

Horizon Honors Primary School News

August 2009

A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL LAURA WANSTREET

Welcome and welcome back! Summer break is always a great time for me to relax and be with my family and the time off rejuvenates all of us. I hope you had time to enjoy your children and I thank you for sending them back to us!

As many of you know, the teachers come back to school before the students for a time we call "Plan Week." The purpose of Plan Week is to allow our teachers the time needed to plan for the learning experiences HCLC prides itself on offering our students. Plan Week is always an invigorating time and the first Plan Week of the school year is exceptionally revitalizing. The newness of the school year is upon us and ideas are fresh and in abundance. It is also a time to re-examine our mission and school goals to remind ourselves of our reasons for being here.

Our Mission Statement: Horizon Community Learning Center is committed to providing a safe learning environment rich in technology where students achieve academic and social excellence while solving real-life problems in a cooperative manner.

Our School Goals: The Horizon Community Learning Center will create a quality environment where students...

LEARN: Students strive to reach their personal best in each of the academic areas, gaining new knowledge and skills while applying them in a real-life setting.

BELIEVE: Students gain confidence in themselves and others through the learning process as demonstrated by their success, recognition of accomplishments, and acceptance of increased responsibilities.

DREAM: Students create a vision for the future that provides the foundation for a learning environment where students are challenged to reach beyond their perceived limitations, creating new paradigms for learning and impacting the world.

DARE: The act of applying oneself to make a difference requires a strong sense of character based upon sound values. This will be achieved as students honor and apply the values of integrity, loyalty, self-discipline, initiative, dedication, perseverance, respect for others, compassion, responsibility, involvement, truthfulness, trustworthiness, a strong work ethic, and a sincere commitment to family and community.

Our school goals and mission statement are the foundation for our program. Revisiting these ideas often helps us make it all happen. I hope you are as energized as we are to begin a new school year and are reminded of the reasons you continue to make HCLC your school of choice. Together we create a learning community for our children.

Thank you for your continued support,
Laura Wanstreet
laura.wanstreet@horizonclc.org

Upcoming Events

Lunch Program Begins:
August 10

ILP Appointments
(NO SCHOOL):
August 13 & 14

Chess Club Begins:
August 19 @ 7 a.m.

Fall Pictures:
August 18 & 19

School Forum:
August 20 @ 6 p.m. in Class-
rooms

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

School Values Schedule

Week of August 3:
Pride in School

Week of August 10:
Perseverance

Week of August 17:
Humor

Week of August 24:
Dedication

Week of August 31:
Friendship

EAGLENET

All 2008-2009 HCLC families still have access to their EagleNet accounts. If you have problems, please send an e-mail to eaglenet@horizonclc.org. New families will receive their logins and passwords at ILP Conferences on August 13 and 14.

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 and reason for absence, along with a telephone number where you can be reached in case of questions.

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten this quarter we are making new friends and sharing what makes our families and us special. We are also learning how to be part of a classroom community and to grow as leaders by demonstrating our school values. New experiences are what Kindergarten is all about and we look forward to a year of exploration, challenges, and celebrations.

What's Happening in 1-2?

We are excited to start a new year of learning in 1-2. This year will present us all with fun opportunities, changes, growth, and challenges. As teachers, we have two primary goals. The first is to ensure that all of our students feel safe and secure as we facilitate their successful days in school. Our second goal is that all students will be enthusiastic, motivated, lifelong learners who look forward to coming to school each day. We are looking forward to getting to know every child in our classrooms.

This year we will be embarking on a grand adventure. We will begin with a trip to the beach, learning all about soil and erosion. Next, we will be transported back in time to visit the Wampanoags and experiencing pioneer life as we travel to the American frontier. Finally, we will discover economics in Main Street, USA. In Specials, the students will explore different systems such as the digestive system in P.E., the farm in Spanish and an instrument in Music. We are eager to begin the adventure and look forward to an amazing year.

WELCOME TO 3-4

The 3/4 teachers have been busy planning for the upcoming quarter and are excited to have the students back and learning! In Project Group this quarter we will be learning about ancient civilizations and the process of studying them. We will start with ancient Egypt followed by the Romans, Greeks, Incas, Aztecs and the medieval era. The 3-4 math department will be teaming up to provide our students with more individualized instruction this quarter. In language arts, students will be exploring many opportunities to practice writing and reading focusing on mysteries. The 3-4 Specials team has also been working hard at planning for the quarter. In P.E., students will be working on health enhancing behaviors and individual activities such as fitness testing, rope jumping and rhythms. Mrs. Sewell, the music teacher, will be having the students evaluate music throughout history and looking at the role of music in various cultures. In Spanish this quarter, students will be learning about la familia and will create a family album. Miss Espinoza, the technology teacher, plans to have students participate in the "E Tech Boot Camp" where they will be learning about basic computer knowledge and skills.

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. The cost is \$18 until August 7.

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

SING!

If you like to sing, then Melody Makers is the place for you! Melody Makers is a choir club for 3-4 students. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:10 – 4:20 p.m. Don't just sing in the shower or with the radio – come sing with other students and learn to perform for others.

