

# Horizon Honors Primary School News

January 2010

## A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL LAURA WANSTREET

The school year still has two quarters full of fun and learning, but HCLC is already planning for next school year. I'm often asked what parents should expect and the timeline for the transition from one school year to the next.

The first thing HCLC families will see in preparation for the next school year is the Re-Enrollment Form. You will see this form come home on February 4. It is due back on February 9. It is essential to turn in your form by the due date as we are preparing for our Lottery and will need to know how many spots we will have available for next year. You will fill out one form for each child currently enrolled in HCLC. If you have a child who is not currently attending HCLC, but will be joining us for the next school year, there is a portion on the bottom of the Re-Enrollment Form where you can include this information. You will indicate this only one time on your oldest child's form. Enrollment preference is given to siblings of students currently enrolled at HCLC. Should we have more siblings interested in enrolling than we have spaces available, we will conduct a sibling lottery. Please see the article on page 3 regarding re-enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year.

Students going into Intermediate School will also need to fill out the back of the Re-Enrollment Form. It will ask you for your child's course selection. Your 5-6 student will be able to choose between Spanish, Chorus and Band for one of his/her exploratory classes.

When students move from Kindergarten to 1-2, parents often have many questions or are curious about the differences in the program. Because of this we have scheduled a transition meeting for parents on February 4 at 2:15 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room. We will also have a transition meeting for students going into Intermediate School. This will also be on February 4 at 3:15 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room. These meetings are designed for parents. We will have transition meetings and activities for students throughout the third and fourth quarter.

HCLC's classroom scheduling and placements begin during the fourth quarter for K-6. We make every effort to keep students within a multiage group (in 1-2 or 3-4) in the same classroom from year to year, however, some students do move to other classes. Student placement is based primarily on academic peer groups and having students with a group that will properly challenge them. The placement process begins with teacher academic and social recommendations. This is why it is so important to have these discussions with your child's teacher during the third and fourth quarter ILP conferences. This discussion will include math and reading level recommendations. Specific classrooms and teachers are not selected at this time. Preliminary lists are created and teachers review lists and continue to refine the new classroom groupings. This process continues throughout the quarter and into the summer months.

During the summer, classroom placements are finalized and you will receive a packet in the mail. This packet will include your child's teachers for the new school year and invite your family to "Meet the Teacher" day. Please do not hesitate to call or stop by if you have any questions about this process.

Laura Wanstreet - [laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org](mailto:laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org)

## Upcoming Events

ILP Conferences:  
January 11 & 12

First Day of 3rd Quarter:  
January 13

Third Quarter Lunches Begin:  
January 13

Last Day to Order Yearbooks:  
January 15

Martin Luther King Day (NO  
SCHOOL):  
January 18

Spirit Week:  
January 19-22  
Tuesday - Sports Day  
Wednesday - 50's Day  
Thursday - Patriotic Day (Wear red,  
white, & blue)  
Friday - Horizon Spirit Day

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

## School Values Schedule

Week of January 13:  
Respect for Others

Week of January 19:  
Pride in School

Week of January 25:  
Compassion

## LAST CHANCE! YEARBOOK SALES END JANUARY 15!

Don't miss out on purchasing your Yearbook! Sales end January 15. Visit <http://www.horizoncl.org/yearbooks> to order yours today!

The PreK-6 Yearbook is a 48-page, black and white, hard cover book produced by the 5-6 Yearbook Club that includes special events and classroom moments. All students photographed during Fall Photo Days are included. The cost is \$23.

## TRAFFIC FLOW REMINDER

We have received several complaints from parents who do not follow the traffic flow rules and driving regulations. Please help us by being one of them too.

- 1.) Do not stop on Frye Rd. to drop off or pick up students
- 2.) Do not leave your car in the red emergency zone in front of the elementary school (night or day)
- 3.) When turning onto 48th Street from the school parking lot in the afternoon, please be aware of the traffic on 48th Street turning left into the school.

Let's keep our families safe. Thank you.

# What's Happening in Kinder?

This quarter we are learning more about how to act and think like scientists. We will be exploring "How The Sun Makes Our Day" through investigations and observations that support our learning about the sun as a source of light and energy, the nature of shadows, and the need for humans to conserve natural resources. Students will discover natural and man-made sources and use the concept of change to deepen their understanding of the scientific concepts in this unit. A hands-on approach will be used

to allow the children to build their knowledge base and their skills as they explore science topics through play and planned investigations. Students will engage in creative and critical thinking, problem solving, process skill development and communication opportunities.

