

Horizon Honors Intermediate School News

September 2010

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL LAURA WANSTREET

Thank you all for your participation in our first quarter ILP Conferences. If you have been to an ILP Conference in the past, you may have noticed a change in our conference structure this quarter. We were excited to try out this new format designed to encourage more parent and student participation in developing ILP goals. This idea came from feedback shared in last year's Curriculum Survey results. We heard parents expressing the desire for more input into the development of their child's ILP and the teachers and I agreed. By providing families time prior to meeting with the teacher to review work samples and pre-assessments, along with a guide for feedback on the child's strengths and areas for growth, the conference with the teacher became more individualized and centered specifically on the student's needs.

As with any new process, there are some things to improve. We are working out a few scheduling bugs on our end and can use your help. If you have more than one child, please allow sufficient time between your ILP Conferences. For Kindergarten – 4th Grade, please allow 30-40 minutes for each conference; 15-20 minutes to review the portfolio work and pre-assessments and draft ideas for goals, then 20 minutes to conference with the teacher. If you have a child in 5-6, the conference may take longer. The time frame will depend on how many 5-6 teachers you and your child sign up to meet and could take up to an hour to complete.

As you are reviewing your child's portfolio, look for strengths in each piece and a specific area of growth. This will help you develop ideas for academic goals as you compare the ILP goal sheet to your child's work samples. Also take into consideration what you see at home when thinking of your child's strengths and possible areas for growth. Many teachers will have pre-assessments for you and your child to review. Pre-assessments are not graded assessments, but give you and the teacher information about what your child already knows and what they will focus on for the quarter. Students typically do not score well on pre-assessments as the content has not been covered yet.

Your input in setting your child's goals for the quarter has been very valuable and the teachers were impressed by how involved the students were in developing their own academic and social goals. This is a format we will continue to develop and your feedback and patience with the process is greatly appreciated. I would love to hear your thoughts!

Laura Wanstreet - laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org



Upcoming Events

Labor Day (NO SCHOOL):
September 6

Beginning Band & Intermediate
Band:
September 16 @ 6 p.m. in MPR

Eagle Echoes & Horizon Har-
monies:
September 16 @ 7:15 p.m. in
MPR

Book Fair:
September 20-24 in Media Ctr.

School Improvement Team:
September 20 @ 1p.m. in
Media Center Conference Rm.

IS Summative:
September 20

Picture Day Retakes:
September 23

Fall Break Begins (NO SCHOOL):
September 27

ADVISORY TOPICS

Week of September 7:
Study Skills/Homework
Skills

Week of September 13:
Test Taking Skills

Week of September 20:
Scheduling & Prioritizing

2010-2011 INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Speeches have been made and ballots have been counted! The following students will be representing Horizon Honors Intermediate School during this school year. Congratulations!

Cali L. - President

Lauren G. - Vice President

Claire C. - Secretary/Treasurer

Gino P. - Historian

Karolina G. - Publicity

Hannah B. - Publicity

Macy D.

Joey V.

Derek Z.

Cassidy W.

Jasmine M.

Patrick W.

Ryan H.

Nik D.

Alex C.

Anna H.

Olivia G.

WELCOME HEATHER COLE!

We would like to give a warm welcome to Heather Cole, the new Administrative Assistant in the Elementary Office. Heather has had three children attend HCLC, with Hannah being her last in 5-6. She has been a volunteer on the Staff Appreciation Committee, Eagle Day Committee, attended many field trips and taught Art Master-piece for many years.

Next time you are in the Elementary Office, please say hello to Mrs. Cole!



DIY WORKSHOPS = FALL BREAK FUN!

Staying home during Fall Break? Looking for some fun and educational activities? Look no more! Join other HCLC students in the DIY Workshops. During Fall Break, students will participate in stimulating and creative projects that integrate science and math with engineering and construction. The DIY workshops will tap into a student's creativity, problem solving and leadership skills as they work to design, create and implement cool contraptions. Workshops include:

- Rocket Building
- Mousetrap Car Races
- Hand-made Musical Instruments
- Mechanical Toys
- Electronics
- Jewelry Making

There are three different times to choose from, and workshops run from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pick up a registration form in a HCLC Office. Choose one, two or all three workshops, but don't delay! Space is limited! For more info [contact Chris Cook](#).

WHAT IS A SUMMATIVE?

