



Horizon Elementary School

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Principal's Post

May 2019

Dear Horizon Families,

Greetings from a very busy and joyful Horizon Elementary! This time of year brings with it a crowded calendar, antsy kids who are anxious to be outside in the sunshine, and lots of reasons to celebrate. We hope you are staying plugged in & keeping your calendar updated with all the special events happening in the coming weeks.

At this time, I want to share a few changes that are on the horizon...

- Mrs. Meredith Hershberger, 5th grade teacher, will be resigning at the end of the year to pursue a new teaching opportunity at The Stanley Clark School. Mrs. Hershberger has been a tremendous part of our teaching team at Horizon, and we will surely miss her. At the same time, we wish her all the best as she pursues this new, exciting opportunity.
- Welcome Mrs. Kate Nowak, who will be filling Mrs. Hershberger's position as a 5th grade teacher. Mrs. Nowak is transferring to Horizon from Grissom, where she has been teaching 6th grade language arts. Prior to joining PHM, she taught at the elementary level in the Mishawaka Schools. Mrs. Nowak is held in high regard by current and past administrators and colleagues, and we are excited to welcome another fabulous teacher to our instructional team.
- Two new custodians! Please welcome Mr. Carlos Romo who is Horizon's new lead custodian. Carlos replaced Mr. Ed Wade who transferred to Discovery. Mr. Romo has already made some amazing changes & has made a wonderful impression on all of us. Joining our night crew is Mrs. Brittney Lemler, who replaced Mr. Bob Mulligan. We want to extend a warm Horizon welcome to both of our new custodians!

In other news, ILEARN testing is in full swing and will wrap up on May 17th. Attendance during ILEARN testing is SO IMPORTANT for our students. Please be sure your kids are well-rested, have a protein-rich breakfast, and have lots of your encouragement. They're doing great so far! Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs. Tressa Decker, Principal

Congratulations to Horizon's Running Club Kids!

Horizon's 4th & 5th grade running club celebrated their hard work and effort by participating in the annual PHM Running is Elementary Race at Elm Road School on 5/1. Our kids did a GREAT job...with every runner crossing the finish line with the cheers and encouragement of their teammates and families. *We are so proud of you all!*

Special recognition goes to our 1st place race winners:



4th grade girls winner: Cambrie Sears

4th grade boys winner: Brady Harper

5th grade girls winner: Teagan Fronek

5th grade boys winner: Hunter Modlin

Special thanks to Mrs. Dani Snoeyink, lead coach, and her assistants Mrs. Angel Curtis & Mrs. Ashley VanDuyne.

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FOUR STAR SCHOOL



Indiana Department of Education

High Ability Identification:

High Ability identification in grades K, 2 and 5 is now complete for this school year.

Letters were sent to the parents of the newly identified students on March 29. For more information about our high ability identification process, please visit our website <https://www.phmschools.org/high-ability-enrichment>

BUDDY BENCHES at Horizon

Special thanks to the amazing Girl Scouts from Horizon who recently donated two Buddy Benches to Horizon. Here's how they did it...

The bottle caps and prescription lids were collected over 2 years from the entire girl scout troop. We collected over 500 lbs. of lids/caps to create these benches. The girls had to wash each cap - dry them - and peel off any paper or stickers from the bottles. We then packaged them in large trash bags and transported them to Evansville IN. The girls used over \$900 of their cookie proceeds along with the caps/lids - which is HUGE because from each \$4 box of cookies, our troop receives 50 cents - to create two of the 8 ft buddy benches. We are so proud of this donation to the school and are so excited we were able to use the cookie funds in a big way! We hope this creates an awesome experience for any child who uses the buddy benches - any child needing a friend.

Horizon has been an amazing place for the girls to meet - in a safe and familiar location. Because we are so grateful to be at Horizon and have the support of the faculty, staff, parents, and kids - we wanted to do something special to create another safe place for our school and for any child feeling left out, that might need a friend to talk to.

These Buddy Benches will soon be on our playgrounds - one in front and one in back. To learn more about Buddy Benches, visit: <http://buddybench.org/>



Reminders:

Parents should not be on cell phones in the car line or at the guest lunch table in the lobby. These are great times to put your phone down & pay attention to your kids.

Students should never bring cell phones or electronic devices to school (or on the bus) without the prior approval of the principal.

Please DO NOT allow your child to bring electronic devices (or toys) to school.



Did you know...

Kindergarten and Preschool Registrations are STILL happening!

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 Kdg. admission & also for kids entering 6th grade. Check with our health office if you have any questions about required immunizations.

ENROLL NOW!

Preschool & Kindergarten
Registration



Students in the Spotlight

- Here at Horizon we have many talented young people who do amazing things both in and out of school. Here are a couple of Horizon Suns who are really shining! 4th grader, **Wyatt Amm**, has been selected to represent the U.S.A. this summer playing hockey in Europe. He is the only kid from the Midwest to earn this honor. Way to go, Wyatt! We are proud of you and know you will represent the U.S.A. well! **Brady Harper**, also a 4th grader, recently competed in a big wrestling tournament in Wisconsin. He went 6-0 and earned All American - WOW!! We are extremely proud of these boys and their accomplishments. Their effort, perseverance, hard work, and commitment to practice is paying off!



Book Fair Update:

Thank you to everyone who shopped our Book Fair. We had just under \$10,000 in total sales. A lot of books were purchased for teachers and we added 38 books for the Library and 16 books for the Field Day book walk. Thank you again for your support!



