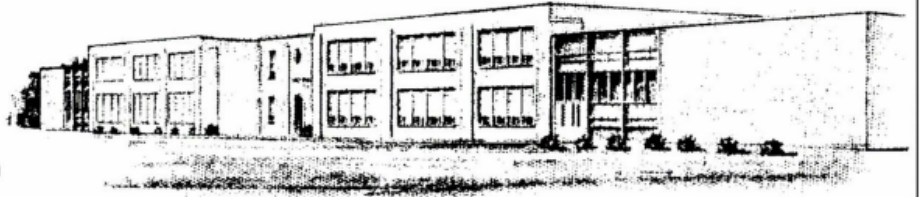


Your School



September 2007

A Publication of Hopewell-Loudon Schools
"An Excellent School Striving To Become Better"

Volume 4

Issue 1

From the Desk of Geoff Palmer, Superintendent



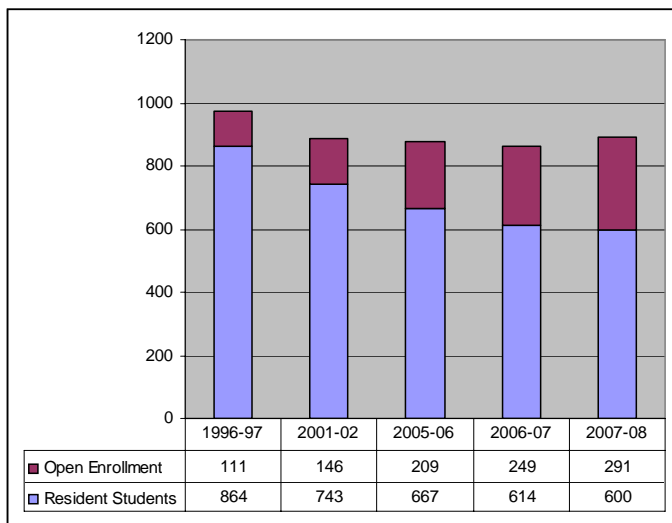
Greetings!

With the 2007-2008 school year off to a great start, I would like to share a few pieces of information regarding student enrollment and the condition of our school building.

Last year I shared information which indicated:

1. our total enrollment has been declining over the past decade.
2. students choosing to attend H-L through Open Enrollment have continued to increase.
3. the monies generated through open enrollment are a tremendous benefit to our district.

As the chart below shows, for the first time in several years, we have shown a slight INCREASE in total enrollment. This increase is largely the result of continued increases in open enrollment students. It is important to note, though, we are now getting to the point where continued "growth" through open enrollment will not be possible. Keeping our class sizes at a number where we our teachers can effectively deliver instruction has always has been, and will continue to be, a major part of our decisions. We will not accept more students through open enrollment than we can effectively educate. Some of our classes are now at their upper limits and future decisions will insure our students remain our #1 priority.



Our school building is a tremendous source of pride for our community. One of the most enjoyable parts of my position is being able to take class reunion groups on tours of the building. This fall I was able to share a Saturday afternoon with the class of 1957. The pride they still have of "their school" is still very, very evident in this group—just as it is with most of our alumni! The building looks great thanks to years of good care and maintenance.

As with any building of this age, continued repairs and maintenance become very important. Over the coming months we will be making additional repairs to the heating system and will considering additional window lintel replacement. While the ongoing care and maintenance of the building continues, we will also be making final decisions on our long-range facility needs plan and making recommendations to the Board of Education.

As we take on the many, exciting challenges of a new school year, we will do our part to live up to the motto:

An Excellent School Striving to Become Better!



Hopewell-Loudon Local Schools

P.O. Box 400
Bascom, Ohio 44809
Admin. and High School 419-937-2216
Elementary School 419-937-2804
www.hlschool.org

Board of Education

Karen Lang, President
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Amy Akers, Elementary Principal
Suzanne Frank, K-12 Asst. Principal

Hopewell-Loudon Local Schools

P.O. Box 400
Bascom, Ohio 44809

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Bascom, Ohio
Permit No. 21

TAX RELIEF FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The deadline to apply is FAST approaching!

Starting with your tax bills in 2008, any home owner 65 years of age or older is eligible to receive property tax relief from the State of Ohio. Earlier this year, a new law was passed that allows any home owner who is already 65 or who will turn 65 years old in calendar year 2007 to lower their residential property tax bill, regardless of income! This program differs from previous relief programs in that ONLY age, not income, is what qualifies you for the program. In addition, those who have qualifying disabilities are also eligible to apply for exemption.

