



Horizon Honors Primary School News

January 2008

From Principal Laura Wanstreet

Thinking About AIMS

Even though we are feeling chilly now, spring will be here before we know it, and with spring comes standardized testing. No Child Left Behind federally mandates state testing for our nation's students. All students attending a public school in the state of Arizona are assessed in grades 2-9. Horizon 2nd graders will take the TerraNova assessment. The TerraNova is a national norm-referenced assessment created by CTB/McGraw-Hill covering language arts and mathematics. Students in 3/4 will take the AIMS DPA (Arizona Instrument Measuring Standards Dual Purpose Assessment). The AIMS DPA is a combination of AIMS criterion-referenced assessment questions developed by Arizona educators and based on the Arizona Academic Standards, and questions from the TerraNova, a national norm-referenced test created by CTB/McGraw-Hill.

The TerraNova will assess language arts (reading and writing) and mathematics. The format of the Terra Nova is multiple choice.

The AIMS DPA will assess reading, writing and mathematics. Both reading and mathematics are multiple-choice assessments and the writing test requires students to write one extended response based on a given prompt or topic. A science assessment has been developed and the Arizona Department of Education plans to include the science test in the AIMS DPA this year for 4th and 8th graders.

The AIMS portion of the test is scored as follows:

- Exceeds the Standard
- Meets the Standard
- Approaches the Standard
- Falls Far Below the Standard

In order to pass the AIMS test, a student needs to Meet or Exceed the Standard.

Continued in next column

Primary School *Happenings*

ILPs (NO SCHOOL)

Friday, January 11th & Monday, January 14th

Third Quarter Begins

Tuesday, January 15th

Spirit Week

Tuesday, January 15th: Favorite Shirt/Outfit Day

Wednesday, January 16th: Sports Day

Thursday, January 17th: Hat Day

Friday, January 18th: HCLC Spirit Day

Martin Luther King Day (NO SCHOOL)

Monday, January 21st

"From Principal Laura Wanstreet" continued...

The TerraNova portion of the test is scored using a percentile compared to a national norm.

It will be important to mark your calendars for the week of April 7th. This will be the week our students will be taking the AIMS DPA assessment. Students perform their best when they have had a good rest the night before and eat a healthy breakfast. Parents can also go to the Arizona Department of Education Web site (<http://www.ade.state.az.us/AIMS/students.asp>) for more information including sample tests and student guides.

Because the AIMS DPA and TerraNova are based on the Arizona State Standards, HCLC teachers are preparing our students all year long. These tests, along with other, less formal assessments given throughout the year, give parents and teachers information about a child's progress and help to identify areas for improvement. We expect to have the results by the end of the school year and to be able to share them with you at your final ILP conference. ~Laura~

What's on the Horizon?

- The week of April 7th our students will be taking the AIMS/TerraNova standardized tests. Please do not schedule appointments during this week. Our goal is 100% participation.

- Our HCLC New Family Orientations for the 2007-2008 school year will begin in January. If you know a family whose values represent those of HCLC, please have them call the office at (480) 659-3000 to reserve a seat at one of our orientations.

Buenos Dias! BenvEnidos!

Good day and welcome to Spanish! We are excited for the new quarter and have already been learning a lot. In 3/4 we are learning about "mi familias" (my family). We are also reviewing from the last two quarters. The students are actually learning full sentences instead of just the vocabulary words. Refer to your take home sheet for a sample of these sentences and see how well your child does with them!

In 1/2 we are working with food ("la comida")! The students have already learned so much this year. We will keep reviewing the words from the past two quarters and learn foods we like to eat! Students in 1/2 will also be learning short phrases like "me gusta" or "I like" and then list the food they like to eat. We are excited for a new quarter!

What's Happening in 1/2?

The 1/2 second quarter Summative was a huge success! The students did an amazing job on their living timeline presentations. United States history is history! This quarter we're exploring science! The students will learn about the scientific process by doing hands-on experiments with living, earth, and physical science. They will also discover how science has helped people make important technological contributions in entertainment, medicine, transportation and communication.

In reading and writing, the students will be studying poetry. They will analyze the imagery and language in poems and practice writing the different forms of poetry. We look forward to having the students share their poems at our third quarter Summative.

During math this quarter, the students will be doing measurement activities. They will participate in a Measurement Olympics to practice estimating and measuring a variety of events. The students will also take a look at fractions and continue to review their computations skills.

Third quarter for 1/2 will look and feel brand new. From poetry to measurement, we can't wait to see what they create and learn!

School Values Schedule

Week of January 15th: Respect for Others

Week of January 22nd: Pride in School

Week of January 28th: Compassion

Matching Gifts

Make your contributions go further! Does your company match donations to HCLC? If you have not already done so, please check with your Human Resources department and find out if your company matches gifts. If so, your contributions to HCLC could be matched dollar for dollar!

Many businesses give generously to non-profit educational institutions. One way they do this is by offering matching gift programs as part of an employee benefits package. A matching gift program benefits both the employer and the employee. By matching employee gifts, businesses are assured that their charitable resources are supporting causes that are important to their employees and their community.

Here are some of the great companies in our community that offer the matching program:

Allstate Insurance	IBM Corporation	SAFECO Corporation
AT&T Corporation	IKON Office Solutions	Sentry Insurance Company
CIGNA Corporation	INTEL	Southwest Gas Corporation
Citigroup	J.P. Morgan Chase	Sprint
Charles Schwab	Lockheed Martin	Starbucks
Ford Motor Company	3M Corporation	State Farm Insurance
Gannett Company, Inc.	Medtronic, Inc.	United Parcel Service
General Mills, Inc.	Merrill Lynch & Company	US Bancorp
Goodyear Tire	Microsoft Corporation	Verizon Communications
Home Depot	Pfizer, Inc.	Washington Mutual
Honeywell	Piper Jaffray Companies	Wells Fargo Corporation

Contact your Human Resources department for instructions for requesting matching gifts. Every time you send in a tax credit or make a payment on a Soaring Eagle pledge, you would include a matching gift form. We take care of the rest!

For more information, please contact Allegra Marshall at (480) 659-3020 or e-mail her at allegra.marshall@horizonclc.org.