



Horizon Elementary School

March 2017 Newsletter

574-679-9788

Principal's Post

Dear Horizon Parents,

Welcome to yet another *busy* time of year at Horizon Elementary! It seems our calendar rarely slows down, and this month is no exception. In the midst of busy days, I hope you are finding joy in the various activities, assignments, and experiences your children are having this year. Just think of the many things they are learning and how they are growing in new and exciting ways! As the mom of two grown sons, I will confirm what I was told over 25 years ago - *"Enjoy your kids while they're young. They grow up so fast!"*

During standardized testing, which is underway this month and will resume after spring break, we are required to implement test security measures throughout the building, and want to make you aware of certain restrictions we must all comply with during ISTEP+ and IREAD-3 testing:

- Classroom guests and volunteers are limited during testing. This helps us limit traffic in the office as well as control noise and other distractions throughout the school. Students in grades 3-5 are testing in all areas of the school, even in K-2 areas where conference rooms are used for testing at times.
- During testing, even our PTO leaders and volunteers are asked to only access the PTO room after school hours unless prior arrangements have been made.
- No Cell Phones are allowed beyond the office complex during testing. Visitors will be asked to leave cell phones in the basket in the front office. Anyone who is uncomfortable with this may wish to leave their phone in the car or at home. Thanks for understanding.
- Staff members are not allowed to discuss any part of the tests. Please refrain from asking your child's teacher or any staff member about ISTEP+ or IREAD-3 or how your child did during testing. It is a violation of testing regulations to discuss standardized tests until the IDOE releases us to do so. Sorry! :(

We are diligent about our compliance with each regulation, as directed by the Indiana Department of Education. In a large school, this means communicating broadly and purposefully with all patrons. Thank you for understanding.

On behalf of the Horizon staff, please know that we are enjoying our role in your child's education and in their "growing up" process. It is a privilege, a challenge, and a blessing to be with these amazing children each day!

With joy,

Mrs. Inessa Decker, Principal

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Testing Dates and Updates:

ISTEP+ (Part 1) and IREAD-3 testing are happening this month. Dates are:

ISTEP+ Part 1 (February 28 – March 10)

IREAD-3 (March 13 – March 17)

Attendance is critical during these testing windows. Please be sure your child is at school every day on time. A protein-rich breakfast & plenty of rest are also recommended. Thank you!

We should have IREAD-3 results before Spring Break and will share those results with parents as soon as we receive them from the state. Students who do not pass will attend the mandatory IREAD-3 summer school for three weeks in June.

ISTEP+ (Part 2) is taken online between April 17th and May 5th. Part 2 contains more testing sessions than Part 1, and our schedule for testing will be much busier than this month's schedule. ISTEP+ results are expected to be reported at the end of the school year, but history tells us it could be later than that. Stay tuned....

DIBELS Mid-year testing in Kindergarten & 1st Grade is over. End of Year testing will begin after Spring Break.

SRI (Lexile Level) Mid-year testing for Grades 2-5 is over. End of Year testing will begin after ISTEP+ (Part 2) on May 8th.

Preschool Registration

Registration is OPEN now for Horizon's Early Learning Academy! If you or someone you know is looking for an outstanding preschool program for their 4-year old, please consider our [Early Learning Academy](#).

Interested parents can contact our school office or visit the [PHM website](#) for more information. The kids in our preschool class are absolutely amazing us with their learning and their creativity again this year.

It's a fabulous program, and we hope you will help us spread the word. We still have several openings for next year's class.

Notes from the Cafeteria-"TruMoo"

We [Dean Foods] are excited to introduce to you some exciting changes to our TruMoo line of products.

In addition to NO artificial growth hormones, and NO high fructose corn syrup, we've added NO GMO Ingredients to the list of reasons to love TruMoo. We know that more and more, families want to know what's in the food they eat and whether the food they eat contains GMOs. So, we are making sure that TruMoo contains no GMO ingredients.

