



DATES TO REMEMBER:

MON, FEB 15
PARENT/TEACHER
CONFERENCES

FRI, FEB 19
NO SCHOOL

THURS, MARCH 24,
FRI, MARCH 25,
MON, MARCH 28
NO SCHOOL
SPRING BREAK

TUE, APRIL 5
SCHOOL BOARD
ELECTION

THUR, APRIL 14
EDUCATION FAIR
(EVENING)

Tiger Nation News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2016

We're Back!

As the Superintendent of the School District of Hillsboro, I am pleased to announce that we are re-introducing the school newsletter. After about 12 years of not publishing a newsletter, we have decided to reintroduce it in a different format. Our goal is to provide updates on what happens inside the school day and with our afterschool activities through quarterly newsletters. One change we are making is that there will be a limited number of traditional printed copies available to the community. We will place these at various businesses around town. Will also have the newsletters available and archived on our school website (www.hillsboro.k12.wi.us). If you would prefer to have a copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please send an email to social.media@hillsboroschools.org.

Our hope is that this newsletter will provide a better understanding of the day-to-day activities of the schools, students, and teachers.

Curt Bisarek
Hillsboro Schools
Superintendent



1:1 Chromebooks...How's it Going?

This school year, each student in grades 4-12 have access to their own school-issued Chromebook. In grades 7-12, students are allowed to take the Chromebooks with them from class to class and can even take them home. This movement is known as 1:1 (one to one), and moves our students into the 21st century age of technology at our fingertips.

At different grade levels, the Chromebooks are used differ-

ently. For example, in 5th grade, Chromebooks are used for research and individual presentation projects, to access daily news stories and also to help differentiate weekly spelling lists. At the middle school level, students in some classes use their Chromebooks for daily assignments and are close to being "paperless". This is similar at the high school level and is even expanded to include using online textbooks.

All students in grades 3-12 have school email. Students are now used to teachers sending assignments and reminders via email.

In all cases, the technology is a learning tool and is not the sole source of curriculum resources. Our teachers are still our most valuable resource!

What do the Students Think?

"My chromebook has made my schooling less paper and pencil and more technology based. It has allowed our classes to use computers all the time instead of just on special occasions. "

"A benefit is being able to access and do my work anywhere. "

"Chromebooks have changed how I do school work by helping me focus better. I personally know that I work better when I use a computer rather than writing something. "

"We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher's hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world."

-David Warlick

The "New" Math

As we move deeper into the common core standards in math, some of you may have noticed that your children's homework looks a little different than it did when you were in school. The standards require a deeper knowledge of each concept than was previously expected. Students are required to not only memorize and calculate answers, but also to choose the best mathematical concept or equation to solve real-world problems. They often have to explain in words, pictures or diagrams how they arrived at an answer or why the method they chose is reasonable.

The end result is students who are much more prepared to succeed when they encounter higher level math and complex problem solving situations. They are trained to be critical thinkers and problem solvers, which in turn will prepare them for jobs in our 21st century society.

Genius Hour with Mr. Koopman

Students in Mr. Koopman's 8th grade language arts class have been participating in on-going projects this year during a time known as "Genius Hour". The concept of Genius Hour comes from search-engine giant, Google. Google allows its engineers to spend 20% of their time working on a pet project of their choosing. The concept is very straight-forward; allow people to work on something that interests them and productivity will go up. Google reports that the policy has been hugely successful in that

50% of their new products have sprung from this creative time.

Transferring this concept to the classroom, Mr. Koopman's students brainstorm and pitch their ideas to the class. They blog about their progress. Near the end of the semester, students will present their projects and outcomes to the entire class.



Mitch Huntley and Billy Filler's Genius Hour idea - Fort Competition between 4th and 5th graders. Fourth graders won!



Chris Koopman
Middle School Language Arts
Instructor

Council Café Open for Business

Students and staff at Hillsboro HS and MS have a morning option for hot drinks thanks to a new business called the "Council Café". Organized and run by the HHS Student Council, the café serves coffee, hot chocolate, hot apple cider and chai tea every day before school from 7:30-8:00. The café was the brainchild of student council members who surveyed the school popula-

tion for input. The idea was instantly popular. Federal guidelines for nutrition standards must be followed in the café, which gives students real-world challenges associated with running a business. Students and staff may purchase beverages for \$1.00 each or at a discounted rate of \$.50 if they bring their own mug or K-cup.



