



Horizon Elementary School

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Principal's Post

February/March 2018

Dear Horizon Parents,

As you know, we are celebrating the IDOE's recent announcement that Horizon Elementary has received the Four-Star designation for school year 2016-17. This is a great achievement! We are planning a celebration for the student body to let the kids know that their hard work has paid off.

Winners! In the past week, Horizon has produced several winners at the Regional Science Fair at Notre Dame, the National Geographic Geography Bee, and the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Competition. Please be sure to congratulate the following students if you see them:

- **Bill Lam** (gr. 3, Mrs. Neufelder's class) - School winner of the **Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Contest**. Bill's handwriting entry will now enter the state competition. Good luck at the next level, Bill!
- **Mikan Gensic** (gr. 4, Mrs. Lira's class) - Mikan won our school **Geography Bee** last month, and then took a test to see if he would advance to the State Geography Bee competition. This week we learned that Mikan did make it and will advance to the Indiana Geography Bee, which is held in Indy on April 6th.

REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS:

- **Rana Amouri** (gr. 5, Mr. McCaskill's class) - **Rana will be representing Horizon at the State Science and Engineering Fair in Indianapolis** - 1st place ribbon; DNA Learning Award, Notre Dame Biology Award, Serim Research Award, and the Hoosier Science and Engineering award.
- **Ellie Satre** (gr. 5, Mrs. Hershberger's class) - 2nd place ribbon; STARBASE Excellence in STEM Award
- **Mikan Gensic** (gr. 4, Mrs. Lira's class) - 2nd place ribbon
- **Nate Hannah** (gr. 3, Mrs. Neufelder's class) - 2nd place ribbon

We are extremely proud of the achievements these kids have earned. Hard work, dedication, attention to detail, and the ability to explain themselves (answer questions thoroughly) all contributed to their success. We will keep you posted on Mikan's, Bill's, and Rana's performance as they move on to the state level of academic competition.

We hope to see many Horizon Suns at the PHM Young Author's Conference this Saturday at Schmucker. This is always a wonderful time for our budding authors!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students, our staff, and our school. Together, we are achieving great things!

Kind regards,

Mrs. Tressa Decker, Principal

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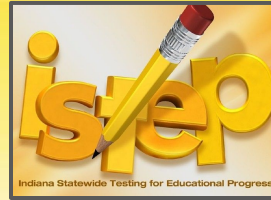
FOUR STAR SCHOOL



Indiana Department of Education

Testing Update:

ISTEP+ Part 1 Testing is underway
(Feb. 26 - Mar. 9, 2018)
IREAD-3 Testing - March 12-16, 2018



During testing...we have to ask parents/volunteers/guests to follow these guidelines:

- Cell phones are **NOT** permitted in the testing environment..period. Guests must either leave their cell phone in our office (in silent mode or OFF) or leave their phone in their car. There will be a basket for phones at the front desk.
- You must go directly to the assigned classroom and nowhere else in the building.
- Please do not chat in halls or common areas. *Why? Students will be testing in all areas of the building, including conference rooms.*
- When you are done volunteering, please do not linger to chat in the lobby. Please come & go directly.
- Anyone who comes into the office is asked to keep a very low volume, because students may be testing in the office conference room.

We know this may seem a bit much, but our guidelines are strict and clear from the IDOE, and we want to do everything we can to preserve a quiet, secure testing situation for our students.

Thank you for understanding & cooperating with these guidelines.

Student attendance is critical during mandatory state testing times.

Please help your child be successful by making sure they are at school - on time - every day.

Thank you!

Did you know...

Kindergarten and Preschool Registration are happening NOW!

If you have a child (or know of someone who has one) who is ready for kindergarten, please encourage them to register NOW in the Horizon office (between 7:00am - 3:30pm).

Age requirements:

Kindergarten - must be 5 years old before Sept. 1, 2018

PreSchool - must be 4 years old before Sept. 1, 2018

Immunizations are REQUIRED for Kindergarten admission & also for kids going into 6th grade.

Check with our health office if you have any questions about required immunizations.

ENROLL NOW!
Preschool & Kindergarten
Registration



The Teacher's Corner..... What's Going on in Reading Class?

