

# SKYHAWK NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 6, October, 2009

Hill Campus of Arts and  
Sciences

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL.....*Don Roy*



## ***Polishing homework***

Before your youngster turns in his homework, suggest one last way to make it shine: editing and proofreading. Share these ideas to help him do his best work:

- If he's answering textbook questions, have him flip back through the chapter to double-check spellings of names and places and to verify dates.
- Be sure that the work makes sense. When your child writes up an experiment in his science journal, he should reread it to make certain that he has included all the steps and that they're in order
- For longer assignments (stories, essays), suggest that he look for one kind of mistake at a time. He can read through once for spelling, again for capitalization, and a third time for punctuation.
- Encourage your middle grader to allow at least 30 minutes between finishing an assignment and proofing it. Problems are often more obvious with a fresh eye.

## ***Research skills***

Your middle schooler has to write a report about a famous author. Help him find good information quickly with these research tips.

**Get focused.** Picking a topic is one thing. Deciding on an angle is another. Say your child is researching author Sharon Creech. He should browse through books, articles, and Web sites and jot down main points. Then, he can choose one idea to focus on (what led her to write *Absolutely Normal Chaos*, how her writing style has changed over the years).

**Use reliable sources.** Your youngster will need to make sure his report contains only factual information. An author's official biography or Web site is more reliable than one written by a fan, for instance. He can verify facts by finding them in more than one publication (an encyclopedia and a journal article).

**Stay organized.** Suggest that your child sort facts as he conducts research. This will help him make sure he includes all the important information. He might take notes on index cards and use paper clips to keep cards with similar ideas together (the author's childhood, novels she wrote).

## ***Rediscover the library***

When your child was younger, she may have loved library story time. Now that she's in middle school, she can enjoy the library in different ways. Here are several ideas:

- Your middle grader might explore her interests on library computers, borrow movie versions of her favorite books, or check out books on tape or CD.
- She can meet other students by signing up for a book club or creative writing forum. Suggest that she ask at the reference desk about meetings and programs.

Have your child check into library volunteer opportunities for students. She may be able to read to younger children or shelve books.

# SKYHAWK NEWS

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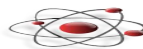
We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://hill.dpsk12.org/>

Talk to any Hill teacher by email!

## Science Fair Is On the Way!



The Hill Science Fair for this year is scheduled for January 11, 2009. Science Fair participation is open to Hill Campus students in all grades. Information packets are available on the Hill website under "Science Fair" in the "Academics" tab. There are some subtle rule changes this year so read your information packets thoroughly. Project deadlines are outlined on the welcome letter.

This is a **major** project and most of this work will be done at home. The primary objective is for the students to complete an inquiry-based investigation. This includes:

1. Asking questions and forming hypotheses Identifying and controlling variables
2. Creating an experiment to test the hypothesis Organizing data and drawing conclusions
3. Writing about scientific research
4. Presenting their findings in a poster presentation and a scientific paper.

Hill Campus has a tradition of having one of the largest and best Science Fairs in the city. We are sure that this year will be no exception. If you have any questions, ask your Science teachers, they'll be glad to help!

### **Ms. Niebauer's Language Arts Class**

In Ms. Niebauer's Language Arts class, we are finishing our first unit titled "The Choices We Make" and will start the second unit called, "What Influences My Choices." In this second unit, we will focus on advertising and consumerism. We are also planning to finish our shared reading book Cirque Du Freak because the movie is coming out October 23rd. Depending on where the movie is showing, we will go Opening Day to see it together as a class. The students are very motivated! Another film coming out adapted from young adult literature is "New Moon." It is the sequel to the very popular novel/film "Twilight." It comes out November 20th, so if you see your kid's head buried in a really big book, they're probably trying to finish the book so they can come see the film version with me.

### **Ms. Zevin's and Ms. Accola's**

Ms. Zevin's 5th period class read Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" and put the murderer on trial. Josue Campos was the prosecuting attorney, Carolina Cortez was the defense attorney, and Jesus Ortiz was the defendant. Mrs. Dansky was our judge and the rest of the class played witnesses, police officers and jurors. The jury convicted the defendant of murder and sent him to prison for life.

In Ms. Zevin's and Ms. Accola's 2nd period class, the Onceler (from Dr. Seuss's The Lorax) was put on trial for willful and knowing pollution of the land of the Truffula Trees, and causing the death and suffering of the Brown Barbaloos, Humming Fish, and Swomee Swans. Maya Cook was the defense attorney, Jessica Richardson played the Onceler, Jessica Chavez played the Lorax, and Eleslie Swain was the prosecuting attorney. Mr. Atkins was the judge and the rest of the class were jury members, swans, fish, barbaloos and the purchaser of the thneed (which is a "Fine-Something-That-All-People-Need!"). The jury decided that there was not reasonable doubt about the Onceler's guilt and didn't convict. Further trials will be on the schedule.

