



# Horizon Honors Intermediate 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...*

## Intermediate 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.

## **What's Happening in Math?**

Probability is the area of mathematics concerned with analysis of random phenomena. Some of the 6th grade math classes ended the year examining and studying probability. We discussed the probability of students being chosen at random to answer classroom questions, the probability of snow in Phoenix in July, and the probability of Steve Nash making a Free Throw...did you know it is 94.5%? We make predictions everyday and we take chances everyday. Most of them can be carefully calculated based upon probability. Students discussed, shared, and learned about the role that probability plays in their everyday life.

We also integrated probability and chance into Project Group as we tested our castles. Students rolled the dice to determine if the river near their castle would flood, if their wells would run dry, or if the enemy castles were able to scale their walls.

We will continue with probability into the third quarter and expand upon it with proportions, percents, and ratios.

In conclusion, we would like to leave you with this question: "What is the probability that your child will clean their room today without being asked?"

## **¡Qué Pasa en Español!**

In 5/6 Spanish, students are studying "El Caribe" (The Caribbean). We have been discussing many different aspects of the history and traditions behind Caribbean cultures. We have read legends from the Tainos, the native peoples of the Caribbean. We created puppets and wrote dialogues to go along with them all in Spanish! Also, we have made empanadas and musical instruments from the Caribbean. We have enjoyed many other art and craft activities dealing with Caribbean culture as well.

This year, we are focusing more on the Spanish language. This class is a blend of oral and written Spanish. Also, we have been reading short phrases and sentences in Spanish to improve pronunciation skills. During third and fourth quarter we will move on to studying Spanish-speaking countries in "America Central" (Central America). As always, we encourage parents to get involved and volunteer in the Spanish classroom. ¡Muchas Gracias!

## **Advisory Topics**

- Week of January 15th: Expectations for the Quarter
- Week of January 22nd: Open Mind
- Week of January 28th: Deciding to Become a Conflict Solver

## 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](mailto:allegra.marshall@horizonclc.org).