WHAT: Melody Makers

WHO: Any 3-4 Student

WHEN: Wednesdays, 3:10 – 4:20 p.m.

COST: \$50 for 1st & 2nd Quarter!

REGISTRATION: Sign up in the Elementary Office starting July 27.

FIRST MEETING: Wednesday, August 19

A DISCUSSION ON HOMEWORK

We are excited about the homework opportunities your child will have this year. Our staff has been working on designing homework that aligns with our mission statement, school goals and homework policy as outlined in the HCLC Handbook. Homework for K-4 students will consist of opportunities to read for enjoyment, explore, be creative, have choice and communicate with families about classroom learning experiences. Formal homework will begin after our ILP conferences where your child's teachers will be able to outline your child's homework expectations. The teachers will be seeking your input on any homework individualization needs for your child.

Over the next few months, we will include articles about homework and how to make the best of this time at home with your child. This month, we would like to share ideas about the first homework component: reading together for enjoyment.

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Reading together is the single most important "homework" activity a parent and child can do together. Fortunately, the message is out – loud and clear: "You help your child become a more successful reader by reading to him/her from the time the child is born." Research has shown that this works better than any reading drills or expensive program out there. It strengthens vocabulary, language, grammar and writing. It is also fun (for everyone involved) and a bond that is continuously being built. So, this time should look less like "homework" and more like a natural home activity with an emphasis on "enjoyment."

Once your child has learned to read independently, reading together is not over, the fun has just begun! Even if a child has learned to read, reading together is still very important and should be viewed as separate from "learning to read" time. Many of us have experienced this: when a child is beginning to master the art of reading, he/she needs plenty of opportunities to do so at home as well as at school, and you must listen to them, painful though it is, at times. But that's not instead of reading aloud, it's in addition to it. We all know good parenting is very time consuming, but this is time well invested. Although some children may prefer to read by themselves, many children love being read to right through middle school or even adulthood. If you do have a child that elects to read alone, there are still ways to be involved in reading with him/her. There are other strategies you can employ. Read the same book, another book by the same author, or a book on the same subject on your own and use this as a catalyst for genuine discussions about literature.

Discussions? Yes! Literature can be a springboard for compelling conversation. If you say, "Did you like the book?" You may not get the discussion you hoped for. A yes or no question may get a shrug or a one-word answer. Talk to your child about the book as you would with a friend who has read the same book you are reading. Genuine conversation will encourage your child more than "quizzing" about the content of the book they are reading. Saying something like, "I'm surprised at that chapter. I thought he'd know where to find the jewel." might be more likely to elicit a response from the child. Model for your child as you give your ideas about the book. Be careful not to give the impression that there's only one meaning or logical opinion. Sometimes a book will remind you of an experience, anecdote or other story you know. Be sure to share it. Just as you're one of the best readers that your child knows, you're also one of the best storytellers and this type of sharing builds comprehension more effectively than a list of questions. This will also help to develop your child's critical and creative thinking as they experience deeper meanings in text.

We hope this give you some ideas for making at home reading time WEenjoyable – for you AND your child. For some more ideas on making your home READING CENTRAL, check out: <http://www.scholastic.com/familymatters/read/all/housetour/>

DON'T MISS THE SCHOOL FORUM!

Mark your calendar! On Thursday, August 20 at 6 p.m., we invite you to attend the first HCLC School Forum of the 2009-2010 school year. Forums are designed as an opportunity to gather parent feedback. This Forum will begin with a "Plus/Delta" in your child's classroom where you will be asked about what is going well so far this school year (Plus) and any changes you would like to see (Delta). This information is gathered and classroom/grade level teams discuss any improvements they are able to make based on your feedback. The "Plus/Delta" is a tool often used around HCLC to solicit feedback from parents, students or staff members.

After the classroom "Plus/Delta", you are invited to the Gym for the whole School Forum. HCLC Executive Director Jan Gleeson will introduce the teaching staff and share school updates.

PARKING REMINDERS

It is vital that we all follow the [HCLC traffic flow maps](#) for safety in our community. The following reminders are critical for everything to go smoothly:

- Loading and unloading students on the street or in the outside lane of the parking lot is unsafe. Please pull up to the curb to load and unload.
- Passing on the left while cars are waiting is unsafe, unfriendly & ILLEGAL. Phoenix Police will hand out tickets for this violation.
- When exiting the parking lot in the morning, please turn right on Frye Road to avoid congestion in our lot and on the street.
- If you need to leave your vehicle, please find a parking space. Please do not leave your car unattended in the pick up lanes.
- Parking on the dirt is environmentally unfriendly & ILLEGAL. Phoenix Police will hand out tickets for this violation.
- Always cross at the crosswalk.