Here's how the new Homestead Exemption works. Eligible homeowners are able to shield \$25,000 worth of the market value of their home from local property taxes. For example, the owner of a \$100,000 home who is eligible for the Homestead Exemption would be billed as if the home were worth \$75,000.

The new Homestead Exemption is open to any Ohio homeowner who currently lives in their home, and that home is their primary residence, and who:

- Is at least 65 years old or will reach age 65 during the current tax year; **or**
- Is certified totally and permanently disabled as of Jan. 1 of the current tax year, regardless of age; **or**
- Is the surviving spouse of a qualified homeowner, and who was at least 59 years old on the date of their spouse's death.

Note: Homeowners who currently receive the Homestead Exemption will automatically qualify for the expanded exemption and do not have to reapply.

Eligible homeowners must apply for the new Homestead Exemption with their county auditor BY October 1, 2007. In Seneca County, Mr. Larry Beidelchies MUST have received your application by October 1, (a postmark is NOT acceptable!) to receive savings on tax bills payable in 2008.

The State of Ohio will reimburse school districts for the tax dollars lost due to this new exemption. Therefore, based on the law that was passed, the school district will NOT lose the money from this exemption.

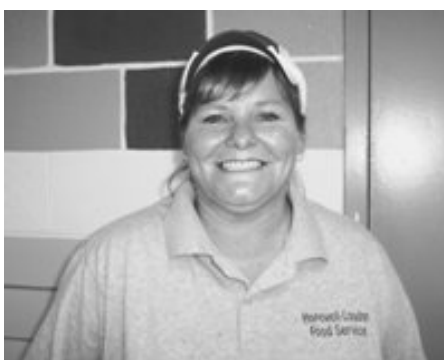
If you have any questions about this new program, contact the Seneca County Auditor's office. Again, remember, the County Auditor MUST receive your application by October 1. Mr. Beidelschies has the applications in his office, and they may be filled out while you are there. He has indicated it takes approximately 3-5 minutes to fill out the form in order to apply for the exemption.

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Please help us welcome several new members of the Hopewell-Loudon Faculty and Staff. We wish them all the best for a successful school year! Other new staff members not pictured below include Amie Ashby, custodian; and Bob McIntyre, bus driver.



*Linda Osborn
Special Needs Teacher*



*Jane Oler
Food Service Supervisor*



*Kim Park
Bus Driver*



*Jon Otterbacher
Grade 5 Teacher*



*Paul Kline
Bus Driver*



HOPEWELL HAPPENINGS

Bill Dobbins, High School/Junior High School Principal



Welcome to our students, staff and parents to another exciting and rewarding school year. As we begin the year I would also like to welcome our new staff member, Linda Osborn to Hopewell-Loudon. Mrs. Osborn is coming to us from Mohawk Schools and will be teaching special needs in grades seven through nine.

Students who find it necessary to arrive to school prior to 7:45 am will be asked to report to the cafeteria. Students who would like to participate in our breakfast program may enter the building at 7:30 am. If parents drop off their son or daughter in the morning, please drop them off in the designated areas in front of the building. Our buses are entering the parking lot and we want to avoid any accidents that may occur.

At the end of the school day we ask that if our students are not involved in after school activities to exit the building no later than 3:15 pm. Please make sure arrangements have been made for a ride home if students are not riding the bus. We ask for parent and student cooperation so we as a school community can ensure the safety of our students before and after school.

If your son or daughter is absent from school please use the following procedure to notify the office. On the day of the absence, please call the office to report the absence. The number to call is 419-937-2216. When your son or daughter returns to school, please provide a written excuse for them to give to our secretary. This will be a big help in keeping accurate attendance.

Prior to the first day of school, students were able to pay fees and pick up schedules. This year that process seemed to go much smoother. Designating times and dividing the student body by last names was a positive move to eliminate congestion. Also the number of students and parents who attended our orientation meeting for 7th grade and new students was overwhelming. I greatly appreciate the parent involvement that has been shown here at Hopewell-Loudon.

In an effort to share information and get ideas from parents and the community I would like to invite a parent from each grade level to be part of a newly formed Parent Advisory Committee for 2007-2008. We would meet monthly and discuss upcoming events, share ideas and discuss issues as they arise. If a parent would like to be a part of this committee, please call the office and let me know of your interest. Best of luck to all students, staff and parents on a rewarding 2007-2008.

