

Keeping you informed on the latest HCLC news. First.



# HCLC Insight

Community Learning Center *From the desk of Jan Gleeson, Executive Director*

December 2009

## The Horizon Spirit

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We are so proud of our students at HCLC. Not only do they come to this school ready to learn, but they are just as ready to give. To their school. To their education. To their community. To their friends. I know I just wrote several fragments, but sometimes it's important to study the parts that make up the "whole" of the tone, attitude and overall environment at this school. There is an air of joy and calm and camaraderie here that you can

see and hear every day... It shows in elementary through high school.

I experience it at Summatives, concerts, exhibitions, and plays of course; but mostly, I experience it walking down the halls, during lunch, and before and after school, the everyday moments. The spirit in this place is profound. It is noticing poignant interactions at HCLC that sure make me realize the beauty in life, the gift of our students.

No matter what else is going on in the world that might be considered by some to be devastatingly sad, we are enveloped in a joy at HCLC that is equally as devastating in its beauty. All we have to do is notice.

Thank you all for being here and for realizing that your kids would be able to safely express who they **really** are at HCLC. That, after all, is the Horizon spirit.

Happy Holidays!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Tax Credit**  
· Office Drop Off through 12/18  
· Mailed Checks Post-marked by 12/31

**Soaring Eagle Society (S.E.S.)**  
Appreciation Homecoming Tailgate Party  
Friday, Jan. 22, 2010

**S.E.S. Fundraising**  
Info Mailed in January 2010

## The Place Where Everybody Knew His Name

As most of you know this past July, Larry Pieratt, the founder of HCLC, died of cancer. Through his example, he showed us all what strength and courage look like when facing crises in our lives. He was a compassionate man, a friend, and a visionary whose legacy lives in all of us at this school. Although for the last three years he worked for University Public Schools through ASU, HCLC was what motivated him. It was "his baby."

It is with this in mind, that the family has established the Larry Pieratt Memorial Fund. Each year, these

funds will be used to help worthy students at HCLC and University Public Schools Phoenix Elementary. In them, as in all of us, the legacy will be paid forward.

Also, the school and HCLC's School Board will honor Larry soon by naming the gymnasium building, the Larry Pieratt Activities Center. Larry was so proud of the entire school but having a gymnasium with a wood floor was a *must*.

On a more broad level, Larry was recently named the Charter School Leader of

the Year through the Arizona Charter School Association. He was honored at an awards ceremony on November 2 held during the Arizona Charter School Association Conference.

All of the previous recognitions demonstrate the impact Larry had on those who knew him. We will miss Larry but will be constantly reminded of him not only through scholarships, memorials, and honors but in the way our students demonstrate their leadership and in the way we all work together for the sake of the children who attend HCLC.

## School Improvement Team (S.I.T.)

Our School Improvement Team (S.I.T.) is a group of parents, students, and staff who gather input on topics selected the previous year and in our charter to make recommendations to the school leadership and Board. The topic this year is increasing our parent involvement in areas such as the classrooms,

ILPs, Forums and fundraisers.

and Carole Ellenberger are the S.I.T. alternate representatives.

At our Forum in August, the following parents' names were drawn in the lottery to represent the elementary and secondary schools in our S.I.T. meetings: Stephanie Butler, Kathy Heiberger, Jonathon Andell, and Ian Katzman. Donna Drake

Thank you for your desire to serve the school in this capacity. The S.I.T. Team looks forward to working together to identify areas that will help all of us serve each other more effectively.

### Congratulations to Our National Merit Scholars:

**Robert Baker  
Kaitlyn Hofmann  
Kelly Stinnett**

## Offering More to Our Students

Although preparing for this year was rather difficult since the state budget still is not resolved, we were able to improve upon a few areas in the school. This year a couple more electives were offered to the secondary students that quite literally support our philosophy of hands-on activities, problem solving and/or creative thinking. Engineering which is a hands-on class where the students solve various problems in engineering through building. Photography, another class added to our expanding fine arts program, and Guitar that

produced an overwhelming response from the students and added another dimension to our performing arts offerings.

were not expanded, the after-school clubs and activities were, including the following options depending on grade level: power fitness, volleyball, running club, soccer, basketball, track and field, Lego Club, Chess Club, Melody Makers, Yearbook Club, and Young Rembrandts.

We were also able to maintain all of our electives kindergarten through twelfth grade even though many schools had to eliminate them. One reason for our success in this area is due to the Soaring Eagle Society contributions that you made. Thank you to those of you who contributed.

