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Hoover Happenings

FEBRUARY 2018



Happy New Year, Hoover families! I hope everyone had an outstanding holiday season and that the start of the new year has treated you well.

We have completed the first half of the 2017-18 school year, and are raring to go for the third marking period! We have many events planned for this quarter and we look forward to our students' and your participation.

Our WEB leaders and fifth grade students have been conducting their social follow ups, and most recently created Valentine's greetings for local Veterans. And for our current sixth graders...we will soon begin recruiting for next year's WEB leaders. More information will be shared in the early spring. We are looking for aspiring leaders!

In the next few weeks, our Be The Change Club will be hosting a Kindness Week. Please encourage your child to participate in these great spirit week events...stay tuned for more details! We will also have a school-wide Advisory Period, where each team will recognize outstanding student accomplishments, be it academic, extracurricular, or ROARS-like behavior. Be sure to ask your child all about it!

As you are aware, we recently launched our Hoover Middle Facebook page. This was in large part due to the overwhelming response provided to us by our parents through a survey we conducted back in the late fall indicating your desire to be connected digitally. "Like" our page to see all of the great things happening here at Hoover Middle School!

We have been given a great opportunity for any middle school student wishing to access support in their writing, and we encourage participation. Assistance is being provided free of charge on Saturdays at Kenmore Middle School from 10:00-10:45 in Room 105. Students will need to have their own transportation. You can attend one or all sessions...just show up! The writing center will be open as follows and will address specific topics:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10: "Writing a Short Story? Know Your Characters!" [Dr. Rita Pollard]

Great characters are vital to any story's plot and theme. To develop characters effectively, you need to know them intimately. This workshop will lead you through a few brief exercises designed to help you explore and develop a fictional character.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17: "Are You Stuck? How to Avoid Writer's Block" [Dr. Tom Reigstad]

There is no need to panic if you get stalled while writing.

This workshop offers tips for regaining your momentum and composing rhythm.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21: "How Do I Sound? Developing Your Writing Style" [Dr. Rita Pollard]

In writing, both *what you say* and *how you say it* matter. *This workshop will focus on the how—your writing style. We will discuss and practice a few style options that can enhance your writing.*

SATURDAY, MAY 19: "Is Your First Draft Clumsy? Ways to Effectively Reread, Revise and Polish" [Dr. Tom Reigstad]

Lastly, I am including a list of important upcoming dates...Please make a note of them. Stay warm!!!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Carmelina Persico
Principal



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

February 7 - Early Release Day-Student Dismissal, 12:00 pm

February 9 - Advisory Period-Student Recognition on Team

February 15 - PTA Meeting & Parent Academy #3 6:30 pm, Cafeteria

February 19-23 - Early Spring Recess, No School

March 1 - Talent Show Auditions

March 8 - Student Early Dismissal, 12:00 &
Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00-3:00 & 4:00-6:00

March 14 - Talent Show

March 15 - PTA Meeting 6:30 pm, Cafeteria

March 23 - Game Night 3:00-5:00 pm

March 29 - End of the 3rd marking period

March 30-April 8 - Spring Recess, No School

Hoover Middle is now on Facebook! Please consider following our district operated page for updates, announcements and important information on a daily basis! Find us by searching for us @HooverMiddleSchool and start getting informed today!

Assistant Principal Updates

-HMS students get in shape

The KTUFSD wellness team created monthly workout challenges for staff members in the district to push themselves physically with daily workout routines. Each month has its own theme and designates a certain workout per day. Every day at 3pm you can see students in the HMS attendance office partaking in the challenge. I started it as a way to push myself and participate in a district initiative.

Students were eager to join in and before we knew it- we had a workout group. Each day, as the students wait for their afternoon bus, they complete the workout task of the day with me! Students track their daily progress and are enthusiastic about completing the challenge. We challenge each other and together we get a great workout!

Living a ROAR's life

Hoover Middle School strives to live by the ROAR's Code of Conduct. We ask students everyday to be respectful, take ownership, have a positive attitude and be

responsible! Students are reminded of the ROAR's expectations and positive behavior is acknowledged by staff with the use of Dragon Scales. In the upcoming months, administration is planning to hold grade level behavior meetings with all students to reiterate our expectations and have meaningful conversations around positive behaviors. Please support our efforts in school by using ROAR's language and expectations at home!