Although the conversion to No GMO Ingredients occurred on 1/9/17, we[Dean Foods] are currently working through inventories of current cartons. Starting as early as the end of February, you will start to see the new cartons with the "No GMO Ingredients" seal on the front. We have also made the changes to the nutrition panel to incorporate the new NLEA requirements.



Students of the Month-January

Our students of the month are selected by their teachers for going ABOVE & BEYOND. When these awards are presented, teachers explain why the student was selected, giving specific examples of ways the student went above & beyond. For the month of January, students were recognized for the lifeline of being SAFE. The following heroes exhibit that lifeline:

Kindergarten Heroes



1st grade Heroes



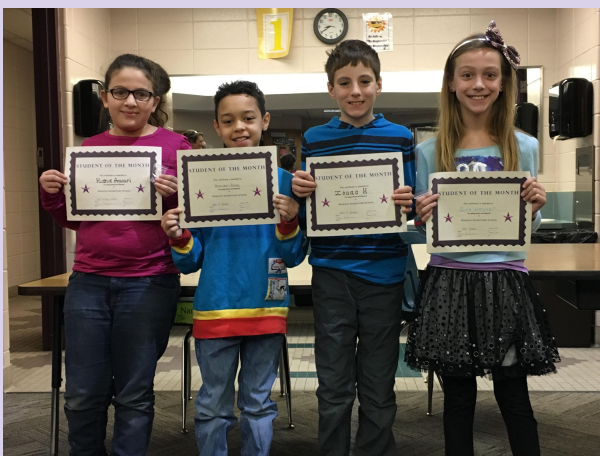
2nd grade Heroes



3rd grade Heroes



4th grade Heroes



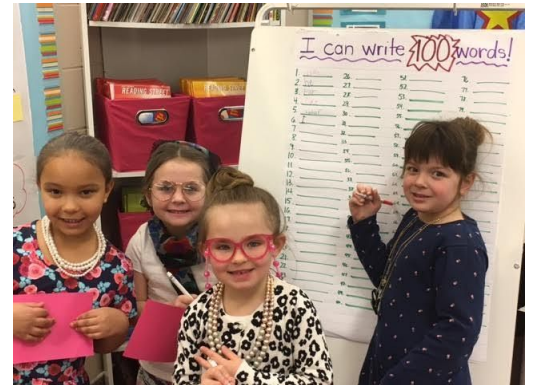
5th grade Heroes





Kindergarten Celebrates 100 Day
100th Day fun! Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day royally! Students dressed up like they were 100 years old! Students counted out 100 items and worked on many fun ways of counting and recognizing numbers to 100.

Hip hip hooray for the 100th day!



Fun in First

First graders had a fun time at their Friendship Parties on February 10th. Our awesome volunteers provided multiple entertaining activities for all.

As wonderful as our February weather has been, every now and then we have inside recess due to rain or cold weather. Believe it or not, some first graders really enjoy inside recess because they get to play with legos and other fun games with their classmates.



Second Grade News

Second graders have had a busy February. **First**, all of second grade finished their third Acuity test for the school year. **Next**, second graders enjoyed the Art Smart lesson about artist Jackson Pollack. After learning about this unique artist, students created dramatic abstracts using just marbles and paint. The art work was **outstanding!** Second graders are expanding their math concepts by learning about *multiplication* and *division*. Soon they will be heading into the world of *fractions*. **During their writing block**, students are transitioning into the next writing unit. Students are writing compare and contrast, opinion, and informational paragraphs. **Mrs. Logan's** and **Mrs. Pawlowski's** classes are finishing up their how-to books. **Mrs. Bursley's (in for Ms. Krueger)** class is incorporating their favorite literature into their opinion writing. Finally, **Mrs. Rice's** class has been focusing on biography paragraphs and book reports.



