

Horizon Honors Intermediate School News

August 2009

A NOTE FROM LAURA WANSTREET

Welcome and welcome back! Summer break is always a great time for me to relax and be with my family and the time off rejuvenates all of us. I hope you had time to enjoy your children and I thank you for sending them back to us!

As many of you know, the teachers come back to school before the students for a time we call "Plan Week." The purpose of Plan Week is to allow our teachers the time needed to plan for the learning experiences HCLC prides itself on offering our students. Plan Week is always an invigorating time and the first Plan Week of the school year is exceptionally revitalizing. The newness of the school year is upon us and ideas are fresh and in abundance. It is also a time to re-examine our mission and school goals to remind ourselves of our reasons for being here.

Our Mission Statement: Horizon Community Learning Center is committed to providing a safe learning environment rich in technology where students achieve academic and social excellence while solving real-life problems in a cooperative manner.

Our School Goals: The Horizon Community Learning Center will create a quality environment where students...

LEARN: Students strive to reach their personal best in each of the academic areas, gaining new knowledge and skills while applying them in a real-life setting.

BELIEVE: Students gain confidence in themselves and others through the learning process as demonstrated by their success, recognition of accomplishments, and acceptance of increased responsibilities.

DREAM: Students create a vision for the future that provides the foundation for a learning environment where students are challenged to reach beyond their perceived limitations, creating new paradigms for learning and impacting the world.

DARE: The act of applying oneself to make a difference requires a strong sense of character based upon sound values. The will be achieved as students honor and apply the values of integrity, loyalty, self-discipline, initiative, dedication, perseverance, respect for others, compassion, responsibility, involvement, truthfulness, trustworthiness, a strong work ethic, and a sincere commitment to family and community.

Our school goals and mission statement are the foundation for our program. Revisiting these ideas often helps us make it all happen. I hope you are as energized as we are to begin a new school year and are reminded of the reasons you continue to make HCLC your school of choice. Together we create a learning community for our children.

Thank you for your continued support,

Laura Wanstreet
laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org

Upcoming Events

Audition Packets for Fall Musical Available:
August 3 in Elementary Office

Yearbook Club Info Meeting:
August 6 @ 3:45, Room 413

Lunch Program Begins:
August 10

Student Council Elections:
August 10

Auditions for Fall Musical:
August 10 & 11 @ 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Intramural Sports Begin:
Power Fitness – Tues. & Thurs.
August 11 @ 3:30 p.m.

Cast Meeting for Fall Musical:
Aug 12th @ 2:40 - 5:00 p.m.

ILP Conferences (NO SCHOOL):
August 13 & 14

Chess Club Begins:
August 19 @ 7 a.m.

Fall Pictures:
August 18 & 19

School Forum:
August 20 @ 6 p.m. in Classrooms

IS Movie Night:
August 21 @ 3-5 p.m., MPR

EAGLENET

All 2008-2009 HCLC families still have access to their EagleNet accounts. If you have problems, please send an e-mail to eaglenet@horizonclc.org. New families will receive their logins and passwords at ILP Conferences on August 13 and 14.

REPORTING ABSENCES

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

SPANISH NEWS

Hola! In Spanish we will be introduced to vocabulary on a variety of units including school, home, and play. We will incorporate vocab into writing and speaking by developing skits using it in conversations. We will also take it into music by learning a song. Then there is the culture piece. We will learn about different Spanish speaking countries and look at the areas of geography, history, people, food and the arts. We will learn about Spanish artists and do activities replicating their styles. And then there is everyone's favorite...a Taste of Culture. We will sample Latin American cuisine once a quarter. We will have a fantastic time in Spanish this year. Adios!

Welcome to 5-6!

The teachers of 5-6 all hope parents and students have had an enjoyable break. This year we will be building contraptions, castles, ships, and going to camp! The teachers have been working hard to prepare and are ready to get started. We will begin the year with our "Contraptions" unit. In this unit, students will be applying physics and math concepts to create a contraption that will catch a marble and guide it on a track. This marble will then release potential energy in order to move another marble that will start the next student's project. Students will use their creativity and knowledge of physics terms like force, inertia, momentum, friction, mechanical

advantage among others, to design and build a working model. We invite parent volunteers to help support the students. Our projects are designed to give students a chance to wrestle with a problem and come up with their own original solution. Parent volunteers can support this process by helping in preparing the room, distributing supplies, managing the sink area, organizing materials, and for this first unit there is a special need to prepare supplies. As the year progresses we will be recruiting parents for other units and especially camp. We look forward to seeing our students' enthusiasm, creativity, curiosity, and eager minds!

5-6 STUDENTS MAY AUDITION FOR SCHOOL MUSICAL!

