



Horizon Elementary School

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Principal's Post

April 2019

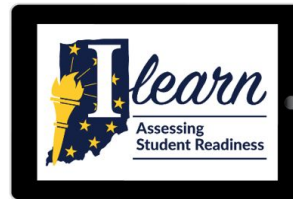
Dear Horizon Families,

We made it! After what seemed like a very long winter, it's finally spring (and finally feels like it) in Granger. Spring also ushers in the final stretch of the school year. Teachers and staff will be working hard to keep kids focused on learning all the way til the end, June 5th. We'd like to ask parents to join this effort by staying on top of homework, testing schedules, and your students' grades. Every reminder, word of encouragement, and effort to hold kids to our high academic standards is appreciated.

As most of you know, Indiana's new standardized test for students in grades 3-8 is no longer ISTEP+. It is called ILEARN. ILEARN Testing will run from April 22 - May 17, 2019. Your child's teacher will soon be sharing their specific testing dates during that testing window. *Your child's attendance is critical during testing. Please be sure they are at school and on time each day. Thank you!*

New features of the ILEARN test:

- **Untimed** - kids will not have time restrictions for ILEARN (this is a huge help for kids with test anxiety)
- **Fewer test sessions** than ISTEP+ had
 - Gr. 3 (5 test sessions - 3 ELA/2 Math)
 - Gr. 4 (7 test sessions - 3 ELA, 2 Math, 2 Science)
 - Gr. 5 (7 test sessions - 3 ELA, 2 Math, 1 So. Studies)
- **Adaptive** - test questions range from easy to difficult within each grade level, giving students greater opportunity to show what they know, rather than a "one right answer" approach.



One of the most noticeable differences is the amount of stamina students will need to be successful on this test. Stamina is developed over time, just like training for a 10K, and teachers have been working on building stamina since the beginning of the year. Each student will need to stay focused and read up to 3 or 4 articles about which they will answer questions and/or write an essay. If your child still tends to give up, cry, or get angry when an assignment is long or challenging, please continue to work with them on this. Effort, perseverance, and attention to detail are important in any academic endeavor (not just standardized testing) and we hope you'll help your child work on these things at home while teachers continue working with them at school.

In grades K-2, students will have End-of-Year DIBELS benchmark testing from April 10 - May 8th.

DIBELS^{Next}

Again, their attendance at school during the testing window is critical. We thank you for your efforts to have your child(ren) in school each and every day. DIBELS testing consists of multiple subtests, is done 1:1 with the teacher, and test sessions are spread out over the 4-week testing window.

Please touch base with your child's teacher if you have any questions about ILEARN or DIBELS standardized testing.

We are looking forward to an exciting, rewarding month at Horizon, and we continue to appreciate the many ways you all support us. Thank you!

Mrs. Tressa Decker, Principal

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CHECK
YOUR
EMAIL

...and respond when the school is trying to contact you. Thank you!

Pre-K News

Preschool is "springing" into reading! Our class had a chance to read our own stories to kindergarten. It was so fun to be the readers and have some "big" kids be our audience! We continue to learn new letter sounds and even some sight words. Look out kindergarten....here we come!



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Kindergarten News

What a fun month we had! March began with celebrating the beloved Dr. Seuss. We read several different books and did fun activities to go with his books. We also created Leprechaun traps to try and catch that sneaky leprechaun! Unfortunately, we did not catch him this year. He is way too quick! To end the month, we are welcoming Spring with open arms. The kids did some Springtime writing and shared stories of what they hoped to do over Spring Break.



LOVE
LEARN
LIVE
kindergarten



Good News from First Grade

Mrs. Doolittle's class has been helping Ms. Wolf, our school counselor, to train her dog Wrigley as a therapy dog, who will provide comfort and affection to people who need those things. The class is helping Wrigley to get used to interacting with students by having him in their classroom once a week. They provide an environment that will prepare Wrigley for all kinds of distractions so that he'll be able to respond with calmness and grace.



YSB Counselor, Ms. Wolf, and Wrigley (center) with Mrs. Doolittle's first grade class

By Helping Others,
We Help Ourselves.



Second Grade News

The second graders enjoyed a field to the PHM planetarium. It was the perfect connection to their science unit: "Sun, Moon and Stars".

LEARNING
IS
FUN

Special recognition to these 2nd grade students who will be published in the upcoming Young American Poetry Digest. We also want to thank Ms. Krueger for providing this wonderful opportunity!



