

The Hermon CONNECTION

Vol. 30 Issue 1 – January 2023

Updates • News • Events • Information

HERMON HAWK JROTC BATTALION MOUNTAIN BIKING TRIP

Article and photos by Cadet 2LT Sidney Wadsworth



The Hermon JROTC Program has kick-started its year off with a mountain biking adventure trip. We did it through the Maine Outdoor Education Program at their facility in Grindstone, Maine. The trip took place on October 12 and 13, and for two days, JROTC Cadets were on the trails enjoying the scenery and physical activity. The guides were great throughout the entirety of the trip. They love what they do and how they can help us out with what would be considered a small act. That small act built fond memories for those who went; memories that will last for a lifetime. In an interview with Cadet 2LT Matthew Miles, he described the trip as “it was fun, nice and relaxing and I got to connect with nature. It was nice to get rewarded for my hard work in my classes, and everyone seemed to have a fun time.” The Cadets that I spoke with all agreed they enjoyed their time there and couldn’t wait to go back. Major Marcel Fortier, who was in charge of the trip, described his experience as “another great opportunity to get cadets exposed to an adventurous field trip where cadets were challenged physically and mentally while also honing their leadership and team building skills.” The Hermon JROTC Program also partners with the Maine Outdoor Education Program for a kayaking trip they do in the Spring. The JROTC Program is also trying to set up a SCUBA diving trip with Maine Maritime Academy as part of a campus tour this school year. The Hermon JROTC Program looks forward to future trips and the future Cadets that get to experience the fun, adventure, and educational opportunities that await.

Town of Hermon

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If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of *The Hermon Connection*, please send it to: ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov

Deadline for submissions: February 24, 2023



INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL

Ages 3 & 4

Group 1: Tuesdays Feb. 7, 14, & 21

Group 2: Thursdays Feb. 9, 16, & 23

Hermon Middle School Gym

5 - 5:45 PM

Mini Hoops is a parent-engaged instructional basketball program for kids that are 3 & 4 years old. Due to their age, the kids must have a parent there to participate with them. They will work on the very basic principles of basketball, while playing basketball-related games with the group and of course, will be able to spend some quality time with parents and peers in a different scenario than their everyday routine.

Go to www.hermonrec.com to register!



Don't Miss a Thing!

Visit www.hermonrec.com and create an account to sign up for email notifications to stay updated on upcoming events & programs!



FATHER *Daughter* DANCE

SUNDAY
2.19.23
5-7PM

MORGAN HILL EVENT CENTER

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
PREK-8TH GRADE

REGISTER FROM:
JAN 1ST - FEB 8TH

REGISTER ON HERMONREC.COM





A Busy December at the Duran School

By Melissa Davis

The month of December is an exciting time for most people, especially our youngest students. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season can sometimes be distracting, but at the Duran School, we made a conscious effort to capitalize on the excitement of the season and plan a number of engaging and meaningful experiences for our students and our school community.

First on the list is the annual Duran School Helping Hands Project. Families in need are able to request help for presents for Christmas. This season we were able to provide Christmas gifts for 15 students at the Duran School. Popular items included snow gear (coats, hats, mittens, etc.) Dolls, dinosaurs, and books. We were blown away by the generosity of the Hermon community. Thanks to all of you, we were able to make Christmas magical for some of our neediest students.

Finally, we planned a number of fun activities and learning experiences for our students this past month:

- PreK students participated in a long-standing Hermon tradition: The Polar Express! Students marched through the halls of all three schools on the polar express train, watched a read-aloud, and decorated cookies with their families back at the Duran School. This is a tradition in our school department--one that all grade levels enjoy!
- Our 1st grade students participated in STEM activities using all kinds of holiday materials (gum drops, candies, etc.). They built and experimented with building structures using these supplies. They also became architects, constructing and designing their own gingerbread houses. We were thankful that we had a number of parent volunteers helping!
- 3rd Grade students finished their mystery reading unit. Students had a blast reading and learning about mystery novels. The unit culminated with a mystery that students had to solve.
- Fourth grade students had the chance to meet with primatologist, Carly Batist, a PhD candidate from City University of NYC. Dr. Batist has done field work in Madagascar researching lemur social behavior and communication. This was a fun, real-world learning experience for students.



It has been a busy past month. We cannot wait to see what 2023 brings. As always, we are thankful for the support of the Hermon community!



Hermon Middle School Minute

By Zackary Freeman

Hermon Middle School is becoming a happening place in this post-COVID world. This year alone, we have competed in math meets, hosted chess competitions, put on a musical, hosted family lunches, and started a student/staff of the month program, among many others. Our focus is on resetting what it means to be a hawk, and we are doing this through partnerships with all stakeholders.

We have celebrated sixteen students and four staff members this year through our student and staff member of the month program.

Students:

5th Grade: Allison Piehler, Elise Smith, Aiden Connolly, Logan Donald

6th Grade: Aiden Dalessandro, Taylor Ryan, Tiaan Slate, Brooklyn Whitney

7th Grade: Nanette Holmes, Ayden Violette, Brielle Phair, Madelyn Muth

8th Grade: Hannah Waning, Peyton Jordan, Cody Oliveira, Tyler Slate

Staff Member: Allie McKenney, Amanda Lovejoy, Lisa Roy, Brooke Dupuy

This year we have focused on student behavior. Our values are respect, responsibility, and being safe. These are continuations of the expectations of the Duran School. Our students have risen to the plate; we have already seen over a 60% decrease in behaviors this year! As a Hermon community member, we ask that you help with the efforts of the elementary and middle schools. Please use the common language of respect, responsibility, and being safe. The more our students hear this, the more likely they will be to know and live up to these expectations.