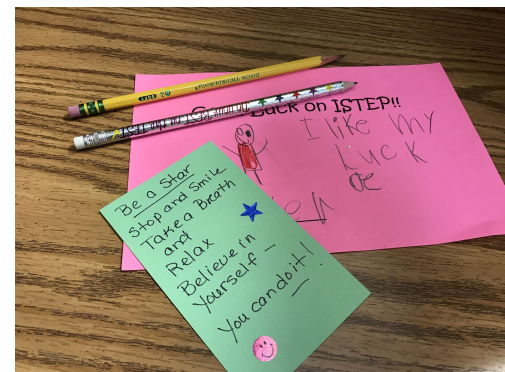
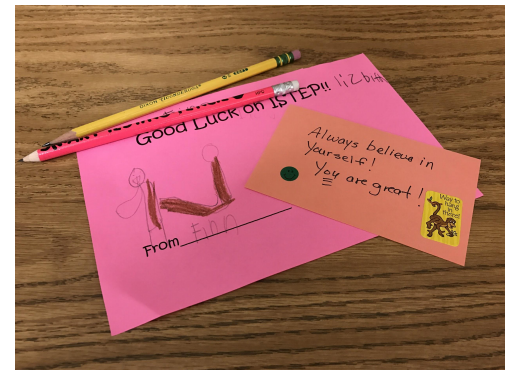
Second grade Art Smart



Third Grade is Working Hard

EXCITING NEWS!!! Third grade students received encouragement cards from grades K-2nd and family members/friends to kick off this round of the testing. These awesome third graders have an amazing opportunity to show off how bright our Horizon Suns shine by participating in ISTEP for the first time. Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (usually referred to simply as ISTEP or ISTEP+) is an annual No Child Left Behind test designed by the Indiana Department of Education to measure students' mastery of basic skills, particularly reading, writing, and mathematics. The third grade students will then be participating in IREAD-3, or the Indiana Reading Evaluation And Determination. The purpose of this summative assessment is to measure foundational reading standards through Grade 3. These 3rd grade students have persevered, shown tenacity, and matured by leaps and bounds this year!

Be sure to let them know they are amazing and we are proud of them everyday!

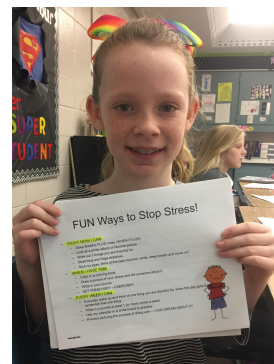


Miss Kline's Fourth Grade Class is De-Stressing for ISTEP!

We all know the stress of preparing for the ISTEP. To eliminate stress, Miss Kline's class has been finding ways to manage it.

This month, Mrs. Jaime Murphy visited our classroom to educate our class on the many ways we hold and can manage our stress. The students learned what the signs are to show that someone is experiencing stress (rapid heart rate, anger, tears, tense muscles...). She then showed the students ways to manage their stress from their seats! This was perfect for students who have to sit at their tables during the ISTEP+ tests. They were able to do chair stretches, breathing techniques, and methods of calming their mind.

Mrs. Jill Jaronik also visited our classroom in February. She came to the class and instructed a 30 minute workout to kick the stress of ISTEP goodbye! With 20 minutes of kickboxing and 10 minutes of deep breathing and stretches, the students learned that not only do we have to exercise our brains, but we also have to keep our bodies and minds healthy for testing. Something that stuck, "We are all warriors. Warriors do not give up when things get tough. They keep going!"



Fifth Grade News

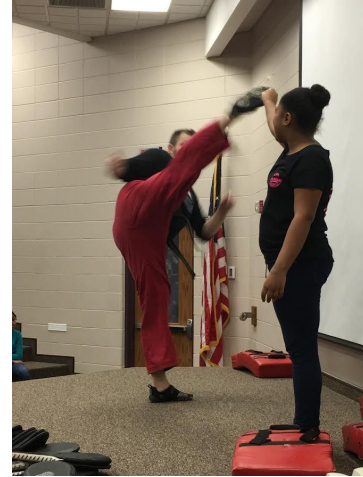
The fifth graders are starting to prepare for middle school. Mrs. Harper, the principal at Discovery, has been to Horizon to meet with the students and was available for parents in the evening. The music department came to present all of the musical electives for next year and they held instrument selection nights at Discovery. If you missed the selection nights, Grissom will hold one more on March 7. Upcoming preparations include a school day visit for incoming sixth graders in April. In the summer there will be opportunities for students and parents to tour the school, practice locker combinations and to have an open house before the year begins. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Discovery office.