We know that economic times are not what we would prefer, but at least HCLC was able to maintain all programs and keep the programs fresh with exciting, new possibilities for students.

At the elementary level although the electives

**Look for your  
2010-2011  
Enrollment  
Commitment  
Forms in Late  
January**

**Find the Proposed  
2010-2011 School  
Calendar on the  
HCLC Web site**

## Eagle Day

On Saturday, November 21, HCLC had its Eagle Day at the Foothills Golf Course. There were 72 golfers with a total of 213 for the auction, dinner, and dancing.

\$18,948.21 with this event. This is more than we have ever brought in for an Eagle Day!! With the proceeds we will purchase more LCD projectors, screens, and computers for the students.

Thank you to our golf and auction committees, our Radio Club who provided the music, and to our sponsors: Streets of New York, Valley ENT, Chase, Healing Hearts Pediatrics, Advanced Surgical Associates, Anesthesia Resources, Ltd., Desert Pulmonary Consultants, and Team Orthodontics Dr. Ken Danyluk.

It was a fantastic day and evening as HCLC parents and supporters had an opportunity to get to know each other, have some fun, and also help us raise funds for our Digital Excellence Campaign.

Special thanks to all of you who donated items, attended the event, and placed bids in the auction.

We have never had such an overwhelming response!

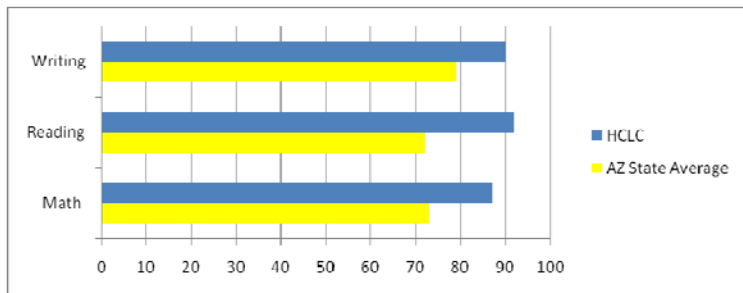
See you all next year!

Because of you, we cleared

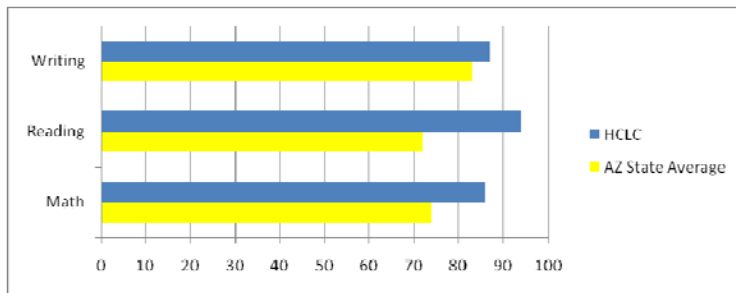
## 2009 AIMS Scores

Listed below are the results of HCLC's Spring 2009 AIMS test. These grade level graphs represent our students' knowledge and understanding of the academic standards in mathematics, reading, and writing. As you can see, our students continue to do extremely well earning an EXCELLING rating for HCLC through the Department of Education.

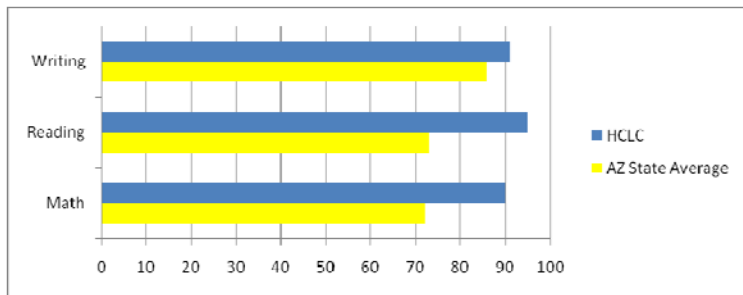
3rd Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon	87	92	90
Arizona	73	72	79



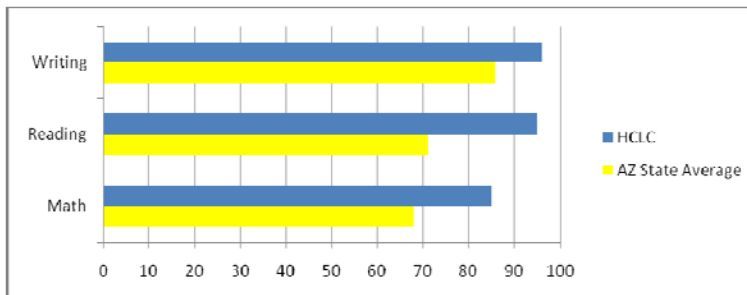
4th Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon	86	94	87
Arizona	74	72	83