Ms. Jaros



Interactive Websites
To Keep Your Child's Literacy Skills
On Track

By the Reading Intervention teachers at Hoover Middle School



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The amount of reading a child does outside of school has consistently been found to relate to growth in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency, and general background information. Research states that just 20 minutes of reading per day exposes readers to 1.8 million new words per school year.

Reading does not need to be strictly in a chapter book. Though it is a school-wide expectation that students read in their Scholastic Reading Counts book each night, there are some exciting interactive web sites your child can visit to increase his/her literacy skills. These sites are free and are listed below:

Education.com/e-learning/childrens-audio-books/: Your child can download many popular book titles read by a famous celebrity! This is a website for all ages and includes a variety of levels of books. Your child will hear and follow along with a famous fluent reader!

National Geography for kids and the Smithsonian for kids (natgeo.com tweentribune.com) have free informational articles about fascinating nonfiction topics (animals, the Titanic, ancient civilizations, just to name a few!). There are also videos, pictures, and games.

Newsela.com has news articles about current events, taken from the nation's most popular newspapers, and written for middle school students. These articles are fascinating and can even be chosen at your child's Lexile level. There are quizzes and videos for each article too.

[Overdrive](#).: Access this on the Hoover Middle School library page. Students can borrow digital high interest content, including eBooks (SRC books included!), audiobooks, and other great resources.

Freerice.com: Students learn new vocabulary words by playing an online trivia quiz game on this site. An added bonus is that for each new word they learn, this nonprofit website donates ten grains of rice to a third world country. It adds up quick!



Technology News

7th grade technology students opened the 2nd quarter by assuming the role of a structural engineer. Students competed in a tower building contest. They learned about structural design, forces, and loads. They built their designs using wooden coffee stirs and came up with some incredibly strong designs! Towers were evaluated using an efficiency calculation which is a comparison between how much the tower weighed vs. how much weight the tower held. Some of the top towers were:

Name	Weight Held	Efficiency
Sage Hays	541 lbs.	23,171
Cameron Murdie	545 lbs.	20,792
Abbygail Naffky	629 lbs.	20,544
Lilly Gardner	785 lbs.	19,799
Ella Valente	689 lbs.	18,293

GERMAN DEPARTMENT NEWS

Guten Tag! from the German Department! Since our last update, we celebrated Sankt Nikolaus Day on December 6. Some students spent the entire day dressed up as the red-outfitted benefactor and his sidekicks; Knecht Ruprecht in northern Germany, and Krampus in southern Germany. The students were our ambassadors as we spread the word about the cool cultural aspects of learning another language. During classes, each student left a shoe in the hall to mimic the way children in Germany leave shoes outside for Sankt Nikolaus to fill with treats. The Santa pre-cursor brought each student a pencil from Germany, a large bumper sticker in German, and their very own pickle ornament to hang on their Christmas tree and begin a new tradition, or continue with their family's German tradition. We watched some videos to see Christmas celebrations in Germany, and played some German holiday words bingo before the break.

Since we returned, we have been working on our leisure unit. We tried our hands at learning some popular German free time games; a card game called "Mau Mau," which is similar to crazy eights, and a dice game "So ein Mist." These were fun ways to round out our lessons and have fun with friends. After our midterm in January, we will move forward with our other units for the year.



Music “Notes”



Hoover Middle's musicians had a busy, but rewarding, December! All of the performing groups shared their accomplishments with friends and family at three evening concerts. It was thrilling to hear the beautiful sounds of the season in our brand new auditorium. The directors were so proud of the way that our young musicians performed.

On December 21st, the Hoover Glee Club visited the Oakwood Senior Living Home to sing for, and with, the residents. The residents were so happy to have young people visit and talk with them, and the group left very happy knowing that they added some joy to others' holiday season! In the singers' words: "it was awesome to see them smiling and having fun. It touched our hearts. We could tell we made them happy. They made us happy too".

The first concert of 2018 featuring Hoover musicians is on Wednesday, January 31st at Ken-West. The annual concert includes the 6th and 7th grade Hoover bands under the direction of Mrs. Kwitowski and various bands from Ken-West led by Mr. Belote. The evening culminates in a piece that all musicians play together!