P.E. Goes Above and Beyond

In P.E., all students took an introductory course in Martial Arts. Brandon Burtsfield of Burtsfield Black Belt Academy partnered with Horizon, donating his time and talent to share a "hands on" experience with Martial Arts.

On behalf of the Horizon community, THANK YOU for this opportunity to build confidence, respect, and leadership skills.



IMC News You Can Use

Students in Grades 2-5 have been learning about different comprehension strategies to become better readers. Parents can also help in this area by doing the following:

- **Lay a strong foundation for reading success**-Helping your child develop good reading comprehension skills requires planning. Before you read a book, talk to your child about it, look at the pictures and the words. Sound a bit extreme? Teachers do this all the time!
- **More reading time and less TV time**-Studies show that children are exposed to a larger variety of words in children's books that are read to them than from what they hear on prime time TV.
- **Reading aloud and thinking aloud**-Good readers unconsciously create visual images in their heads while they are reading. It's all part of the comprehension process. While you are reading to your child, think out loud about the images you see or the questions that may arise. That means explaining the ideas, pictures, questions, and connections that go through your mind as you read a passage.
- **Let your child be the teacher**-Kids love this type of role reversal.
- **Keep it interesting and relevant**-Nothing turns a child off reading like boring content. If your reader is a young boy make sure he has access to scary stories, sports books, or science fiction. And if your girl likes those things as well, make sure she has them in addition to stories about animals and fairy tales.



Musical Notes

Once again the Horizon Drama Club has given us a “peach” of a performance with James and the Giant Peach. Students involved went through an audition process and worked hard for a 5-week period to put on a “peachy-keen” performance. Could your student be in the next production? We are always on the hunt for talent! 88 students participated in this year’s production!

Special thanks to all who helped to make this year’s performance go smoothly!



In addition to this:

- **1st/2nd grade students** have been working on songs that revolve around the book “The One,” By Kathryn Otoshi.
- **3rd-5th grade students** are looking at composers and their styles of writing. They will then look at composing works themselves.

Did you know that Mr. West has a blog?

Go to <https://blogs.phmschools.org/jwest/> to keep up to date on Horizon Music.



Spell Bowl

Students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade compete in this academic competition.

The teams spend weeks preparing for Spell Bowl. They may study word lists, learn about derivations (e.g., Latin roots) and rules (e.g., capitalization, pluralization), all the while gaining confidence in their ability to think clearly and spell correctly under pressure.

Here are the list of teams:

3rd grade-
Mrs. Neufelder, Coach

Jonah Janetski
Owen Jacquess
Madison Raper
Miken Gensic
Jamie Johnson
Roman Ramos
Zachary Girton

4th grade-
Mrs. Rehlander, Coach

Isabelle Allriedge
Travis Hoover
Jacob Huntzinger
Will Hurst
Nick Patel
Rishon Ward
Emily Williams

5th grade
Mrs. Shenk, Coach

Lana Ealdama
Henry Gilliin
Caroline Johnson
Dylan Mounts
Rudra Patel
Gracen Stewart
Audrey Wise

Good luck on March 21st!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ISTEP+ and I-Read Testing- Now through March 17
- Saturday, March 11, 2017 - Young Author's Conference
- Friday, March 17, 2017 - PTO Family Fun Night
- Tuesday, March 21 - Spell Bowl Competition @PENN
- Friday, March 24, 2017 - Snow Day Make-Up
- Mon.-Fri., March 27-31 - Art Smart Week
- Thursday, March 30 - 5th grade students visit Discovery Middle School