Third Grade

Third grade has enjoyed celebrating “uniqueness” in the month of March. We have read stories about different cultures, people with unique gifts who achieved incredible feats, and even animals with unique survival skills. We have spent time expressing our own unique talents as each student has put together a piece with adjectives describing themselves. Unique perspectives were also explored during “smART” lessons this month as 3D drawings were completed. We have incredible students with many unique, incredible gifts in our classes!



Lifeline for the Month of April: Effort

Merriam-Webster's kid-friendly definition for EFFORT is:

- 1: hard physical or mental work: EXERTION
- 2: a serious attempt: TRY
- 3: something produced by work

EFFORT

Work hard to get good,
then work hard
to get better.

We hope you will talk to your kids about **EFFORT** & encourage them to use it!

Horizon Screen Free Week

April 8-12, 2019 is Horizon PTO's Screen-Free Week. Below are the activities available for all families of Horizon to participate in during this special week. PTO has planned these in an effort to encourage family togetherness without screens. Plan to join the fun!



- April 8, 6:00-7:30 pm: **Horizon Cupcake Wars** in our Gym
April 9, 5-8:00 pm: **Culver's Give Back Night** @ Culver's, Main St. Mishawaka
April 10, 6:00-7:30 pm: **Barnes and Noble Scavenger Hunt**
April 11, 5:30-7:30 pm: **Horizon Family Swim** at PHS Pool



4th grade Historians

Our fourth graders took a historical trip back to the late 1800s and early 1900s during our field trip to the Indiana Historical Museum. Students walked in the footsteps of James D. Oliver, a wealthy entrepreneur of the Oliver Chilled Plow Works located in South Bend, Indiana. Students toured his elegant 38-room home known as the Copshaholm or the Oliver Mansion. The home is built of Indiana fieldstone and was one of the first homes in South Bend to have electricity. Mr. Oliver's private den and billiards room was the favorite areas among our fourth graders. Students were also given the opportunity to visit the Studebaker museum. They were learned how the Studebaker brothers left an immense legacy on our local history. The Studebaker collection includes Presidential carriages, the Studebaker family's Conestoga Wagon, a military collection, and of course the Studebaker Lark VIII Convertible. Naturally, all the walking and viewing made our students hungry. Therefore, our trip included a sack picnic lunch. We had hoped to picnic on the lawn of the formal Italianate garden that was designed for the Oliver family in 1907, but since it was on 40 degrees we picnicked inside the museum. A GREAT DAY WAS HAD BY ALL!

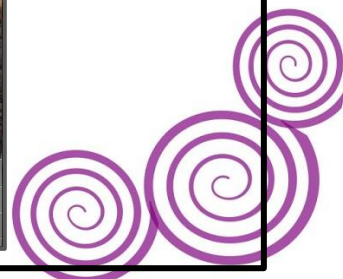
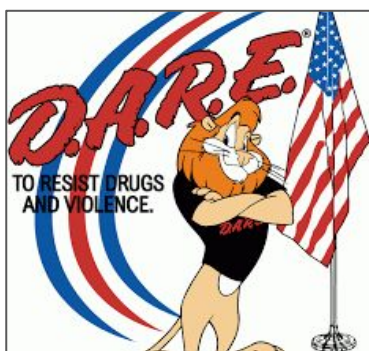


5th grade

D.A.R.E stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education and our fifth graders have been working through the program with Officer Guest on Tuesdays. Officer Guest is from the South Bend Police Department and has been teaching students at Horizon for many years.

Students role-play, watch some educational videos and discuss the curriculum each week. The curriculum teaches them why they shouldn't use drugs or alcohol. It also encourages students to choose friends who make good choices and then to deal with peer pressure in a confident manner. They are also being advised to avoid sticky situations where they might be tempted to take unnecessary risks and to handle stress wisely.

At the end of the 8-week program, students will write an essay over what they have learned and celebrate completion with a graduation ceremony where they will receive a t-shirt and a certificate.



How do we...P.E.?

During the month of March, PE students were very busy learning about healthy competition and sportsmanship. After learning the skills for the game of badminton we completed a 16-team, triple elimination tournament. Students were introduced to a real game bracket and learned how to read one! The most competitive group was our 5th graders, as you can see from this great photo!

After finishing one tournament, we created our own March Madness Unit! We celebrated the top 4 NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball teams with our own round robin tournament. On day 1, students practiced dribbling, shooting, and some defense before starting gameplay.

In the month of April, we will be doing a few games from other cultures such as Rahi ball and Cricket! We are looking forward to celebrating other countries and their heritage. We will also be welcoming warmer weather for our annual baseball unit. Have a great spring break everyone!



Musical Notes

Aesop's FABLES

Students in Grades One through Three have begun a musical adventure, **An Aesop Adventure** to be exact. We are creating an original musical about Aesop and some of his most famous fables. In May we will have afternoon performances for you to visit and check out our work with different days for each grade. Mark your schedule for the appropriate day in May!