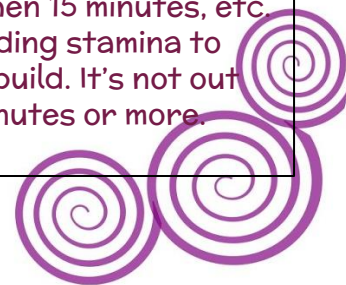
The "**Daily 5**" is something you may have heard your child mention. So, what exactly is Daily 5? Let me explain. The Daily 5 is a system for organizing a Reading classroom. It is a structure which allows teachers to teach more effectively while allowing students more time to practice the skills they are being taught. The kids practice their reading skills in 5 specific ways (hence, the "Daily 5"). Here's how it works:

1. Teacher teaches a "mini-lesson" (approx. 10 min. of direct instruction) to the class. The mini-lesson comes from the Indiana Academic Standards for the grade level.
2. Kids have time to practice their reading skills during Daily 5 rotations
 - a. **Read to Self** (kids read a "just right" book at their independent level - the more minutes kids spend reading, the better they read. This is important stuff!)
 - b. **Read with Someone** (kids partner read with a buddy; they help each other, compliment or critique each other's oral reading, and practice taking turns and sharing...also important stuff!)
 - c. **Listen to Reading** (kids listen to fluent reading on the computer or iPad)
 - d. **Word Work** (this includes practice of sight words, Foundations skills, Greek/Latin roots, vocabulary, word patterns, and more!)
 - e. **Write about Reading** (kids respond in writing about what they are reading...sometimes they summarize a story or chapter, write about the characters, how the story made them feel, etc. - they can write about their reading in many different ways!)
3. While kids are doing their Daily 5 rotations, the teacher meets with small groups of students for targeted, specific instruction on skills those kids need most. Sometimes small group instruction is reteaching - going over previously taught skills. Sometimes it is enrichment, giving kids opportunities to s-t-r-e-t-c-h themselves in new ways. Either way, kids get the instruction and support they need. It's FUN, too!
4. Groups rotate every 10-15 minutes or so, depending on the grade level. Teachers check in with kids, give reminders or new directions, celebrate successes, or handle classroom "situations" (like getting someone a band-aid) in between rotations.

Many of Horizon's teachers use the Daily 5 structure, or a modified version of it. Often in older grades, they call it the Daily 3 (Read to Self, Word Work & Write About Reading) which is more appropriate for their age and skill level.

STAMINA

In order for kids to be successful during their Daily 5 rotations, they must have **STAMINA** to stay on task, keep reading the whole time, and not get up and wander around or interrupt the teacher during small group instruction time. Does your child have **STAMINA**? Can they stick to a job/task without losing focus? Do they give up or lose interest quickly? These are things we work on all the time at school - and you can work on them at home, too! Give your child a task you know they can do independently. Tell them to do it for 10 minutes without stopping, walking away, or chatting with someone. If they can do it, that's great! Next time, try 12 minutes....then 15 minutes, etc. Did you know that some of our Kindergarten kids have built their reading stamina to more than 20 minutes....wow! As kids get older, their stamina should build. It's not out of the question for 4th/5th graders to read uninterrupted for 40 minutes or more.



Pre-K News

Horizon's Early Learners were able to attend the play "Peter Rabbit" presented at IUSB. It was a great trip to the "theater"...and we were able to ride a real school bus! We also had a surprise visitor this month. Erin from Martin's Supermarkets came to talk to us about all of the jobs that people do at Martin's, what people wear while they are working in the different departments and about the 1 MILLION items Martin's keeps in their supplies. Yes, 1 million!! Best part?? She brought us mini donuts! The kiddos were a fabulous audience!



Kindergarten News

February was a fun month for Kindergarten! We had a blast celebrating the 100th day of school. The kids dressed up as old men and women and had a fun day surrounded by the number 100. The Friendship parties were also a huge success. The kids had the chance to play fun games, do some crafts and hand out their Valentines to their friends. We ended the month with getting to listen to a REAL LIFE author from NYC. She spoke with the students about several stories she has written. The kids loved the story about bones. We learned lots of new facts about animals and bones. With all of the fun that we had, February sure flew by! We can't wait to see what March brings!



Students with guest author,
Gabrielle Balkan



100th day with
"100- year- old"
Kindergarteners



Kinders
celebrating
Friendship



Good News from First Grade



Swoop and Stu's Reading Club is a fun, incentive-based reading program that gives students the chance to earn weekly prizes through the South Bend Cubs. The program kicks off on **March 5th** in accordance with National Reading Month and will last throughout the month. Our 1st graders can't wait to start!

