

Keeping you informed on the latest HCLC news. First.



HCLC Insight

From the desk of Jan Gleeson, Executive Director

March 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Spring Break
March 16th — 27th

ILPs: Grades 7-12
March 27th & 30th

ILPs: Grades K-6
March 30th & 31st

1st Day of 3rd Qtr.
Gr. 7-12: March 31st
Gr. K-6: April 1st

Although we continue to wait for concrete budget information from the state of Arizona regarding the 2009-10 school year, I thought you would like an update on the current year.

In February, we had an evening Roundtable Discussion regarding the school budget. If you were unable to attend the meeting, the following article includes some of the information we shared with those present.

On February 11, we received a School Finance Memo from Tom Horne, State Superintendent of Schools. He gave us the information we charter schools had been waiting for regarding the 2008-09 budget ... How specifically the state's budget deficit for 2008-09 would affect us?

The answer for HCLC was a \$57,025.80 reduction in additional assistance. This represented HCLC's portion of the \$4,000,000 reduction impacting charter schools.

We have revised this year's budget; and based on this figure, we

did reduce this year's budget by \$57,025.80 without it affecting our students or staff too critically.

However, keep in mind that this merely reflected the efforts to fix the \$1.6 billion state budget taking us through June 2009. The more profound crisis the state faces is the \$3.6 billion for 2009-10. As mentioned previously, we are still waiting for information on how this will affect HCLC.

We have been working on two budgets for the 2009-10 school year as a reaction to the potential state funding cuts, one budget being more optimistic than the other. Additionally, we have identified ways to decrease our expenses as a school.

Regardless of the results, any plan will have an impact. It is important to school leadership that you know that reducing staff is the **last** of the options, and so is eliminating any HCLC program.

If you have been following the legislative con-

versations and the media coverage, you realize there is quite a bit of conjecture regarding what will be cut for the 2009-10 school year. In our planning, we are keeping all possibilities in mind.

Also realize that when the time comes to communicate the reductions to the schools, for the most part, charter schools will be addressed differently than district schools.

No matter what the legislative decisions, we will be prepared. HCLC is a "beacon of quality" including our common belief in a set of values, standards of behavior, and our ability to problem solve tough issues.

Please know that we will continue to share information in as timely a way as we can. If you have any questions or input, just let me know.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and school. We are a formidable community. Aren't we?

Jan

HCLC 2009-2010 ENROLLMENT

**PLEASE
SUPPORT OUR
SOARING
EAGLES
SOCIETY**

**COMING
SOON:
JAN'S BLOG!**

**LOOK FOR IT
SOON @
WWW.
HORIZONCLC.
ORG**

**HOPE EVERY-
ONE IS
HAVING A
WONDERFUL
SPRING
BREAK!**

For those of you who have been here a while... Do you remember when we used to have a difficult time maintaining our enrollment from year to year?

Well, we humbly share with you that those days are numbered. We only had 40 students kindergarten through twelfth grade not return to HCLC for the 2009-10 school year.

Please take a look at the chart below. This year we had a record number of current families re-

turning to HCLC, especially in the middle school and high school. HCLC has a ninety-seven percent (97%) retention rate.

Over time, what we had hoped would happen, actually has. Our students are staying at HCLC for their entire elementary and secondary education. With each passing year, there has been less talk about going to another school and more talk about school pride.

Also notice that 75 sib-

lings of current families have enrolled for the 2009-10 school year.

We are still working on our Lottery results and calling families to inform them of their numbers in the lottery or wait list. We did enroll 100 students Pre-Kindergarten Foundations through eleventh grade knowing that historically, from April through July, families change their minds, move, decide to attend another school, etc. We only wish we had room for the 390 people still on the wait list.

GRADE LEVEL	RETURNING STUDENTS	SIBLINGS
Pre-K		14
Full Day K	39	42
1	97	6
2	114	0
3	118	1
4	122	1
5	113	1
6	127	6
7	112	1
8	135	1
9	118	1
10	115	0
11	109	1
12	99	0
TOTALS	1418	75

ILP Commitments

Please remember that participating in ILPs is a commitment we all make to each other at HCLC. Whether your child is excelling at school or not, we value the relationship with your child and you that only meeting and talking face-to-face can provide.

If you have not signed up for an ILP Conference, it's not too late. Just call (480) 659-3000 and schedule a time that works for you.

As always, please sign up for an ILP as opposed to dropping in on the teachers when they are trying to conduct

conferences with those who have made an appointment.

At our last ILPs in January, ninety percent (90%) of our elementary parents and students attended, and fifty-eight percent (58%) of our secondary families. Let's try for 100% this time!