Mark your calendars! The Performing Arts Department is pleased to announce an opportunity for Intermediate School students to be a part of the next HCLC Drama Production. The musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," includes a boys and girls chorus that is never off-stage and a part of the entire production. Auditions will be held from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 10 and Tuesday, August 11. The first cast meeting will be Wednesday, August 12 from 2:40 to 5 p.m. Auditions will take place in the Performing Arts classroom located in the far corner of the Multi-purpose Room. Informational materials to assist the student in preparing for the audition will be available in the Elementary Office one week in advance on Monday, August 3. If you have any questions about the packets, feel free to contact Mrs. Shaheen. "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" will be performed November 12, 13, and 14. There's no experience necessary. Come out and give drama a try!

YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

Don't miss out on purchasing your Yearbook! This year the Yearbooks can ONLY be purchased online, so no order form is available. Please visit <http://www.horizonclc.org/yearbooks> 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 \$18 until August 7.

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION TIME!

Attention all 6th graders: A mandatory informational meeting was held July 30 for any students interested in running for 6th Grade Student Council. At the meeting we covered important dates, qualifications, and election information. Candidates will be presenting speeches and voting will take place on August 10.

A DISCUSSION ON HOMEWORK

We are excited about the homework opportunities your child will have this year. Our staff has been working on designing homework that aligns with our mission statement, school goals and homework policy as outlined in the HCLC Handbook. Homework for Intermediate School students will consist of opportunities to read for enjoyment, explore, be creative, have choice and communicate with families about classroom learning experiences. They will also begin to see some assignments designed to practice and apply previously mastered skills. Formal homework will begin after our ILP conferences where your child's teachers will be able to outline your child's homework expectations. The teachers will be seeking your input on any homework individualization needs for your child.

Over the next few months, we will include articles about homework and how to make the best of this time at home with your child. This month, we would like to share ideas about the first homework component: reading together for enjoyment.

Homework for IS students consists of opportunities to read for enjoyment, explore, be creative and communicate with their families about their learning experiences. It is also a time we begin to see students bringing home some exercises to practice basic skills they are mastering. Over the next few months we will include articles about homework and how to make the best of this time at home with your child. This month we would like to share ideas about the first homework component: reading together for enjoyment.

Reading together is the single most important "homework" activity a parent and child can do together. Fortunately, the message is out – loud and clear: "You help your child become a more successful reader by reading to him/her from the time the child is born." Research has shown that this works better than any reading drills or expensive program out there. It strengthens vocabulary, language, grammar and writing. It is also fun (for everyone involved) and a bond that is continuously being built. So, this time should look less like "homework" and more like a natural home activity with an emphasis on "enjoyment."

Once a child reaches Intermediate School, they are no longer "learning to read", but more often "reading to learn." Although reading to gather content knowledge is a skill they continue to develop – it should not be IN PLACE OF reading together for enjoyment, it's in addition to it. We all know, good parenting is very time consuming, but this is time well invested. Although some children may prefer to read by themselves, many children love being read to right through middle school or even adulthood. If you do have a child that elects to read alone, you're still not off the hook. There are other strategies you can employ. Read the same book, another book by the same author, or a book on the same subject on your own and use this as a catalyst for genuine discussions about literature.

Discussions? Yes! Literature can be a springboard for compelling conversation. If you say, "Did you like the book?" you may not get the discussion you hoped for. A yes or no question may get a shrug or a one-word answer. Talk to your child about the book as you would with a friend who has read the same book you are reading. Genuine conversation will encourage your child more than "quizzing" about the content of the book. Saying something like, "I'm surprised at that chapter. I thought he'd know where to find the jewel." might be more likely to elicit a response from the child. Model for your child as you give your ideas about the book. Be careful not to give the impression that there's only one meaning or opinion. Sometimes a book will remind you of an experience, anecdote or other story you know. Be sure to share it. Just as you're one of the best readers that your child knows, you're also one of the best storytellers and this type of sharing builds comprehension more effectively than a list of questions. This will also help to develop your child's critical and creative thinking as they experience deeper meanings in text.

We hope this give you some ideas for making at home reading time enjoyable – for you AND your child. For more ideas on how to make your home READING CENTRAL for your IS student, check out: http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/booksandreading.jsp?ESP=PAR/ib//eng/quick_BR///phlp/txt///

WELCOME FROM MS. K

My name is Kelly Kowalczyk and I am the student advisor for Horizon Honors Primary and Intermediate Schools. I am beginning my 10th year at HCLC, with five years in the classroom and four years as the student advisor. My roles vary here at HCLC, but first and foremost, I am here for our students. Each quarter I visit the classrooms to read to our students or present lessons, as well as provide support to individual students. I have small groups for various needs, such as students of divorced or separated families, students experiencing life stress, or students struggling with social behaviors. My roles extend to scheduling and working closely with the Intermediate team planning including camp, human growth and development, and curriculum. I am also the 504 Coordinator for students needing classroom accommodations due to health or other medical issues. Please feel free to contact me at kelly.kowalczyk@horizonclc.org. Welcome back and I look forward to a wonderful year with your children!

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.

JOIN YEARBOOK CLUB!

WHAT: Informational meeting for all interested 5/6 students to help create the elementary yearbook in an afterschool club.