Beyond our behavior expectations, we have been refining our curriculum. All Hermon schools curricula will be posted on our website this coming summer. However, if you have questions about what is being taught, you are encouraged to reach out to our teachers or administration. I believe that the way to support all students to a successful outcome is a strong parent/teacher relationship.

As we move into 2023, we encourage all Hermon residents to come and visit the school. This could be through coming to a basketball game, a play, the show choir, or volunteering. Our students need to see a united community. While we can't unite on every topic, we can unite on being there for our kids. The door is open!



Dog License

2023 dog tags are available as of October 15, 2022.

Residents who need vet care or rabies for their animals should make their appointments NOW for 2023 licensing. Information has been communicated by the State Vet Association that they are experiencing a vet shortage / lack of remote clinics and resources.

Please license your dog before January 31. The State of Maine demands a \$25.00 late fee for any dog renewal license after 1/31/2023. Go to <http://bit.ly/3UWzln4> to license a previously registered dog or a new dog online.

If you no longer have a dog to license, please let us know here at the Town Office at 848-1010 option #3.

\$25 late fee per dog will be in effect after 1/31/2023!





Hermon Hawk JROTC Battalion Color Guard With Cheerleaders

Article and photos by Cadet 2LT Sidney Wadsworth



When doing color guard you get to uphold the legacy of the past, present, and future veterans. This year we brought in the cheerleaders, who are not only cheerleaders but also cadets and all on command & staff. Since all three of them were already at the football game, Major the Senior Army Instructor for the Hermon JROTC program thought it would be a wonderful idea to bring them in on it.

Major later said in an interview "It's unique to see both cheerleaders and football players presenting our Nation's Colors, and it shows how Hermon's Hawk Battalion cadets are interwoven throughout the school as representatives of the greater school community."

In an interview with 2LT Makayla Bemis, who participated in the color guard said "It was a great opportunity and it was really cool that Major included the cheerleaders, three girls in fall cheer are in JROTC and all three are on command and staff. It was a great experience, running across the football field with flags in hand was so much fun".

Executive Officer (XO) Bennett Meister who originally came up with the idea said "When I approached Major about the idea of the cheerleading cadets doing color guard, I had never even done color guard myself before. I thought it would be a good experience, and I was right. It was such a honoring and fun thing to be a part of as a female cadet who was also a cheerleader. As a LET 4 and a senior I never expected to do a color guard, but now I am so glad I did it and be a part of such a big thing."

She and the rest of the battalion are happy we got to have this opportunity this year and hope to continue it in the years to come.



Legislative Update

*2022 Legislative Session Update With Rep. Jim Thorne
House District 35 – Carmel and Hermon*

High energy costs will need to be addressed when the Legislature reconvenes

On December 7, 2022 members of the 131st Legislature raised their right hand and swore an oath to uphold the Constitution. I again thank those who placed their trust in me over the next two years. I will do my best to represent everyone, regardless of political party or persuasion.

The first legislative day is usually confined to ceremonial duties, organization of the House, and the election of Maine's constitutional officers (Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, and Secretary of State). Legislation is usually not considered on day one.

That was not the case this year. The Governor submitted emergency energy legislation for consideration. It passed the House overwhelmingly (125-16), but failed in the Senate. I am hopeful that, by the time you read this, energy relief has been approved that will assist our friends and neighbors that are struggling to heat their homes and pay bills.

In addition to short term relief, we also need to take a hard look at state energy policies that are contributing to high electric, oil, and gas prices. Everyone needs a seat at the table and a willingness to consider all options, not just the ones favored by lobbyists. I look forward to seeing significant legislation that can be acted upon to bring down prices in the long-term.

I want small businesses, nonprofits, and community serving organizations to recover and prosper in the years ahead. I also want a state that our young people choose to stay in, and one that attracts others to move here. A culture that favors work and job creators will lower taxes for everyone and provide appropriate safety nets without over-burdening taxpayers or retirees.

I will work hard and cooperatively with other members of the 131st Legislature over the next two years. If we work together, we can move Maine forward by restoring what has been lost.

I appreciate the support I have received from constituents and the opportunity to continue serving you in the Maine House. If there is anything I can do to assist you, or if you have questions or concerns involving state agencies, please contact me at Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov.

Sincerely, Rep. Jim Thorne





JOIN HERMON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2027!



**WEDNESDAY MARCH 8TH, 2023
9:00AM – 11:00AM FOR STUDENTS**

Your introduction to elective courses and activities. Learn about our program of studies, athletics, and many clubs at HHS!

**A small school experience
with big opportunities**

“At Hermon High School we are small enough that you will be known, and large enough that you will be known for something.” -Superintendent Micah Grant

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 8TH, 2023
6:00PM – 8:00PM FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS**

School tour and presentation by administration and school counselors.
See our school and hear about expectations, curriculum, and more!

Tour will start at 6:00pm
Administration's presentation will follow



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR STEP-UP EVENTS OR REGISTERING WITH HERMON HIGH SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT THE GUIDANCE OFFICE AT 848-5100.

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