

Horizon Honors Intermediate School News

October 2009

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL LAURA WANSTREET

Goals

This quarter our students have been working on their individual academic and personal goals that were set during their ILP conferences in August. The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented (NRC/GT) at the University of Connecticut found that, "Goals provide a standard against which students can gauge their progress, and setting goals can have a substantial impact on student self-efficacy and achievement.... Goals are effective in two ways. First, they give directions for a student's effort. Second, they provide a way to measure, and thus draw attention to, previous achievement.

Success in achieving our goals doesn't usually happen by accident. It often requires planning and focused attention on our goals. As we teach our children to write goals we also focus on how they can go about achieving the goals they set. During Advisory, students have been learning about SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely). They have also been reflecting on their personal goals and creating a plan on how they can achieve their goals. Ask your child about these advisory discussions.

During our ILP Conferences in October, you will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress toward their goals and set new goals. Take some time over the break to brainstorm ideas for goals that will motivate your child to grow. Goals that are specific and written in the students own words work well. Your child's teacher will also have feedback on possible goals that will help your child succeed in the classroom. Teaching children to set, monitor and measure their goals will help them put all the pieces together. Not everyone will be the best at everything, but step-by-step, our students can accomplish anything!

Thank you for your continued support.

Laura Wanstreet
laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org

HCLC STUDENTS READ 403, 089 MINUTES THIS SUMMER!

Many of our K-6 students participated in the "Read for the World Record" summer reading program, logging 403,089 minutes from May 1 to August 1. Horizon Community Learning Center came in #4 in the world! Congratulations to our amazing readers and thank you for supporting this program.

Kids from all over the world participated in the program and helped to set the record for summer reading! The top 20 schools that read the most minutes will be featured in the 2010 Scholastic Book of World Records. All schools that participated in the challenge are listed on the Web site <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/record/>, along with their total minutes read.

Upcoming Events

5-6 Summative:
October 1

Fall Break Begins:
October 5

ILPs:
October 16 & October 19

First day of 2nd Quarter:
October 20

Sprit Week:
October 20 – Favorite T-Shirt
October 21 - Hawaiian Day
October 22 - Stripes & Polka Dots
October 23 - HCLC Spirit Day

IS Skateland Night:
October 27, 6–8 p.m.

More upcoming HCLC events can be found on the [HCLC Web site](#).

ADVISORY TOPICS

This year in Advisory, the students will continue building upon the foundation of our school values that has been laid in previous years. Students at the 5-6 level will be implementing the school values and will be coached through situations. For example, if students are having trouble making decisions in Project Group, the teacher may lead a discussion that gives students the opportunity to develop strategies to resolve the problem and show them how to put their values into action.

5-6 STUDENT RECOGNITION

Over the last several years, 5-6 students have been recognized for their hard work in various ways. They have been able to earn free time, tangible rewards and/or awards for their hard work. We are working on improving how our 5-6 students are recognized for their accomplishments. We all feel it is important for students to be acknowledged as they grow and achieve their goals and are brainstorming what feedback will excite and motivate our 5th and 6th Graders. You will hear more about this and about how we are building a positive learning environment where students are challenged to learn, believe, dream and dare!

DO YOU HAVE A YEARBOOK?

Don't miss out on purchasing your Yearbook! Please visit <http://www.horizonclc.org/year-books> to order yours today!

The PreK-6 Yearbook is a 48-page, black and white, hard cover book that includes special events and classroom moments. All students photographed during Fall Photo Days are included in the book. The cost is \$20.

If you have any questions, please contact the Main Office at (480) 659-3000.

Math

Quarter 2 will bring plenty of challenges and excitement in Math. Many of the classes will be working with fractions. Students will be building conceptual understanding of the relationship among fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. We will be promoting mastery of fraction concepts and applying those concepts to real-world situations. Students will work with fractional numbers in geometry formulas; solve proportions and apply proportional reasoning; work

with concepts of probability and find probabilities of events.

Here are some interesting facts about fractions:

- In Latin, fraction means fractus, or broken.
- Fractions are about 5,000 years old.
- Decimals used to be called "decimal fractions."
- The actual word for a fraction bar is vinculum.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CAMP

Many parents have been asking about camp dates. The dates of camp will be determined and finalized at the beginning of the second quarter. Camp paperwork, including dates, cost, and information for volunteers, will be distributed in Quarter 2. A reminder for those who are interested in volunteering at camp that a fingerprint clearance card is mandatory. You can obtain information about getting a fingerprint clearance card from the Elementary Office. Please allow plenty of time (it can take a few months) to have this processed.