Upcoming Events

Oct 8 th	No School Teacher In-Service
Oct 23 rd	HS/JR High Picture Day
Oct 26 th	End of 1 st Nine Week Grading Period
Nov 12 th & 19 th	Evening Parent Teacher Conferences
Nov 21 st	Day Parent Teacher Conferences

MANDATORY WINTER ATHLETIC MEETINGS 2007-2008

The mandatory meetings for winter sports' athletes in grades 7-12 will be held on Monday, October 29 at 6:30 and 7:15 PM in the auditorium. **All parents and athletes must attend.** The schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM

General meeting for parents and their athletes who *did not participate in a fall sport*, with individual sport meetings to follow immediately after general meeting.

7:15 PM

Short general meeting for parents and their athletes who *participated in a fall sport*, with individual sport meetings to follow immediately afterward.

Please note that these meetings are mandatory for all winter athletes, regardless of whether or not they participated in a fall sport.

According to OHSAA bylaw, all athletes and parent(s) must attend in order for that athlete to participate in a sport.

From the Red and Gray Café

September is Food Safety Education Month. See how many of these questions you can answer correctly. Then check the answers at the bottom.

1. Is it safe to leave perishable foods at room temperature for longer than TWO hours TOTAL time? (Perishable foods include: meat, poultry, fish, eggs, tofu; dairy products; cooked pasta, rice and vegetables; fresh, peeled and/or cut fruits and vegetables.)

YES NO

2. Is it OK to refrigerate foods while they're still warm?

YES NO

3. Should you eat refrigerated leftovers within a day or two for safety and quality?

YES NO

4. Should you keep your refrigerator at 40 degrees F or lower?

YES NO

5. Can you always see, smell or taste bacteria that cause food-borne illness?

YES NO



Test Your Refrigerator Food Safety Savvy: Quiz Answers

1. Is it safe to leave perishable foods at room temperature for longer than TWO hours TOTAL time?

NO. Refrigerate perishable foods so the TOTAL time they're at room temperature is less than TWO hours.

At room temperature, just ONE bacterium in these foods could grow to 2,097,152 in 7 hours!

2. Is it OK to refrigerate foods while they're still warm?

YES. Just leave the container cover slightly cracked until the food has cooled. Refrigerate foods in shallow containers to speed cooling.

3. Should you eat refrigerated leftovers within a day or two for safety and quality?

YES. Eat refrigerated leftovers promptly.

2007-2008 PARENT EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

Sponsored by:
The Seneca-Wyandot Mentor Program of
The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center
and The Seneca County Help Me Grow
Family Support Specialist

All Parent Meetings will be held at:
The Family Learning Center at Sentinel
797 East Township Road 201, Tiffin
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - unless further noted!

Tuesday, October 16, 2007 From 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A Transition Fair will be held at Sentinel Career Center in conjunction with Sentinel's fall open house. The purpose of the fair is to provide high school special needs students, their parents, teachers and administrators information about the services and functions of various community agencies and colleges that will be on hand to talk to anyone interested.

&

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"What does my child need to know for Kindergarten?" Presented by a panel of Kindergarten teachers and early childhood staff

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

"Holiday Make-It/Take-It" **ADULTS ONLY!!!**
Spend a relaxing evening making holiday crafts. All supplies are furnished FREE.

December 2007 - No Meeting





**From the Desk of Amy Akers,
Elementary Principal**

Welcome back to school! I would like to welcome one new teacher to Hopewell-Loudon Elementary, Mr. Jon Otterbacher is teaching 5th grade math and language arts. I would also like to welcome Ashley Schumm. While she is not new to the district, her position as 5-8 inclusion is new to her.

Overall the first few days of school have gone smoothly. The students seem to be excited to be back. I would like to remind you about a few items:

1. Students are not to arrive at school prior to 7:45 – the only exception to this rule is if they are purchasing breakfast from the cafeteria, then they may arrive at 7:30
2. Please avoid charging lunches if at all possible – see page 6 in the student handbook for the charging policy
3. Parents **MUST** check in with the office prior to going anywhere else in the school, you will then be given a visitor's badge so that teachers are aware you have checked in.
4. Almost any school item that you need to pay for such as fees, lunches, field trips, t-shirts, etc. can now be paid for through the pre-pay system. Every child should have received a pin number for this system. This system allows you to write one check for many items. Check out the information available on the web at www.hlschool.org
5. All elementary activities, as well as copies of Smoke Signals are also available on the web.
6. Please make use of progress book to stay updated on your child's grades and monitor their progress. If you have questions about this process, please contact the school at 419-937-2804.

