



Horizon Honors Primary School News

February 2008

From Principal Laura Wanstreet

Thinking About Next Year

The 2007-2008 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. You will see this form come home some time around February 7th. This form asks parents if their child will be returning to HCLC 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 re-enrollment form where you can include this information. You will indicate this only one time on your oldest child's re-enrollment form. Enrollment preference is given to siblings of students currently enrolled at HCLC.

Students going into 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 Intermediate student will be able to choose between Spanish, Chorus and Band for one of his/her exploratory classes.

When students move from Kindergarten to 1/2, parents often have many questions or are curious about the differences in the program. Because of this we have scheduled a transition meeting for parents on February 13th at 2:15 p.m. in the MPR. We will also have a transition meeting for students going into the Intermediate School. This will also be on February 13th at 3:15 p.m. in the MPR. These meetings are designed for parents only. We will have transition meetings and activities for students in all grade levels throughout the 3rd and 4th quarter.

Horizon's classroom scheduling and placements begin during the 4th quarter for Elementary School students.
Continued in next column...

Primary School *Happenings*

100th Day of School

Friday, February 1st

Spring Picture Day

Wednesday, February 6th and Thursday, February 7th

New Family Orientation for 2008-2009 School Year

Monday, February 11th, 6 p.m., MPR

Transition Meetings for Parents -

Kindergarten to 1st Grade

Wednesday, February 13th, 2:15 p.m., MPR

Transition Meetings for Parents -

Fourth Grade to Intermediate School

Wednesday, February 13th, 3 p.m., MPR

Presidents' Day (NO SCHOOL)

Monday, February 18th

School Forum - Roundtable

Thursday, February 21st, 7 p.m., MPR

"From Principal Laura Wanstreet" continued...

We make every effort to keep students within a multi-age group (in 1/2 or in 3/4) in the same classroom from year to year, however, some students do move to other classes. As you know, student placement is based primarily on academic peer groups and having students with a group 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 the 4th quarter ILP conference. This discussion will include math and reading level recommendations. Specific classrooms and teachers are not selected at this time. Preliminary lists are created and teachers review lists and continue to refine the new classroom groupings. This process continues throughout the quarter and into the summer months.

During the summer, classroom placements are finalized and you will receive a packet in the mail that will include your child's placement information for the new year. It will indicate your child's teachers' names and invite your family to Meet the Teacher Day.

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

AIMS Reminders

The week of April 7th 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 study 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.

School Values Schedule

Week of February 4th: Perseverance

Week of February 11th: Dedication

Week of February 19th: Humor

Week of February 25th: Responsibility

HCLC New Family Orientations

Our New HCLC Family Orientations for the 2008-2009 school year will continue through February and March. If you know a family whose values represent those of HCLC, please have them call the office at (480) 659-3000 to schedule an orientation.

Yearbook Needs Photos

Do you have photos of HCLC events? Share them with the Yearbook staff via the Web!

Web site: <http://images.jostens.com/>

User ID: 1130472

Password: eagle

It's that easy! Please consider sharing your photos! All photos must be submitted by Thursday, February 14th.

3/4 is Going Back to the Future!

The 3/4 students will be traveling back in time this quarter to visit many famous inventors from Einstein to Tesla. Then they'll turn around and journey into the future as they look at the world as it is and try to make it better with their inventions. We'll be doing extensive research to find out what sparks a great idea. We'll also be drafting blueprints, understanding geometric figures, and constructing inventions that we dream up. Our students are going to know what 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration really means!

General Music Notes

Here are just a few of the great things happening in music during third quarter.

-- The all-day Kindergarteners will be working on singing in Spanish, learning about a famous composer, and discovering uses of music in celebrations and seasons.

-- Our 1/2 classes will be exploring how instruments make sound and the instrument families through different musical works.

-- 3/4 grade students will be continuing to play their recorders, including new notes and songs. They will also be studying different types of jazz music. Ask your student about improvisation and syncopation.

Noteworthy Books

Here are some more great music books from our Media Center. Check out these fun titles:

"The Case of the Rock Star's Secret" by Melinda Metz

"Junie B, First Grader: One Man Band" by Barbara Park

"Marsupial Sue" by John Lithgow

Parent Partnership News

"Volunteers make it happen!"

February 2008

Save The Date!

Spring Fling Carnival

Friday, May 2nd, 5 to 9 p.m.

Tickets on sale March 27th-April 18th

\$13 - all-ride wristband (pre-sale price)

\$8 - non-ride wristband (pre-sale price)

Pricing increases after April 18th

To enter the event EVERYONE must purchase a wristband

**Students involved in an athletic group, club or extra-curricular activity that will be fundraising during the event should contact your coach/staff sponsor prior to purchasing a ticket.

The HCLC Spring Fling Carnival is a school-wide, on-campus event. Please join us for a fun night that offers carnival rides and games, bingo for the entire family, and a K-6 Art Masterpiece exhibit. This is an event you won't want to miss. Our Horizon Honors Intermediate, Middle, and High School athletic groups and clubs fundraise during this event by selling treats and trinkets.

This event is possible by volunteers like you. If you'd like to be a part of planning this exciting event or would like to assist us the day of the event we'd love your help. **Join us Thursday, February 7th for a Spring Fling meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Parent Partnership office.** Contact Mona Volden, Parent Partnership Director, at (480) 659-3098 or at mona.volden@horizonclc.org for more information.

Volunteer of the Month

Our February Volunteer of the Month is Kathy Heiberger. Congratulations Kathy!

Save the Date! **Make the Difference Dessert** **Thursday, April 10th**

Mark your calendar and join us for the **Make the Difference Dessert**.

For your pleasure we will have performances and exhibits from HCLC programs that are funded in part by our elite Soaring Eagle Society. At this event we will educate you on how your donations support programs that affect students at HCLC in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

We realize all our HCLC parents strive to become a member in our Soaring Eagle Society (SES) and we will explain just how easy it is for YOU to join.

By becoming a member in our Soaring Eagle Society, each donation no matter the size contributes to "making the difference" at HCLC and "makes the difference " for your student. Let's work together to make this a better HCLC.

Thank You for Your Support!

A special thank you to those who went above and beyond to complete their tax credit and recruit additional credits to support extra-curricular activities. The money you provided as part of the Arizona School Tax Credit Program goes a long way toward helping our students. Through your generosity we raised \$87,277, which will be applied directly to extra-curricular programs. HCLC is dedicated to providing the best education possible for your children and the Arizona State Tax Credit Program helps us do this. We truly appreciate your kindness and hope you will continue this support in the future.