



Hickory Public Schools

Week in Review

October 22, 2016

“A snapshot of HPS good news”

Hickory Homecoming

to feature community parade!

It's been more than two decades since Hickory High hosted a homecoming parade, but on Friday, October 28, 2016, the parade will return with Tommy Tornado, the school's mascot, serving as the Grand Marshal of the 2016 HHS Homecoming Parade.

Scheduled to start at 4:00 PM, the parade will feature: HHS Tornado Marching Band, HHS Drumline, HHS JROTC, HHS cheerleaders, the Homecoming Court, clubs, various classes and several floats. The community is invited to attend this public parade—an event designed to appeal to children of all ages.

The City of Hickory approved the following parade route: HHS Homecoming Parade route will **begin** in the HHS parking lot adjoining the football field, and will turn left onto 14th Ave NE; right onto 3rd St. NE; right onto 16th Ave. NE; right onto 3rd St. Dr. NE; and **finish** back at the parking lot at the school. Sidewalk and parking space are available along 3rd St. NE for spectators to view the parade.

Following the parade, many community citizens will participate in personal tailgating before the start of the game, as HHS plays host to Watauga, at 7:30 PM. Admission to the game is \$6.

The school week leading up to the homecoming parade will be filled with a Tornado spirit theme—including a “powder puff” football game scheduled for Monday, October 24 at 6:30 PM on the HHS soccer field. The teams will consist of female players from 9th and 11th grades, named the “Law Ladies” and female players from 10th and 12th grades, named “Goddesses of the Gridiron.”



HHS football players and male students will serve as coaches and cheerleaders. Tommy Tornado will also be present to cheer for the players. For admission to the powder puff game: bring two children's books (gently used) for HPS Superintendent, Dr. Adell's Book Mobile.

Following Monday's powder puff game, the community is invited to attend a bonfire at 7:30 PM, located in the lower part of the HHS parking lot, on the side near Celery Stalk apartments. The HHS drumline and cheerleaders will perform at the bonfire. An effigy of the “pioneer” mascot from Watauga will be tossed in the fire. The scrap wood used for the bonfire is provided by Century Furniture Case Goods Plant. The Hickory Fire Department will be on hand to monitor fire safety.

Photo above: HHS
Homecoming
Court 2016



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Superintendent's Advisory Council Focuses on K-64 Initiative

Superintendent of Hickory Public Schools, Dr. Robbie Adell, welcomed guests to the second meeting of the Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC), held on October 20, at Northview Middle School.

The event centered on the "Catawba County K-64 Learning Initiative" with an in-depth presentation by Dr. Garrett Hinshaw, president of Catawba Valley Community College. The one-to-one technology initiative is a partnering effort between public schools in Catawba County and Catawba Valley Community College—with potential funding from the Catawba County Commissioners.

Additionally, Jeff Tice, HPS director of technology and Terri Hall, HPS instructional technology specialist, provided information on the K-64 initiative from the district perspective. The initiative would take four years to secure purchase, professional learning for staff, the development of pilot programs and eventual full implementation in kindergarten through 12th grade. Year five would roll-out the 1:1 initiative for all students in every grade.

Continued funding past the first four years will be vital to sustaining the initiative. Methods to measure the impact will include reviews of academic achievements, digital learning environments, digital teaching standards and student engagement.

Violins open doors to music for students

BY JOHN BAILEY
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HICKORY—Anyone would be nervous picking up a violin for the first time, much less stepping out in front of a crowd and playing it.

The students in Kristy Watts' class at the Hickory Public Schools' Grandview Middle certainly felt that way a couple of months ago when Grandview Middle Orchestra Director Nan Freeman introduced the students to the instrument and a whole new way to view the world, through music.

"It takes 52 thought processes to play one note on the violin," she said.

Freeman believes in the philosophy of Japanese educator Shinichi Suzuki.

He based his approach on the belief "Musical ability is not an inborn talent but an ability which can be developed. Any child who is properly trained can develop musical ability, just as all children develop the ability to speak their mother tongue. The potential of



ROBERT C. REED/RECORD

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Students at Grandview Middle School practice for a concert.

Art Students Remember Children

According to Teresa Bentley, HHS art teacher, this is the eighth year HHS art students have created original artwork for shirts representing the child homicides in North Carolina. "The list of 32 names representing children from ages 7 days to 17 years shared with us this year is heartbreaking. There are 11 more names on the list than from last year. My students are so talented and they have learned that art can shine a light on darkness." The Children's Advocacy & Protection Center will sponsor a vigil this **Tuesday at 12 PM** on Union Square in Hickory.



K-64!

Music

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every child is unlimited," a statement at suzukiassociations.org says.

In the nearly two months since they first started drawing their bows across their violins, the Grandview Middle students have exceeded Freeman's expectations.

"They sound great and they're working hard," Freeman said.

Her focus is on teaching the students some basic songs and the motor skills they need to handle and play the instrument.

"They learned how to make a good bow hold, and I used Styrofoam violins for them to learn how to hold the instruments up and develop the muscles and skills first," Freeman said. "They have to learn about fractions."

The instruments are all donated for the program, and once they got enough for everyone the class graduated to the real thing. They are still look-

ing for a few more bows and cases.

"My feeling is when we look at the end of the year, we're going to see some changes in their cognitive skills because of this, because it's very math related," Freeman said. "They have to learn about fractions."

Her expectations were to have the class playing at its current level by Christmas so she is thrilled to see those expectations exceeded.

Grandview Middle Principal Aaron Joplin said when Freeman was brought on full-time as the school's orchestra director this year it created an opportunity to explore incorporating music into the classroom.

"I thought it was a great idea to provide a unique learning experience for our students," Joplin said. The class performed for parents at the school on Friday.

