



Horizon Elementary School

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Principal's Post

March 2019

Dear Horizon Families,

Let's start this month's newsletter with some good news.

First, our K-2 students have shown outstanding academic growth in their reading levels (on DIBELS testing) from the beginning-of-year to middle-of-year benchmark tests. This is worth celebrating!

Also, our 3-5 students have shown significant growth in both language arts and math on recent formative assessments (AIRWays assessments are new to PHM this year). We will be able to share more information with parents in the coming weeks, so please stay tuned.

During March, our 3rd graders will be taking the IREAD-3 test. This is a mandatory reading test for all 3rd graders and will be given during the week of March 18 - 22. **Please be sure your 3rd grader is at school every day during testing.** Any student who does not take the test and any student who does not pass the test must attend summer school for 3 weeks in June, per state rules about this test.

I'd like to encourage parents to talk with your child about technology/internet use. We've heard of several concerns recently about kids who are watching and doing inappropriate things online. Please check your child's online usage & make sure they are not "chatting" or messaging with people you don't know online. In addition, several Horizon students have been talking about the Momo Challenge (a hoax on YouTube & other online sites that challenges kids to do harmful things). Please talk to your child about the Momo Challenge if you have not already. Safety is a priority for all of us, including online safety. We appreciate your support with this.

I want to express my thanks to the many parents who have reached out this week in various ways to support our school. Your kind words, your volunteer support, and your confidence in us means the world. Our triangle of success is strong at Horizon: parents, students, and teachers all working together. Thank you for that!

Happy March!

Mrs. Tressa Decker, Principal

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Girls on the Run

Horizon is proud to be in our 3rd year of participation in 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.

Approximately 40 Horizon girls (grades 3-5) meet twice a week in small teams where they build positive relationships and learn life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games. The curriculum is taught by certified GOTR coaches and includes three parts: understanding ourselves, valuing relationships and teamwork and understanding how we connect with and shape the world at large. The ten-week experience culminates with a 5K run & celebration in May.

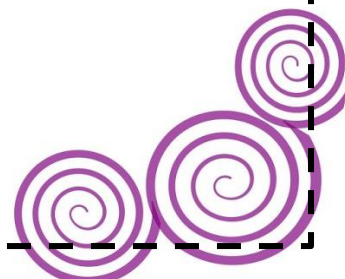
Special thanks to Horizon's Lead Coach and Liaison, Mrs. Tania Bengtsson, for her amazing energy, time, and passion for helping girls succeed!

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



IT'S THANK-A-TEACHER TIME AGAIN!

The annual **Spring Thank-a-Teacher** program will run from April 8 thru April 26, 2019. This is the perfect opportunity to thank that **special teacher, bus driver, office secretary, librarian, or any other P-H-M employee** that has made a difference in your child's life. The minimum donation is \$20 per recipient and the money received is used to fund future grants for programs that wouldn't otherwise be possible due to budget cuts. Your special person will receive a note and congratulatory pin acknowledging your donation. All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. We are also taking credit cards as payment. Forms can be downloaded [here](#). Thanks for your continued support for the P-H-M Education Foundation where our mission is *to support excellence in education at P-H-M schools!* Questions can be emailed to laynabender@phmef.org.



Pre-K News

Preschool had the opportunity to travel to IUSB to watch a live performance of Charlotte's Web. It was a perfect lesson in learning about characters and setting.

It's always fun to have new experiences outside of the classroom. Our preschoolers have also enjoyed having first and second grade friends model being good readers. The snow has fallen and we have learned to love playing on the playground in our snow gear!



Kindergarten News

Despite the many days off, Kindergarten had full month of fun and learning in February. We celebrated Groundhog's Day, friendship day, and President's Day with **STEM** (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) activities, crafts, and researching non-fiction texts. We continued our how - to writing and learned about 3-D shapes and complete sentences. We also had fun with our 2nd grade buddies! We are looking forward to our Dr. Seuss unit and lots of warmer spring weather next month.



