



Horizon Elementary School

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Principal's Post

February 2019

Dear Horizon Families,

I am writing this month's Principal's Post to share with you an opportunity that I will be taking as a building administrator in PHM. Last year, many of you may recall, I served as the interim principal of Moran School while their principal, Mr. Anglin, took a medical leave. I have been asked to return to Moran as their building administrator while Mr. Anglin takes another medical leave beginning Monday, January 28th.

The timeline is indefinite as it is dependent upon Mr. Anglin's recovery. I may return to Horizon as soon as spring break, but I will not know until the time comes closer. I am very excited for this opportunity (a great learning experience for me), yet sad for the circumstances and for leaving Horizon. I consider this my "home away from home" and feel very connected and committed to the students, staff, and Horizon community.

During my leave, Ms. Stacy Petko Reisdorf will be filling in as Assistant to the Principal at Horizon. Ms. Reisdorf has 22 years of teaching experience (7th/8th grade history at John Young Middle School), is currently serving on the Mishawaka City Council, and is pursuing her school administration licensure through Indiana Wesleyan University. Please be sure to give Ms. Reisdorf a warm Horizon welcome when you see her.

Of course, Horizon has a tradition of excellence which will carry on seamlessly in my absence. I look forward to returning and wish everyone a safe and happy next few months until I will, hopefully, be back in the "Land of the Suns!"

Warmest Regards,

Amy Fadorsen



In This Edition:

[Principal's Post](#)

[Friendship Party Guidelines](#)

[Science Fair News](#)

[Girls on the Run](#)

[Parent's Night Out](#)

[Geography Bee News](#)

[Kindergarten News](#)

[Good News from First Grade](#)

[Second Grade News](#)

[Third Grade News](#)

[Planning for the Future](#)

[4th grade News](#)

[5th grade News](#)

[PE News](#)

[Musical Notes from Mr. West](#)

[Student of the Month](#)

[IMC News You Can Use](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

♥♥♥♥ FRIENDSHIP PARTIES ON FEBRUARY 14TH ♥♥♥♥

CLASSROOM PARTIES will be held on Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019. Here's the scoop:

1. **Students will EXCHANGE VALENTINE CARDS!**
 - a. Teachers will be sending home a class list – all names in their homeroom.
 - b. Your child should bring a Valentine card for each classmate & sign their own name on it, so the receiver knows who it is from. *Kids who exchange Valentines should bring one for every child in their homeroom class. Please do not pick & choose certain students to give Valentines to, as this causes hurt feelings.* No "love notes" or other inappropriate messages are allowed. Please check your child's Valentine's before sending them in.
 - c. Kids are not allowed to deliver Valentines to students in other classes, just their homeroom. Thanks for understanding!
 - d. Valentines should not contain candy. If they do, candy will be sent home with students, not opened at school or on the bus.
2. **PTO volunteers will lead a FUN CRAFT (a keepsake your child will bring home)** Lead Room Parent volunteers have already been contacted. If you have not been contacted, then you will not be volunteering for the Friendship Parties this year. Please contact our PTO if you would like to volunteer in the future. Thank you.
3. **The kids will have a GREAT TIME!**



PARTY TIMES: 5th grade (12:30 – 1:15 pm) All other grades (1:15 – 2:00 pm)

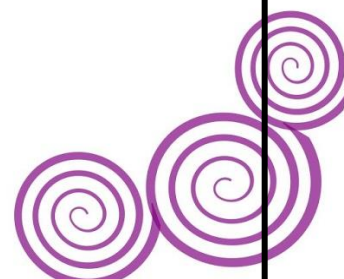
Academic Contests: Science Fair



In January, Horizon held its annual Science Fair. Many projects were entered and judged. At the end of the day, these students were awarded with the chance to advance: **Leyton Jackson, Mikan Gensic, Nate Hannah, Cole Brownnewell,** and the alternate is **AJ Rimelspach.**



Special thanks to Mrs. Pressler for being our Science Fair Coordinator again this year.



Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run® is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams.

Meeting twice a week in small teams, we teach life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games. The curriculum is taught by certified Girls on the Run coaches and includes three parts: understanding ourselves, valuing relationships and teamwork and understanding how we connect with and shape the world at large.

Go to: [Girls on the Run Michiana](#) for more information.



Parents Night Out - February 27th 6pm - 8pm

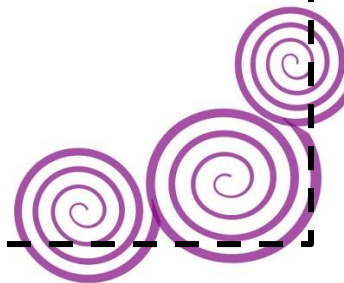
(hosted by Penn Dance Marathon Club)

What is Penn's Dance Marathon Club (DMC) all about?