Congratulations to all of our musicians that have been chosen for an All Erie County Music Ensemble. Students will sing and play with the best musicians from other Western New York schools in March. They are:

Orchestra: Breagha Carr- grade 6 (viola)

Chorus Grade 6: Sienna DiGiulio, Ryan Filey, Sophia Ortiz, Aidan Goodwin, November Maziarz, and Sean Stewart

Chorus Grade 5: Isabella Teter, Charles Mogavero, Matthew Terry, Olivia Orcholski, Dain Reedy, Layla Dio, and Emma Wistner

In general music class, we just welcomed 3rd quarter students in grade 5 and 6.

Ms. Welfare's 7th grade classes just completed an end-of- quarter project on the Blues.

Each group wrote an original Blues song. Students created their own lyrics, learned the chords on keyboards and performed for the rest of the class. Creativity abounded as some groups chose instruments such as cello, saxophone, clarinet, flute, and xylophone as part of their pieces! Miss Hill's 7th graders are studying the Blues as well. The students are practicing the art of improvisation (making up music on the spot) using a basic blues structure. Each student will have a chance to either scat- sing or play an instrument with a blues chord structure. In Mrs. Odrobina's music room, students from Mrs. Coley's class worked very hard to prepare a recital for families and teachers. Some of the music that they shared at their January 31st presentation included "Fight Song" by Katie Perry, "We Will Rock You" played on xylophones, and "True Colors" (recently featured in the movie *Trolls*) showcasing soloists. Mrs. Indridson and some of her art students created decorations for the event. A post-recital reception was held in Mrs. Ball's room where treats made by the students were enjoyed by all!

Finally, Hoover's Got Talent, the 7th annual talent show under the direction of Miss Cartwright, will take place on March 14th. Auditions are on March 1st and we are looking for talents of all kinds to be a part of the show! Applications are due February 15th. More info, including applications and requirements, is available in room 103.



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Art Department Update

Student artwork is displayed at the Kenmore-Tonawanda School District Administration building all year round. Hoover Middle School had their show there in December. All the work is then brought back to Hoover for display. Throughout the school year, hundreds of works are shown in the hallways of Hoover, home of one of the largest continuous displays of student art in Western New York.



ART

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Physical Education



The purpose of the HMS Fitness Club is to provide our students with an opportunity to participate in a lifetime fitness activity and to teach our students how to create a workout program that is beneficial for them. The following students have done an amazing job participating in the majority of the Fitness Club days: Abigail Gazzo, Eden Gibson, Alex Gogola, Mitchel Cadro, Luis Link, Nate Harrington, Zachary Stuff & Taylor Rubach. Also, Zachary stuff completed and turned in his monthly fitness challenge to win a sports bag! Congratulations to all of our participants

Please check our website for other important information at www.ktufsd.org, and email us anytime with any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with your children.

The PE Department,

Mrs. Blaszak, Mrs. Bowers, Mr. DeCarolis, Mr. Mermigas and Mrs. Siegel





We hope everyone is having a wonderful New Year!

HMS PTA has been focused on our upcoming Meat Raffle & Basket Auction. This will be our first one, and we are very excited! A letter and flyer were sent home. Below is a copy of the flyer.

Hosting an event like this requires a lot of work. If you would like to donate your time and/or a basket/gift card donation, it would be greatly appreciated! It will take place on Saturday, April 14th. Please see the flyer (on the next page) for additional information.

If you would like to volunteer and/or donate, please call:

Kerri Gallivan at (716) 435-4930 or kerrigallivan@gmail.com

Kate Ingrao at (716) 572-2956 katieing@me.com

We are looking for volunteers for the following times:

- 4:30-6:00 Set-Up
- 5:30-7:00 Ticket Table
- 6:00-8:00 50/50, selling tickets, general
- 8:00-10:00 50/50, selling tickets, general
- Clean up

We are now seeking Interest for PTA Officers For the 2018-2019 School Year! It is time once again for the PTA Nominating Committee to recruit candidates to hold PTA Officer positions for the following year. The goal of the nominating committee is to enlist the talents of as many Hoover Middle School parents, friends and family as possible. The nominating committee's responsibility is to consider all persons interested in a particular PTA position.