Students that participate in the program will be given weekly reading goals (as assigned by their teachers) that will earn them prizes upon completion of the goal. The final goal for the month will earn the student a free ticket to a South Bend Cubs game! Last season, over 22,000 students participated in the program.

Second Grade News

The second graders continue to use **word problem steps** to solve **subtraction number stories** as well as using **Trade-First Subtraction** and **U.S. Traditional Subtraction** to solve math problems. They have been playing a variety of games and using manipulatives to reinforce these important math skills.

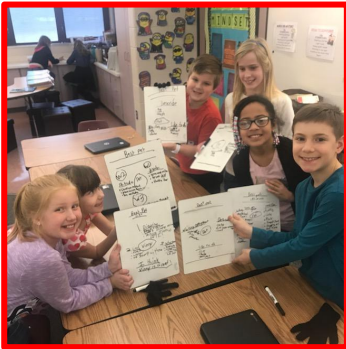


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Third Grade News

February has been a very busy month for our 3rd Grade Students. Students have been focusing on **adding depth** to their writing skills along with practicing strategies to **solve constructed response problems** in math and language arts. Our Horizon smArt volunteers taught students how to work with **geometric shapes** and **vanishing points**. "**Friendship Celebrations**" occurred on February 14. Students participated in numerous games and activities with their classroom friends. To finish up the the month of February and prepare for state assessments, Mrs. Murphy joined our students and presented them with ideas/strategies to use in the classroom to stay focused and work through moments of challenge.



IMC News you can Use!

Each year at the beginning of March, school children kick off National Reading Month by celebrating the birthday of the beloved Dr. Seuss. With help from **Read Across America**, their goal is motivating kids to read every day of the year.

But what about the little ones? With a little help, they can enjoy National Reading Month too.

Activities to foster important early skills

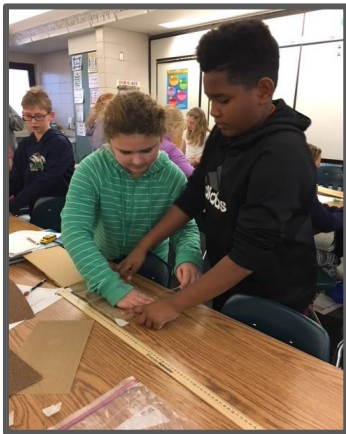
- **Sing the Alphabet Song.** The number of versions on iTunes alone is testament to its enduring appeal.
- **Hunt for environmental print.** Start a game of I-Spy and have your child search for letters prominently displayed on signs, posters, billboards, even cereal boxes.
- **Play with alphabet letters.**
- **Introduce nursery rhymes and sing-along games**
- **Enjoy rhyming books.**
- **Go on a treasure hunt.** Help your child search for items in your home that rhyme, or start with a certain sound
- **Tune your child's ears to the rhythm of music.** Clap or dance to a beat.
- **Paint with water.** Grab a bowl and a couple of paint brushes or sponges and "paint" letters on the sidewalk or wooden fence.
- **Scribble in Sand.** Use fingers or small sticks to draw letters in the sand.

With the assurance that even the youngest children are on the road to reading, here's to embracing March as National Get-Ready-to-Read Month and building on these important foundational skills well beyond March 31st.