Dance Marathons are held in hundreds of high schools and colleges around the nation and they benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals all around the country. Penn's DMC goes out into the community and raises funds for Riley Children's Hospital and the families it serves. One of their fundraising opportunities will be happening here at Horizon this month, it is called "Parents Night Out." This event allows parents to drop their kids off at Horizon & enjoy an evening out, while the High Schoolers entertain the kids. INFORMATION about Parents' Night Out has been sent to all Horizon families via email. Check your inbox!

You can sign your kids up for "Parents Night Out" by visiting:

<https://goo.gl/forms/OUUDU0ouTGCTLHMe63>



Academic Contests: Geography Bee

Congratulations to Horizon's 2018-19 Geography Bee School Champion,
4th grader Addie Singleton!

We had a great (and very challenging) contest, and each of our finalists should be very proud of themselves.

First place - Addison Singleton, 4th gr.

Runner Up - Zachary Girton, 5th gr.

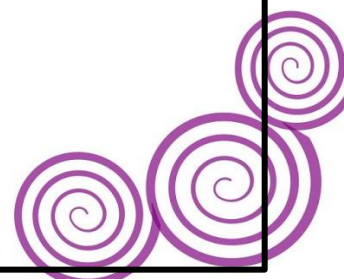
Third place - Ellie Hemmerling, 5th gr.



Special thanks to Mrs. Lira for being our Geo Bee Club Sponsor & Geo Bee Coordinator!

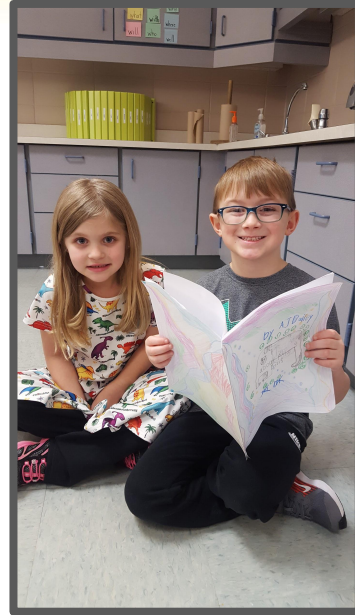
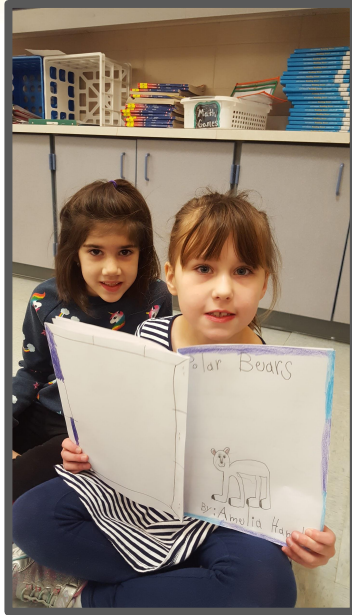
Kindergarten News

January started off very "colorful!" We had an amazing first week back from break learning all of our color words. The kids enjoyed wearing their favorite colors, making rainbow hair and singing the color songs! The first half of the year was full of fun and growth!! We are excited to continue growing the second half of the year! Cheers to 2019!



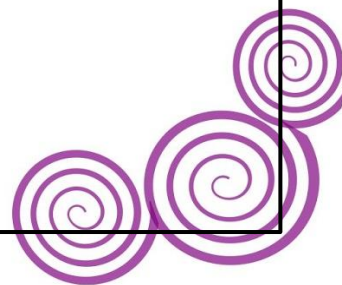
Good News from First Grade

Our first graders worked very hard during the month of January to create non-fiction, informative chapter books. Students wrote about penguins, polar bears, and a variety of other animals. They conducted research, organized their ideas, edited their writing and then read their final revision to other students.



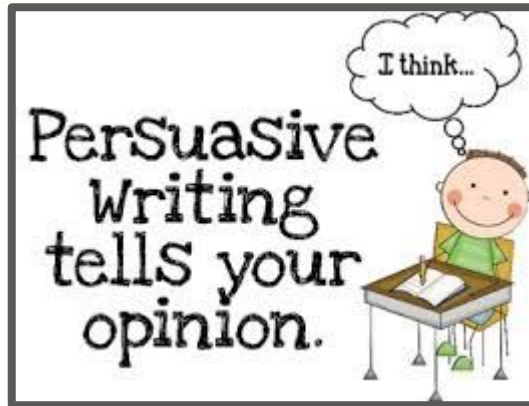
Second Grade News

The second graders are hard at work in their math classes. Some students are learning to measure objects in centimeters and inches, along with studying how much something weighs. Other second graders are learning about geometry and how to create 3-Dimensional models.