Grade One.....May 20

Grade TwoMay 21

Grade ThreeMay 22

Students in the Horizon Show Choir have been hard at work for months to prepare a concert based on current Broadway and Movie Songs! You will hear songs from Matilda, Sponge-Bob The Musical, The Greatest Showman and many more. The show date is April 18th when they will perform for the school in the morning and for family and friends at 6:30pm.



Music Newsflash - we have HIGH HOPES of doing another flash mob for Silver Mile on Saturday, May 4th!



Students OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our **MARCH** Students of the Month, who were recognized for demonstrating the Lifeline of **"SELF-CONTROL"**.

Kindergarten: Drexler Gensic, Hudson Henke, Layla Bourdo, Alex Sobecki, Riley Thompson

1st Grade: Giselle Jackson, Olivia Kruyer, Taylor Schramski, Andrew Nwanganga

2nd Grade: Brayden, Washburn, Brody Davis, Finley Hull, Kinsey Harbison, Nolan Reed (not pictured)

3rd Grade: Eva Sturm, Dalton Sowders, Sean Williams. Ella Gour

4th Grade: Catie Kulba, Bill Lam, Cole Brownell, Madelyn Kemp

5th Grade: Olivia Hayes, Mikan Gensic/Ryleigh Moore, Kate Sagarsee, Ayden LeDonne (not pictured)



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

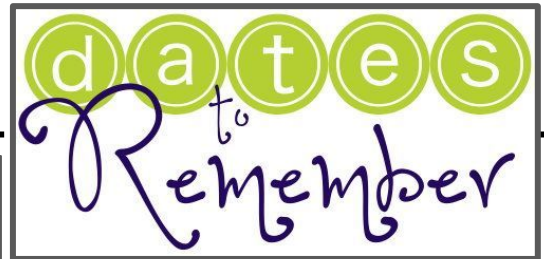
IMC News You Can Use

Hooray! Spring is here! Whether your family is camping, going to amusement parks, or even relaxing at home, it's a great time to practice using those reading skills with real-life reading opportunities.

Using reading tools such as audiobooks can help to build independence and encourage practice with the skills needed for more rigorous academic reading when returning to school.

Take advantage of any opportunities to have your child read - in the car when traveling for baseball (listen to an audiobook or read in the car) or while in a restaurant (read the menu!). Many struggling readers do not take the initiative to read for their own purpose and pleasure or in real-life situations. Think about how you can engage in authentic real-life reading materials. Help them learn the power of connecting to the world that exists outside the classroom.

Coming Events



April 1-5: Spring Recess-all students

April 8-12: Horizon Screen Free Week- all students

April 8,9,10 and 15,16,17: Show Choir Rehearsal - Mr. West will coordinate w/ groups

April 9: Running is Elementary (Running Club) practices begin (2:30 - 3:30pm) for 4th & 5th graders who have signed up

April 10-May

April 18: Show Choir Concert @6:30pm at Horizon (doors open at 6pm)

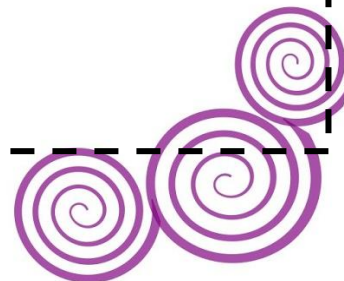
April 12-18: Horizon Scholastic Book Fair--7:30-3:00 most days; Tuesday til 6:30pm

April 16: Horizon PTO Meeting & General Elections at 6:30pm @ Horizon

April 17: Discovery Parent/Student Orientation, 6:30-7:30 @ DMS (current 5th graders)

April 19--RECESS DAY

April 22-May 17: ILEARN TESTING WINDOW (Students in 3rd,4th,5th)-Get a good night's rest and eat a healthy breakfast!



Caregivers of dependents with special needs

You're invited to attend a workshop on:

"Your dependent with special needs. Making his or her future more secure."

Important issues that need to be addressed:

- Government benefit eligibility such as Medicaid and SSI/SSDI
- Special Needs Trust and Guardianship
- Gifting and Inheritances

Presented by: Gordon Homes, CFP

Date: April 30th

Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Place: Schmucker Middle School, Learning Center

RSVP: (574) 968-9600 or cbrill@phm.k12.in.us

The presentation will run approximately 1.5 hours
with time afterwards to answer your questions.

Schmucker Middle School is located at 56045 Bittersweet Rd.,
Mishawaka, IN 46545. Enter at Door D.

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