Students enjoying some morning beverages at the Council Cafe





Music Notes

Check out all the happenings in the Hillsboro Music Department

Jan. 18– Feb. 9	Annual Butter Braid Sales
Fri., January 29	Choir Soup/Sandwich Dinner
Wed., Feb. 24	Concert Festival @ Hillsboro
Thurs., Feb. 25	3:30-5 pm Butter Braid Delivery
Mon., Feb. 29	MS/HS Band/Choir Concert
Tues., March 8	Honors Choir
Tues., March 22	Large Ensemble @ Hillsboro
Sat., April 2	Dist. Solo & Ensemble @ Hillsboro
Mon., May 23	HS Band/Choir Fine Arts Concert
Tues., May 24	MS Band/Choir Fine Arts Concert
June 12 – 18	HHS Choir trip to Florida



Elliot Rittenberry
Instrumental Music
Instructor



Paula Parker
Vocal Music
Instructor

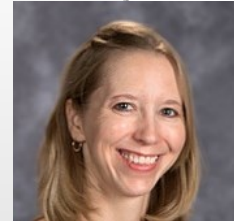
HHS Forensics Calendar

Subdistrict Contest at Bangor
Monday, February 8



Sonia Clarson
Forensics Coach

District Contest at UW-LaCrosse
Saturday, March 12



Erin Hora
Forensics Coach

State Contest at UW-Madison
Friday, April 15

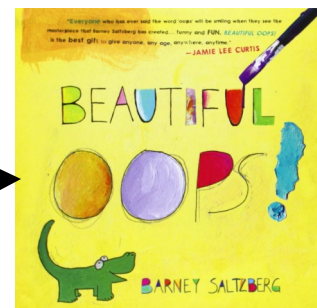
Art Corner



High School Art Club
members checked out
the Farm D'Art Tour this



Elementary students were treated to a visit
by author and illustrator Barney Saltzberg.
Students practiced his creative techniques
in class with Mrs. Johnson. The visit was
sponsored by Title I and Tiger Pride.



Emma Sebranek, 7th grader, with
her winning poster for the Lion's
Club Peace Poster

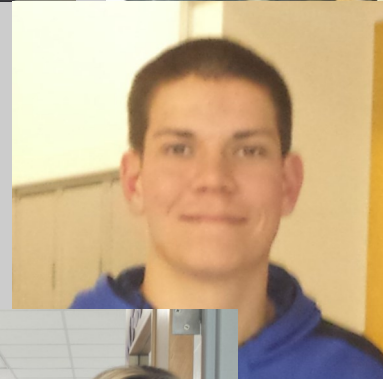


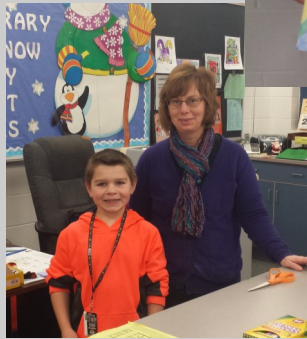
Julie Johnson
Art Instructor





Tiger Photo Gallery





Respectful, Responsible, Safe, That's the Tiger Way!

The Tiger Way refers to our school wide system of behavior expectations. At Hillsboro Schools we are implementing a program called PBIS, or **P**ositive **B**ehavior **I**nterventions and **S**upports. PBIS focuses on teaching expected behaviors and reinforcing them in a positive way. One of the ways we recognize students who exhibit good behavior is by giving them Tiger Paws. Tiger Paws are put up in the hallway and at the end of the week, students who earned Tiger Paws are put in a drawing to win a certificate to the school store. We also have school wide celebrations when students collectively meet goals, like earning 1000 Tiger Paws. We then have a school wide celebration like having a pajama day, extra recess or a dance party!

The benefits of PBIS are many. My favorite part is the 'P' in PBIS, for Positive. This system focuses on what students are doing right. Reinforcing expected behavior instead of punishing unwanted behavior is much more proactive and can be just as effective. This goes a long way in creating a safe and positive learning environment. There are still consequences for unwanted behaviors and phone calls home to parents. Consistent consequences and communication with students and parents about behavior is really important. In fact, this is where the 'I' and the 'S' come in. If students are struggling with making good choices, we want to provide them with support to make better choices.

