

Mr. Jenkins' science class celebrates its completion of "Mr. Rock Tells a Story."

## Hoosac Valley High School 2018-2019

### Words from Byrd: Week ending 3.1.19

**Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Empathy represent Hoosac PRIDE**

**March is DIVERSITY month.**

**"Ultimately, America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity."**

#### **NEW THIS WEEK...**

**Progress Report #3 Distributed:** Quarter 3 progress reports were sent home today with your students. You'll notice teacher recommendations on this report for the 2019-2020 school year. Please review these recommendations with your child(ren) and contact us if you have any questions.

**UNSAFE Behavior in the Restrooms:** Parents and guardians, we have been experiencing issues in the girls and boys' restrooms throughout the school. Some issues include: some students are using vapes/juuling, some students are vandalizing

the restrooms (standing on the toilets, stashing paraphernalia in the ceiling tiles and knocking them out to retrieve items, sitting on sinks), and some students are gathering in groups of 8-10 to socialize and hang out, making it uncomfortable for others to use the facilities for their intended purpose. Originally, this behavior was identified in the cafeteria restrooms, and now it's schoolwide. In our efforts to try to change this behavior, we are contemplating options such as, opening one girls and one boys' restroom in the general education setting, and staffing the outside of those facilities with a hall monitor. The nurse's office will be a second option for students with emergency issues. We are announcing this to students next week in the hope that behaviors will change; we welcome ideas and feedback from families. Feel free to send me an email or call me at 743-5200.

### **A Letter from Dr. Vosburgh Regarding Alternative Learning Days:**

Hello Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Families,

To say that we have had a crazy winter may be a bit of an understatement. The uncertainty that comes with predicting the weather has become quite an eye-opener for me this year. I appreciate your patience, flexibility, and understanding with the decisions to either call school off for the day or handle a two-hour delay for school. I clearly understand the often difficult situations you all are put in and appreciate how you handle it.

As you probably already know, the District has been working on putting together a "pilot" program called Alternative Learning Days. These Alternative Learning Days are called when school is cancelled due to inclement weather and used in lieu of making up days in June. We are calling this a pilot because we want to test out the idea, get feedback from all stakeholders, and then decide further if we want to continue the practice.

The District, meaning all schools, has currently experienced two snow cancellation days. Our pilot program will call for an Alternative Learning Day on the **fourth** district-wide school cancellation day. This means we will have one more snow day before calling an Alternative Learning Day.

It is our hope that Alternative Learning Days will present a better educational experience for students than making up days at the end of the school year in June. Currently, students are heavily engaged in their schoolwork. We hope to capitalize on this engagement. I am providing you a link below that will provide further explanation of Alternative Learning Days as well as answer some frequently asked questions. Information is also posted on our District website. Thank you for your time and have a great weekend.

[Alternative Learning Days FAQs](#)

Dr. John Vosburgh

Superintendent

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

**Help your students work toward college success:** Why Advanced Placement (AP) courses? Your student will stand out in college admissions; your student could earn college credits; your students could skip introductory classes, especially if he or she already knows his or her preferred college major. Taking an AP course builds the skills needed throughout college years by giving young minds a rigorous workout, while polishing up time management and study skills. Do you or your child have specific questions about AP courses being offered at Hoosac? Give us a call! 743-5200 x5008 or x5009.

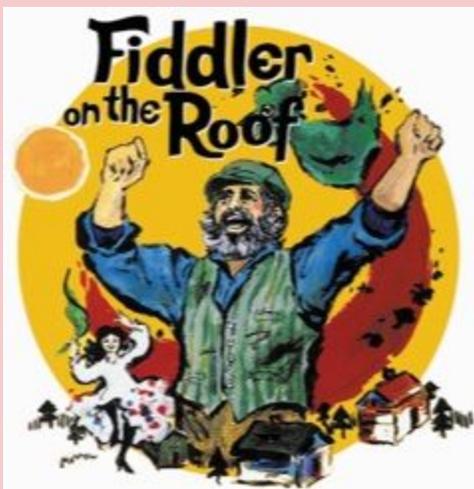
**Mr. Hoosac Pageant: Saturday, March 2 at 7 p.m.** Watch members of Hoosac perform, answer questions, and dance their way to various Mr. Hoosac “titles.” Tickets are on sale at the door.

**Spain 2020 Meeting: Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m.** in the HVHS main office area. This meeting is for current travelers AND travelers interested in signing up for this fabulous trip. We will share all kinds of information, including the itinerary.