Hoover Middle School's PTA
MEAT RAFFLE
&
BASKET AUCTION
Saturday, April 14TH 2018
Knights of Columbus
1530 Kenmore Ave. Buffalo 14216

Bring your \$1 Bills, Snacks to pass at your table, and a cooler
for your winnings!

Doors Open at 6:00 PM
1st SPIN 7PM

Admission

\$5.00 Pre-Sale \$7.00 at the door

Table of 10 \$45.00

Ticket includes Beer and Pop
(no outside alcohol permitted)

***This is an ADULT ONLY event**

****Pre-Sale tickets on sale now thru April 1st or until sold out!**

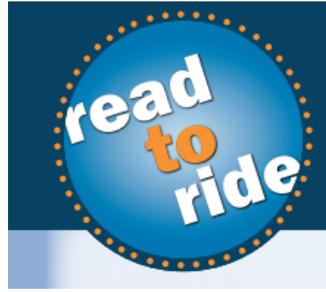
Please contact the following ladies for tickets and information

Jenn Livi 523-1567 jenniferlivi1212@gmail.com

Kate Ingraio 572-2956 katieing@me.com

Kerri Gallivan 435-4930 kerrigallivan@gmail.com

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Calling all 5th grade readers!

How would you like a FREE ticket to use at Darien Lake this summer? All you have to do is track your reading to earn your own *Read to Ride* pass to the park!

All Hoover Middle School 5th grade students are invited to participate in Darien Lake Theme Park's *Read to Ride* program. *To become a member of the Read to Ride program, students must complete seven hours of recreational reading between January 1 and February 28, 2018. Attached is a tracking sheet to log your reading hours.*

Reading may be in the form of reading to oneself, reading to another person, or being read to by others.

- Students may read books, newspapers, or magazines.
- All tracking sheets MUST be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to your ELA teacher by February 28, 2018. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Once a student has reached the goal of reading for seven hours, they will receive one free admission ticket to Darien Lake Theme Park and Water Park, valid during the months of July and August 2018. Happy reading!

REDISCOVER THE JOY OF READING TOGETHER

Seventh Graders Take a Long Walk for Water for South Sudan

By Samantha Christiano and Erin Devine

Hoover Middle School seventh graders finished reading *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park just before Thanksgiving. *The book not only informed us about the water shortage in South Sudan, but it also inspired us to do something about it. There are two main characters in the book, Nya and Salva. They both face challenges for survival in their lives. The biggest challenge is finding water, metaphorically and literally.*

One of the book's main characters, Salva Dut, is a real person who has relocated to Rochester, New York. He has created an organization called Water for South Sudan. The organization raises money to drill wells in Sudanese villages. This gives the people of South Sudan freshwater close to their homes.

*After reading A Long Walk to Water, the seventh graders felt empathetic and wanted to take charge and make a change. We walked carrying gallons of water around the school's track on November 22, 2017. **We raised \$1895 in pledges for Water for South Sudan!** A group of students announced the grand total during lunch to cheers and applause.*

Samantha Christiano explained how *A Long Walk to Water* inspired her, *“Reading A Long Walk to Water and walking in the fundraiser taught me to keep going and not give up. When I was walking, I wanted to stop and put the water down, but I kept walking.”*

Sam's classmate Erin Devine added, *“A Long Walk to Water has taught me that life isn't fair, but I still need to pick myself up and try again. The walk taught me to persevere through tough times. Life can be hard, but nothing is impossible.”*

Hoover Middle School also participates in other service projects throughout the year, including “Socktober” and a Thanksgiving canned food drive. As seventh grader Anthony Torres said, “Sometimes you have to put up with what life throws at you, and maybe even throw

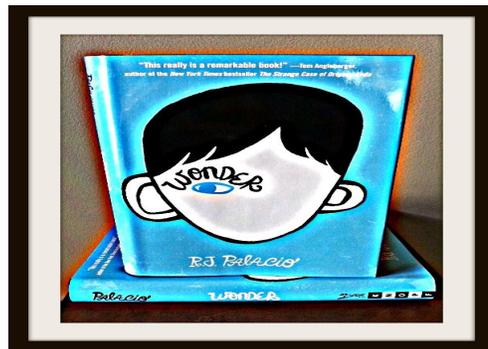


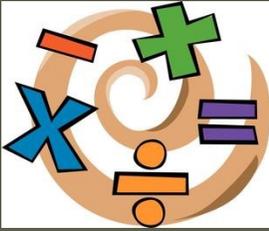
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5th Grade Update

