

Horizon Honors Primary 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

1-2 White Field Trip:
December 1

1-2 Silver Field Trip:
December 2

1-2 Blue Field Trip
December 3

Eagle Pictures:
December 7

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

1-2 Black Field Trip:
December 8

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

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

Kindergarten Summative:
December 16

3-4 Summative:
December 17

Winter Break Begins:
December 21

ILP Conferences:
January 11 & 12

First Day of 3rd Quarter:
January 13

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

School Values Schedule

Week of November 30:
Team Work

Week of December 7:
Initiative

Week of December 14:
Tradition

FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone that contributed to our food drive this year. The families serviced by the Save the Family organization were so thankful for your donations. Save the Family has provided assistance to hundreds of families and thousands of children in our valley and your food items will be very much appreciated by these community members. Thank you for all of your kindness and happy holidays to you and your family.

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.

What's Happening in 1-2?

Throughout the first two weeks of December, the 1-2 classes will be taking their field trip to the Deer Valley Rock Art Center. While there, the students will explore evidence of past human activity and learn about how it connects to our life today. With over 1,500 petro glyphs on site, the students will have the chance to find and view the petro glyphs, learn in detail about the rock formations and what the petro glyphs mean and even create their own. This field trip is a great conclusion to our study of the Wampano-

ag Native American Villages that we have studied throughout the quarter.

1-2 White Field Trip
December 1

1-2 Silver Field Trip
December 2

1-2 Blue Field Trip
December 3

1-2 Black Field Trip
December 8

SPANISH NEWS

Hola! In 1-2 Spanish we are learning about La Comida. We are writing about our favorite foods and then creating a beautiful placemat. We love singing our song, "Del Jardin." In 3-4, classes are learning about La Naturaleza to go along with their unit on plants. They are creating poems about nature and then making murals that will be made into puzzles. We are having a great time learning Spanish. Stop by anytime to join us! Adios!

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 Primary 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

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.

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.