At the end of each quarter, students celebrate what they have learned in Project Group in the form of a Summative. A Summative is an academic performance where students present to families and friends their new learning. At the completion of a Social Studies or Science unit, teachers and students collaborate to decide how to showcase their Project Group experience. Summatives allow for the creative juices to flow and may be presented in the form of a dramatic play, science fair, museum, slideshow, etc. This is a special evening for your student and your parental involvement supports their academic journey. Summatives are generally presented in the evening, with the exception of Kindergarten, which is held during the school day in the first and second quarters. Information regarding your scheduled Summative day and time will be sent home in your child's folder towards the end of the quarter. Parent volunteers are appreciated and welcomed in the classroom when the preparation for Summative begins.

THE MACS ARE COMING!

The 5-6 team has a lot planned in Technology this quarter! Prior to working on the Mac Books, the 5-6 students will learn proper ergonomics and ethics related to computer use. They will be introduced to the basics of using a Mac, as well as comparisons between PCs and Macs. Students will create a Web page detailing their research on a landform they have designed and chosen to study in Project Group.



EARLY PICK UP

The end of the school day is an important time for teachers and students to have closure on their day. They spend time wrapping up the day and packing up so they can leave their classrooms in an orderly and timely fashion with a smooth and structured end to their school day.

If you have an appointment right at the end of school day, please plan to pick up your child at least 30 minutes early so that we have enough time to get them packed up and into the office for you. If you come during the last 20 minutes of class it is difficult to disrupt the end of the day routine in the classroom and we may not be able to get them to you any faster than you would by just picking them up at their regular dismissal time. If there are emergencies, we understand and will do our best to have your child ready for you when you need them. We love to accommodate families and their individual needs, but please allow for your child, the classroom teachers, and office staff to complete their end of the day routines with minimal disruptions.

REPORTING ABSENCES

When a student needs to be absent, parents must call the Attendance Line at (480) 659-3062 before 9 a.m. each day the student is absent. State law mandates that the school record a reason for all student absences. This greatly reduces the need to call you at work or home to confirm the absence. The absence will be unexcused if no reason is given. When calling, please leave the child's name (with spelling), date of absence, grade level, reason for absence, and a telephone number where you can be reached in case of questions.

YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

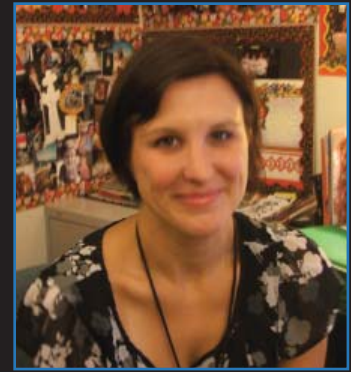
Don't miss out on purchasing your Yearbook! This year the Yearbooks can ONLY be purchased online, so no order form is available. Please visit <http://www.horizonclc.org/yearbooks> to order yours today!

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.

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

FROM STUDENT ADVISOR MS. K

Every quarter I have the opportunity to visit the 5-6 classrooms during their Math or Language Arts blocks to present a variety of lessons for our students. I refer to our leadership standards as a foundation for our talks and utilize various multi-media resources to bring these topics to life.



This quarter we will focus on the leadership standard stating that the student will examine his or her own self-image. This specific standard's objectives are as follows:

- students will investigate ways in which peers can influence self-image, such as through fashion and social activities
- explore personal interests, values, and skills
- examine effects of positive or negative self-image on relationships with others
- explore the role of being leaders of our Elementary school

Our first lesson focused primarily on defining self-image and how it affects our daily lives. We talked about using inspiration and motivation to help improve our self-image and how we see ourselves. The students viewed some amazing examples of inspiration and we talked about how to apply these examples to our own lives.

The next step in the process of exploring our self-image was taking a look at how peers can influence how we see ourselves. The students were given an assignment to find a motivational and inspirational quote and a special note card to record this information on. They were also asked to make a note on the card to explain why they chose this quote. When we meet again, they will share this card with another classmate to help model how they can positively influence others around them.

I've included the Web sites of a few of the resources used so that you may have a discussion with your child at home and continue to talk to them about their own self-image:

www.attitudeisaltitude.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciYk-UwqFKA&feature=related

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DE2U3BMxrwo

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKhmFSV-XB0

Kelly Kowalczyk
kelly.kowalczyk@horizonclc.org

JOIN CLUB HORIZON!

Club Horizon is HCLC's before/after school program. We are open in the mornings from 6:15 to 8 a.m. and in the afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m. Our prices range from \$6 for the morning to \$12 for the afternoon. We also run a full-day program during the HCLC breaks, and the price per day is \$30. All of our programs are available to HCLC students in Grades K-6. We would love to have you join the Club Horizon family! Enroll your child today and join us for a great time!

If you have any further questions about enrollment or Club Horizon in general, please contact Club Horizon Director Sal Aguilar at (480) 659-3182 or [by e-mail](mailto:salaguilar@horizonclc.org).