As always I am available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about Hopewell-Loudon Elementary. You may contact me at 419-937-2804, ext. 315.

Parent Teacher Conferences

The conferences will be scheduled in the same manner as last year. Parents will call the elementary office and schedule a time with Tracey. Conferences will be held on the evenings of November 12 and November 19, and during the day on November 21. We ask that you call to schedule your conferences beginning on October 24, 2007. It is our hope that this will enable you to attend at the time that is most convenient for you.

Magazine Sales

We kicked off our magazine sales on September 13 and are continuing our sale until September 26, 2007. This is the elementary school's only fund raiser and all proceeds are deposited into an account which pays for new playground equipment, assemblies and other rewards for students. In the past two years we have added two new pieces of playground equipment, provided three assemblies for students each year, purchased numerous reward items for students including items for Right to Read Week. We appreciate the generous support the community gives to this fund raiser and would like to thank you in advance for your support again this year.

Market Day: A Delicious Solution for Busy Cooks

The Hopewell-Loudon PTO is continuing Market Day, a monthly fund-raising food co-op. Each month there is a new order sheet with over 150 quality food products including meats, seafood, breakfast items, family meals, lunchbox items, and desserts. All items are frozen and conveniently packaged to meet the needs of both large and small families.

There are several options for placing Market Day orders. Order forms are available in the elementary or high school office, and completed forms can be returned to the elementary office. You can also order on-line at www.marketday.com. The profits from this project have been designated to help purchase new playground equipment and other needed items for the elementary.

October is a very special month for Market Day. Our school has the chance to receive \$400.00 in free books from Scholastic if we meet our goals for that month. Our October 2007 goal is \$4108.15 in sales and 87 customers. Our October order deadline is October 8, 2007.

The pick-up dates are: October 16, November 13, December 18, January 29, February 26, April 1, April 29, and May 27.

If you have any questions you may contact Tammy Arbogast, Market Day Chairperson, at 419-937-1689, or by email at busymom@bright.net.

FFA News

Fruit Sale

FFA fruit sale begins October 12 and runs until November 9. FFA members will be taking orders during this time and the fruit will be delivered during the second week in December. The fruit that they are selling will be Red and Yellow Delicious apples, navel oranges, red and white grapefruit, tangelo oranges, and Hamlin juice oranges. FFA members will also be selling sorted fruit boxes. The fruit boxes will contain apples, oranges, grapefruit, jam, and cheese.

TRAP

Several FFA members set traps for Western Corn Root beetles. The results varied from several beetles per trap to over 15 beetles per trap. Monsanto sponsored the program

Attention Hopewell-Loudon Alumni!

Our Web Page class is now working on alumni pages which reside on the school web site. Visit www.hlschool.org, click on the *District* link and then *Alumni Information*.

The names listed for each class were taken from yearbooks. Please let us know of any corrections/additions. Also, we need to borrow a yearbook from 1945 and 1946. If you have one please call 419-937-2216 Ext.104.

If your class has recently had a reunion and you would like to have pictures posted on your class page, please attach the pictures to an email and send to ckelbley@hlschool.org. If you are still in the planning stages of your reunion we can also post that information.

From

The

Tech

Desk

Steve Acton, Technology Coordinator



It is great to have students in the hallways again. It is hard to believe summer is already over. The Linux K-5 project is up and running with a few bugs to work out. This would not be possible without the help of Ryan Tran and Marissa Reinhart putting in many hours of volunteer work to help us get ready for the new school year. The next time you are in the elementary stop in a K-5 classroom and take a look at the thin clients. I also have some of my favorite educational tools listed on the new technology website. Just go to www.hlschool.org and click on technology in the left hand column. The tux applications for the PC are the great for reinforcing creativity, math, spelling and keyboarding for grades K-5.

If you have problems with logging into progress book the teachers and secretaries can reset the passwords for you. If you were using a student that graduated last year as your main account you will have a problem logging into the younger children's account without the password. A lot of teachers are requesting that you put your email in your progress book account information so they may better communicate with parents.

