



Hoosac Valley High School 2018-2019

Words from Byrd: Week ending 12.7.18

NEW THIS WEEK...

Our Athletic Leadership Council students are at it again! Victoria Alibozek and Sam Larabee are at the forefront of the **Tree of Gratitude Project**, which starts next week and runs through December 20. The plan is to cover the tree in our shared atrium with notes of gratitude from students at Hoosac Valley Middle and High School. Homeroom teachers will hand out paper ornaments for students to color and list things or people they are grateful for, and then they will hang those on the tree! **This is one more way we are showing our Hoosac PRIDE!**



The Annual Art Hathaway Dinner was a huge success. More than 150 elderly residents from Adams, Cheshire, and Savoy turned out for the annual dinner, hosted by members of HVHS Student Council. The jazz band played festive tunes, while the chorus sang along. Many gifts were distributed by Santa, and it seemed like fun was had by all. The picture above is some of the students, who volunteered to serve food, drinks, and dessert. Thank you to co-advisors Courtney Keefe and Tammie Shafer for keeping this tradition alive.

PRIDE RALLY: Tuesday, December 11 at 7 p.m. Our first PRIDE rally of the year kicks off Tuesday night! We are set to announce students, staff, parents, and community members, who embody Hoosac PRIDE (perseverance, respect, integrity, diversity, and empathy). Please join us in the auditorium; guests will hear from former student, David Bailot, current students, admin, and others as we honor our tradition. All are welcome to attend; students, staff, family and community recipients received invitations.

TALENT SHOW: Saturday, December 15, starting at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium: Come enjoy the talents of some of our students and staff. It's going to be a blast! Tickets are only \$5 each and can be purchased at the door. Proceeds benefit the Class of 2020.

Shout out to Blair Mahar. Blair received a \$2,000 grant to support the wood shop class. He was one of only six teachers to receive the award (17 applied in Berkshire and Columbia Counties). The money will be used to purchase tools and safety equipment for his class. Blair said, he wants to teach “lifelong skills such as teamwork, attention to detail, delayed gratification, problem solving, and work ethic.” YEAH, Blair! Congrats.

FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT and the SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR

AP FEES DUE: final reminder. The cost is \$93 for each course your student is taking. If you feel your student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, please contact Mrs. Lane by emailing lanej@acrsd.net or by calling 743-5200 x5009.

Jan. 1 and Jan. 15 college deadlines are coming up. Seniors... stay on track and make sure everything is sent in on time. Check in with your counselor if you have any questions.

“What you can do to avoid or minimize holiday stress inducers” presented by the American Psychological Association. Families can check it out at this website: <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/holiday-stress.aspx>

FOR YOUR PLANNING PURPOSES

December 7

Blacklight Dance tonight at 7 p.m. to benefit the Class of 2019. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

December 15

Talent Show: 6 p.m. HVHS Auditorium. Tickets: \$5 each. Benefits the Class of 2020.

December 18

Holiday sweater contest for students and staff. Winners announced at the end of the day. Prizes will be awarded for 1. Prettiest ugly sweater, 2. Best duo, 3. Most festive, 4. Most effort.

December 20

Holiday Concert in the Auditorium, 7 p.m. See Keplinger for details.

December 21

Half-Day: Dismissal at 10:40 a.m. Winter break begins. Classes resume on January 2, 2019.

WE STILL WANT YOU TO KNOW...

On Tuesday, November 6, the Hoosac Valley faculty brought back the tenets of Hoosac Valley Pride. **December is PERSEVERANCE month.** The definition of perseverance is “persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.” Here at Hoosac Valley we understand that failure is a part of life, and we want to focus on the skills needed to be successful at Hoosac and beyond. Students should expect to see daily quotes, announcements, and a mention of perseverance through daily curriculum, etc.

Safety update: Families, staff members, community members, etc. are reminded to park in designated parking areas throughout our campus. State Police are working with administration to construct a Medical Emergency Response Plan, and they were very clear that parking in “no parking” areas, handicapped areas (without the proper tag), or parking in the bus loop will result in ticketing and towing.

Tutoring Center: The HVHS tutoring center is open to all students grades 8-12 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 2 p.m. until the late bus (3p.m. ish) in Ms. Reeves' Room 303. National Honor Society students are working with the peers in all subject areas.

New Entry Procedures: You may have noticed new entry procedures to Hoosac Valley Middle and High School. **ALL** *visitors* must check in with the middle school office staff to receive a pass and be called in to the high-school side. If you have specific questions, please contact me at byrde@acrsd.net. **Dropping off items?** No need to sign in. You may drop those off in the first office, and those things will be delivered to the high school. Thank you!