Third Grade

Third graders have begun a new writing unit learning to write persuasively. It is fun and powerful to convince others of great opinions! Science and Social Studies classes are gaining new knowledge about plants and animals, gears and machines, rocks and minerals, and the history of Granger. We also look forward to visiting the Planetarium this month! Our students continue to grow in math and reading as we begin our second half of the school year.



Lifeline of the Month - INTEGRITY

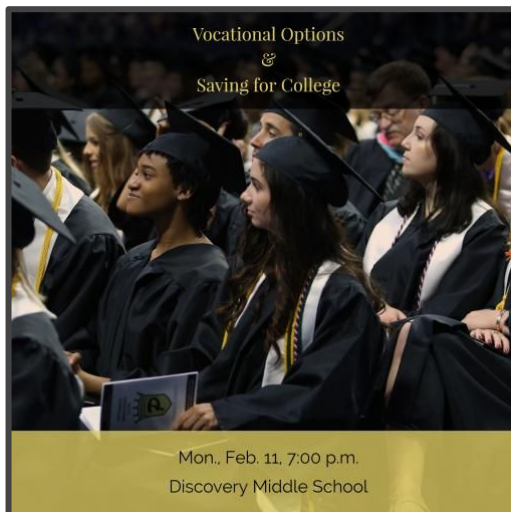
Integrity is the lifeline we will focus on during the month of February. We want all of our students to understand what it means and how to live this out in their day to day school lives. Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching!

INTEGRITY
IS DOING THE
RIGHT THING.

EVEN WHEN
NO ONE IS
WATCHING.

C.S. LEWIS

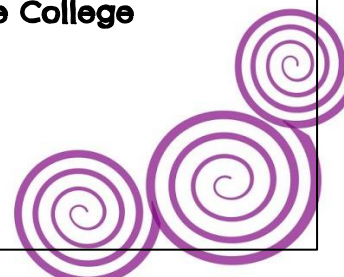
Planning for College - Monday, February 11, 2019 7:00pm



It's NEVER too early!

DMS PTO, in partnership with Discovery Middle School, presents an evening of "Options for High School and Saving for College".

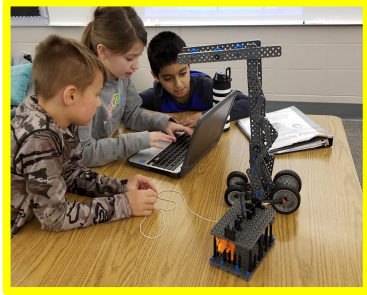
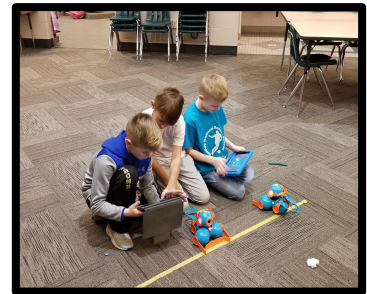
Please join us at Discovery Middle School for presentations by the Elkhart Area Career Center and by the College Savings 529 Plan.



4th grade

It's full STEAM ahead for Horizon's fourth grade students. The integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math is alive in 4th grade. During one science rotation, students designed simple machines to complete a design challenge. The engineering standards that include simple machines were emphasized. In life science, one of the lab activities was to dissect owl pellets. Students used the scientific process and lab procedures to gain knowledge of the food chain. They uncovered skeletal remains of the owl's prey. During the coding rotation, students created their own game using Scratch software. Using logic and reasoning, students created the code and designed their own video game. Such fun!

In January, Mrs. Kinney, the technology coordinator, brought in bots and Ipads for students in Mrs. Pond's math class. These children had the opportunity to code their own bot! Students used the bots called, Dash, to move the bot in a specific direction, pick up that object, and then launched the item, thus completing the mission. Also this month, students had fun creating with clay during SMART. They used their creativity to mold their creations for the "Coil Cafe".



5th grade



Fifth grade enjoyed a special guest last month when Mr. Al came and shared his experience of growing up in Iraq. He shared how he watched his country change under different government leadership, how education is vastly different, and how he came to America. His visit was in conjunction with a novel students recently read: *Refugee*, by Alan Gratz. This book was about three different kids, all facing unimaginable dangers and how they became refugees, needing to leave their countries. Mr. Al's visit attested to the challenges and adjustments that people make when they leave their countries of origin to begin life afresh. We enjoyed his visit immensely!