WELCOME FROM MS. K

My name is Kelly Kowalczyk and I am the student advisor for Horizon Honors Primary and Intermediate Schools. I am beginning my 10th year at HCLC, with five years in the classroom and four years as the student advisor. My roles vary here at HCLC, but first and foremost, I am here for our students. Each quarter I visit the classrooms to read to our students or present lessons, as well as provide support to individual students. I have small groups for various needs, such as students of divorced or separated families, students experiencing life stress, or students struggling with social behaviors. My roles extend to scheduling and working closely with the Intermediate team planning including camp, human growth and development, and curriculum. I am also the 504 Coordinator for students needing classroom accommodations due to health or other medical issues. Please feel free to contact me at kelly.kowalczyk@horizonclc.org. Welcome back and I look forward to a wonderful year with your children!

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

This year in Technology, students will have an opportunity to develop their keyboarding skills. All 1-2 students are working on skills to obtain accuracy. The 3-4 students will also focus on accuracy along with working on maintaining an adjusted speed (a composite speed figure that accounts for errors) of approximately 15-20 words per minute (WPM). Please continue to encourage your child to practice their keyboarding skills at home. Even though we use a specific keyboarding program in our classroom, Microsoft Word or any other word processing program your child uses will be helpful. Students will have assignments in Technology that support their classroom projects. They will be introduced to and continue to build their skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Inspiration and Publisher.

Our goal in Technology is for students to continue to develop and build skills that can help them to achieve academic and social excellence. All students in grades 1-4 will be presented with information on computer use and Internet safety each quarter.

SIGN UP FOR ILPS!

An Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is developed each quarter for each student at HCLC at 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."

First Quarter ILPs will be held on Thursday, August 13 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday, August 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and take approximately 20 minutes. To make an appointment, contact the Elementary Office at (480) 659-3100.

SAVE THE DATE!

HCLC Dinner, Silent Auction & Golf is November 21

Mark your calendar! You won't want to miss this great event. Enjoy an evening of dinner and a silent auction or make a day of it and also play a round of golf. There is something for everyone to enjoy! Look for more information to come.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Mona Volden, Parent Partnership Director, at (480) 659-3098 or at mona.volden@horizonclc.org for more information.

Silent Auction Items Needed

HCLC families and businesses can get involved by donating items they may already have to help make the silent auction better than ever. We are looking for items like tickets to a Cardinals, Suns or Diamondbacks game, play tickets, concert tickets, a time share for a weekend getaway, beach house, cabin in the cool pines, etc. If you have items like these, please contact Mona Volden. We appreciate your help!

Become an SES Member Today!

HCLC wants to thank those caring and visionary leaders who are making a contribution to the future of our school. Their donations bridge the gap between what HCLC receives in state aid and what it costs to educate students.

Through the Soaring Eagles Society, you can fulfill the growing needs and dreams of our motivated students by supporting Physical Education, Spanish, Technology, Music, Band, Chorus, Drama, Project Group, and additional electives at HCLC.



Membership forms are available online or contact Mona Volden, Parent Partnership Director, at (480) 659-3098 or mona.volden@horizonclc.org for more information.

**You trust HCLC to educate your children.
We trust you to support HCLC.
Become a member today!**

“How Can I Get Involved at HCLC?”

What is the definition of a “HCLC Volunteer?” A person wishing to make a commitment to their child’s education by getting actively involved in their child’s school by donating their time to a volunteer program. Anyone can be a volunteer! One of our volunteer opportunities will fit your schedule. No experience necessary!

It’s easy! Just fill out our new, online Parent Partnership Information Form. We are excited to offer an online tool to gather this information for the family directory, carpool directory, and volunteer information. This informational survey was e-mailed to all parents who have their e-mail address on file at HCLC. If you did receive the e-mail please contact an HCLC Office by Thursday August 6 at 3:45 p.m. at (480) 659-3000 to update your e-mail information. The survey will then be e-mailed to you on Friday, August 7 for you to complete.

Here are just a few ways you can get involved!

Volunteer Lunch Program –

Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from approximately 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This lunch program begins Monday, August 10. Volunteers deliver packaged lunches to K-4 classrooms and distribute directly to 5-12 students.

HCLC Silent Auction, Dinner and Golf -

A great day of golfing, dinner, and a silent auction. The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 21 at the Foothills Golf Club.

Art Masterpiece –

Do you enjoy art? Do you have a favorite painting or sculpture? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that happens only once a month? Then Art Masterpiece is the place to be! Art Masterpiece runs during the second and third quarter. Time, length and frequency vary. You don’t need an art degree; all you need is an interest in art!

Staff Appreciation –

Help us thank the HCLC staff for everything they do and enhance their workday! Come join the fun!

Spring Fling Friday, April 30 –

Work to organize, promote and produce a great Spring Fling 2009. Come be a part of one of our biggest events of the year!



Help HCLC Bloom

Have you visited our Recycling Garden? The items you bring in for our recycling programs can be dropped off at the Recycling Garden, which is conveniently located in front of the Parent Partnership Office in the Elementary School Wing. Be sure to stop by the next time you’re on campus!

The following are items needed to help our “Recycling Garden” bloom:

Ink jet cartridges – HCLC receives \$2 for each cartridge

Laser jet cartridges - HCLC receives \$3 for each cartridge

Box Tops for Education Program - HCLC receives 10 cents for every Box Top you clip. Just clip box tops from your favorite products and drop off them off at either office, the parent partnership office or any of the PreK-6 classrooms.