



Horizon Elementary School

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Principal's Post



October/November
2018

Dear Horizon Families,

November is upon us, and with Thanksgiving right around the corner, our Lifeline focus at Horizon is GRATITUDE.

Gratitude: to be thankful for what you have

Children benefit from talking about, seeing examples of, and practicing character traits such as GRATITUDE. Please take some time to talk to your child(ren) about what it means to be grateful. You can:

- Ask your child *WHAT* they are grateful for, *WHO* they are grateful for, and *WHY* they are grateful.
- Talk to your child about ways we can show our gratitude (such as saying thank you, writing a thank you note, giving a gift, supporting a charity or cause, and more!) and then put those ideas into action.
- Be sure to tell your children what you are grateful for and why. Hearing these words from you will make a difference!

Our staff is abundantly GRATEFUL for the support we receive from YOU. We want to extend a special thank you to our PTO for the many ways our students' school experiences are enriched throughout the year. Here are just a few recent examples:

The BOOgie Ball was a huge success again this year - and the costumes were fabulous! Thanks to Sarah White for chairing this event. We are grateful that the PTO has helped keep our Environmental Lab looking great. Thanks to Julie Mead for leading this effort. And special thanks to Jill Rippy for her hospitality and hard work making sure teachers had a delicious dinner while working late during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Please be sure to let our PTO officers know how much you appreciate their leadership, time, and effort.

Corri Sencaj & Kelle Weidner (co-presidents)

Joy Phillips (vice-president)

Ellen Bridwell (treasurer)

Shantelle Burress (secretary)

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to wish each Horizon family a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday this year. We have a lot to be thankful for, and so do you!

With joy,

Mrs. Decker

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Adopt-a-Family

It's hard to believe Christmas will be here soon. If your family is struggling financially and not sure how you're going to manage the holidays, the Horizon PTO Adopt-a-Family program may be able to help.

Each year, Horizon families in need are "adopted" by families wanting to give. The process is anonymous. If you would like receive assistance, please contact Liz Johnson: lizgrajewski@comcast.net or 253-951-0701.

In addition, if you would like to be part of the giving, please contact Liz. We will be contacting families next week to begin the process.

The "Boardwalk on Brummitt"



- We are so excited to launch "The Boardwalk on Brummitt" project at Horizon! In partnership with Penn High School, The University of Notre Dame, United Federal Credit Union, and Home Depot, we are pleased to begin a multi-phase building project on our west property line.

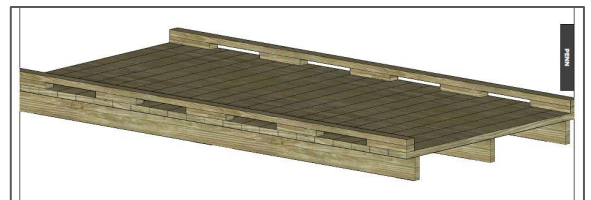
- The "Boardwalk on Brummitt" will be a beautiful wooden pathway connecting our front and back playgrounds. Penn High School STEM students designed the modular wooden sections, which will connect together to form the boardwalk. Along the boardwalk, students will enjoy multi-sensory experiences such as wind chimes, lovely landscaping, birdhouses, and more. The Boardwalk will also include a gazebo, which will be built in the first phase of this project. **Any parents interested in helping us build the gazebo, please contact Mrs. Decker at tdecker@Phm.k12.in.us. Build date TBA. Thank you!**

- **FUNDRAISING for the Boardwalk starts now!** This week, we are having the "Battle for the Boardwalk" Penny Wars. Kids are encouraged to bring in any spare change or donations they are able to come up with. Each morning next week, donations will be collected and at the end of the week, the class that has raised the most money for the Boardwalk will win a very special prize -- a field trip to Notre Dame Stadium! Notre Dame Football has generously donated this prize, which includes a tour of the locker room, meeting some of the 2018-19 football team, and going out onto the field. WOW! This will be FUN! We hope every family will participate in this effort Thank you!

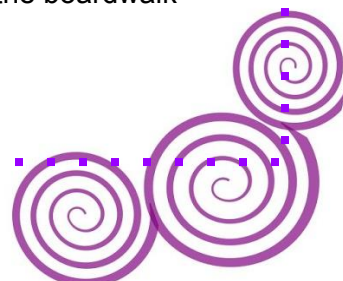
- Please visit Horizon's website to see photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony and read more about this special project. [Click here](#) to see the story on our school website.



Aerial view of boardwalk



One modular section of the boardwalk



PreK News

Preschool has started our first play theme, Family. Our centers include the bedroom, kitchen, laundry room, garage, bathroom and family room.

The highlight of the month was our field trip to Amazing Acres where we rode a bus for the first time! Also, we discussed fire safety and had a visit from Clay Fire Department and had a great time with our VIP's.

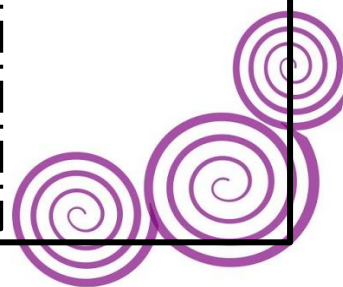
Our weekly studies of colors are wrapping up this week when we tie dye T-shirts!