Fifth Grade Happenings

As we head towards the halfway point of the school year, Fifth Grade students have settled into the Middle School routine and are learning and working together with some great hands-on projects! In some of our ELA classes we are reading and writing stories fashioned after the Northwest Native Americans' totem pole legends that we learned about in Social Studies. We have created colorful totem poles to represent our tales. In others we are reading and learning about the rainforest as we conduct research on various animals found there. In Social Studies we have moved down south to keep warm as we gain information about early civilizations such as the Mayas, Aztecs and Incas. We will be creating projects to share our knowledge. In science we are studying how matter and energy flow through an ecosystem. Some saw this first hand by dissecting owl pellets to see what was inside of them. From the data the students were able to determine what the owls ate and then construct food webs to show their interpretation of the data. In math our 5th graders are busy working on Module 4, a long fraction unit dealing with multiplication and division with fractions. The students are showing their work pictorially and numerically, using different strategies they have learned. As a reminder, students should use www.zearn.org for help! It's a great tool if students are stuck on a lesson, absent from class, or if they want to get ahead





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Team BPR

(Butler-Pilato-Roberts)

Autumn 6th Grade News

We hope everyone is staying warm and safe this wintry season! We would first like to apologize for the missing sentence in the first few lines of our last newsletter which caused our sentiments to be less than what was intended. Our team of students received the original newsletter with the color pictures as well.

In this quarter of Mrs. Pilato's **ELA class** we are knee deep in our reading of *The Lightning Thief* and have even had a sword fighting lesson or two! Students are developing skills with developing main (key) idea and supporting details. They are also developing an understanding of character and how "*The Hero's Journey*" plot line aligns with this adventure. Vocabulary (and "Smartie" words) have been a key focus during our reading of the book (and in our weekly reading basics). During this quarter we developed another 4-5 paragraph essay about a hero of our own using our understanding of introductions, claim, topic sentences (main ideas), elaboration (the supporting details or facts that help to explain the main idea), and closing. We also spent a day with a hero named, Martin Luther King Jr. as we watched him give his infamous "I Have a Dream" speech. We even read our own personalized level of the same speech to complete as a reading basics. We are also cognizant of the use of our figurative (colorful) language in all our reading endeavors. Martin Luther King Jr., for example, used many metaphors in his speech to help create a strong picture (connection) for the people he was speaking to. We are realizing that it takes many pieces to put together the puzzle that is reading and writing.

In Mr. Butler's **MATH class** we have been working on building a better understanding of rational numbers. Those are the numbers that can be written as fractions and graphed on a number line. Students have been learning about negative rational numbers and how they are ordered on a number line. We are using real-world examples, such as elevation, temperature, and banking, to learn how positive and negative numbers are used in people's daily lives.



We have continued to use technology to supplement traditional classroom instruction. Students spend time each day working with websites that help build their basic skills in mathematics as well as apply them to real-world situations. Have your child show you these sites and talk with them about why they enjoy them. Also, have them show you the Schoology website that we are using.



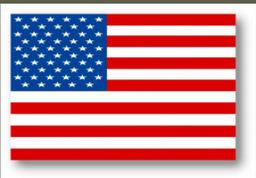
We are all looking forward to extending our learning (and the daylight hours) in 2018!! Happy New Year!

Team 7-1 Update



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Students in Mrs. Halt's social studies class work hard on their historical nonfiction book projects.

