



# The HMS Wildcat

*A Heritage of Excellence*

*Hillcrest Middle School*

*Simpsonville, SC*

*Est. 1964*

Volume 13, Issue 2

## Important Dates:

### November

16th-20th : National Career Development Week

17th: Student Council

13th: 8th Grade Awareness Day

16th: Career Club

16th: Parent/Student Awareness Day

19th: Photography Club/Scrapbook Club

24th: Chick-fil-a Spirit Night

24th: Progress Reports

24th: Sandlapper Club

25th-27th: Thanksgiving Break

30th: Basketball Games at Northwood

### December

4th: Career day

9th: Band Concerts:  
6th grade: 6pm  
7th-8th: 7pm

16th: Chorus Concert

18th: Last Day for Students

21st – Jan. 1st  
Christmas Holidays

### January

4th: Back to school

18th: MLK Jr. Day

19th: Teacher Workday #7

21st: Report Cards

## Have a Happy and Safe Holiday!!

### HMS Sports – Building a Tradition of Pride

As the new year begins, we once again focus on an important part of Hillcrest Middle School – the students and coaches who choose to be a part of an athletic program that places emphasis on academics, responsibility, and overall character.

Our school offers volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, and baseball. Hillcrest Middle School's philosophy of adolescent education, which focuses on the development of character, is mirrored on the courts and fields in every tryout, practice, and competition. There is not a better environment to stress the importance of mutual respect and responsibility; especially when so many of our students see it embodied in the coaches on a regular basis. Most importantly, individual confidence rises as all team members are

given the opportunity to play in each game.

Already this year the girls' volleyball team won their region and ended the season with a 10-4 record. During the playoffs when our girls were beaten by Blue Ridge, they never gave up and tried their best up to the last play. Sure they were disappointed but the positive manner in which they conducted themselves is a reflection of the influences of the coaches, Mrs. Touchton and Mrs. Smith.

We could not do any of this without the support of Mr. Russell, parents, students, coaches, and teachers – everyone works as a team to insure the optimum success of the programs at HMS. We are now getting ready for basketball tryouts, November 2 and the first game is Monday, November 30. Packets are

available in the front office and if you have any questions you can call or e-mail.

Spring sports start up towards the end of January and once again we will be busy with soccer, baseball, and softball. If you have not noticed we now have a soccer and softball field that we are planning to play on in the spring. Mr. Fernando Forero is the new boys' soccer coach and he will take the place of Coach Bob who is serving in Afghanistan for a year.

If you want to get your blood rushing, voice cheering, hands clapping, and pride bursting, come to the HMS games and join the crowd!

*Janet Kirby*

Athletic Director

Eighth Grade Administrator

Assistant Principal  
*Go Wildcats!!*





“As the holidays approach, think of ways you can serve others and carry that same spirit with you throughout the year.”

Tammie Creasy



## A Note from Tammie Creasy, PTA President

Dear parents:

Last month I touched on the mission of PTA .I would like to mention the objective of PTA as not everyone is familiar with what PTA does as an organization.

### The PTA objectives are as follows:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, church and community
- To raise the standards of home life
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth
- To bring into closer relationships the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts
- To secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

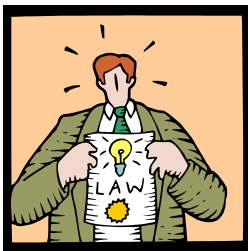
Thomas Kinkade wrote “In the process of serving others, you’ll discover the ultimate fulfillment of who you are – and who you can be.”

As the holidays approach think of ways you can serve others and carry that same spirit with you throughout the year. It may be the best gift you ever gave.

Respectfully,  
Tammie Creasy

### Proposed legislation would reduce funding for our schools

In 2006 the state legislature passed Act 388, which eliminated the property tax on owner-occupied homes for school operating expenses and replaced it with a one-cent increase in the statewide sales tax (other than groceries.) To help offset the negative impact of this legislation on school operating funding, the law included a provision that residential and commercial property would additionally be reassessed when it is sold or transferred. The law did not limit the increase in assessed value at the point of sale.



Under a proposed bill in the state legislature, when property is reassessed at the time of sale or transfer, the increase in assessed value could not exceed (would be capped at) 15% over the previous assessed value.