Kindergarten News

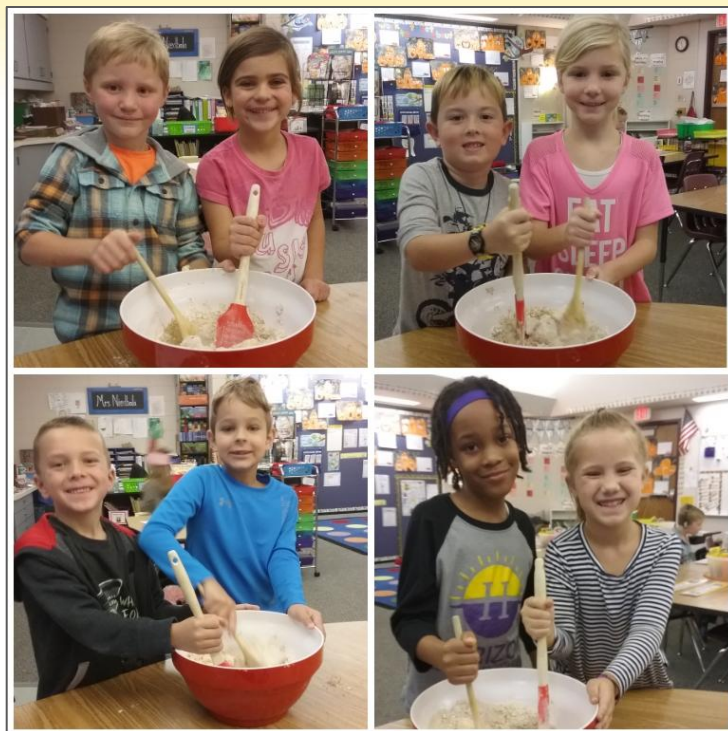
Kindergarten had a fun month of learning in October! We started the month off with our ABC fashion show then celebrated our weekly letters with tiara/tie-dye/tutu day, pirate day, and silly sock day.

While learning school procedures, we spent a lot of time learning our letters, sight words, and how to tell a story with a detailed picture through apple and pumpkin themes.



Good News from First Grade

Mrs. Niedbala's class celebrated "Apple Day." They classified, counted, compared, and measured apples in order to make apple crisps. What a fun Fall day at school!



Second Grade News

A naturalist from Rum Village spent time with the second graders this past month. Students participated in demonstrations of insect life cycles. They had an opportunity to look through a compound eye as insects do. Students also got to see various types of live insects.



Third Grade

The 3rd grade took an exciting field trip on October 31st to the Kalamazoo Air Zoo Museum. We are moving into Informational Writing, so each student was assigned a certain airplane to research. Being able to see their airplane in real life was thrilling! We were taken on tour guides of the museum by actual War Veterans who have flown some of those types of airplanes. Finally, students were most excited about riding the rides and simulators. The squeals of delight made this a trip we will never forget!



IMC News you can Use!

Checkout Policies:

I get this question a lot: "How many books is my student allowed to check out at a time?"

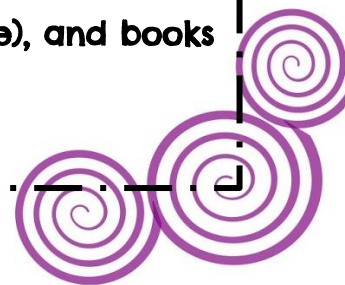
Here is a rundown on checkout policies:

-Kindergarten: 1 Paperback book from a specific location chosen by Mr. Selmon and 2 Phonics Readers (also known as "books in a bag") if wanted, and books are checked out for 1 week.

Grade 1: 1 Hardcover (from the shelves) or Paperback book from specified location chosen by Mr. Selmon and 2 Phonics Readers (also known as "books in a bag") if wanted, and books are checked out for 1 week.

Grades 2 AND 3: 2 Books from any shelf (except reference) and 2 Phonics Readers (also known as "books in a bag") if wanted, and books are checked out for 2 weeks.

Grades 4 and 5: 3 Books from any section (except for Reference), and books are checked out for 2 weeks.



4th grade SHINING STARS!

Our 4th grade students have been working diligently to develop strong work ethics. In 2017 the fourth grade teachers started an incentive program to reward students for organization, time on task, and personal responsibility. The program was proven successful and is being implemented again this year. This Horizon Sunshine Incentive Program requires students to earn 12 teacher's signatures on a Sunshine card for exhibiting desirable work ethics. Once a Sunshine card is completed, the student's name is placed in a weekly classroom drawing for a small prize such as a pencil, pen, eraser, or bookmark. Two or three weekly prizes are awarded by the classroom teacher. At the end of 9 weeks all completed Sunshine cards are placed in an all 4th grade drawing. Our first 9 week drawing was very exciting, as there were probably 200-300 completed cards to draw from, and of course the prizes were more valuable. Two students were awarded \$10 Target giftcards provide by the PTO. Vincent Winkleman and Greyson Gobel were the lucky winners.