TEAM 7-1 UPDATES

It has been an exciting school year so far on Team 7-1! **SOCIAL STUDIES:** In Mrs. Halt's class, the students are currently finishing a unit on the Revolutionary War. We are looking forward to starting our next unit on the U.S. Constitution. We will be looking at a variety of Supreme Court cases dealing with the rights of young people. The students are also working on their nonfiction projects. **MATH:** Mrs. Yemma's Math 7 students finished a unit on equations and are beginning an inequality unit. Accelerated Math students just finished their equations and inequality unit and did a great job. They will be studying proportional relationships next. The students continue to do a great job of completing their weekly reviews, getting them checked throughout the week, and earning high scores as a result! **ELA:** Mr. Kleismit's classes are in the middle of their second novel unit, focusing on *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick. The story focuses on two boys, Kevin and Max, who join forces and become the unstoppable Freak the Mighty, "slaying dragons and fools and walking high above the world." Before starting the novel, students studied the legend of King Arthur and the concept of chivalry, then they designed their own coats of arms with symbols of their individual strengths. They even adopted titles based on their character traits, such as "Dylan the Dependable" and "Laniya the Trustworthy." Looking forward, students will have SRC quizzes on March 2 and March 23, so you should see independent reading books coming home as well. **SCIENCE:** In Mr. Spengler's class, the students are in the middle of the weather unit. They all have been assigned groups to simulate a news/weather station. We are using Google Classroom via a class set of Chromebooks. They have been working on a 4-day weather presentation based on a scenario assigned to each group. These presentations mimic an actual weather forecast found on any of our local television stations. They will be presenting their final project as a live broadcast starting on Monday, January 29, through Wednesday, January 31, in our classroom. Our next unit is Weathering and Erosion. Team 7-1 will keep on roaring toward the end of the year!

Team 7-2 Update

Oh the weather outside is frightful, but what's happening in our classes is so delightful!

ELA: In Mrs. Bacon's ELA classes, students have been creating videos about human rights defenders making a difference in our world. Students selected a defender, completed research on the individual, connected that defender's work with our local community, and then created a narrated video. Some of these human rights defenders include Salva Dut, Malala, Elie Wiesel, Jamie Nabozny and the Dalai Lama. The videos are being submitted to the Speak Truth to Power Student Video Contest (www.speaktruthvideo.com) sponsored by the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights. On the contest website it states, "Robert F. Kennedy believed in the power of the individual - that it only takes one person with courage and conviction to make a difference." This idea of individuals having the power to make a difference is the overall theme of our ELA class this year. **SOCIAL:** In social studies with Mr. Sander, the students are studying the American Revolution. Currently, they are on the road to the revolution, covering such topics as the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party. The war should be over in a couple of weeks! **SCIENCE:** In science class, students are studying Meteorology. Students are working in groups of two or three and will cycle through six learning/lab stations over the next three weeks. They will investigate how the density of air masses determines how weather fronts move in and bring specific types of weather. Students will build an anemometer and go outside to measure wind speed at three locations around the Hoover Campus. They will sling a psychrometer at three locations around the building to determine the relative humidity and much more. Students are learning skills that will enable them to be citizen weather watchers and predictors. Someday, we may see one of our students announcing the approach of lake effect weather on one of our local television stations. **MATH:** In math, students have been working on solving various types of equations and inequalities and graphing their solutions on a number line. They will continue with algebra and review for their midterm.



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News from the Health Office

All required health forms for the 2018-19 school year will be mailed home in May. This includes the physical forms for 7th graders, immunization requirements, and medication forms and/or emergency care plans for your child for the next school year. Please make sure that this paperwork is **completed, signed, and turned into the Health Office by September 2018.** **When you take your child to the doctor's office for a physical, please make sure you ask for any paperwork to be filled out at the time of your visit. Many pediatricians' offices will charge you a fee to complete/process paperwork if you ask after the time of your visit!**

If your child is interested in playing sports for Hoover Middle School, or playing up to a high school sport at either Kenmore West or Kenmore East, please have him/her see the nurse about his/her physical. You can also check the Kenmore Town of Tonawanda district website, under Athletic Department, for further information about sports and any forms that your child may need completed in order to play.

Please note that **all medications**, whether for emergency purposes (i.e. Epi-pen, Glucagon, Benadryl, inhaler), as well as any over-the-counter medications for pain, cough, and cold/allergy symptoms **require a note from your child's health care provider.** Students **should not be carrying** these medications on them without medical documentation, and are in direct violation of school district policy.

In the beginning of June, letters will be sent out to families, asking that a parent/guardian come to the school by **June 20th, 2018 (last day of school)** to pick up their child's medication. Any medication not picked up by that day will be disposed of in accordance with both the New York State Department of Education and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation guidelines. Medications **are not allowed** to be kept for the following school year. Please make arrangements with the health office to pick up any unused medication for your child.



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