

Horizon Honors Intermediate School News

January 2010

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL LAURA WANSTREET

The 2009-2010 school year still has two remaining quarters full of fun and learning to enjoy, but HCLC is already planning for the next school year. I am often asked what parents should expect and the timeline for the transition from one school year to the next.

The first thing HCLC families will see in preparation for the next school year is the Re-Enrollment Form. Sixth Graders will see this form during their ILP conference, but it will be officially distributed on January 27. Please check out the article on page 2 entitled "Next Year's Seventh Graders." Fifth Graders will receive the form on February 4. It is essential to turn in your form by the due date as we are preparing for our Lottery and will need to know how many spots we will have available for next year. You will fill out one form for each child currently enrolled in HCLC. If you have a child who is not currently attending HCLC but will be joining us for the next school year, there is a portion on the bottom of the form where you can include this information. You will indicate this only one time on your oldest child's form. Enrollment preference is given to siblings of students currently enrolled at HCLC. Should we have more siblings interested in enrolling than we have spaces available, we will conduct a sibling lottery. Please make sure you read the article on page three regarding re-enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year.

Students remaining in Intermediate School will also need to fill out the back of the Re-Enrollment Form. It will ask you for your child's course selection. Your IS student will be able to choose between Spanish, Chorus and Band for one of his/her exploratory classes.

Students going into Middle School will also fill out a course selection form. They will be asked for more specific class choices including honors level classes.

HCLC's IS and MS scheduling and placements begin during the third quarter. Student placement is based primarily on academic peer groups and having students in classes that will properly challenge them. The placement process begins with teacher academic and social recommendations. This is why it is so important to have these discussions with your child's teacher during ILP conferences. This discussion will include math and reading level recommendations. Specific teachers are not selected at this time. Preliminary lists are created and teachers review lists and continue to refine the new class groupings. This process continues throughout the quarter and into the summer months.

During the summer, classroom placements are finalized and you will receive a schedule of classes in the mail. It will indicate your child's teachers' names and invite your family to "Meet the Teacher" day or "Open House" for Middle School Students.

Please do not hesitate to call or stop by if you have any questions about this process.

Laura Wanstreet
laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org

Upcoming Events

ILP Conferences:
January 11 & 12

First Day of 3rd Quarter:
January 13

Third Quarter Lunches Begin:
January 13

Last Day to Order Yearbooks:
January 15

Martin Luther King Day
(NO SCHOOL):
January 18

Spirit Week:
January 19-22
Tuesday - Sports Day
Wednesday - 50's Day
Thursday - Patriotic Day (Wear red,
white, & blue)
Friday - Horizon Spirit Day

Intramurals Begin:
January 25
Volleyball & Soccer

6th Grade Parent Middle School
Orientation:
January 27 @ 6 p.m. in
Community Room

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

ADVISORY TOPICS

Week of January 13:
Team Building

Week of January 19:
Team Building & Problem
Solving

Week of January 25:
How to be a Productive
Member of Your Team

LAST CHANCE! YEARBOOK SALES END JANUARY 15!

Don't miss out on purchasing your Yearbook! Sales end January 15. Visit <http://www.horizonclc.org/yearbooks> to order yours today!

The PreK-6 Yearbook is a 48-page, black and white, hard cover book produced by the 5-6 Yearbook Club that includes special events and classroom moments. All students photographed during Fall Photo Days are included. The cost is \$23.

TRAFFIC FLOW REMINDER

We have received several complaints from parents who do not follow the traffic flow rules and driving regulations. Please help us by being one of them too.

- 1.) Do not stop on Frye Rd. to drop off or pick up students
- 2.) Do not leave your car in the red emergency zone in front of the elementary school (night or day)
- 3.) When turning onto 48th Street from the school parking lot in the afternoon, please be aware of the traffic on 48th Street turning left into the school.

Let's keep our families safe. Thank you.

5-6 LANGUAGE ARTS

This quarter in Language Arts, students will participate in an Author's Study. Literature groups will be used to encourage students to discuss literature using literary terminology and the brilliance of writers. This may include their techniques, audience, analysis based on the Six Traits of Writing, contributions to society, historical significance,

etc. In writing, students will use reader response journals to respond to various forms of text. Students will also write friendly letters posing questions based on their author readings. For Technology, each student will create an iMovie as an autobiography. As always, our quarter is packed full of learning and exploring. We are looking forward to another fantastic one!

NEXT YEAR'S 7TH GRADERS

It is extremely important for parents of students that are going into 7th Grade next year to attend their child's ILP conference on January 11th or 12th. During this time, your child's teachers will be sharing their recommendations for your child's academic placement next year. It is important for both you and your child to attend and discuss next year's placement. This year a teacher's signature will be required for all core classes and some of their Band and Chorus selections. This is your opportunity to give feedback and to help your child plan for their future.

