

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:

Coordinator's  
Message

Halloween  
Guidelines

The Science  
of Building

Teachers  
Teaching  
Teachers

Clubs

Middle School  
Staff  
Directory

# Hoboken Middle School News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

10-28-16

## Coordinator's Message

It is starting to feel more like fall and we are moving rapidly through the first marking period. Parent-teacher conferences were held this week. Over one hundred parents came in to meet with teachers and review progress. Thank you to those of you who took time out of your schedule to attend. If you were unable to attend, we would be happy to set up a conference for you with your child's teachers, please contact our guidance counselor, Mr. Cooley, ([dcooley@hoboken.k12.nj.us](mailto:dcooley@hoboken.k12.nj.us)).

Next week is Halloween: please see the guidelines included in this issue to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately. It is very important that students understand this is an academic day and that classes will be conducted as usual. We thank you in advance for your cooperation. Challenge Day is November 3rd. This is an amazing opportunity for our students to tear down walls of separation and create an environment of tolerance, acceptance and respect. We are still in need of a few parent/community

volunteers; if you are interested in being a part of this wonderful opportunity please email me at [tara.donnelly@hoboken.k12.nj.us](mailto:tara.donnelly@hoboken.k12.nj.us), (please use the subject: Challenge Day). The students should get ready to put on their dancing shoes. The Middle School PTO is sponsoring a dance on November 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM -9:00PM. Tickets will be sold at lunch next week. The cost is \$5:00 in advance, \$10:00 at the door. All eligibility rules for attending the dance are applicable. Have a wonderful weekend!

—Tara Donnelly

### Upcoming Events

**November 3rd**—Challenge Day

**November 7th**—Middle School  
Dance, 7-9 pm





## Halloween Guidelines

Students wishing to participate will be allowed to wear costumes to school. Hoboken Middle School has set forth guidelines for Halloween. If a student does come to school dressed inappropriately, they will be asked to either remove or cover what is inappropriate. If a school remedy is not possible, a parent will be asked to pick up his/her child. **Exception: bringing a replica or fake weapon will result in suspension.** We hope the students enjoy the day, but it is still an instructional day and academics will not be compromised by those who desire to celebrate the day inappropriately.

\*For safety reasons, masks or makeup should not cover the student's face in a manner that makes the student unrecognizable.

\*No hard plastic toy or replica guns/ weapons (swords, play knives, etc.) are allowed.

\*Costumes that are overly graphic, promote violence or otherwise might logically be assumed to be offensive to others are not acceptable.

\*Costumes that are sexually suggestive and would otherwise violate the school's dress code are not appropriate.

\*Costumes should not include items with sound effects, lights or other components, which would disrupt the classroom learning environment.

**\*Due to recent concerns surrounding potential threats and inappropriate events nationwide, clown costumes will not be permitted at HMS.**

\*Regarding costumes that may not be clearly addressed by these guidelines, students should be instructed to have the costume pre-approved by an administrator prior to wearing to school.

For this project, students used the design cycle, a series of steps that engineers use:

- Investigate
- Design
- Create
- Evaluate

## The Science of Building



Students built penny bridges in Mr. Joffe's 8th grade honors class to see how much weight they could hold, while still meeting specific design criteria regarding height and width. Matt and Max built a bridge that held up 10,000 grams.



## In the Spotlight....

Miss Minogue presented last weekend at the 21st Annual Rockland Literacy Professional Conference with a colleague from St. John's University on Learning to Write and Writing to Learn. The conference was held at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, New York. The topics of the workshop were engaging

learners from the outset, enhancing opportunities for descriptive writing, and adding complexity to disciplinary writing. Workshop attendees also participated in an "expanded moments" activity. The participants were engaged and walked away with some new tips and strategies to use in their classrooms.

# Trying out the Button Maker



The Middle School Sewing and Crafts Club had fun finding and creating images of favorite characters to turn into buttons with the library's new button maker. Students had to use measurement skills to figure out how large to print the image. They had to use a special circular slicer to cut the images to a perfect circle, then stack the components properly into the machine to result in the perfect button. They loved it and we will be making more in the future.

Next week: Tiny books

## Club Schedule

Debate Club with Mr. d’Bernado: Monday and Tuesday

Pay it Forward Service Club with Ms. Falcone: Tuesday and Thursday

Student Newspaper with Mrs. Dickerson: Monday and Wednesday

Yearbook with Ms. Geleailen: Tuesday and Thursday

Sewing and Crafts with Mrs. McGreivey: Tuesdays

*Join some clubs and make new friends!*



# Contact Us

We are happy to communicate with you to help your children achieve. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff at the email addresses listed below. You can also email teachers from within the Genesis Parent Portal. If you need to call the school, our number is (201) 356-3750.

Staff Name	Position/Subjects	Email Address
Tara Donnelly	Program Coordinator	Tara.Donnelly@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Don Cooley	Guidance Counselor	dcooley@hoboken.k12.nj.us
John Casella	Math	jcasella@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Steve D’Bernado	History	sdbernado@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Andrea DellaFave	English Language Arts	adellafave@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Jaclyn Dickerson	English Language Arts	jdickerson@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Stephanie Falcone	English Language Arts	sfalcone@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Lauren Geleailen	English Language Arts	lgeleailen@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Jackie Gennarelli	Math	jpgennarelli@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Michael Joffe	Science	mjoffe@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Derya Kurt	Project Lead The Way	dkurt@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Sean Maurizi	Science	smaurizi@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Monica Richard	Math	mrichard@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Louis Taglieri	History	ltaglieri@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Bridget Minogue	English Language Arts	bminogue@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Frank Rizzo	English Language Arts, Science, History	frizzo@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Eric Van Gyzen	Project Lead The Way	evangyzen@hoboken.k12.nj.us
Robert Zak	Math , History, Science	rzak@hoboken.k12.nj.us



<https://twitter.com/HobokenSchools>



<https://hobokenschooldistrict.wordpress.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/hobokenpublicschools/>

Follow us on  
social media!