PE News



During January students have been learning about the winter game of Floor Hockey. This is something that I really enjoy teaching because no matter how old our students are, they can play! Our sticks were a little big for the Pre-K kids, but we made it work!

The 3rd & 5th graders also participated in the Heart Course! This is a giant obstacle course that explains how the blood travels through the heart and out to different parts of the body. In class, we colored a "map" of the heart and then completed the course. If you have not seen your child's picture, ask them about it and see if they can teach you for a change!

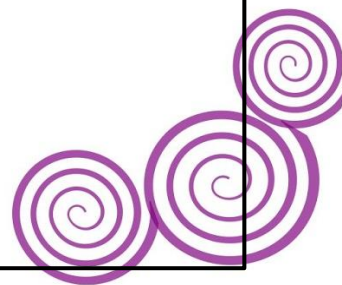


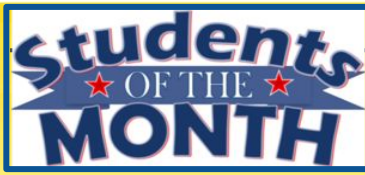
In the month of February we will be exploring different challenges with jumbo cup stacking and jump roping!

Musical Notes

This month in music class, we have been learning how to be composers. We have composed New Years raps and ostinatos. We are currently working on composing songs in small groups in all grades! The Fourth and Fifth grades are using a computer program called *Compose Yourself*.

We will be looking at Valentine's Day songs to start out February; both on Boomwhackers and Ukuleles! Show Choir is starting all new Broadway Show tunes for their Spring concert and tour.





Congratulations to our **JANUARY** Students of the Month, who were recognized for demonstrating the Lifelines of **“RESPONSIBILITY”**.

Kindergarten: Tyler Van Duyn, Alexander McCavitt, Lauren Skurla, Leia Hamilton, Kylie Dilts

1st Grade: Jeffrey Lindley, Sabrina Sriver/Stella Miller, Luca Pagano, Bennett Nowak, Collette Ingram

2nd Grade: Chase Rerick, Elizabeth Holmes, Carter Owren

3rd Grade: Halley Flack, Kennedy Lundquist, Madison Mickels, Tori Schramski

4th Grade: Hannah Luck, Allison Balthes, Emery Langham, Sophia Gingerich, Lauren Marks

5th Grade: Montana Swartz, Travis Sears, Kaevon Johnson, Maddie Olson, Maddi Cartwright



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

IMC News You Can Use

Part of Mr. Selmon's job as the resident Media Specialist is that he gets to talk to the students about what media is and the impact it has on our day to day lives. Books and magazines represent print media, and the Internet represents digital media.

Students in 3rd through 5th grade have been discussing media literacy during their Library times. While reading literacy is important, media literacy just as important. [Common Sense Media](#), a non-profit agency that focuses on how media impacts culture, defines media literacy as the ability to identify different types of media and understand the messages they're sending.

Kids take in a huge amount of information from a wide array of sources, far beyond the **traditional** media (TV, radio, newspapers, books, and magazines). Being literate in all modes of media is essential.

For more information about how you can help your child improve their media literacy skills, visit [Common Sense Media](#).

Coming Events



- | February 7, 2019--Horizon PTO Family Fun Night @ Galaxy
- | February 8, 2019--PHM Job Fair @ Schmucker Middle School (2:00 - 6:00 pm)
- | February 11, 2019--Kindergarten and 2nd Grade SMarT
- | February 13, 2019--Discovery Principal Visits Horizon to talk to 5th grade (8:00 AM)
- | February 13, 2019--Discovery Principal meets w/ 5th gr. Parents (7:00 pm - Horizon LGI)
- | February 14, 2019--Horizon Classroom Friendship Celebrations (check [guidelines](#))
- | February 15 & 18, 2019--NO SCHOOL -PRESIDENTS' DAY RECESS
- | February 21, 2019--4th & 5th Grade SMarT
- | February 22, 2019--1st & 3rd Grade SMarT
- | Feb. 25 & 26, 2019--Instrument Selection Night for current 5th graders @ DMS Cafe'
4:30-8:30pm (both nights)
- | February 26 & 28, 2019--Girls on the Run practices
- | February 27, 2019--Parents Night Out @ Horizon (6:00 - 8:00 pm)
(must pre-register your children online)