This bill will be considered by the State Senate in January. If passed and signed into law, Greenville County Schools would lose nearly \$1.8 million in annual revenue (and our county would lose up to \$4 million for other services). This potential funding reduction comes after the state cut \$30 million out of last year’s school district budget.

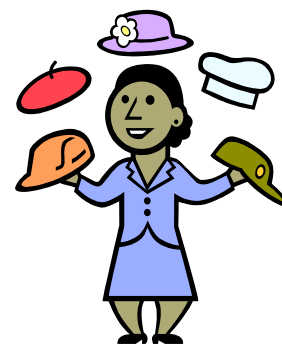
Our school district does not have excess reserve funds to make up for this loss of funding. The school district must maintain 8% in reserve to meet national credit rating guidelines. By state law, funding used for facility construction cannot be used for school operations.

Please contact your state senators and tell them what you think about this bill. The bill number is H.3272 and is referred to as “The Point-of-Sale Assessment Cap.”

## Pathways to success:

The Pathways to Success – Career Development Program – has gotten off to a great start at HMS. Wildcat Career Classes began on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sixth grade students will learn more about themselves by exploring their interests, what is important to them, and their values, and how that all relates to their success in school and in a future career. Seventh grade students are exploring, more thoroughly, the 16 Career Clusters as they relate to their interests and to school classes they enjoy the most. Eighth grade students are learning about themselves and learning about principles that will help them to be successful in life, through a curriculum using the book, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens.

November is National Career Development Month. HMS students will participate in activities during National Career Development Week, November 16-20. There will be a “Career Question of the Day” contest, College/High School Spirit Day, and Dress for Success Days (one for each grade). We culminate National Career Development Month by holding our Career Day on December 4<sup>th</sup>, the first Friday in December. We will have 50+ speakers talking about their jobs and careers. Immediately following the four career day sessions will be a luncheon for the speakers and any parent that would like to sign up (You must sign up to attend through the Career Department as our seating is limited). Mr. Joel Welch, Academic Dean at Greenville Technical College will speak on the EEDA and Pathways to Success as we enjoy the meal. Any parent interested in speaking on Career Day should contact **Barb McPoland, CDF, at 355-6194**.



By mid November all students will have taken their career interest assessments. The assessments match their interests with the 16 Career Clusters and help the student decide where to start exploring. We have had many speakers and career activities take place these first three months. We have had an accountant from Ernst and Young, a former police officer – now a Law Enforcement Education instructor, an artist/entrepreneur, two CDFs from Greenville Tech’s College and Career Academy, and a health and nutrition speaker. Career club has met three times and we have 17 members. Club members are preparing for Career Day and National Career Development Week. As always we love to hear from parents and enjoy having them come in and talk to our students either in a class, a Lunch and Learn, or Career Day. We wish all of you a very Happy Holiday Season and look forward to working with you in the coming months.

### Yearbooks



**Purchase a 2009-2010 Yearbook online! Go to Hillcrest Middle School Website and click on the icon to order your yearbook.**

Check out recent HMS pictures online. Just go to HMS website: picture of PTA Action Day and Girls Volleyball



Chorus Concert is at 6:30pm on December 16th at Hillcrest High School.

Strings Concert is on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.



### Band concerts:

Thursday December 17th

6th grade will report at 5:45 and begin at 6:00pm

7th and 8th grade will report at 6:45 and begin at 7:00pm

School assemblies will be Thursday, December 17th during the school day.



Hillcrest Middle School PTA

510 Garrison Road

Simpsonville, SC 29681

Office: 355-6100

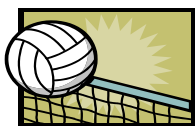
Guidance: 355-6114

Health Room: 355-6107

Cafeteria: 355-6108

Visit HMS Online: [Greenville. K12.sc.us/hms/](http://Greenville.K12.sc.us/hms/)

**Congratulations to the Volleyball Team for a great season!!**



Check out other sports opportunities for Hillcrest Middle School. We have Volleyball, Softball, Baseball, Soccer, Basketball and a Step Team.



Get more information at [www.Greenville.k12.sc.us/hms/](http://www.Greenville.k12.sc.us/hms/)



**Step Team**