Other prizes included, books, crazy socks, flashlights, binoculars, key chains, and notebooks. As you can see from the photo there were a lot of hardworking and happy boys and girls this 9 weeks. Keep up the good work 4th graders!



Keep Reading! You or your child should be recording your reading on the Go for the Gold Sheets.

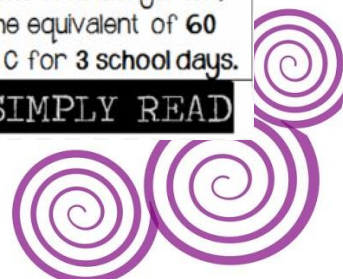
Please send forms in as your child completes them! If you need more forms, please ask your child's teacher.

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
20 minutes per day.	5 minutes per day.	1 minute per day.
3 600 minutes per school year.	900 minutes per school year.	180 minutes per school year.
1 800 000 words per year.	282 000 words per year.	8 000 words per year.
		

If children start reading for 20 minutes per night at home in Kindergarten, by the end of grade 6, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B for 12 school days, and Student C for 3 school days.

Want to be a better reader? SIMPLY READ



PE News

Volleyball: Students in PE kicked off the month of October with a huge unit in Volleyball. Students in grades Pre K-2nd grade practiced setting, passing, and gameplay with balloons, and they had a ton of fun. Students in grades 3-5 practiced the same skills but also added overhand serving and attacking. We played a game called "Queen of the Court" - ask your child to teach you how to play it! They loved it!



Fall Fun Theme in the Gym: Later in October, students played Haunted House, Pumpkins on the fence and 7 different themed station activities. The favorite by far was the Scarecrow Shimmy station. Students were instructed to dress up in a relay race format. 1st person had to run down, put an item on, run back and dress the next person and repeat. It was so much fun to watch them try to dress each other and to wear size 14 shoes :) This was just as much fun for Mrs. Snoeyink and Miss Pennington to watch as it was for the kids to dress up.



In November students will be learning the game of basketball and doing a few fun Thanksgiving games!



5th Grade News

5th graders recently worked on art projects that involved some type of self-portrait. This is a year of transition as they learn to change classes and organize themselves and their material for different subjects. Getting to know their own strengths and weaknesses helps prepare them for middle school as they work hard to discover their abilities and interests.

Students have also been reading novels and will continue to as the year progresses. Sustained reading increases vocabulary skills, comprehension, and general stamina to focus. Mrs. Hershberger's classes are working on book talks while Mrs. Shenk's class is focusing on group novel presentations. While students all have different tastes in reading, great novels open new worlds and develop new interests. We hope to see a lot of mature readers as the year progresses!



Coming Events

- | November 8: 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Yankee Candle Fundraiser Pick-up (at Door B)
- | November 9: 6:00 - 7:30 pm - Family Math Night @ Horizon w/ Mathnasium!
- | November 12: 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Yankee Candle Fundraiser Pick-up (at Door B)
- | November 12: PHM Education Foundation Holiday "Thank a Teacher"
- | November 15 & 16: "Honk" Performance - 6:30pm (doors open at 6pm)
- | November 21-22-23: Thanksgiving Recess (3 days off) -- Don't eat too much!!!!
- | December 7: Show Choir Performance - 6:30pm (doors open at 6pm)
- | December 19: Winter Classroom Celebrations
- | December 21: All School Sing-A-Long and "Gift of Reading"
- | December 24-28: Winter Recess (No School)

Students OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our OCTOBER Students of the Month, who were recognized for demonstrating the Lifelines of **"AWARENESS and EMPATHY"**.

Kindergarten: Calder Demitruk, Norah Mitchell, Addison Hershberger, Jack Cohen, Brynlee Palmer, Calen Werda, Brayden Werner, Ezra Lankford, and Neely Sorell

1st Grade: AJ Bailey, Marin Trevino, Annie Abel, Parker Taylor, Allison Paul, Marlissa Hunt, Thomas Eubank, Emma Himes, Nevan Gingerich, and Maddie Smith

2nd Grade: Lilly Burmeister, Isabella Chartier, Caio Neto, Amilia Lankford, Austin Rousselow, Emma Farrar, Kelly horne, Heidi Swinehart, Braxton Meyer, and Sydney Thompson

3rd Grade: Makenna Bourdo, Caroline Hart, Arleigh Bella, Lauren Pechous, Caden Fisette, Deegan Wood, Ayla Eldridge, and Haylee Blanton

4th Grade: Brooke Holcomb, Jamison Infante, Emma Morel, Asher Bridwell, Nolan Reed, Allie Mead, Leah wagner, Reece Collins, Carlos Bennett, and Braydin Baresel

5th Grade: Daniel Morton, Madison Raper, Maya Paiano, Kennedy Martinez, Owen Jaquess, Ruby Ann Reed, Shubh Patel, and Grace Rippy



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade