million students in the United States who are chronically absent from school.

Chronic absenteeism hurts students in a variety of ways as they progress through their school career, starting with kindergarten.

**DEFINITIONS:**  
**Chronic Absence** – Missing 2 days each month, totaling 18 days, equals 10% of the school year  
**Good Attendance** – Missing 9 days or less in a school year (5%)