We created our behavioral expectations around three central themes, Respectful, Responsible and Safe. Teachers work with students at the beginning of the school year to see how our classroom and school rules fit into these main themes. For example, it's respectful to raise your hand before speaking in the classroom and safe to walk in the hallways.

By working together, we create a consistent, safe and positive environment at school for all students. If you would like to know more about PBIS or how you can be involved, please contact me.

Cara Wood, Principal
cara.wood@hillsboroschools.org



Students showing off our
PBIS Tiger Paw Wall

The Hillsboro School District's professional staff, PreK-12, works yearly to revise and update curriculum. The following chart indicates the cycle of this continuous improvement according to subject area as well as indicating new courses offered at our high school this year. Also noted is our community curriculum advisory committee. This committee meets to share ideas from varying perspectives to help with this improvement process.

Please don't hesitate to contact Terri Fanta (608-489-2221 or email, terri.fanta@hillsboroschools.org), curriculum director, with any concerns, information and/or ideas to help us with this process.



Terri Fanta
Curriculum Coordinator

CURRICULUM

- **Cycle of Continuous Improvement**

2015-16	ELA (English Language Arts) - Revision
	Math, Science, Technology - Draft
	Tech Ed, Agriculture, Business Ed, Foreign Language - Draft
	Music, Art, PE, Health - Draft
2016-17	Math, Science, Technology - Revision
	Tech Ed, Agriculture, Business Ed, Foreign Language - Revision
	Music, Art, PE, Health - Revision
2017-18	Social Studies - Draft
2018-19	Social Studies - Revision
	ELA - Revision
2019-20	Math, Science, Technology - Revision
	Tech Ed, Agriculture, Business Ed, Foreign Language - Revision
	Music, Art, PE, Health - Revision

Pulitzer Prize winning author,

Leonard Pitts, Jr. "visits" Students

Juniors and seniors had the opportunity to visit with author Leonard Pitts, Jr. via Skype on Monday, January 25. Pitts is a nationally syndicated columnist and novelist who has won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary. During his visit, he discussed many aspects of his career, such as what inspires him, what he loves about his career, dealing with criticism, and what an average day for him is like.



Leonard Pitts, Jr.

English teacher, Erin Hora, commented about how exciting it was to have an author of his caliber visit with her students. Prior to his visit, students read and discussed several of Pitts' articles to get an idea of his style, tone, and subject matter. Students prepared questions prior to his visit and the majority of his discussion was answering those questions.

Plus One Still Going Strong

Plus One, our elementary afterschool program, is in its fourth year. This year, we have over 100 students in grades K-5 participating in the program. Students come to Plus One after school Monday-Thursday. They receive a snack, get to go outside for a recess and then come in to work on homework and reading and math skills. We cap off each night with 45 minutes of enrichment time. This time includes various activities including clubs, Zumba, guest speakers, crafts and much more. Plus One is free for participants and is funded by a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. For information about the program, contact Linda Bisarek, program coordinator.



Plus One students enjoying a reading visit from the varsity basketball team.



Linda Bisarek
Plus One Coordinator

PBIS Kicks off at Hillsboro Middle School and High School

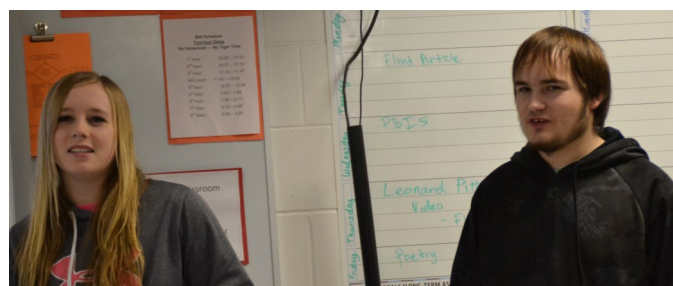
On Wednesday, January 27, middle and high school students participated in the kickoff event for PBIS (Positive Intervention Behavior and Supports). PBIS is a system that enforces positive behavior and expectations throughout the school in various areas and situations. Seniors were the major presenters in the different areas. The day of events was capped off with a ComedySportz presentation enjoyed by the entire student body.