Good News from First Grade

Throughout the school year we share with our students the importance of reading to self and reading to others. It is essential to have "voice", "expression" and "intonation". It is also important that students can build stamina while listening to others read. We see these skills being practiced in Mrs. Hartline's class as they listen to their classmate Simon Meeks.



Second Grade News

The second graders have been learning the **seven syllable types** during Foundations lessons. Building a foundation for reading and writing is key! It is also important to have fun while doing this. Students enjoy practicing their words with magnetic tiles and trays. *Do YOU know the 7 syllable types?*



**WORD
POWER!**



Third Grade

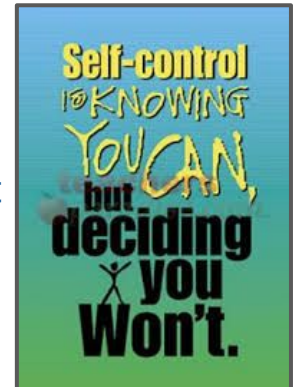
BUGS! BUGS! BUGS!!! This month the 3rd graders were able to visit the P-H-M's amazing planetarium housed at Bittersweet Elementary to see the live-action nature drama called Bugs! The unique and informative short film explores the lives of a praying mantis and a beautiful butterfly. Students' reactions ranged from "ooohs" and "aaaahs" to grossed out, and everything in between! Either way, we guarantee they will look at bugs differently!! We are so fortunate to have the ability to experience the amazement of the PHM Planetarium!



Lifeline of the Month: Self-Control

Self-Control is our Lifeline for March. We want all students to understand what it means and how to use it every day.

Self-control means being able to resist immediate temptations and avoid acting on impulse in order to achieve more important goals, such as learning or being kind. When **kids** have better **self-control**, they do better in school and get along better with others. We will teach kids to: **STOP & THINK, then ACT.**



P-H-M SILVER MILE Bubble Bash is back with more bubbles, earlier start time and lower prices!

This untimed race welcomes runners of all experience levels while blasting through foam bogs along the course. Choose to walk or run 1.5 miles or add a second loop to run a 5K distance. **Registration is now open! Early bird prices available until Sunday, April 21 (\$10 students/\$20 adults)**

The Silver Mile Run for Education will also include our amazing Silent Auction, Health & Fitness Expo, free health screenings by Saint Joseph Medical Center, and Talent Showcase! Our Talent Showcase will be expanded this year so we can include more of our incredibly talented students throughout P-H-M.

This fun-filled, family friendly event will take place on **Saturday, May 4**, from 8:30am to noon at Penn High School. Come out with your friends and family and enjoy a morning of fun and bubbles! Please visit www.phmef.org for updates and to register for the Bubble Bash.



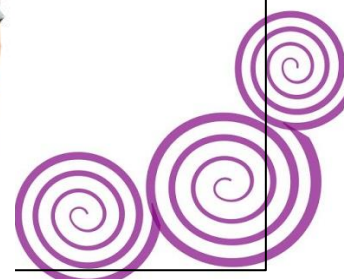
4th grade News

In Physical Science we learned about different types of forces. We did an inquiry to get the students thinking about what happens to a car when it rolls onto different surfaces. The students walked through the scientific process by: making a hypothesis, finding the variables, testing it out, and drawing conclusions. Once the students finish, they compare their findings with another group. Ask your child which surface made the car go farther, and have them tell you why.



5th grade

Mr. Branson, a Southwest Airlines pilot, met with fifth graders four times throughout December and January through their [Adopt-A-Pilot](#) program. He shared his love for flying as he talked about his personal experiences and the values, qualifications, and requirements involved in flying for Southwest. Students were able to see maps, photos, graphs, charts, flight manuals, and souvenirs at different points during the visits. Mr. Branson encouraged the students to work hard at school and set goals for their future as well as to consider becoming a pilot someday.



How do we...P.E.?

During the month of February students completed A LOT of PE eLearning! Thank you so much for helping our students get through this month! We all know it was not easy but at least we won't have to be at school in July! While school was in session we were busy doing the Pacer test, parachute and some jump roping. All favorite activities during this time of year.