### **8th Grade Math Classes**



8th graders are learning about exponential relationships and laws of exponents. Exponential functions can be either growth or decay. An example of exponential growth is the compound growth of an investment as it grows in value over time (hopefully). An example of exponential decay is the amount of a medicine in your bloodstream as it is absorbed by your body. Ask your students, they should be able to tell you some differences between linear and exponential patterns, including the basic mathematics involved.

Next up is the study of quadratic functions and the Pythagorean Theorem.



## Important Dates



Oct. 2, Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE to Coors Field 9-11AM
Oct. 14, Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Ends
Oct. 16, Friday	Picture retakes EARLY RELEASE DAY – 11:30AM
Oct. 19, Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade – High School Presentations
Oct. 20, Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE to Boulder Hike
Oct. 21, Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE to Genesee Park Open House for 5 <sup>th</sup> graders 6-7:30PM
Oct. 26, Monday	1/2-7 <sup>th</sup> Graders to Nature Science Museum
Oct. 27, Tuesday	1/2-7 <sup>th</sup> Graders to Nature Science Museum
Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup>	Student Led Parent Conferences PM
Oct. 28-Nov. 1	Fall Break – NO SCHOOL
Oct. 31, Saturday	Daylight Savings Time Ends 
Nov. 3, Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE to Genessee Park PTA Meeting 6PM – Community Room 115

### **Keystone Science School**

The Keystone Science School field trip is January 25-27. The cost is \$195 for three days of fun and learning outside Keystone, Colorado. For more information, pick up a trip description in the office or contact Mike Tabb in room 315. His email is [michael\\_tabb@dpsk12.org](mailto:michael_tabb@dpsk12.org). There is also a link from the Hill school web page.

### **Sea Camp**



Hey Students and Parents,

It's that time of the year again where we start to register for Sea Camp. Sea Camp is open to all grade levels at Hill Campus. This year Sea Camp will be April 5<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The cost of this week long trip is approximately \$825. Students engage in many fun oceanography classes, observe marine life along the shores of California and Mexico. Students have fun with night games, visits to the beach to boggle board, snorkel and race with kayaks. The food is catered in and is great. Come join us for a great experience. Non refundable deposit is \$155. Sign up soon, space is limited. Please see Ms. DuMillier or Ms. Calvin for information.

### **PE Happenings...**



New units have begun in PE classes. Mr. Chapman is working on Softball skills while Ms. Slocum tackles Soccer skills with the students. Our Wellness Wednesdays have been focusing on a variety of aerobic and anaerobic activities. The students are learning the important role exercise plays in keeping their arteries "clean". October is a busy month for PE Field Trips. Please check the schedule below. And as always thank you for supporting the PE program at Hill Campus. Mr. Chapman and Ms. Slocum

- October 2-** Coors Field-7<sup>th</sup> grade
- October 13-**Invesco Field-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- October 20-**Boulder Open Space-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- October 21-**Genessee Park-7<sup>th</sup> grade
- November 3-**Genessee Park -7<sup>th</sup> grade



### **Fall Harvest**

1. Have you noticed the leaves changing color? People are trying to predict that perfect "peak weekend" when they should drive around and look at the amazing colors. Of course you may have other things you would rather do than drive around and look at leaves... like rake the leaves in your own backyard!! Suppose Leif can rake his entire yard in 2.5 hours, while his younger sister, Autumn, can do it 4 hours by herself. How many minutes will it take the two of them to rake the entire yard if they are working together, to the nearest whole number?
2. Once Leif and Autumn have all of the leaves in their yard in a huge pile, they decide to do a little math with their pile of leaves. (Who wouldn't, right??) They notice that all of the leaves are yellow or red. So they decide that Leif will count the leaves with any red (5550 leaves) and Autumn will count the leaves with any yellow (6820 leaves). Then they get their other little brother, Oakie, to come out and count the leaves that have both yellow and red on them (4370 leaves). Once they all report their numbers, they are able to figure out how many leaves were in the pile. Can you?
3. After 3 hours of Trick-or-Treating, Alice and her dad were standing at the end of a neighborhood street with seven houses left to visit. Alice's dad told her that they were running past her curfew and that she would only have time to visit five of the seven houses. How many different combinations of five houses could Alice pick from her seven choices?
4. Though this problem is a real TREAT, it's also a little TRICKY!: Three friends were able to fill six bags of candy while Trick-or-Treating for three hours. How many bags of candy could one of the friends fill Trick-or-Treating for one hour?



