

Horizon Honors Primary School News

November 2009

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL LAURA WANSTREET

Each year, our Elementary Leadership Team takes time to analyze our AIMS results and other student achievement data the teacher gather to create a goal for the year. This goal is designed to increase student achievement and drive our teachers' professional development for the year.

As we looked at our data, we could see how our students have grown in all academic areas. The way we structure our curriculum and ILPs promotes academic success. One area we examined closely was writing. Although most of our students are good writers, we feel strongly about wanting to create great writers! So, this year our school goal is focused on the area of writing. We are implementing strategies that ask students to take time to think, plan, and improve upon their ideas. These strategies can apply to anything students are working on, but will also enhance their writing.

This quarter, teachers will be modeling their own thinking process, giving students many opportunities to think, plan, share and improve upon their ideas. At home, you can support this by trying these ideas:

- When presented with a problem to solve, say, "Let's think about that," and give some quiet time to think.
- When you are solving a problem or making a plan, try "thinking out loud" by saying things like, "This recipe is for four people, but we need to make if for eight. Let's think... It seems like I need to double the recipe to make sure I have enough!"
- Ask your child to tell you their plan prior to them actually doing a project and ask them questions about their plan.

We are excited about developing our students as thinkers and great writers!

On another note, going along with our discussions from earlier newsletters about curiosity and creativity, I also wanted to share an article I found on motivating students: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1304>

As always, I would love to hear from you about how these ideas are going in your home. Feel free to call, [e-mail](mailto:laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org) or stop me when you see me at school.

Thank you for your continued support.
Laura Wanstreet
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Upcoming Events

Mix It Up Day :
November 10

Veterans' Day (NO SCHOOL):
November 11

School Forum:
November 19, 6 p.m., MPR
Topic- HCLC Human Growth
and Development Program

Eagle Day:
November 21

1-2 Summative:
November 24

Turkey Trot:
November 25

Thanksgiving (NO SCHOOL):
November 26 and 27

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

School Values Schedule

Week of November 2:
Integrity

Week of November 9:
Loyalty

Week of November 16:
Commitment To Family

Week of November 23:
Respect For Others

Week of November 30:
Team Work

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 will begin in November and continue through February. 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.

What's Happening in 3-4?

If you were given the opportunity to design a park that would help people appreciate plants the way the zoo helps people appreciate animals, what would you include and why? Our students will be learning about and performing experiments on many types of plants and plant prototypes in an attempt to learn as much as they can about the different parts of plants and their strengths and weaknesses. Look for details on our upcoming field trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

Small group discussions and higher level thinking questions will be emphasized in literature groups, as the students delve

into their fantasy books this quarter. We will continue to use the daily five to read to self, read to others/listen to reading, work on writing, and word work. Daily writing will help us to progress as wonderful writers.

In Math, this quarter we will continue to provide our students with hands-on, minds-on activities to enrich their learning. Students will also be learning new problem-solving strategies and how to utilize them in real world applications. The math homework will be more individualized this quarter. Please have your child choose the assignments listed next to their Math teacher's name on Tuesday nights.

HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

This quarter, our Intermediate students will participate in a week-long exploration of self discovery and understanding during our Human Growth and Development Program. This program will take place from December 12-18 during the students' Language Arts block. Mr. Fleming and Ms. Kowalczyk will be addressing the topics that every Intermediate student needs to know in order to make safe choices for themselves and their future. Human Growth and Development topics include physical development, emotional development, sexual harassment, risky behaviors and healthy behaviors, and what are your values and do your decisions support them?

During the spring, our 4th Grade students will also participate in a human growth curriculum that will take place during P.E. for one class period. This session will discuss some of the physical and emotional changes the students' may be experiencing as they approach puberty.

On Thursday, November 19 at 6 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room during our School Forum, Mr. Fleming and Ms. Kowalczyk will be presenting an overview for all K-6 parents who want to know more about our Human Growth and Development Curriculum. If you have any questions regarding Human Growth and Development please attend this meeting or [contact Mrs. Kowalczyk](#).

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!

DON'T MISS JOSEPH!

With "a crash of drums, a flash of light," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," an internationally acclaimed musical extravaganza, explodes on the stage when Horizon Honors High School presents its five show run beginning November 12. The first collaboration between Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice is outstanding entertainment for the entire family. Joseph...is a fun, upbeat adaptation of an ancient story of a young man sold into slavery by his own jealous brothers. His gift of interpreting dreams catches the eye of the Egyptian Pharaoh and he eventually predicts and saves the country from a terrible famine. Set to an engaging abundance of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to bubble-gum pop and rock 'n' roll, this tale emerges both timely and timeless.



"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" opens Thursday, November 12 with a matinee performance at 3:30 p.m., followed by matinee and evening performances at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. both Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14. Tickets go on sale November 2 for \$5 a seat and are available in either school office or from any cast member. Seating is limited with any remaining tickets from presales being sold at the door 30 minutes prior to each performance.

A Note from Mrs. K

On November 10, our Primary and Intermediate School students will participate in the Mix It Up At Lunch program. Why do we mix it up you ask? Every day students are left without someone to talk to, students are sitting in groups that do not include others, and someone, somewhere has something interesting in common with you that you may never know if you weren't given the opportunity to talk. In order to address some of these problems, we will be mixing it up and our student council representatives will facilitate a Mix It Up celebration in the classrooms. This is a great opportunity for our students to get to know someone new and learn fun facts about others!

This quarter, I will be visiting the classrooms to share some books that are themed around our schools values of integrity, commitment to family, and teamwork, as well as our leadership standards. I will make sure to post a list to EagleNet along with family discussion questions or activities.

Starting this quarter, I will also begin my small group meetings (see descriptions below). Groups will begin November 2 and depending on the group, we will meet various days throughout the week. Students will either meet first thing in the morning, during lunch, or during a read-aloud time during their academic day. Additional information will be provided once all permission slips are returned and the number of student participating is determined. Please see your teachers, the Elementary Office, or [e-mail me](#) if you would like a permission slip:

Divorce Group - for children who have experienced or are experiencing divorce or separation within their family

Social Group- for students struggling to find friends and feel that they "don't fit in"

Life Stress - for students who are experiencing hardship within their family, which may include financial hardship, loss of a loved one, exposure to a loved one with an illness or cancer, or any other stress that is causing emotional hardship

Kelly Kowalczyk, Student Advisor

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TURKEY TROT

Our annual Turkey Trot will be held on Wednesday, November 25. Please come and join us as we walk, jog, and run our way to fun!

- 3rd and 4th Grades leave school at 8:40 a.m. to walk over to Pecos Park and we will return to school by 10 a.m.
- 1st and 2nd Graders will trot their way to the HCLC field at 10:40 a.m. and eat lunch in the classrooms at 11:40 a.m.
- Intermediate students leave campus at 12:40 p.m. to make their way to Pecos Park and return to school at 2:15 p.m.
- Kindergarten will enjoy the course set up on the field from 2:15 p.m. to 2:45 pm.

Be sure to be sun wise and we encourage you to join us for some fun in the sun. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to your classroom parent volunteer.

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.

Horizon Wear

Horizon Winter Wear is on sale now! The winter line includes sweatshirts, which make great holiday gifts! Deadline to order is Thursday, November 5. We highly recommend you check out our sample sizes in the Parent Partnership Office prior to ordering. There are no exchanges or refunds.



November 2009 Volunteer of the Month:
Donna Drake
Congratulations and thank you!