WHO: ALL 5/6 students

WHEN: Thursday, August 6 @ 3:45 - 4:15 p.m.

WHERE: Mrs. Wolynia's Classroom - Room 413

WHY: To creatively influence the Elementary Yearbook and create a lasting memory.

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 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."

First Quarter ILPs will be held on Thursday, August 13 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday, August 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and take approximately 20 minutes. To make an appointment, contact the Elementary Office at (480) 659-3100.

PARKING REMINDERS

It is vital that we all follow the [HCLC traffic flow maps](#) for safety in our community. The following reminders are critical for everything to go smoothly:

- Loading and unloading students on the street or in the outside lane of the parking lot is unsafe. Please pull up to the curb to load and unload.
- Passing on the left while cars are waiting is unsafe, unfriendly & ILLEGAL. Phoenix Police will hand out tickets for this violation.
- When exiting the parking lot in the morning, please turn right on Frye Road to avoid congestion in our lot and on the street.
- If you need to leave your vehicle, please find a parking space. Please do not leave your car unattended in the pick up lanes.
- Parking on the dirt is environmentally unfriendly & ILLEGAL. Phoenix Police will hand out tickets for this violation.
- Always cross at the crosswalks.

SAVE THE DATE!

HCLC Dinner, Silent Auction & Golf is November 21

Mark your calendar! You won't want to miss this great event. Enjoy an evening of dinner and a silent auction or make a day of it and also play a round of golf. There is something for everyone to enjoy! Look for more information to come.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Mona Volden, Parent Partnership Director, at (480) 659-3098 or at mona.volden@horizonclc.org for more information.

Silent Auction Items Needed

HCLC families and businesses can get involved by donating items they may already have to help make the silent auction better than ever. We are looking for items like tickets to a Cardinals, Suns or Diamondbacks game, play tickets, concert tickets, a time share for a weekend getaway, beach house, cabin in the cool pines, etc. If you have items like these, please contact Mona Volden. We appreciate your help!

Become an SES Member Today!

HCLC wants to thank those caring and visionary leaders who are making a contribution to the future of our school. Their donations bridge the gap between what HCLC receives in state aid and what it costs to educate students.

Through the Soaring Eagles Society, you can fulfill the growing needs and dreams of our motivated students by supporting Physical Education, Spanish, Technology, Music, Band, Chorus, Drama, Project Group, and additional electives at HCLC.



Membership forms are available online or contact Mona Volden, Parent Partnership Director, at (480) 659-3098 or mona.volden@horizonclc.org for more information.

**You trust HCLC to educate your children.
We trust you to support HCLC.
Become a member today!**

“How Can I Get Involved at HCLC?”

What is the definition of a “HCLC Volunteer?” A person wishing to make a commitment to their child’s education by getting actively involved in their child’s school by donating their time to a volunteer program. Anyone can be a volunteer! One of our volunteer opportunities will fit your schedule. No experience necessary!

It’s easy! Just fill out our new, online Parent Partnership Information Form. We are excited to offer an online tool to gather this information for the family directory, carpool directory, and volunteer information. This informational survey was e-mailed to all parents who have their e-mail address on file at HCLC. If you did receive the e-mail please contact an HCLC Office by Thursday August 6 at 3:45 p.m. at (480) 659-3000 to update your e-mail information. The survey will then be e-mailed to you on Friday, August 7 for you to complete.

Here are just a few ways you can get involved!

Volunteer Lunch Program –

Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from approximately 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This lunch program begins Monday, August 10. Volunteers deliver packaged lunches to K-4 classrooms and distribute directly to 5-12 students.

HCLC Silent Auction, Dinner and Golf -

A great day of golfing, dinner, and a silent auction. The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 21 at the Foothills Golf Club.

Art Masterpiece –

Do you enjoy art? Do you have a favorite painting or sculpture? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that happens only once a month? Then Art Masterpiece is the place to be! Art Masterpiece runs during the second and third quarter. Time, length and frequency vary. You don’t need an art degree; all you need is an interest in art!

Staff Appreciation –

Help us thank the HCLC staff for everything they do and enhance their workday! Come join the fun!

Spring Fling Friday, April 30 –

Work to organize, promote and produce a great Spring Fling 2009. Come be a part of one of our biggest events of the year!



Help HCLC Bloom

Have you visited our Recycling Garden? The items you bring in for our recycling programs can be dropped off at the Recycling Garden, which is conveniently located in front of the Parent Partnership Office in the Elementary School Wing. Be sure to stop by the next time you’re on campus!

The following are items needed to help our “Recycling Garden” bloom:

Ink jet cartridges – HCLC receives \$2 for each cartridge

Laser jet cartridges - HCLC receives \$3 for each cartridge

Box Tops for Education Program - HCLC receives 10 cents for every Box Top you clip. Just clip box tops from your favorite products and drop off them off at either office, the parent partnership office or any of the PreK-6 classrooms.