### **Can you spell S-E-M-A-N-T-I-C-S?**

Hill's Semantics Team is gearing up for another year of logophilia!\* Building on its momentum from last year, the team held its first meeting on Thursday, Oct. 1, but it's not too late to join. Students from all grades who enjoy words and spelling are welcome. They will be expected to learn many new words, their pronunciations, and definitions. The team will meet weekly on Thursdays from 2-2:30 (with occasional after-school sessions), and use a variety of activities to prepare for the DPS spelling bees. Students interested in joining should sign up first in the office with Ms. Dansky.

Questions? Call Ellen Reilly at 303-570-8211 or Anne Button at 303-433-6961.

### **Athletics Information**

**The Sky Hawk cross-country team** has had five meets so far this season. They have placed at least four runners in the top 10 at each meet. At the Slaven's invitational, a big meet with over 500 runners and 15 teams, Hill's team placed second in the girl's division and fourth place in the boys division. They have one more meet this fall and the Prep League Championships at Bear Valley Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

**The boy's soccer team** is 5-0-1, with their tie coming against Merrill during the second week. They have one more regular season game vs. Slavens on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Playoffs begin the following week.

**The girl's fast pitch softball team** is again enjoying a winning season. They are currently 5-1 with one game remaining against Slavens. We are looking forward to going to the Middle School playoffs next week.

### **The Music Minute - October 2009**



It has been a great start to the year and the music program is running strong here at Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences!!!

It is exciting to be part of a program where there is so much talent and desire from students to be in the performing arts. The music program consists of general music classes for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band/Orchestra, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra taught by Mr. Funk, and we also have 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir taught by Mr. Smith. There over 300 students involved in the music program, whether they are enrolled in a music class, or they participate in after school Music Club on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons!

There are a lot of exciting events coming up in the next few months that will give students an opportunity to show their talents to the rest of the district. Students have already started auditioning for Citywide Honors groups and will be participating in Honors Festivals throughout the year. There are also many concerts scheduled throughout the year – please check with your student if they have not shown you the music calendar for the year. It would be great to have as many friends and family members at these events as possible to show support of our talented students. Please see the schedule below for additional information.

**PLEASE NOTE – THE FALL BAND, ORCHESTRA, AND CHOIR CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009 AT 7:00 PM HAS BEEN CANCELED. ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN MUSIC CLASSES REGARDING THE CANCELATION.**

If you are interested in volunteering for the music program, please contact Mr. Funk at [Shawn\\_Funk@dpsk12.org](mailto:Shawn_Funk@dpsk12.org) or (720) 423-9729. We are in need of volunteers for instrument maintenance and repairs, instrument donations, student supervision at concerts, possible fundraising opportunities, field trips, and many other areas. Thank you in advance for all of your help this year and thank you for your support of the Hill Campus Music Program.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Fall Band / Orchestra / Choir Concert</b>	<del>Thursday, October 15, 2009 @ 7:00 PM</del> *****CANCELED**** Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences Auditorium
<b>Citywide Honors Choir</b>	<b>Friday, November 20 – Saturday, November 21, 2009</b> (Auditions in September 2009)
<b>Winter Band / Orchestra Concert</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 15, 2009 @ 7:00 PM</b> Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences Auditorium
<b>Winter Choir Concert</b>	<b>Thursday, December 17, 2009 @ 7:00 PM</b> Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences Auditorium
<b>Citywide Honor Band / Orchestra</b>	<b>Saturday, February 20, 2010 [and]</b> <b>Friday, February 26 – Saturday, February 27, 2010</b> (Auditions late-October 2009)
<b>Spring Band / Orchestra / Choir Concert</b>	<b>Thursday, March 25, 2010 @ 7:00 PM</b> Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences Auditorium
<b>End-of-Year Band / Orchestra Concert</b>	<b>Thursday, May 13, 2010 @ 7:30 PM</b> Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences Auditorium
<b>End-of-Year Choir Concert</b>	<b>Thursday, May 20, 2010 @ 7:00 PM</b> Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences Auditorium

#### ***Calling all Volunteers for GT Activities!***

HCAS has had a terrific response by parents to be involved in a host of activities sponsored by the Denver Public Schools' Gifted and Talented department. Some of these activities are: Destination Imagination, Mathletics, Brain Bowl, Shakespeare or Semantics. But we always have room for more! The more adults we have on board to help, the greater number of students we can have participate.

If you are interested, please contact Cassie **Perlmutter**, our GT Itinerant teacher here at Hill on Thursdays, at: [Cassandra\\_Perlmutter@dpsk12.org](mailto:Cassandra_Perlmutter@dpsk12.org); 303-570-1180 to coordinate.

