



Horizon Elementary School



May 2017 Newsletter

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Principal's Post

Dear Parents,

Here we are in the final stretch of the year. What a joy to see the growth in your children each day. The Kindergarten kids are looking a lot more like 1st graders these days, and the 5th graders are anxious to become "middle-schoolers". It truly is a season of visible change.

I am very proud of the many achievements of our students this year. We've seen significant gains in reading and math levels, as well as a surge in the amount and quality of writing being produced in our classrooms. In fact, we just learned that all 28 of the amazing writers in Ms. Krueger's 2nd grade class will have their poems published in the 2017 Young American Poetry Digest. In other news, Horizon students Cameron Wittendorf and Chloe Hall (part of Team Flufflepuff) are in St. Louis competing in the First Lego League World Championships. We can't wait to hear how they do this year. Horizon's tradition of excellence is alive and well!

The month of May is notoriously busy for many reasons. Right now, grades K-1 are doing their DIBELS end-of-year benchmark testing. Upper grades are finishing ISTEP+, which will wrap up by May 5th. *(Thank you to our visitors for following test security protocols while in the building during ISTEP+.)* Following ISTEP+, students in grades 2-5 will take the Scholastic Reading Inventory test (Lexile reading level), and the NWEA test will be administered to select students who are in the final phase of High Ability testing. Needless to say, our computers and our students are getting a workout this month! In addition to end of year testing, May brings us Kindergarten screening, the 5th Grade Celebration, Scholastic Book Fair, Teacher Appreciation Week, Show Choir's annual concert, and "Go For the Gold" Gold Medalists trip to Barnes & Noble, and several other field trips and events.

Horizon is a great school because of the strong, positive relationships between students, parents, and teachers. Please encourage your kids to put forth their best academic and behavioral effort each day, right up until the last day of school on June 7th. We promise to maintain our high expectations each day until the very end and encourage you to do the same. Thank you for your role in keeping the home-school relationship strong and for all you do to keep Horizon a 4-star, grade "A" school.

With joy,

Mrs. Tressa Decker, Principal

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High Ability Identification Update

The elementary and middle school high ability selection committees have met to discuss students in grades kindergarten, second and fifth. Letters were sent to the parents of the newly identified students and should have arrived in the mail. For more information about our high ability identification process, please visit our website: <https://www.phmschools.org/high-ability-enrichment>
-this information provided by Mrs. Anne-Marie Reininga, PHM High Ability Coordinator

"Girls on the Run" (3rd grade)

This year was Horizon's first experience with "Girls on the Run" (GOTR). Two teams of 3rd grade girls have been participating in this positive, empowering, fun, and active program - practicing twice a week since February. They have shown tremendous dedication, effort, and friendship during this inaugural GOTR season, and so have their coaches. GOTR will finish their season with a 5K race and celebration on May 13th. We are very excited about this program and look forward to continuing it next year!

Horizon Running Club

Our Running Club is part of PHM's "Running is Elementary" program for 4th and 5th graders. In April, the Horizon Running Club began training for their upcoming event at Elm Road Elementary. The students have been learning how to pace themselves as they run, to compete against themselves and not each other, and how to cheer each other on as they run.

Students had a chance to meet with Bruce Faltynski, RIE Coach Consultant, to discuss running and any questions they had about what to expect on Race Day. Cheer on our Horizon Running Club as they participate in the "Running is Elementary" Meet on Monday, May 1st. Let's go, Horizon Suns!

IMC News You Can Use

All Library Books Due by May 26th: All library books are due by Friday, May 26, 2017! Please be sure your child has turned in all books to the school library before Memorial Day. Students who do not turn in their books will be charged for them. Thank you for helping us get all books in on time this year!

MyOn: Earlier this school year, the state of Indiana was gifted a subscription of MyOn. It is an Online Reading Program that gave us virtual access to over **5,000+** books that could be read from any computer, anywhere.

Originally, MyOn was available until December 2016 but it was extended into February 2017. Unfortunately, we have lost access to that virtual reading program. If you are still trying to access it at home, it is no longer available for free. There are other online programs that are available.



