NEW THIS WEEK...

**WORLD OF DIFFERENCE LESSONS:** Thursday, February 27, during Periods 3, 5, and 6, peer leaders will be conducting lessons to Grade 9 history classes. WoD leaders are aware they need to make up for all missed assignments.

**SHOUTOUT TO THE HVHS BAND:** Tomorrow they are heading out to Orlando, Florida, to perform in the Magic Kingdom! Have a GREAT time Kep and crew!!!

**NOTICE TO JUNIORS/PROM DECORATING COMMITTEE:** Juniors will start meeting with Mrs. Koczela on Mondays after school, starting Monday, March 2. All juniors are welcome to join the committee. REMINDER to get dues paid ($50 per year = $200). Notices were sent home to families.

Molly and I were in for it after the Kindness cards were distributed!

Hoosac Valley High School 2019-2020

Words from Byrd: Week ending 2.14.2020 Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Empathy = Hoosac PRIDE
**LIVE OUT LOUD CONFERENCE:** See the flier below.

**SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTIVE SCREENING:** Please read the note from our nurse; it’s located at the end of this document.

**CALENDAR of EVENTS for STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

**February 24:** Classes resume. The high school opens at 7 a.m.

**February 28:** Progress reports are going home at the end of the day. You’ll notice next year’s course recommendations from your child’s teacher.

**March 13 - 14:** OKLAHOMA! Musical, 6 p.m. in the HVHMS Auditorium.

**March 18:** FULL Teacher In-Service Day. NO SCHOOL for students.

**March 24-25:** MCAS Grade 10 ELA -- Please encourage your students to come to school on time and to have a good breakfast (or get a great breakfast here at school).

**March 27:** SCIENCE Fair, Grade 8 (more information to follow).

**April 3:** END of Quarter 3. Grades close.

**April 10:** QUARTER 3 Report Cards Distributed.

**THINGS WE WANT YOU TO REMEMBER**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER RE: HANDICAPPED PARKING:** We have designated handicapped parking spaces in both parking areas of our school. Folks parking in those areas MUST have a valid handicapped placard. In addition, the driveway between the gyms and the cafeteria is not a dropoff area. Those handicapped parking areas are being blocked by cars pulling in and out. PLEASE drop your children off at the start of the walkway or in the parent dropoff, which will allow you to follow the natural loop around and out of the parking lot. You will start noticing folks directing traffic in that area.

**BARRINGTON STAGE IS CALLING ALL ACTORS:** They are currently casting for Barrington Stage Company’s Youth Theatre production of the Ty Allan Jackson novel, *SupaDupa Kid*, which was adapted into a musical. “Javon Williams was just a normal kid until a freak accident gave him amazing superpowers. The only problem? The neighborhood bully, Hoody, acquired his own superpowers and is using them to terrorize the city! Javon attempts to save the city by becoming... The Supadupa Kid! All
young people are invited to audition, no performance experience necessary. Please prepare a 2-minute contemporary song to show your personality. Bring sheet music or a karaoke track to perform with. Rehearsals are Monday - Saturday from July 6-29 (Sundays are off). Performances are July 30-August 9 in the afternoons and early evenings. EMAIL them at education@barringrtonstageco.org or call 413-499-5445 x112 to schedule an audition time.

**SAT PREP:** Check out Kaplan Test Prep. Now through January 31, you can sign up to receive 6 months of access to the SAT Prep on Demand Course. Use promo code KAPFRIENDS at checkout. *Note: be sure to type in the code at checkout, as copy/paste may result in an error. This course is a flexible program that can be completed within a month; however, this offer gives you 6 months of access. It includes over 50 instructional videos, 1,000’s of practice questions, quizzes, and more. Plus, if you answer questions wrong on a quiz, you can watch a video of how to get the correct answer.
Dear Parent or Guardian,

All Massachusetts public schools must include a verbal substance use preventive screening as part of their yearly mandated universal health-screening programs. Our district will use the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) protocol with students in grades (7 & 9). Students will be asked 4 questions in private. Then there will be a one-on-one conversation between each student and a school nurse or counselor. The purpose of this effort is to prevent, or at least delay, alcohol, marijuana or other drug use. The SBIRT program reinforces healthy decisions and addresses concerns about substance use to improve health, safety and success in school.

We will use the CRAFFT II screening tool, the most commonly used substance use screening tool for adolescents. All screenings will be held in private one-on-one sessions with one of the specially trained nurses or counselors. Students who are not using substances will have their healthy choices reinforced. When any student reports using alcohol or other drugs, or seems at risk for future substance use, the screener will ask 5 more questions, provide brief feedback, and have a brief conversation with that student.

- What your child tells the screener is confidential and will not be shared with any other person without prior written consent of the student, parent, or guardian, except in cases of immediate medical emergency or where disclosure is otherwise required by state law.
- No written record of the results of this verbal screening are kept with information that identifies any individual student.
- Screening results will not be put with any other information that identifies any child.
- Screening results will not be included in your child’s school record.

If you want to opt your child out of the screening, you can write to us any time before the screening. Your child may also opt out at the time of the screening. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, or if you would like your child to opt-out of the screening.

Together, schools and parents CAN make a difference for the youth in our community. One way to prevent youth alcohol and other drug use is to talk with your child about your thoughts and expectations about alcohol and drug use. You can view the CRAFFT II tool and other SBIRT resources on www.masbirt.org/schools website.

Regards,

School Principal