

# Horizon Honors Primary 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. Ask your child how their teacher helps them work on their personal goal and how their progress is going.

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

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## 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

Fall Break Begins:  
October 5

ILPs:  
October 16 & October 19

First day of 2nd Quarter:  
October 20

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

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

## School Values

### Schedule

Week of October 20:  
Strong Work Ethic

Week of October 26:  
Truthfulness

## 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.

## DO YOU HAVE YOUR YEARBOOK?

Don't miss out on purchasing your Yearbook! 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. The cost is \$20.

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

# What's Happening in 1-2?

As you venture into a 1-2 classroom, you are walking into a room of exploration, discovery, challenges, and successes. Each day we begin with a Morning Meeting to discuss school values and set the standard for the day. After morning meeting, the students have calendar time in which they say the date, days of the week, go over any class announcements, recognize birthdays, and keep track of any lost teeth!

Following Morning Meeting, the students begin working in small groups for Reading and Math. Throughout the first quarter our students learned how to work independently and were challenged at their individual skill levels. We are excited to read about historical people and events as our second quarter Reading genre. We will focus on computation skills in Math.

The middle of our day is very exciting. We have recess, P.E., Music, Spanish, Tech-

nology, and lunch. Once our afternoon begins, the students break into writing groups and work on developing writing strategies to improve our writing skills. They also enjoy different word study activities to help become lifelong spellers. Finally, we end our day with Project Group. The students did a wonderful job with the first quarter Summative when they became city council members and scientists. We look forward to learning more about our country's history as we explore the first Thanksgiving and the Wampanoags.

As you can see, a day in the life of a 1st or 2nd Grader is very busy! We manage to learn all about Word Study, Writing, Reading, Math, and Project Group each and every day. In addition, each student has a personal leadership goal that they are working towards. We are writing "I can" statements each week to help us focus on achieving our goals. We are learning to believe in our dreams and daring to achieve them!

## A NOTE FROM MS. K

Starting next quarter I will begin visiting the classrooms to share books with our students that will highlight our school goals of learn, believe, dream, and dare, as well as our leadership goals for our students. Each visit I am surprised by how well the students remember the books we have read and the message that each book has to offer. This year I decorated my office walls with many of our favorites and all of the visitors or students that pass by love to have discussions about the books and what they learned from them. If you have any children's books that you would like to suggest or donate I would appreciate your feedback and support. I will be working with the teachers to post a review of our talks and questions for discussion on EagleNet throughout the quarter.

Our groups will also 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, lunch time, or at the end of the day to avoid meeting during their learning blocks. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kelly Kowalczyk, Student Advisor  
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## HOMEWORK NOTES

We have heard quite a bit of positive feedback about the homework opportunities our elementary students are working on. We wanted to share some of the ideas and stories as we think some of them will enhance homework time at your house. Homework for K-4 students consists of opportunities to read for enjoyment, explore, be curious/creative, have choices and communicate about their learning experiences. Our HCLC Learning Commitment states that students will: learn by seeing, listening, doing, feeling and communicating. They will learn to problem solve, learn to gather information through research, and practice learning skills. We know students are motivated by choice, so homework at the Kindergarten through 4th grade level involves a lot of choices.

Here are a few ideas parents have shared about their homework experience:

- One family set up a "fitness rotation" in their backyard (going along with the Kindergarten bingo choice: hop, skip, kneel, jog and twist ten times each).
- A 1-2 student is writing a book based on what she is learning in Project Group. She is currently working on her rough draft and spends time each evening on her project.
- One family has family game night every Monday night. They play games that require players to use their math skills (this fits into 3-4 Math homework assigned on Monday nights).
- 3-4 has a family discussion question/research each night. We have heard so many stories about families pulling out the atlas, encyclopedia or computer to research and discuss a family question. 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!
- Many students are playing school at home and teaching their friends and siblings what they are doing in school (predicting what will happen next in the story, handwriting, writing story problems for their "students"). The deepest level of understanding comes when you have to teach a concept to someone else!
- Another family is busy looking for and solving mysteries! One child told her parents, "Looks like we have a mystery on our hands!"
- 3-4 students have been busy cooking and baking following recipes and we hear the teachers are really enjoying this homework assignment!

You can see the deeper level of understanding with each example. The students are thinking and learning so much through open-ended opportunities! Although choice is present, some students will need guidance by their parent. Set aside time each day to focus on homework. Look at their choice list and help them choose one that motivates them to practice, learn, problem solve, research and/or create. What will help your child reach his/her academic goals? Ask questions and prompt ideas. Although it might not always look like traditional homework, the opportunities for authentic practice, discussion, creativity and application are endless.



## 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

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Putting Green Sponsors \$500 – Available

Driving Range Sponsors \$500 – Available

Hole Sponsors \$300 - Available