Students of the Month-March

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 March, students were recognized for the Lifeline of RESPECT. The following heroes exhibited that Lifeline:

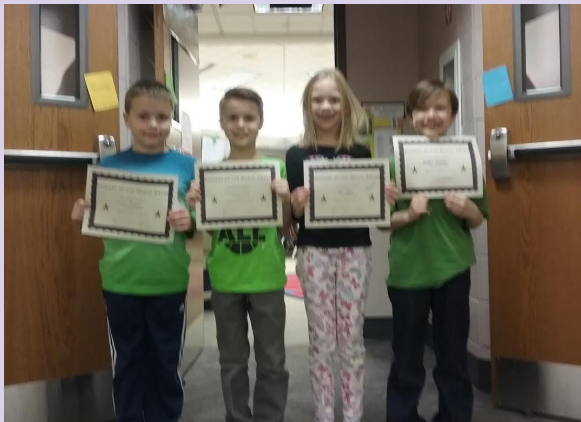
Kindergarten Heroes



1st grade Heroes



2nd grade Heroes



3rd grade Heroes



4th grade Heroes



5th grade Heroes



Kindergarten's Spring Hat Parade

We are going on a hat parade, hat parade, hat parade! We are going on a hat parade to see signs of spring! Exciting to see a variety of creative hat head-wear! What a fun primary tradition!



Fun in First

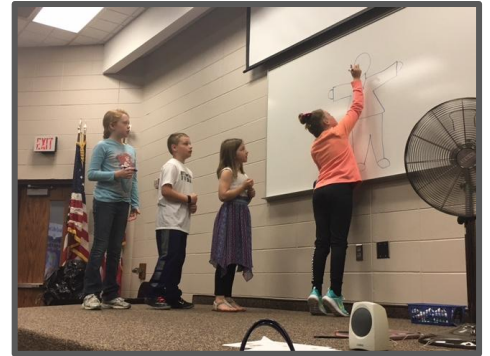
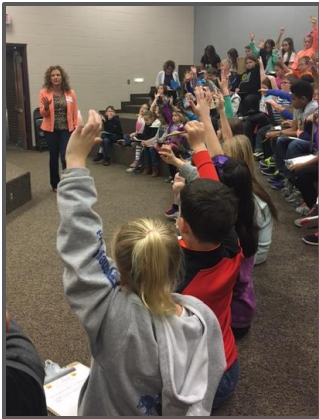
Many first graders spent a lot of time reading this month. They read a lot every month, but this month was special. They were trying very hard to earn a free ticket to a South Bend Cubs game by hitting a home run in the Stu and Swoop's Reading Program. We also took a field trip to Four Winds Stadium to get a personal and up close look at the field, play area, souvenir shop, and the practice facility. In addition, first graders really enjoyed joining Kindergarten for the Easter Hat Parade. There were many creative, unique, and adorable hats. This was a great way to kick off the Easter 3-day weekend.



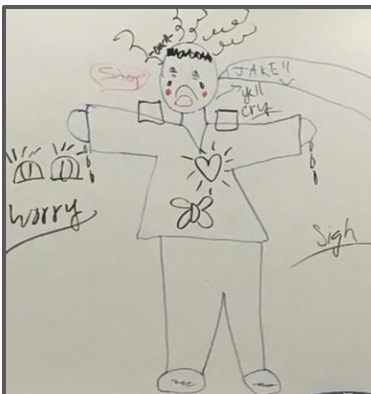


Second Grade News

In second grade, the students have been planning and writing to compare and contrast things like house cats and tigers and even elements from a variety of texts. Venn diagrams and T-charts are graphic organizers, which are charts to organize ideas to help students before they put those ideas into sentences and write paragraphs. One very special treat that the second graders get is ***their very own copy*** of Mercy Watson to the Rescue written by Kate DiCamillo. Most, if not all students, have some pretty strong opinions and think Mercy and other characters from the book series are hilarious and can even give some reasons why they feel the way they do. Our kiddos will also be spending time seeing and writing poetry with poets' eyes.



Third Grade News



STRESS!!!!!! Mrs. Jaime Murphy, Horizon parent and Wellness Coordinator with Healy Group, came to speak to the 3rd graders recently. The students were able to learn more about stress and strategies on how to deal with anxiety they may face as a child. Mrs. Murphy lead demonstrations on exercise and different stretching techniques students can perform while seated in their chairs. This was a wonderful opportunity for third graders to identify what stresses them and how to best cope. Thank you to Mrs. Murphy!



Fourth Grade News

It's time to focus on Social Studies and the great state of Indiana! Fourth grade students are learning about the United States and its regions. Classrooms will be focusing on the Midwestern states and go in-depth when studying Indiana. As a part of our study the fourth graders will have the opportunity to learn about our local past, visiting The History Museum in downtown South Bend. This is always a highlight of our fourth grade year. Learning about South Bend's formation and growth as well as the people who influenced the area will be a part of this study. Students will walk the hallways of the Oliver family and have a chance to tour their mansion. We will also enjoy the wagons and cars of the Studebakers. Our field trip will be an exciting adventure!