Our scientific investigations are designed to strengthen reading and mathematical concepts including quantity, direction/position, comparison, colors, letter identification, numbers/counting, size, measurement, shapes and time/sequencing.

## REPORTING ABSENCES AND TARDIES

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

## SIGN UP FOR ILPS TODAY!

An Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is developed each quarter for each student at HCLC. This plan is created at the beginning of each quarter in an ILP conference. The student, parent(s) and teacher(s) meet to outline the academic and social goals for each individual child during the conference. Participation in the ILP conference is required. Our handbook states "Students might not be promoted to the next grade level and/or graduate without this involvement."

Second Quarter ILPs are January 11 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and January 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and take approximately 20 minutes. To make an appointment, please come in or contact Jeanette or Kim in the Elementary Office at (480) 659-3100.

## STAY ACTIVE!

Winter Break is here, and so are big meals and parties that can throw your healthy eating and fitness plans off track. Kids should be active at least 60 minutes each day.

A few reasons it is important to stay physically active are:

- Maintaining a healthy body keeps you happy and energized.
- Boosts self-confidence.
- Instills sportsmanship and team spirit.
- Enhances overall cognitive abilities.
- Reduces stress.
- It's tons of fun!

So, get out of the house and walk around the zoo or go for a hike (don't forget to be Sunwise!). For other great ways to get in 60 minutes of play a day visit <http://www.nflrush.com/play60/tips/>. Have a healthy, fun and safe break!

## 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

What an exciting quarter we have in store! This quarter we will be reading "2010 Grand Canyon Reader Award" nominees. We will be reading the picture book nominees during class time, but the kids will have an opportunity to check out and vote for books from the other categories as well.

Keep Reading! The "Thousand-aire / Millionaire Club" is still going. Log your books read with the total number of words in each book, and win fabulous prizes! This contest will continue through March. If you have questions you may contact Mindy Duet in the Media Center.

## 2010-2011 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Your child will bring home a 2010-2011 Re-Enrollment Form on February 4. Siblings of returning students requesting new enrollment in 2010-2011 must be added to this form. In order to maintain your child's enrollment and ensure siblings receive full enrollment preference, please return this form by February 9.

Families will be contacted February 11 regarding new sibling registration. In the past, HCLC has been able to accommodate all siblings requesting new enrollment. However, a sibling lottery will be held if there are more siblings than spaces available.

If you are enrolling siblings, please prepare now to complete the following registration process. Within one week of enrollment notification, you will be expected to have this information complete:

- Complete a Registration Form in our Main Office between 7:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
- Present an official birth certificate
- Satisfy state immunization requirements (see the [HCLC Web site](#) or office for specific information)
- Schedule an assessment (Grades K-9)
- Submit copies of last report card or transcript and the most recent standardized test results (Grades 6-11)

Questions? Please contact Darlene Gaudette via e-mail or at 480-659-3004.

## MELODY MAKERS VISIT STATE CAPITOL

HCLC's 3-4 Choir, The Melody Makers, made their way to the State Capital on December 10. All 36 members were in excellent voice, and raised the roof as they sang traditional Christmas, Hanukkah and winter selections. The choir was presented a certificate of special recognition, signed by the governor, for participating in the 44th Annual Holiday Concert Series at the Capital. Congratulations to the Melody Makers on all their hard work!

If you would like to join Melody Makers next semester, you may sign up during ILPs in January. Rehearsals will start during the second week of third quarter.

# EAGLE DAY A SUCCESS!

Thank you for your support of Eagle Day! The event raised \$18,948! All proceeds benefit HCLC's Digital Excellence Campaign, which raises funds to increase the level of technology at all grade levels. Previously funded technology items include LCD projectors, laptops, and MAC books.

Interested in joining our golf or silent auction committee? We'd love your help! Please e-mail [Mona Volden](mailto:Mona.Volden@horizonk12.org), Director of Parent Partnership Programs.



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## Third Quarter Lunches

Third Quarter Lunches begin January 13.

**January 2010 Volunteer of the Month:**  
**Gayle Gaines**  
**Congratulations and thank you!**