RESPECTFUL



RESPONSIBLE



SAFE

Reflections

By Greg Zimmerman

In August 1985 I started my career in education as a first-year Social Studies and Foreign Language instructor. This building looks somewhat the same (except for the paint in the hallways) as it did then. There are only a few of us left from that school year (1985-1986). Mr. Moe was the Junior High Science teacher (and he was the Athletic Director then, too). Mrs. Theis and Mrs. Verbsky worked in this building as classroom aides. Mr. Lambries was the vocal music teacher (he is now a classroom aide).

For nine years (1985-1994), I served as a classroom teacher; I also coached basketball for seven years (six as the varsity boys' head coach) and baseball for three years. Now it is 2016, and in my thirty-first year of education, I have decided to "retire" as an educator from the Hillsboro School District where it all began for me. I am using this opportunity to reflect on my thirty-one years as an educator.

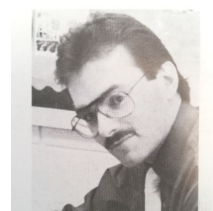
When I arrived in Hillsboro over thirty years ago, I had a good feeling about teaching here. I was a "small town guy" anyway. I grew up in Neillsville, Wisconsin, population, 2,750, about 90 miles north of Hillsboro. At Neillsville, I was absorbed in athletics; at that time, in the 1970s, what else could you do in a small town? I was a "gym rat"; whenever the teachers and coaches at the school called me to play basketball, I dropped everything and went. We had a golf course only two blocks from my home, and when I was ten years old, my father bought a family membership at the golf course and then gave me a set of used golf clubs. The golf course became my "babysitter" every summer. Those sports became my favorites, and sports, in general, have held a high regard in my life.

With each year I taught, I realized that Hillsboro had become my "second hometown." Kristi and I noticed this especially in 1991 when we bought our first home at 623 Mill Street – we felt that people accepted more than, as citizens of Hillsboro. Three of our four children were born here at St. Joseph's Hospital (now Gundersen Lutheran) – Dr. Steven Dorow delivered all three.

On Memorial Day weekend of 1994, my wife, Kristi, and I moved our three children (Garrett, 3; Gavin, 1 ½; and Marlina, 3 months old) up to Frederic, Wisconsin where I started the next phase of my educational career as the principal of Frederic Middle/High School. When Kristi and I share our memories on this decision, we both feel like we had lost our minds! Moving a young family about 300 miles away from Hillsboro was almost insane! After one school year in Frederic, I took a position as the principal at Osceola Middle School in Osceola, Wisconsin. In April 2001, six years later, I accepted the position as principal here at Hillsboro; thus, in June 2001, Kristi and I moved our family (Garrett, 11; Gavin, 8; Marlina, 7; and Jade, 4) back here to Hillsboro.

use our classroom phone or send an email to contact the office or another classroom. Cell phones permit us to contact the office if we are outside of the building; however, cell phones have become a distraction for all of us (and not just students)!

Then



In the last thirty years, education has changed drastically; however, technology has made the greatest impact on education. In 1985, we had one large copy machine that was housed in the teacher's lounge (which was where Mr. Thompson now has his technology director's office). I thought that this copy machine was top shelf compared to the "ditto machine" I used at Amery High School where I was an intern teacher. With a ditto machine, we had to type on a carbon copy using a manual or electric typewriter and then run the "master" through the machine to make copies. We did not want to make a mistake on the carbon; if we did, we would have to start all over again! Computers allow us to create documents that we can either print off or attach and send by email to teachers and students. In this school building, we had a metal clip attached to the wall outside of our classroom door where we teachers had to place our attendance slips every hour (attendance is entered by computer now). If we had to contact the office, we had to use an intercom button in the room (these buttons are still there!). Today, we can use our classroom phone or send an email to contact the office or another classroom. Cell phones permit us to contact the office if we are outside of the building; however, cell phones have become a distraction for all of us (and not just students)!