I had a little fun this summer with digital photo frames. Mark your calendars, Wednesdays, October 17th and 24th from 7:00 to 8:00pm we will work on photos and moviemaker the first night and then the second night take them over to a digital picture frame. The good news is it will only be \$5 for both sessions. The bad news is the digital photo frames will be about \$60. It will be worth the effort to have a home movie of your son or daughters fall sports highlights playing on the wall. Or better yet put the digital frames on the tables for people to pass around at the graduation party (I always feel rushed at the awards and photo album table). So please email me sacton@hlschool.org if you are interested. I will not make a number limit because this is something I want to do even if one person shows up.

In closing I would like to reinforce to you to please talk to your son or daughter about proper use of computers at home and school. Talk to them about internet safety and remind them to always be professional when using them at school. See you at the game.



2007 – 2008 H-L Athletic Booster Membership

Name (as you wish printed in the Sports Program): _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address, if you wish to be notified of monthly Booster events: _____

Amount enclosed: \$5.00 individual membership cash / check
 \$10.00 family membership
 \$25.00 'Super Booster' membership

Please make checks payable to H-L Athletic Boosters
 Mail to P.O. Box 79 Bascom, OH 44809



Go Chieftains!

News From the Hopewell-Loudon Athletic Boosters

Our door-to-door Membership Drive last month brought in approximately \$4,000.00 and over 325 super booster, family or individual members. Thank you for your generous support. Dan Brickner, Dan McElhatten, Craig and Karen Lang served on the committee to organize this campaign. It is a rather large task and they continue to work and find ways to streamline the process for everyone. Thank you. Also, we must give special thanks to those parents who drove routes with the student athletes; it is indeed appreciated. We will still take memberships with additional names appearing in the Winter Sports Program.

Laurie Martishius has done a great job this year with advertisements and improvements in the Fall Sports Program. Thanks to Laurie and the football moms for their clever additions. Check out those baby pics!

We now offer Chieftain decals for all eleven sports. These order forms will be available in the high school office and at most home sporting events. Cost is \$6.00 each. Affix a H-L Chieftain decal to your vehicle to show your pride in our students.

You asked, so we got 'em: bright red, semi fitted caps with the H-L logo embroidered on the front and Chieftains across the back for \$15.00, while they last.

Athletic Boosters continue to meet the third Wednesday of each month, that being Sept. 19th and Oct. 17th coming up. On Nov. 21st, we plan to return to our Casino Night fund raiser at Meadowbrook Park Ballroom. Look for some new twists of fun on that evening before Thanksgiving as some of our members have suggested novel ideas to implement.

H-L Athletic Booster Officers

Deb deVlugt, President Ron White, Vice-president
 Diane Arbogast, Secretary Craig Lang, Treasurer

October	2007					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	F FB H Carey 4:30 PTO 6:30 Rm. 115	LPDC Meeting 7:30 am Rm 212 JHVB @ SE 4:30 HSVB @ SE 6:00		T-Th Kg Picture Day JHVB @ Van Buren 4:30 JHFB @ SW 4:30 HSVB @ SW 6:00	Elem. Picture Day VFB H Calvert 7:30 Homecoming	CC @ Fostoria 9:00 JVFB @ Calvert 10:00 HS Homecoming Dance 8:00
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	NO SCHOOL – Teacher Inservice FFB H Calvert 4:30 JHVB H Old Fort 4:30 Music Booster Meeting 7:00 pm, Choir Rm.	JHVB @ NR 4:30 7 th FB H Mohawk 4:30 HSVB H NR 6:00 (Senior Night)	Bd. of Ed. Meeting 6:15	8 th FB H Mohawk 4:30 HSVB @ Mohawk 6:00 Title I Parent Meeting 6:30	VFB @ N.Balt. 7:30	JHVB MAL H 9:00 CC MAL @ Bettsville 9:00
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Market Day Pickup 3:00 – 5:00	Athletic Boosters 7:00			CC District Meet V FB @ St. Wend. 7:30
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	PTO Book Fair 8-3	PTO Book Fair 8-3 HS/JH Picture Day	PTO Book Fair 8-3	PTO Book Fair 8-3 PTO Fall Festival 6:30	End of First Quarter PTO Book Fair 8-3 VFB H Mohawk 7:30	CC Regionals
28	29	30	31			
	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7:00 pm, Auditorium					