HORIZON HONORS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL GOALS

Each year we analyze our data from the AIMS and Stanford 10 tests the students took in the Spring to determine our focus for teacher development and a goal for our teachers and students to focus on throughout the year. This year, we plan to focus on creative, analytical and practical thinking. We will begin with creative thinking. This is where we are asked to create, design, imagine or suppose. Creativity is the ability to see things in a new and unusual light, to see problems that no one else may even realize exist, and then come up with new, unusual, and effective solutions to these problems. How can you help foster and develop creative thinking at home?

- Play creative games (using props to tell a made up story, acting out a story and changing parts, pretending to be a person, place or thing, free time to explore dramatic play of their own creation)
- Build (Legos, blocks, sand, mud, clay, suds)
- Use creative questioning (How many different ways can a spoon be used? What would happen if you could fly? What are some different uses for this? What would happen if this were larger, smaller, softer?)

This may require a parent (or a child) to relax controls in some situations and have a tolerance for offbeat or unusual ideas. Have fun with it. You will be surprised how your creative thinking develops and flourishes along with your child's!

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING

The Media Center Fall Book Fair is September 20-24. The fair is designed to help kids and parents find age-appropriate books. Proceeds from the fair provide new books to the Media Center, classrooms, and teacher resources.

The Fall Book Fair will be open the following dates and times. Please note we are also open during evening Summatives:

September 20-24 - 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AND

September 20 - 5 to 8 p.m. (5-6 Summative)

September 21 - 5 to 8 p.m. (1-2 Summative)

September 23 - 5 to 8 p.m. (3-4 Summative)

Elementary classes will be visiting the Book Fair during their regularly scheduled Media Center time. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please [contact Mindy Duet](#).

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Auditions for the Performing Arts Exhibition are immediately after Fall Break and are approaching quickly. Now is the time to be preparing! Auditions are 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on October 12, 14 and 15. This is an excellent opportunity for our 5th - 12th Grade Performing Arts students to showcase their special talents by performing an instrumental or vocal solo, preparing an ensemble piece, or presenting a drama monologue or ensemble scene. The Performing Arts Exhibition will be held on October 21st.

Have you had your music today? Well we've got your daily allowance all set! Come on out and hear the HCLC Bands and Choirs perform their first quarter concerts. Concerts are held in the Multi-Purpose Room and are free.

- Magnum Chordum and Dolce Voce perform on September 14 at 6 p.m.
- Bella Voce and Cantabile perform on September 14 at 7:15 p.m.
- Wind Ensemble and Concert Band perform on September 22 at 6 p.m. followed by Symphonic Band at 7:30 p.m.
- Beginning Band and the Intermediate Band perform on September 16 at 6 p.m. with the Eagle Echoes and Horizon Harmonies performing on the same evening at 7:15 p.m.

Save the dates for the drama productions:

"Arsenic and Old Lace"

November 5th @ 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. in MPR

November 6th @ 7 p.m. in MPR

November 12th @ 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. in MPR

November 13th @ 7 p.m. in MPR

"Bye Bye Birdie"

April 8th @ 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. in MPR

April 9th @ 7 p.m. in MPR

April 15th @ 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. in MPR

April 16th @ 7 p.m. in MPR

Auditions - Selected roles available for Intermediate and Middle School Students. Auditions are December 13-15.

CURRICULUM NIGHT RECAP

Thank you to all the parents who came out for our inaugural PreK-6th Grade Curriculum Night. We had over 200 parents attend the event and we heard so much positive feedback. Everyone from new families to those who have been here for several years all felt they learned a great deal by experiencing "A Day in the Life" of their child. Some families with multiple children expressed the need for more time or multiple evenings so they would be able to have this experience for all of their children. We thought this might happen, but felt strongly opposed to teachers and/or parents having to be at school late in the evening on multiple nights and chose to move ahead with the one night format. Now that you have experienced what the event is all about, we would like to hear from you so we can continue to improve this event for the future. To those of you who already gave feedback to your classroom teachers – thank you. The teachers already shared the input they received with Mrs. Wanstreet. If you have not or would like to add to what you shared with the teachers, feel free to e-mail, call at (480) 659-3100 or come by to see Mrs. Wanstreet. She would love to hear from you.

HCLC IS SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY!

Are you on Facebook or Twitter? We are excited to announce that HCLC is now on these popular social media sites!

"Like" us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/horizonclc>

"Follow" us on Twitter at:

<http://www.twitter.com/hclc>

These sites are geared not only for our parents, but also our older students who are allowed to use them. Happy social media networking!