In 1985, almost half of all Hillsboro students lived on a family farm – family structure here (and all over Wisconsin) has changed. The small family farm was common then; the farm families could milk 40-50 cows and live comfortably. We had a late bus that picked up student-athletes after practice at 5:30 and took them home so that they could help their parents complete farm chores. Today, many of those family farms do not exist. This has also affected our school enrollment (it has declined greatly).

As a rookie teacher in 1985, I recall listening to Mrs. Schroeder and Mrs. Brady, two veteran teachers, talk about students and their families and who was related to whom – I never pictured myself ever knowing family lineages and conversing the way they did. I now find that I am the same way! It happens when you have students who are children of your former students! I have that history that Mrs. Schroeder and Mrs. Brady had back then. It feels ironic and eerie; yet, as we often profess as Social Studies teachers, "History repeats itself."

Educators realize that in order to teach and coach effectively, they have to build relationships with their students. The students I taught and coached my first nine years here hold a special place in my heart – I now know them as friends and consider their spouses and children as a part of my extended family. In my last fifteen years, I have fond memories of the student-athletes I have coached and the classmates of my children – they are a part of that second wave of extended family. Seeing the HHS alumni who stop at the office, come to ballgames or play at the Alumni tournament is always special.

On the first day of school – September 1st – this year, I met with the Class of 2016. At that meeting, I informed the students that the current school year is my last. I noticed many shocked looks in the eyes of my Seniors. I then assured them that we were all going out together; in fact, I joked to them that when I had shared this retirement news with a good friend of mine, he pointed out to me, "So, you are finally going to graduate from high school!"

Yes, this 54-year-old "kid" is finally graduating from high school.





Hillsboro Excellence in Education Foundation

Kwik Trip gift cards help the Hillsboro EIE fund by contributing to our scholarships and grants. So far, the total profit from cards has been \$17,447.24!

Pick up a few and help out a super cause.

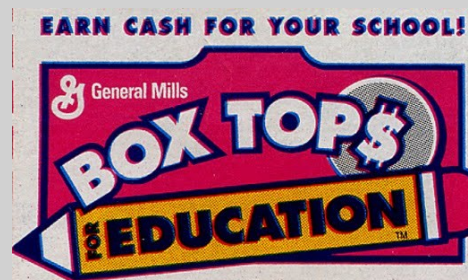
Cards can be purchased at Farmer's State Bank, Hillsboro Elementary School and Hillsboro High School.

Elementary Field Trips

Yes, we still take field trips!

Here are the trips we traditionally take each year:

- PK—Mitchell Dairy Farm
- Kindergarten—Rafel Horse Farm
- 1st Grade—Circus World
- 2nd Grade—Wisconsin Dells Waterpark
- 3rd Grade—International Crane Foundation, Devil's Lake State Park
- 4th Grade—State Capitol, Viroqua Safety Days
- 5th Grade—Wisconsin Dells Boat Ride and another Dells attraction



Do your Homework!

Even if you're not in school, you can still help us by doing some homework. We collect several different labels and items and can always use your help. Here's a list of the things we collect:



Campbell's Soup UPC's
 Pepperidge Farm UPC's
 Goldfish UPC's
 Bic UPC's
 Prego UPC's
 V8 UPC's
 Swanson UPC's
 Kwik Trip Milk Moola Caps
 Kwik Trip strips from plastic milk bags
 General Mills "Box Top" symbols
 Country Hearth/Village Hearth Bread UPC's
 Our Family UPC's
 Tyson "Support Your School" Symbols
 Used Cell Phones
 Used Printer Cartridges
 Used iPods, MP3 Players, Handheld Games, laptops
 GPS devices
 Digital Cameras



Drop off locations include the elementary school, Farmer's State Bank and Royal Bank



Mrs. Hora
Our Collection Queen





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HILLSBORO
Learn, Achieve, Succeed

How to Stay in touch:

Hillsboro Elementary School

608-489-2221

Hillsboro Middle School

608-489-2224

Hillsboro High School

608-489-2224

Website:

www.hillsboro.k12.wi.us

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hillsboro-School-District-WI-183273035018442/timeline/>

Twitter:

#HSDGoTigers

(our Twitter feed can also be seen on the school website)

Email:

firstname.lastname@hillsboroschools.org

For example: