

Horizon Honors Intermediate School News

December 2009

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL LAURA WANSTREET

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." ~ Marcel Proust ~

November and December always give us pause to think about the things in our life for which we are thankful. From my perspective, I am acutely aware of all the joys I am surrounded by at home and at HCLC and am grateful.

Each day I am reminded of the joy working with your children brings to me. I feel so fortunate each morning as I greet them at the door and welcome them to another day of learning. They come bursting in with smiles and hugs to greet the day. They are funny, energetic, enthusiastic, poignantly insightful and brilliant beyond measure! I am thankful for our Kindergarten scientists, our 1-2 historians, our 3-4 botanists, and our 5-6 medieval architects. These beautiful minds are our future. Our students will discover cures for disease, document our history, discover new plant species and medicines, and build amazing structures. I'm thankful I have that to look forward to.

By the way, can you believe the generosity of our students? They collected over 1,500 food items to feed hungry families this holiday season. Thank you IS Student Council, Mrs. Robertson and Ms. K for organizing this service opportunity.

As I walk through the school and see what the students are engaged in, I feel gratitude toward the teachers and know that I work among the finest and most dedicated educators on this planet. I also feel the influence of our Master Teachers, Christi and Pilar, and am filled with appreciation for all they do to make our school so successful.

When I walk in the office and am greeted with smiles I am thankful to the beautiful ladies who work there, Kim and Sangeeta (and welcome back Jeanette!), for greeting the children and parents each day and taking care of our school. And when I visit our Health Office I am so appreciative of the compassionate Health Office staff that takes care of our sick or hurt kiddos and remind us to wash our hands and cough in our sleeves.

I am so appreciative of our HCLC parents who bring their children to school each morning and pick them up each afternoon when it would be easier to put them on a bus or have them walk to their neighborhood school. The tireless parent volunteers give so much of themselves for our students, teachers, and school (Art Masterpiece, the lunch program, classroom volunteers, fieldtrips, sharpening pencils, gathering resources, helping with research, filing papers... the list is endless!).

And when I attend our Orientations and meet hundreds of families who are so eager to bring their children to our school, I am reminded of how lucky our HCLC families are to have found a school that so closely matches their values and beliefs in individualized education for everyone.

I thank you for your continued support and ask: What are you thankful for this year?

With Gratitude, Laura Wanstreet - laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org

Upcoming Events

Eagle Pictures
December 7

Eagle Echos/ Beginning Band
Concert:
December 7 @ 6 p.m. in MPR

Intermediate Band/
Horizon Harmonies Concert:
December 7 @ 7:15 p.m. in MPR

Choir & Band Group Photos
December 8 during class

Mollen H1N1 Vaccination Clinic:
December 8, 2:30 - 6 p.m.,
Middle School Rooms 101 & 102

5-6 Field Trip:
December 9

Melody Makers Concert:
December 10 @ 4 p.m. in MPR

5-6 Summative:
December 15

"The Music Man" Auditions:
December 16, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., MPR

Winter Break Begins:
December 21

ILP Conferences:
January 11 & 12

First Day of 3rd Quarter:
January 13

6th Grade Parent Middle School
Orientation:
January 27 @ 6 p.m. in
Community Room

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

ADVISORY TOPICS

Week of November 30:
Reviewing Personal Goals
for the Quarter

December 7:
Setting New Goals

December 14:
Summative Preparation

YEARBOOK PRICES INCREASE SOON!

Don't miss out on purchasing your Yearbook! Visit <http://www.horizon-clc.org/yearbooks> to order yours now! Yearbook can only be purchased online.

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. The cost will increase November 30 so order today!

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

HCLC 2010-2011 NEW FAMILY ORIENTATIONS

Our new HCLC Family Orientations for the 2010-2011 school year have already begun! If you know a family whose values represent those of HCLC, and they would like to learn more about our school, please have them call the office at (480) 659-3000 to reserve a seat at one of our school Orientations.

5-6 MATH

As we move through our second quarter, Math students in 5-6 are gearing up for some challenges. We'll be doing a lot of the usual content areas, which include multiplication and division of decimals, geometry, and fractions. We'll also start getting into more word problems and real-life problem solving. When we're done with our regular work we will be having some fun with a variety of math games and some projects.

One of our projects is focused on the subject of our Project Group, medieval

life and times. Students will research aspects of medieval times and present what they learn mathematically. What is the math of castles, or medieval music? How can we use math to talk about medieval towns or economics? The students can get pretty creative in the way they choose to present their projects, which includes using any knowledge of technology they have learned in the last year or so.

It looks to be a fun quarter filled with discovery and learning.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CAMP

- Mrs. Zurn, Mrs. Wolynia, Mrs. Sewell, and Mr. Fleming's Project Group classes will be attending camp March 2-3.
- Mrs. Cochrane, Mr. Hendrix, Ms. Hellman, and Ms. Robertson's Project Group classes will be attending camp March 4-5.
- The cost will be approximately \$100
- Registration paperwork will be distributed at ILPs on January 11 and 12.
- Parent Volunteer registration and paperwork will be distributed at ILPs January 11 and 12.
- A parent informational meeting is January 21 at 6 p.m. in the MPR.
- All paperwork, payment, and parent volunteer fingerprint cards are due January 29.
- If you have an interest in chaperoning, please e-mail Mrs. Kelly Kowalczyk to assist in our pre-planning.

EAGLE PICTURES - A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!

On November 30, HCLC Elementary students will receive an order form to have their picture taken with our own Horizon Eagle. Each picture is \$3 and comes in a card-stock card that is a great holiday gift for the family. All orders will be due on Friday, December 4 by 3 p.m. Pictures will be taken on Monday, December 7 throughout the day. Please check your child's backpack, EagleNet, or check with the Elementary Office for an order form.

LOST & FOUND?

I heard a student tell her mother one day, "Mom, why do they call it lost and found? It should just be called "lost!" Well I had the same feeling last week as I was digging through the lost and found items we currently have in our collection at Horizon Honors Intermediate School. I was up to my elbows in jackets and sweatshirts, water bottles and lunch boxes. Please label every item your child brings to school! If there is a name on the item it will be returned to your child, if there is no name and it is unclaimed at the end of the quarter, it ends up being donated.

~Christi Burdette

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 6TH GRADERS!

My name is Nancy Emmons and I am the very proud Principal of Horizon Honors Middle School and Horizon Honors High School. I would like to personally invite all HCLC parents of 6th Grade students to attend a special orientation about Horizon Honors Middle School on January 27, 2010 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room. You will have an opportunity to hear about all of the exciting opportunities available to your child through our rigorous academic program as well as our extra-curricular activities. Your child will also receive course selection information during the school day on January 27, 2010 from our Middle School counselors. Information about the electives your child chooses will then need to be returned on February 5, 2010. Just as you have found in Horizon Honors Intermediate School, our program has so much to offer your child to prepare them for high school, college and beyond. We continue and build on the character education, community service, and 21st century problem solving skills you have become accustomed to in 5-6. I hope you will be able to join us and that we will be able to answer all of the questions you may have about this important academic transition. If you have any questions I can be reached at (480) 659-3015 or by e-mail at nancy.emmons@horizonclc.org.

DROP OFF & PICK UP

Your support is needed to keep our community safe! We have noticed an increase in the number of parents stopping and/or parking on Frye Road to drop-off or pick-up their children. This practice is not only illegal, but creates a frighteningly unsafe situation for our students and their families. As cars stop along Frye, a back up of traffic is created. Some people choose to pass on the left and this is another unsafe and illegal practice. The Phoenix Police have issued tickets for both of these violations. The area is marked and "No Stopping" signs are posted.

Please use the traffic flow maps when picking up or dropping off your child. You may also choose to find a parking space and walk your students in. These are the only two safe and legal options. Thank you for your support and diligence for this matter. Each one of us has a responsibility in keeping our community safe!

AIMS REMINDERS

The weeks of April 12th and 19th 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 reading 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.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

- Just a reminder that online book orders due December 1. Orders will arrive before Winter Break! Please e-mail Mindy Duet if you would like orders held for holiday gift giving.
- Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1-2 students can participate in a contest called the Thousand-aire's Club! Students will log books read on their own, with family members or with teachers. Reading logs are available in the Media Center. They can either read 10 books or 1,000 words! To determine how many words are in a book, count all words on one page and multiply by the number of pages in the book. Student's picture will go on a poster board in the Media Center after 10 books or 1,000 words. They will receive a prize after 40 books or 4,000 words.
- If that is not a big enough challenge, 3-4 and 5-6 students can participate in the Millionaire's Club! Students will log books read and read to a million words. Their picture will go on the board at 250,000 words, with a prize awarded at 1,000,000 words read.

MEDIEVAL NEWS FROM 5-6

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in Medieval times?

Our Intermediate School students were wondering the same thing! Teachers posed three big questions:

What was life like in Medieval times?

Why were castles built?

What defensive strategies were used when building castles?

In order to answer these big questions, students brainstormed a list of smaller questions to research. The students spent time in the Media Center and the classroom using various resource materials to gather the needed note facts. Next, they will be writing a five-paragraph research paper. The final due date for the paper is December 8. We are looking forward to reading the results of the students' efforts!

DRAMA NEWS

Are you auditioning? Mark your calendars! The Performing Arts Department is pleased to announce another opportunity for Intermediate School students to be a part of the next HCLC Drama Production. "The Music Man" includes many parts for boys and girls including two leads. Intermediate School auditions will be held Wednesday, December 16 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. The first mandatory cast and crew meeting will be Friday, December 18 from 1 to 4 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 in preparing for the audition will be available in the Elementary Office one week in advance on Monday, December 7. If you have any questions about the packets, feel free to [contact Mrs. Shaheen](#). The Music Man will be performed April 22, 23, and 24. No experience is necessary, so come out and give drama a try!

HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

During the week of November 30, your child will receive a permission slip to participate in our Human Growth and Development unit as part of their Intermediate curriculum. At the Intermediate level the students will be exploring the topics: emotional development, physical development, being a decent family member, friendship, risky behaviors and healthy behaviors, sexual harassment, and "so who do you want to be." Your support and discussions with your child are greatly encouraged and appreciated. Please check EagleNet during the week of December 14 to find out more about what your child is learning and how you can discuss this learning at home. If you have any further questions, please feel free to [contact Student Advisor Kelly Kowalczyk](#), who is one of the teachers of this curriculum. She will be co-teaching this curriculum with Marty Fleming. We will also provide a brochure in the Elementary Office for parents to use as a resource.

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Performing Arts Concerts

You better watch out! You better not cry! You better not pout, I'm telling you why, Horizon Performing Arts is coming to town. The HCLC Choral and Instrumental Music students will be presenting their second quarter concerts in December. All concerts will be held in the Multi-purpose Room and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- Cantabile Honors Chorale and the Honors Symphonic Band will be performing on December 3.
- Eagle Echoes and Beginning Band will be performing on December 7 at 6 p.m. with the Horizon Harmonies and the Intermediate Band performing on the same evening at 7:15 p.m.
- Bella Voce, Dolce Voce and Concert Band will perform on December 9.
- Magnum Chordum and Wind Ensemble will perform on December 10.

Performing Arts Photos

All 5-6 students in Choir and Band will be having professional photos taken on December 8 during class. Please be sure to have your concert uniform with you on Tuesday, December 8 so you can be part of your ensemble picture! Look for order forms to come home by the first week of December.

HCLC STUDENT CELEBRATIONS!

We have so many student celebrations to share! I know our parents and students are interested in the outstanding achievements of any HCLC student, Kindergarten – 12th grade, and learning about what other students are doing is always interesting and delightful. Please join us in celebrating the following HCLC student accomplishments:

Thayer in 3-4 Silver – He competed in “The Tornado” chess tournament (K-3rd Grade Champ Section) and came in 1st place! He also won the 1st place school team trophy for HCLC in the K-3 Champion Section. He will be traveling to Dallas in December to compete in the National Grades Tournament where he will play against other 3rd graders from around the country and will represent HCLC there, too. Good Luck, Thayer!

Cam O., Maggie C. and Miranda S. in 5-6 – They are our first “Millionaires Club” members. Cam O. was the first one to read a million words and the first to earn the honor of having his photo on the million-dollar bill. Check it out in the Media Center!

Robert Baker, Kelly Stinnett and Kaitlyn Hofmann in High School – They have earned 2010 National Merit Semifinalist status from the PSAT test.

Varsity Girls Volleyball – They made it to the State Semi-Finals. Out of 42 teams, they made it all the way to the final 4! Go Eagles!

Sara Ellenberger in High School – She was selected as the 2009 Young Woman of Distinction in the World of Arts by the Arizona Girl Scout Cactus Pine Council. This award was based on her accomplishments and leadership over time in the arts, especially as a harpist. She will be honored along with the other World Awardees at a reception and luncheon at the Arizona Biltmore Spa and Resort on December 5. Outstanding Leadership!

Varsity Cross Country Team – Our Horizon Boys finished 5th at the State Meet and Monica Kawski of Girls Cross Country finished the State Meet with an overall 3rd place!

HS Spirit Line - They qualified for state! At Regionals, they finished 1st in Partner Stunt, 1st in Pom, and 5th in Cheer! Way to Go!

H1N1 VACCINATION CLINIC DECEMBER 8

For the convenience of our families, HCLC has agreed to provide facilities for a Mollen H1N1 Immunization Clinic. In addition, a limited supply of some seasonal flu vaccine will also be available. The clinic will be held on Tuesday, December 8 from 2:30 to 6 p.m.

Mollen is providing this clinic for currently enrolled HCLC students in grades PreK-12. Parents are responsible for bringing their students to the immunization clinic. HCLC staff will not be escorting students to receive vaccinations.

If you want to bring your HCLC students to the vaccine clinic, you must register your children ASAP. To register:

- Visit <http://www.flushotsusa.com> and click “Register Your Child Online Today!” near the right side of the site
- Choose School State – “Arizona,” choose School District – “Charter,” and choose School – “Horizon Community Learning Center”
- Choose the number of HCLC students from your family to be vaccinated
- Complete the parent/guardian legal information form, child information form, etc.

A few items to note:

- Mollen will also provide paper registration at the clinic, but this could delay your processing.
- Depending on your insurance plan, there may be a fee for vaccinations.
- There will be a second clinic in January to supply the booster dose for students under the age of 10, as required by the CDC. This second clinic will also be open to any other HCLC students who were unable to attend the first clinic.

The clinic will be in Middle School Courtyard Rooms 101 and 102. All clinic participants must enter through the doors at the far west end of campus. All clinic visitors must park on the west side of the campus or in the available St. Benedict church parking lot spaces.

This clinic is not administered by HCLC, so if you have questions, call Mollen at (480) 214-2000 or go to <http://www.flushotsusa.com>. Do not contact the school with vaccination questions, as the school staff does not have any info.

Third Quarter Lunches On Sale Now!

Third Quarter Lunches are on sale now! Deadline to order is Thursday, December 10.

December 2009 Volunteer of the Month:
Yvonne Leake
Congratulations and thank you!

DON'T FORGET YOUR TAX CREDIT!

Support HCLC through the AZ School Tax Credit Program

Parents, keep a lookout for a letter in the mail from Executive Director Jan Gleeson that highlights the Arizona Tax Credit Program and our Horizon Family Activity Pass program. The Tax Credit Program allows you to direct your tax dollars to HCLC. You may direct up to \$200 if you are filing single and \$400 if you are filing jointly and you will get it back dollar for dollar when you file your state taxes as long as you have taxable income. You can also use the tax credit contribution as a deduction on your federal income tax.

All tax credit contributions support HCLC extra-curricular activities. Remember to ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, co-workers and friends to consider directing their tax credit to HCLC as well. Everyone wins, especially our students!

The following are eligible for the HCLC Arizona Tax Credit:

- annual student fee
- extended school trips
- athletics fees
- intramural fees
- club fees
- general tax credit contribution

Please remember that all tax credits must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2009. You can give your tax credit by dropping your check off in our offices, mailing your check to HCLC, or you can visit our Web site and pay securely via Pay Pal at www.horizonclc.org/aztaxcredit.htm. Please include a tax credit form when mailing or dropping off your tax credit.



Thank you to everyone in attendance, our HCLC families that donated items for our fabulous silent auction, Middle School Radio Club, our sponsors, and community donors.
We couldn't have done it without you support!

“Driving for Digital Excellence” Campaign

This campaign will increase the level of technology in each HCLC classroom.

Event Sponsor: Streets of New York

Tee Package Sponsor: Valley ENT

Hole Sponsors:

Advanced Surgical	Anesthesia Resources
CHASE	Desert Pulmonary
Healing Hearts Pediatrics	Team Orthodontics

Thank you to our committee ...who worked endless hours for our HCLC students!

Regina Anderson
Heather Cole
Steve Ertle
Scott Gaudette
Jeff McKenna

Chad Bellin
Carole Ellenberger
Janice Ertle
Gregg Geidel
Liz McKenna

Cheri Brown
Teri Engelbrecht
Brad Freemole
Kathy Heiberger

Are interested in joining our golf or silent auction committee? We'd love your help. Please email Mona Volden, Director of Parent Partnership Programs at mona.volden@horizonclc.org.