MUSIC NOTES

The Performing Arts Exhibition is October 29 at 6 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room. All students who are in a 5-6 performing group (Beginning Band, Intermediate Band, Horizon Harmonies, and Eagle Echoes) may audition. If you have a special talent you would love to show off on stage, come out to auditions on October 20, 21, and 22. Auditions will be held each day after school in the Multi-purpose Room.

Did you know?

- The oldest piece of written music ever found is from 408 B.C.? The music was sung by a choir in an ancient Greek play called Orestes, which was written by Euripides.
- Bagpipes were not invented by the Scottish? The Romans were playing bagpipes during the Roman empire in the First Century AD. The bagpipes were made of sheepskin or a cow's stomach and a few hollow stalks to make pipes.
- People of the Stone Age played flutes made of old bones?

SIGN UP FOR ILPS!

An Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is developed each quarter for each student at HCLC at an ILP Conference. The student, parent(s) and teachers meet to outline the academic and social goals for each individual child during the conference. Participation in the ILP Conference is required. Our handbook states "Students might not be promoted to the next grade level and/or graduate without this involvement."

Second Quarter ILPs will be held October 16 and October 19, and take approximately 20 minutes. To make an appointment, contact the Elementary Office at (480) 659-3100.

HOMEWORK NOTES

This year we have added an interactive component to Intermediate School homework: family discussion questions. We have heard more positive feedback about these questions than any other homework opportunity our students have had. Family discussion/research questions are questions teachers will ask each day and students will write in their planners. In 5-6, classes with required homework assignments do not have a family discussion/research question on their given homework night. These questions reflect content students have discussed in class or content they will cover in class the following day. Questions are designed as family discussion questions, not a "quiz." Families should read and discuss the question as a family. These questions are open-ended and require no written response.

For example, if the question is "What is the setting of the book you are reading?" your child should be able to tell about the setting of a book he/she is reading. Other family members should also share the setting of the book they are reading. Parents and older siblings can model descriptive language and how to discuss literature, while younger siblings can learn from what their IS brother/sister is learning.

We have heard so many stories about families pulling out the atlas, encyclopedia or computer to research and discuss a family question. We have heard of others who have taken out their wheelbarrow or a doorknob to discuss a family discussion question from Science class. Others students are engaging in authentic book talks with their parents for the first time and are so surprised that their parents read books for fun, too! Some questions may only lead to a few moments of dialogue while others will spark great family discussion. We love to hear feedback about the family discussion questions – let us know what your family discussions have been!

A NOTE FROM MS. K

Free hugs, someone holding the door, extra help at home...if you are experiencing a wave of random acts of kindness you can thank our Intermediate students and teachers. This quarter we are focusing on our leadership goals and the school goals of Learn, Believe, Dream, and Dare. For our first session we explored the leadership goal of providing service in a variety of communities by illustrating and practicing altruistic behavior or random acts of kindness. The students watched a music video that inspired them to dare and overcome their fears, pick yourself up after something bad happens, focus on the future, and dedicate yourself to new things to reach your goal. Then they watched a video with the same song and same lyrics, but different images that challenged them to care for others, offering help and friendship, touching others to pay it forward, overcoming your fear to help others, and daring to be different. The students were then dared to create their own random acts of kindness and develop their leadership abilities. They were asked to record everything in their planners and note whether it was at home, school, or in the community. By the end of the day our students and teachers were spreading kindness and it was spilling out of the building and into the streets. We will continue to further explore this topic and work to enhance our leadership skills and capabilities.

Our groups will resume next quarter and permission slips will be available at second quarter ILPs. If you are interested in your child participating in one of our groups please e-mail or sign a slip at your child's conference. Currently our groups include a divorce/separation group, a life stress group, and a friendship/social group. My goal is to meet with the students during the mornings to avoid meeting during their learning blocks. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kelly Kowalczyk, Student Advisor
kelly.kowalczyk@horizonclc.org



PRESENTS



Join us for Dinner, Silent Auction, Dancing and Golf
Saturday, November 21

Dinner, Silent Auction and Dancing

Register September 1-30

Couples \$45

Single \$25

Golf, Dinner, Silent Auction, and Dancing

Register September 1-30

~~\$185~~ per person (last year's pricing)

\$85 per person **WOW!**

Register October 1-30

Couples \$50

Single \$30

Register October 1-30

\$99 per person

\$340 per foursome

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Tournament Sponsor



Dinner Sponsor \$2,500 - Available

Tee Sponsor



Putting Green Sponsors \$500 – Available

Driving Range Sponsors \$500 – Available

Hole Sponsors \$300 - Available