PERSEVERANCE, RESPECT, INTEGRITY, DIVERSITY, EMPATHY = HOOSAC PRIDE

NEW THIS WEEK...

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.
REPORT CARDS: Report cards were sent home on Wednesday, February 5, with ALL students. Sorry for the delay and the “glitch.”

START WITH HELLO WEEK:
Our Start With Hello week was a great success! We had parents, community members and staff welcome students on their way into school each day this week. At lunch, we offered activities, which would encourage participation and connection WITHOUT phones. Monday was communication icebreakers, Tuesday was coloring, Wednesday was hoop shoots, Thursday was TikToks and Friday we had DJ Xavier at lunch spinning tunes and lots of kids got up and danced! Also... our Connection Card was a huge success so it looks like Monday there will be some whipped cream pies being `tossed” at administrators! Thanks to everyone who participated.

DO YOU WANT TO CREATE CHANGE? Scholastic is offering Civics and ELA activities to 7-12 graders to create CHANGE! Does your son or daughter have a passion for writing? Inspire them to take civics into the real world by researching and writing a 2- to 30- page persuasive essay about how they can address a community issue by running for office. Three student winners from grades 7 and 8, and three student winners from grades 9-12 will each receive a $1,000 grant and a NEW laptop to empower them as they enact community change. Get more information by visiting Scholastic.com

SENIOR LEAGUE BASKETBALL (Church League) will hold pickup games on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for Grades 9-12 in the Hoosac Valley Middle School gym, starting February 16 through March 15. Get the word out! Players should arrive 30
minutes in advance to fill out paperwork: there is no charge for week 1. Questions? Contact William Greene at bbcgreene@gmail.com or you can check out the Facebook page.

**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.

**CALENDAR of EVENTS for STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

**February 17-21:** Winter vacation week. No School.

**February 28:** Progress reports will be sent home with your students. Those reports will include teacher recommendations for next year.

**THINGS WE WANT YOU TO REMEMBER**

**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.