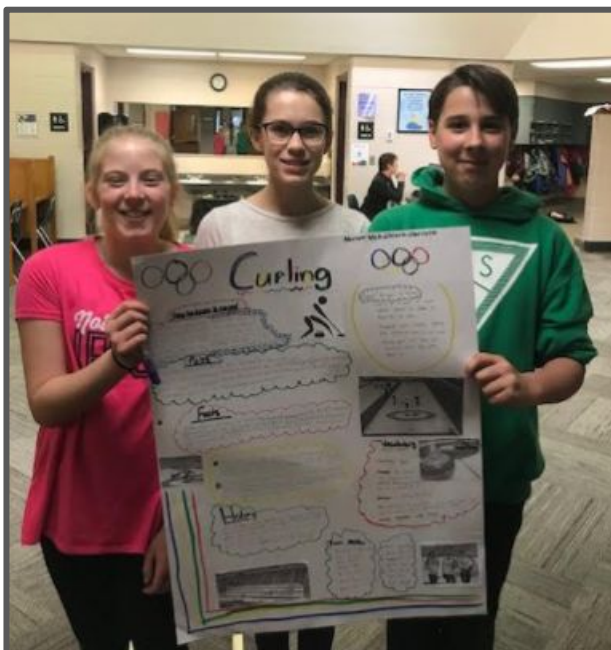
4th Grade News

Fourth Grade has had a busy February. In Science, fourth graders have been studying **Physical Science**. Some topics we have covered are: **energy, physical and chemical changes, magnetism, sound, and electricity**. We also took a trip to the PHM Planetarium to see a program about **earthquakes** and a program about the **planets** in our **solar system**. In smART, we created coil pots and objects using special clay. Our fourth graders had a lot of fun at our Friendship parties!



5th grade News:

In celebration of the 2018 Winter Olympics, students worked in groups to research different popular events. The presentation posters included information about the rules, scoring, equipment, famous athletes, key vocabulary and the history of the sport.



P.T.O. -- It's time to GET INVOLVED!

The PTO general meeting will be on **April 17th at 5:30pm** in the LGI.

Topics on the agenda for this meeting are:

- teacher appreciation week
- end of year activities (yearbook, 5th grade celebration & field day)
- election of new officers to the PTO Board

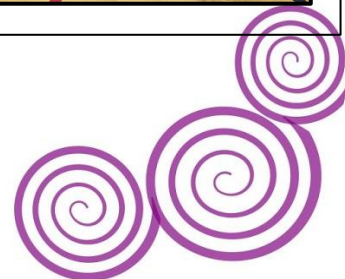
We want to strongly encourage teachers and parents to attend this final PTO meeting of the year, as we would love your input on these upcoming events. We want to extend a special invitation to anyone interested in running for a board position to come to our board meeting **March 14th from 7:30 - 8:00pm** (for the first half hour only) to see how a meeting runs and ask any questions you have about running for a position. Newcomers are welcome! If you are interested in a board position or have any questions, please email Jen Turnblom (current PTO president) at jturn528@yahoo.com.



PE News: A Peek Into the Gym!

Cup Stacking

Cup Stacking is a fitness-based sport that is fun, challenging and kids from all abilities can do! Cup Stacking helps develop motor skills, while working on patterning, sequencing, focus and concentration. It promotes hand-eye coordination and ambidexterity, which are important skills in life! The kids really enjoyed their cup stacking experiences. (We've seen them continue stacking during Kids Club, too!)



Students OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our FEBRUARY Students of the Month, who were recognized for demonstrating the Lifeline of **"INTEGRITY"**.

Kindergarten: Kiera Johnson, Shelby Bohner, Shania Lee, & Makenna Drake



1st Grade: Brayden Roy, Crusier Forsgren, Amelia Langham, Ty Bublitz, Kyleigh Herring, & Nolan Bauer



2nd Grade: Graham Fronek, Ariana Ealdama, Caroline Hart, Molly Breden



3rd Grade: Calvin Hart, Melody Matviyiv, Allie Mead, Shawn Lee, & Iniya Christopher



4th Grade: :Danica Littler, Brady Bauer, Riley Farkas, & Megan Fisher

5th Grade: Liam Perrin, Eva Laytart, Kyla Yoder, Logan Cisneros, Zoe Weaver, Isabelle Allreidge & Kaitlyn Howell
(no photo available)

Upcoming Events

March 5th-9th--National School Breakfast Week

March 8th--PHM Forum on Internet Safety at Schmucker Middle School 7-8:30pm (9th grade and older)

March 9th--ISTEP+ Testing Window Ends

March 10th--**Young Authors' Conference** at Schmucker Middle School 8:45-11:30am

March 11th--Daylight Savings Time Begins (Set your clocks ahead 1-hour)

March 12-16--IREAD-3 Testing Window

March 16--**Cupcake Wars** at Horizon 6-8pm

MARCH 17--ST. PATRICK'S DAY

March 18--smART Week

March 19--Movie for all 5th Graders--"Screenagers" @ Schmucker-6:30pm

March 20--PHM Elementary Spell Bowl

March 24--PTO Trivia Night

March 25 End of Third Grading Period (K-5 & 6-8)

March 26 School Board Meeting at Madison Elementary School @ 7pm

March 30--NO SCHOOL--Good Friday