Fifth Grade News

It's official! The fifth graders are getting ready to graduate! The month of May is action-packed with trips and recognition for our amazing students. As part of the end-of-year activities and celebration this year, students will be traveling to the Brookfield Zoo and to Sky Zone. Here at school, they will be recognized through the Rainbow Wall in the music/P.E. hallway, which we invite everyone to come and see. Baby pictures alongside 5th grade pictures will be displayed to show everyone how much they've grown. Students have also taken part in creating a time capsule to seal away their memories of 5th grade. This is a bittersweet time for many students and parents as they get ready to embark on a new endeavor in middle school. A special thanks goes out to all the parents who have put in countless hours of preparation for these events. Everything is so meaningful, and none of it could happen without your dedication. Thank you for being so positive and involved!



Musical Notes



Last week, second grade had a tea and presentation of what's going on in the music classroom. Additionally, Mrs. Rice's class presented a drama based on the book, "One" by Kathryn Otoshi. Over 100 parents and grandparents were in attendance.



On May 12, the Horizon Show Choir will present a concert titled, "Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Disney." Join us for an evening of dancing, singing, and Disney fun!



P.E. News

ACES:

All students and staff will be in the Horizon Gym on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 to celebrate ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously)! We will have special "SUPER"...HEROES joining our celebration.

This is the 11th consecutive year we have participated in this worldwide event!

Please encourage your child to wear Horizon spirit wear & 4th & 5th grade kids to wear the "Running is Elementary" shirts!.



Running Is Elementary (R.I.E.):

"Corporations for Education", the corporate arm of the P-H-M Education Foundation, has provided funding for the 9th annual Running is Elementary event! Horizon has over ninety (90) 4th and 5th graders participating this year! The all-district meet will be held at Elm Road School on Monday, May 1, 2017 (rain date-May 3). This P-H-M event continues its strong tradition with 700 students participating! A special thank you to a new R.I.E. sponsor, Royal Excursion & the Kaser family for helping to keep this a free program for kids. Horizon's lead coach, Karen Ohnesorge, would like to thank those who have helped with R.I.E. at Horizon. Thanks to Brianna VanderZwaag, Adrian Selmon, Ashley VanDuyn, Tammy Kenna, Eric Kline, the 4th & 5th grade teachers, Kid's Club, and Horizon's main office staff! This is truly a team effort.



We are "Teeing it Up" in physical education classes!

All our students are teeing off thanks to "The First Tee" National School Program, Through safe, fun lessons and activities, Horizon students are learning the basic skills of GOLF, a lifelong sport we hope everyone can enjoy.



Car Drop Off in the Mornings!

If your child can ride the bus, PLEASE have them ride it. We have so many cars coming through in the morning & could reduce that number if parents would let their kids ride the bus.

If you must drop off your kids, please try to drop your kids off between 7:40 - 7:50am when our traffic aides are on duty. During this time, you can simply drop them off along the curb by door B (not using the front parking lot). If you are dropping them off after 7:50am, when our traffic aides are no longer on duty, please follow this safety procedure:

- 1. Park in the front parking lot (do not stop along the curb).**
- 2. Walk your child to Door A (do not send them in alone - it is extremely unsafe to let children walk across the parking lot alone)**
- 3. If it is after 7:55am, you will need to go into the main office and sign them in.**

Dress Code Reminders...

- 1. Shorts should come closer to the knee (no short-shorts).**
- 2. Leggings & spandex athletic wear are not considered pants. If wearing leggings/spandex, students must wear a long shirt that comes to mid-thigh. (completely covers their bottom even when arms are raised)**
- 3. Sleeves must cover the shoulder (no tank tops).**
- 4. Dress for success at school, not like you're going to the gym, a play date, or to the beach. Thank you!**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- May 1 - All "Go For the Gold" sheets are due!
- May 1 - Running is Elementary event at Elm Road
- May 2 - 5th Grade D.A.R.E. Graduation
- May 5 - ISTEP+ Part 2 Testing Window Ends!
- May 6 - P.H.M. Silver Mile "Run for Education" @ Penn H.S.
- May 8 - 12 - Scholastic Book Fair & Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 12 - Show Choir Concert-6:30pm
- May 18 - Kindergarten Screening Day (for registered incoming Kdg. students)
- May 22 - Gr. K, 2, 3, & 5 - Barnes & Noble 'Go for the Gold' trip for Gold Medalists
- May 23 - Gr. 1 & 4 - Barnes & Noble 'Go for the Gold' trip for Gold Medalists
- May 24 - 5th Grade to Brookfield Zoo
- May 25 - 5th Grade Celebration!
- May 25 - 1st Grade to Snite Museum
- May 25 - Kindergarten to Curious Kids Museum
- May 25 & 26 - 4th Grade to History Museum
- May 29 - Memorial Day - **NO SCHOOL!**
- May 31 - Ms. Krueger's 2nd grade Poetry Jam & Picnic
- May 31 - 4th/5th Grade Mini-Mall