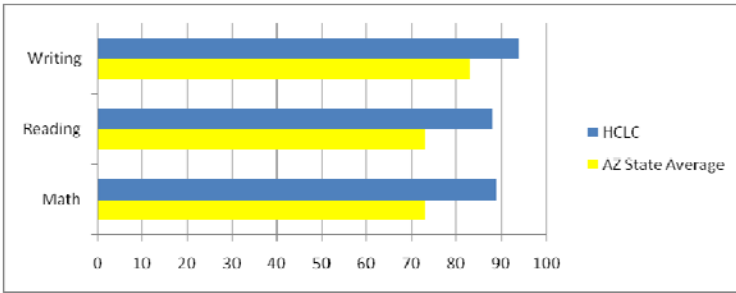
5th Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon	90	95	91
Arizona	72	73	86



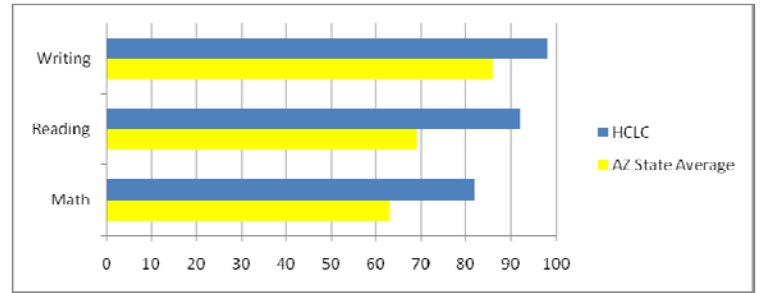
6th Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon	85	95	96
Arizona	68	71	86



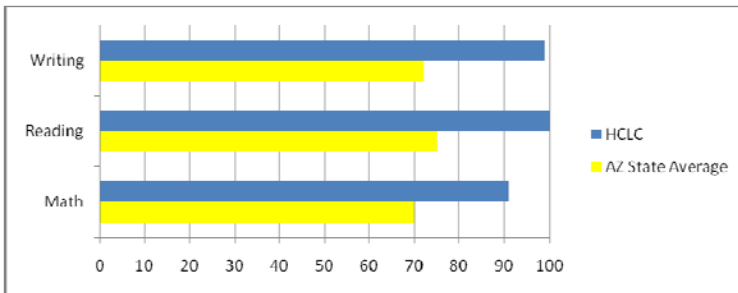
7th Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon	89	88	94
Arizona	73	73	83



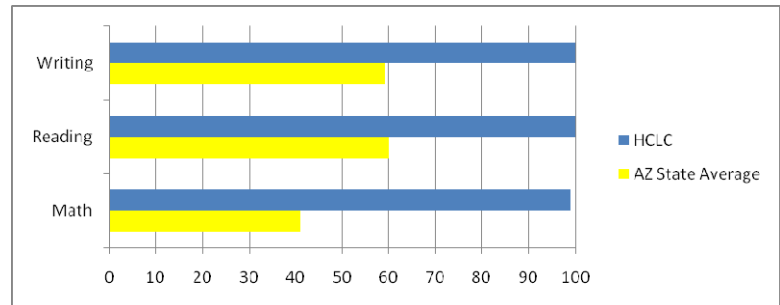
8th Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon	82	92	98
Arizona	63	69	86



10th Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon	91	100	99
Arizona	70	75	72

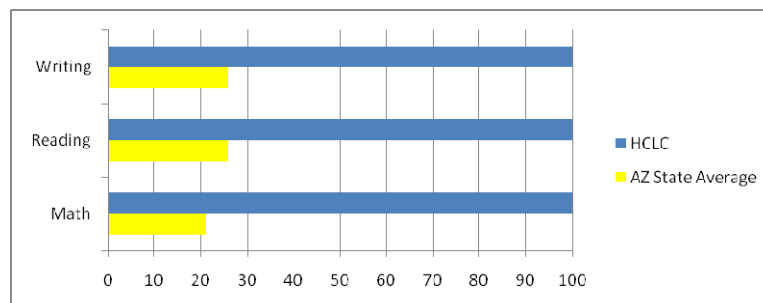


11th Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon*	99	100	100
Arizona	41	60	59



\*includes students who may have re-taken the exam

12th Grade	Math	Reading	Writing
Horizon*	100	100	100
Arizona	21	26	26



\*includes students who may have re-taken the exam