**REMINDER:** March 8 is now a half-day for students. Dismissal is at 10:40 a.m. on that Friday.

**Preschool Screening for Fall 2019 Enrollment:** The ACRSD is conducting a developmental preschool screening for all Adams and Cheshire 3 and 4 year olds on **March 4, 5, and 6**, at the Hoosac Valley Elementary School. Appointments can be made by calling the Special Services Office at 743-2939 x1107, Monday - Friday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**ACRSD SEPAC Workshop:** What are speech services in the school setting and how are they recommended? **Meet the Specialists on March 13, at 6 p.m.**, at the Hoosac Valley Elementary School. SEPAC acts as a resource for parents, advising the district on matter related to the support, programs and performance of students with special needs and disabilities, ages 3-22. We provide support, networking, and workshops to help parents become informed about special education topics and connect with other parents.



**Fiddler on the Roof Tickets on Sale:** The HVHS production of Fiddler on the Roof is scheduled for **Friday, March 15, and Saturday, March 16, at 7 p.m.** both nights. Tickets can be purchased at <https://hvhs.brownpapertickets.com> or at school by reaching out to Mrs. Koczela. Tickets will also be

available at the door, but you should get yours before they sell out. [Adults \\$10 and Students \\$8.](#)

**SPRING SPORTS:** Spring sports are in full swing starting **Monday, March 18**. In order to participate, students will need to be registered through Family ID. The link can be found on the HVHS Athletic Facebook page. Families are also reminded that an updated physical (within the past 13 months) needs to be on file at the school.

**JAZZ NIGHT:** Join the HVHS Jazz Ensemble and the Lee High School Jazz Ensemble, as the rhythm sections and horn sections dazzle the audience with several tunes. The fun evening takes place on **March 28**, in the HVHS Auditorium at 7 p.m. FREE.

### FROM THE CLASS ADVISORS

**CLASS OF 2019 (Seniors):** Final bills (class dues or monies owed) and “save the dates” will be coming in the mail next week. **All-Night Party Meeting:** There will be another meeting for any senior parent interested in helping to plan the Senior All-Night Party on **Wednesday, March 27, at 6:30 pm** in the cafeteria. Note: graduation and all-night party date is Friday, June 7th.

**CLASS OF 2022 (Freshmen):** Many freshmen still owe dues. Also, the class is starting a chocolate bar sale next week (not to be sold in school). Students should check in with Mrs. Tucker for more information.

### FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELING CENTER (GUIDANCE)

**JUNIORS:** Junior Award Profile Sheets are now available in Guidance. ALL Juniors must fill this out for scholarships and other opportunities. Have your student see Mrs. Nowak for details.

**Our group series continues** with the next in our group sessions starting at the end of March. This group will be for students who are living with or living past a family member's substance use disorder. The group will be co-facilitated by our school adjustment counselor, Mrs. Loriann Moro, and a Substance Educator from the Brien Center. The group will run for eight consecutive Thursdays but will rotate the period we meet each week. If your student is interested in more information or wishes to sign up, please contact Mrs. Moro at [Morol@acrsd.net](mailto:Morol@acrsd.net) or at 743-5200 ext 5007.

**Protecting Kids from Social Media (Dangerous Online Videos Targeting Kids):** Recently on YouTube and YouTube Kids, tips about a method of suicide have been appearing in children's cartoons. Several other videos with inappropriate content have

also been flagged on YouTube Kids. The American Association of Suicidology wants to remind parents how important it is to monitor what your children are watching. Just because the word “kids” is in the name of a service, doesn’t mean that all the offerings are healthy for children to see. [Take a look at the toolkit](#) for parents about helping children navigate social media.

### **FOR YOUR PLANNING PURPOSES**

#### **March 2, 2019**

Mr. Hoosac at 6:30 p.m. in the HVHS auditorium.

#### **March 8, 2019**

Half-day of school with a half-day of professional development. Students are dismissed at 10:40 a.m.

#### **March 15 and 16, 2019**

Spring musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. 7 p.m. in the HVHS auditorium.

#### **March 26 and 27, 2019**

MCAS -- Grade 10, ELA

#### **March 28, 2019**

An Evening of Jazz with HVHS Jazz Ensemble and Lee HS Jazz Ensemble. 7 p.m. in the auditorium, and it’s free.

#### **April 10 and 11, 2019**

MCAS -- Grade 8, ELA

#### **May 1 and 2, 2019**

MCAS -- Grade 8, math

#### **May 16 and 17, 2019**

MCAS -- Grade 8, science

#### **May 21 and 22, 2019**

MCAS -- Grade 10, math

#### **June 4 and 5, 2019**

MCAS -- Grade 9, science