Miss Pennington taught a very special lesson with the parachute about traveling around the world. We visited each continent and performed different games with the chute. The favorite, of course, was visiting Antarctica where they have igloos! If you join us on field day, you may be able to witness this amazing trick with the chute!

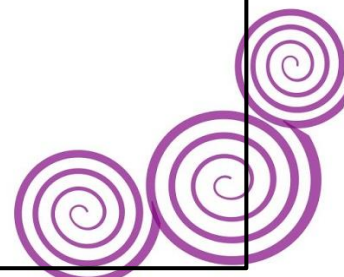


In the month of March we will be doing a huge badminton AND a basketball tournament! We look forward to celebrating the top teams in the NCAA tournament for March Madness as well! It's going to be a great month!

Musical Notes

In February during music class, we have been learning about genres of music and the instruments used in different genres. We have also delved into the instrument families and how sound is made in each family.

Next month, we will begin looking at Aesop's Fables for an upcoming musical program in Grades One, Two and Three. Show Choir continues to put together songs from Broadway for their upcoming performance in April!



Students OF THE MONTH

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

Kindergarten: Leah Marsh, Sawyer Stopczynski, Ava Stepp, Savannah Lewinski, Margie Langham

1st Grade: Libby Martin, Lyla Palus (not in picture), Baylee Thompson, Avery Wagner, Caroline Nelson

2nd Grade: Jayden Minix, Haley Buzas, Evelyn Hummer, Romina Colina-Ferrer, Sophia Hayes, Briggs Cox

3rd Grade: David Ramirez, Haley Foley (not in picture), Mya Hart, Zoie Taylor

4th Grade: Cambrie Sears, Madeline Moore, Kaden Weidner, Brady Harper, Keagan Zaber

5th Grade: Clare Hunter, Kyla Michaels, Logan Rumble, Landon DeMeyer



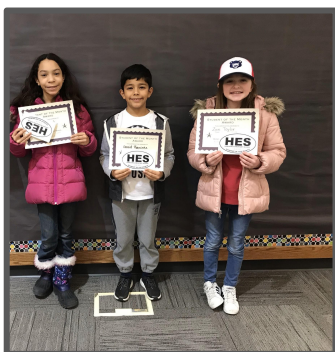
Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

IMC News You Can Use

Read Across America Day is March 2, which is also the birthday of venerated children's book author Dr. Seuss (a.k.a. Theodor Geisel). He adopted the name "Seuss" while in college. His father wanted him to be a doctor so he added "Dr." to the "Seuss" name he gave himself.

If you are in the mood to celebrate, here are some things you can do:

- **Make a pledge to read more.** You may even make a pledge to read a certain number of books over the next few months.
- **Try out a new author or book series.** Ask your friends about books and authors they like and then give something new a try.
- **If you are in middle school,** volunteer to be a reading buddy for a kid in elementary school. It can be fun to help someone else learn to read!
- **Dress up like the Cat in the Hat.** Could be fun! You could also do a craft and make a hat like the Cat in the Hat from the book.
- **Make a bookmark** using your favorite book as the theme.
- **Start a book club** with a bunch of your friends and family. Get your mom and dad to join too.



Coming Events



March 1 - 3: Penn High School Presents: "TUCK EVERLASTING"

March 2: Read Across America Day

March 4 - 8: National School Breakfast Week

March 9: Young Authors' Conference 8:45 - 11:30am at Schmucker Middle School

March 10: Daylight Savings Time (set clocks ahead 1 hour)

Mid-March: **Running Is Elementary** info will be coming home with 4th/5th graders

March 19 - 22: IREAD-3 Testing for 3rd graders! (Attendance every day matters!)

March 23: Community Connections Fair 10:00am-1:00pm at Schmucker

March 25 - 28: smART week at Horizon!

March 26: Spring Safety Drills Day (Fire, Storm, Shelter-in-Place & Lockdown drills)

March 28: 5th graders visit Discovery Middle School (walking field trip)

March 30 - April 7: **Spring Break!**