In the meantime, for a complete listing of GT Activities with dates of workshops and deadlines, please go to the Activity Calendar, 2009-2010, in the right hand corner of the Gifted and Talented department webpage: <http://gt.dpsk12.org>

#### ***Highly Gifted Nominations due November 2, 2009***

Parents, if you believe your child (K-7<sup>th</sup> grades) should be tested for Highly Giftedness, a nomination form is required and must be turned in to the Gifted and Talented Department, 1330 Fox St., Denver, 720-423-8272, by **NOVEMBER 2, 2009**. A nomination form can be found in the Main Office with Ms. Lake, or downloaded from the Gifted and Talented department website: <http://gt.dpsk12.org>. Go to the right hand corner where the forms are available in Spanish and English.

If you have further questions, please feel free to email Cassie Perlmutter at [Cassandra\\_Perlmutter@dpsk12.org](mailto:Cassandra_Perlmutter@dpsk12.org), who serves Hill's Gifted and Talented students.

**It's Never Too Late--**

**Parents**, there is still time to register for the:

**Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented~~~Parent Institute: Embracing Diversity**  
**Monday evening, October 5, 2009, (5 pm. Reception; 6 pm, Dinner and Speakers),**  
**Marriott Denver Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse.**

To register online, please go to: [www.coloradogifted.org](http://www.coloradogifted.org)



### **Student Council to Lead Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences**

This fall, Student Council has been launched at Hill! Members are comprised of sixth, seventh and eighth graders who showed a willingness and enthusiasm for making Hill the best middle school around.

Some of the activities Student Council will address are: Spirit Days (all those fun days where students have crazy hair, pajamas or twins!) and their publicity; issues and concerns of students; and acting as liaisons between students and teachers/ administration.

If you have ideas to share, here are Hill's Students Council Representatives and sponsors who will lend their ears! **Sponsors: Mrs. Anne Sinn, Ms. Cassie Perlmutter**

The Student Council Representatives(/grade) are as follows:

Ackerman, Alexandria/8 <sup>th</sup>	Adelstein, Noah/7 <sup>th</sup>	Blanco, Jairo/8 <sup>th</sup>	Bushman, Sophie/6 <sup>th</sup>
Eibsen, Rachel/6 <sup>th</sup>	Friedman, Emily/7 <sup>th</sup>	Goldman, Cole/6 <sup>th</sup>	Green, Samantha/6 <sup>th</sup>
Hernandez, Alfredo/7 <sup>th</sup>	Lin, Raymond/8 <sup>th</sup>	Lovell, Justin/7 <sup>th</sup>	Lucero, Evie/6 <sup>th</sup>
Marker, Kristian/8 <sup>th</sup>	Moore, Monet/7 <sup>th</sup>	Nick, Sarah/7 <sup>th</sup>	Pierce, Nakayla/8 <sup>th</sup>
Rivera, Samantha/6 <sup>th</sup>	Rogers, Spencer/6 <sup>th</sup>	Simon, John/6 <sup>th</sup>	Villa-Jimenez, Jesus/8 <sup>th</sup>

### **From Our Counselor, Ms. Marx:**



We will be starting a weekly school support group for a small subset of students starting in mid October. We will focus on study skills and homework help, attendance and time management, and motivation for successful behaviors. We'll also set goals and meet each week on an individual basis to see how the students are doing with the goals they set. I'm looking forward to it!

I also wanted to let parents know that I have received good questions and suggestions in my mailbox outside of the Welcome Center. I will respond to these inquiries in the next newsletter. I am pleased that parents are using my mailbox and please continue to feel free to "drop me a line". ~~~Ms. Marx

### **ART NEWS:**

CONGRATULATIONS TO MELANIE KALIN, 8TH GRADE ADVANCED ART STUDENT WHO WON 2ND PLACE IN A METROPOLITAN-WIDE POSTER COMPETITION ON SEPTEMBER 26TH. MELANIE'S POSTER DEPICTING THE PLIGHTS OF THE TIGER, AN ENDANGERED SPECIES, WON ACCLAIM AND SURPASSED MANY OTHER ENTRIES FROM ACROSS THE LARGER METRO AREA IN A CONTEST SPONSORED BY THE DENVER ACQUARIUM. LOOK FOR HER WINNING ARTWORK IN A SHOWCASE SOON!

### **Other Information**

**Picture Retakes are October 16<sup>th</sup>.** Students that want new pictures must bring the pictures that they don't want back or have the money in hand to order new pictures. This also applies to students that haven't been photographed yet. All new students will be photographed for Infinite Campus and students may purchase an ID for a nominal fee later this fall.

**Early Release – Friday, October 16.** There will be no clubs or activities on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> as this is an early dismissal day. All students must leave campus at 11:30, and all teachers will be involved in professional development after students leave the campus.

# HAPPY