On January 27, our students will attend Middle school Orientation at 2:30 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room. After this meeting the students will receive their class selections sheets with teacher recommendations that must be completed and signed by February 5. Later that evening, all parents are encouraged to attend an informational meeting to find out more about Middle School curriculum and have any questions answered. This meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room.

SIGN UP FOR ILPS TODAY!

An Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is developed each quarter for each student at HCLC. This plan is created at the beginning of each quarter in an ILP conference. The student, parent(s) and teacher(s) 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 are January 11 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and January 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and take approximately 20 minutes. To make an appointment, please come in or contact Jeanette or Kim in the Elementary Office at (480) 659-3100.

STAY ACTIVE!

Winter Break is here, and so are big meals and parties that can throw your healthy eating and fitness plans off track. Kids should be active at least 60 minutes each day. A few reasons it is important to stay physically active are:

- Maintaining a healthy body keeps you happy and energized.
- Boosts self-confidence.
- Instills sportsmanship and team spirit.
- Enhances overall cognitive abilities.
- Reduces stress.
- It's tons of fun!

So, get out of the house and walk around the zoo or go for a hike (don't forget to be Sunwise!). For other great ways to get in 60 minutes of play a day visit <http://www.nflrush.com/play60/tips/>. Have a healthy, fun and safe break!

REPORTING ABSENCES AND TARDIES

When a student needs to be absent, parents must call the Attendance Line at (480) 659-3062 before 9 a.m. that day. Absences can be reported for a single day or multiple days can be recorded in one call. This greatly reduces the need to call you at work or home to confirm the absence. State law mandates that the school record a reason for all student absences. The absence will be unexcused if no reason is given. When calling, please leave the child's name, date of absence(s), grade level and reason for absence, along with a telephone number where you can be reached in case of questions. Thank you for following this policy.

AIMS REMINDERS

The weeks of April 12th and 19th our students will be taking the AIMS/Terra Nova standardized tests. Please do not schedule vacations or appointments during this week. Our goal is 100% participation.

Tips to help your child prepare:

- Successful test-takers tend to be students with good attendance, homework, and reading habits; therefore, your child's daily assistance with homework and attitude toward school have the biggest impact on their overall performance – which will naturally include the tests.
- Students who struggle the most on testing days are the ones who didn't have enough sleep or a good breakfast the day of the test. Rest up and eat healthy.

The Arizona Department of Education is a wonderful resource. Check on: <http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/> for parent guides and sample tests.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

What an exciting quarter we have in store! This quarter we will be reading "2010 Grand Canyon Reader Award" nominees. We will be reading the picture book nominees during class time, but the kids will have an opportunity to check out and vote for books from the other categories as well.

Keep Reading! The "Thousand-aire / Millionaire Club" is still going. Log your books read with the total number of words in each book, and win fabulous prizes! This contest will continue through March. If you have questions you may contact Mindy Duet in the Media Center.

2010-2011 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Your child will bring home a 2010-2011 Re-Enrollment Form soon. For 6th Graders going into 7th Grade, expect the form on January 27 with a due date of February 5. For 5th Graders, expect them on February 4 with a due date of February 9. Siblings of returning students requesting new enrollment in 2010-2011 must be added to this form. In order to maintain your child's enrollment and ensure siblings receive full enrollment preference, please return this form by the due date.

Families will be contacted February 11 regarding new sibling registration. In the past, HCLC has been able to accommodate all siblings requesting new enrollment. However, a sibling lottery will be held if there are more siblings than spaces available.

If you are enrolling siblings, please prepare now to complete the following registration process. Within one week of enrollment notification, you will be expected to have this information complete:

- Complete a Registration Form in our Main Office between 7:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
- Present an official birth certificate
- Satisfy state immunization requirements ([see the HCLC Web site](#) or office for specific information)
- Schedule an assessment (Grades K-9)
- Submit copies of last report card or transcript and the most recent standardized test results (Grades 6-11)

Questions? Please contact Darlene Gaudette via e-mail or at 480-659-3004.

EAGLE DAY A SUCCESS!

Thank you for your support of Eagle Day! The event raised \$18,948! All proceeds benefit HCLC's Digital Excellence Campaign, which raises funds to increase the level of technology at all grade levels. Previously funded technology items include LCD projectors, laptops, and MAC books.

Interested in joining our golf or silent auction committee? We'd love your help! Please e-mail [Mona Volden](mailto:Mona.Volden@horizonk12.org), Director of Parent Partnership Programs.



Third Quarter Lunches

Third Quarter Lunches begin January 13.

January 2010 Volunteer of the Month:
Gayle Gaines
Congratulations and thank you!