



Horizon Honors Middle School News

January 2008

From Principal Nancy Emmons

It is not uncommon for Middle School students to struggle to understand their experiences or respond to new situations. One exception to this is our own Horizon Honors Middle School students. In a general sense, problem solving is one of the most fundamental goals of education. But educators often focus on specialized kinds of problems, some fixed set of steps or procedures to follow. Everyone faces problems in life. These can be ethical problems, economic problems, personal problems, or social problems. What is different about our Horizon Honors program is that we focus on teaching problem solving skills so that our students can reason through the problems they will face in their lives. We know that they need the intellectual tools to approach problems irrespective of the problem type. Our teachers focus on teaching the many interrelated intellectual skills of gathering relevant information, making plausible interpretations, identifying questionable concepts, tracing implications, and reasoning with alternative points of view. With all of these interrelated skills and insights our students will truly be capable of anything.

~Nancy

Athletic Department Update

The 2nd Annual Community Service Project for Winter Sports was a wonderful success! Athletes volunteered at the Winter Bowling Classic held at Shea Village Lanes for Phoenix Special Olympics on December 7th. The Middle School Boys Basketball, Middle School Spirit Line, Middle School Softball and High School Girls Basketball teams participated this year.

The students were enthusiastic and engaged while helping the Special Olympics athletes stay on task during the bowling tournament, cheering them on with energy and excitement and even helped with the Awards Ceremony held at the end of the event.

Once again, the Horizon Honors students were respectful and helpful as they gave of themselves in such a caring and selfless way. Special thanks to the parent volunteers who helped as well. Thank you to all for giving back to the community for such a worthwhile cause!

Middle School *Happenings*

Softball

Tuesday, January 8th vs. Northpointe Prep. @ Home

Thursday, January 10th vs. Phx. Christ. JH @ Home

Thursday, January 17th vs. Phx. Christian @ TBA

Thursday, January 24th vs. Scottsdale Christian @ Home

Boys Basketball

Wednesday, January 9th vs. Tempe Prep. @ Home

Thursday, January 10th vs. Grace Comm. @ Home

Monday, January 14th vs. Northpointe Prep. @ Home

Wednesday, January 16th vs. Scottsdale Christ. @ Home

Thursday, January 17th vs. Veritas @ Home

Thursday, January 24th vs. Grace Comm. @ Away

ILPs (NO SCHOOL)

Thursday, January 10th and Friday, January 11th

Third Quarter Begins

Monday, January 14th

Spirit Week

Week of January 14th

Martin Luther King Day (NO SCHOOL)

Monday, January 21st

Spirit Week

Monday, January 14th: Sports Day

Tuesday, January 15th: Hat Day

Wednesday, January 16th: Twin Day

Thursday, January 17th: Winter Day

Friday, January 18th: HCLC Spirit Day

Parking and Traffic Issues at St. John Bosco

When you are picking up your Horizon Honors student, please follow the route that was setup in the St. John Bosco parking lot so traffic can flow. Also, please remember not to pull up to the "holding area" and park in the traffic lane to wait until your student arrives. As a consideration to all concerned please find a parking space for a minute or two to keep the traffic flowing then get back in the pickup lineup to exit. We know it can work with your cooperation!

Model Project Winners

The Middle School Summative on December 3rd was a great success! Thanks to all of the family and friends who attended the event and were able to see hundreds of amazing models. Those in attendance were able to vote for their favorites. Congratulations to the model winners listed below. These students' models will be displayed in the Media Center and also used as a centerpiece for a future HCLC event:

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Stephanie Yamamoto | 11. Riley Fitzgerald |
| 2. Kasey Hilgers | 12. Carlie Wallin |
| 3. Shahin Khanpour | 13. Kurumi Austin |
| 4. Michael Villanueva | 14. Rachel Borden |
| 5. Shaila Homan | 15. Taylor Hudzinski |
| 6. Jonah Matanky | 16. Cole Lastovica |
| 7. Corina Mac Isaac | 17. Jessica Muser |
| 8. Avi Dasgupta | 18. Hannah Brzezinski |
| 9. Spencer Lee | 19. Jessica Ebert |
| 10. Mercedes Van Meter | 20. Jessica Janzen |
| | 21. Gianni DelFranco |

ILP Procedure & Appointment Times for January 2008

In order to ensure an organized and more beneficial ILP experience for both parents and staff, we would like to remind you of the following procedures:

- You must call the Main Office and make an appointment. A great deal of effort goes into these arrangements in an effort to accommodate the demand. Showing up without an appointment makes it difficult for all concerned. Remember our goal is a worthwhile and beneficial experience for all parents and students.
- Please make every effort to be on time for your appointment, as we are all on a very tight schedule. If for some reason you cannot make your scheduled appointment, please do not hesitate to call. Not showing up for a scheduled appointment prevents us from accommodating another parent.

Appointment Times for Thursday, January 10, 2008:

- 8 to 11 a.m.
- 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Appointment Times for Friday, January 11, 2008:

- 7:30 to 11 a.m.
- 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

We are now scheduling appointments for January ILPs. Please call Mrs. Conti at (480) 659-3101.

Puppet Supplies Needed

January is puppet month! Students in Integrated Studies will design and create their own puppets to present in the Middle School Puppet Theater later in the semester. Please help by donating supplies to make our fabulous puppets even better. We can use fabric, fake fur, felt, sequins, costume jewelry, yarn, buttons, and foam rubber. Send your donations to the Integrated Studies classroom. Ask Mrs. Wagner or Miss Goff for more information.

NJHS Application Info

- Week of January 7th: Review of student GPAs.
- Tuesday, January 14th: Applications distributed.
- Friday, January 25th: Deadline for applications.
- Week of January 28th: The 5-member Faculty Council will review applications, discipline records, and teacher recommendations.
- Week of February 4th: Students notified of their selection status by mail.
- Tuesday, February 26th: Induction Ceremony

Selection Criteria:

- 7th/8th Grader with at least 1 semester at Horizon Honors
- GPA of 3.5 or above

Character Criteria:

- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations
- Cooperates by complying with school regulations
- Demonstrates standards of honesty and reliability
- Regularly shows courtesy, concern, and respect
- Is punctual and observes instructions and rules both inside and outside the classroom
- Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoids cheating in written work, and shows an unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.

Leadership Criteria:

- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideas and spirit
- Exemplifies positive attitudes
- Inspires positive behavior in others
- Demonstrates academic initiative
- Demonstrates reliability and dependability
- Is dependable in any responsibility accepted

Citizenship Criteria:

- Demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement in classroom and school activities

Service Criteria:

- Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
- Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students

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.