Student Dress Code

As the weather warms up, please remember:

- Shorts & skirts should come closer to the knee (no short-shorts or short-skirts)
- Shoulders should be covered (no tank tops/spaghetti straps)
- No flip flops or high heels - all shoes should be secured to the foot
- No hats inside the building
- Leggings must be worn with a shirt or skirt that completely covers the bottom (fingertip length)



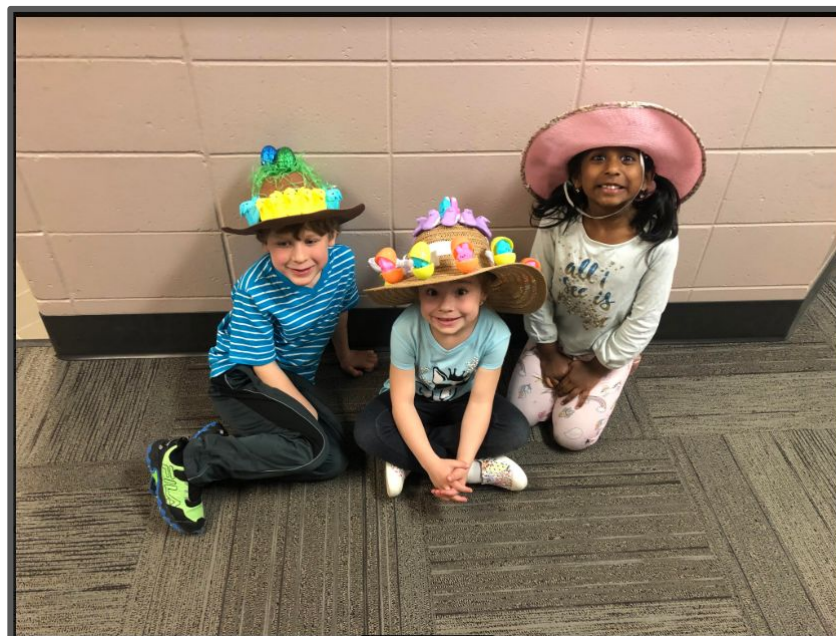
Pre-K News

Spring has sprung in preschool! Preschool showed their their spring bling in their fanciest of hats. Our friends participated in a parade around the school. We are SO happy that spring is finally here!



Kindergarten News

We are truly welcoming Spring with open arms! We have celebrated the start of Spring with our annual Hat Parade and "springtime" centers! Fingers crossed that all of the April showers bring LOTS of May flowers!



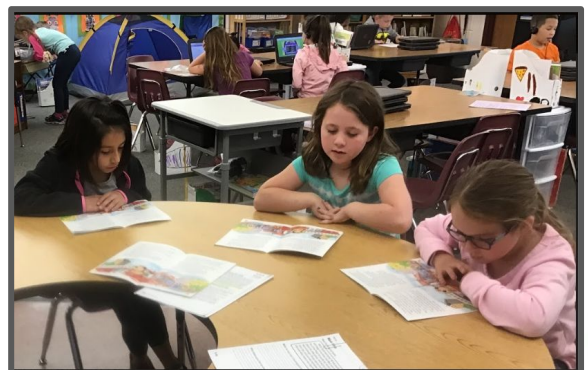
Good News from First Grade



After participating in Swoop and Stu's Reading Program, the first grade took an amazing field trip to Four Winds Field to take a tour of the South Bend Cubs facilities. We got to view the field from the Home Run suite, walk through the Cub's Clubhouse, and run around the perimeter of the field. It will be a trip we'll always remember!

Second Grade News

Spring has sprung in Second Grade! This month, we have been reading and talking about the theme of Responsibility in Unit 5 in our Reading Street series. Being responsible community members, animal owners, as well as friends and neighbors have been topics of weekly stories and discussions. Our second graders have also learned about being responsible for taking care of our planet Earth!



3rd Grade News

"Once upon a time..." These are common words that begin most fairy tales. Horizon's third graders are beginning to craft their own stories that mirror well-known fairy tales, such as The Three Little Pigs, Cinderella, and Goldilocks. You would be astounded to read the fiction stories these imaginative minds have created! These 3rd graders are working hard to make their magical creatures come alive.

3rd grade is also planning to end the year with a fun field trip to enjoy a South Bend Cubs baseball game. They have worked so hard this year, especially the past few weeks with IREAD and ILearn testing. How amazing to have such an awesome venue so close to us!



5th grade News:

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

Reading is so important! Some students love to read and continually have a book with them. Others, not so much. Because we know that the following facts are true, we "encourage" 5th graders to read.

- Students who read independently become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas and have greater content knowledge than those who do not.
- The more elementary-aged students read outside of school, the higher they score on reading achievement tests.
- Multiple studies support that even a small amount of independent reading increases primary and elementary students' reading comprehension, vocabulary growth, spelling facility, understanding of grammar, and knowledge of the world.

One assignment that encourages reading is a book talk. Book talks take different forms but all have the same goal: get students to read and then share the book so that others are encouraged to read it as well. Mrs. Hershberger's class has begun to work on biography book talks and recently Mrs. Shenk's Block 1 students read some great and novels and made commercials to convince others to read them. So many books, so little time!





Our fourth-grade students were inspired to write poetry thanks to Jack, the star of Sharon Creech's novel, Love That Dog! This story took 4th graders on a poetry journey introducing them to poets like Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, William Blake, Arnold Adoff, and Mr. Walter Dean Myers. Students were introduced to a variety of poetry styles and techniques and even tried their handwriting in the style of the masters. Here are the results from some of our fourth-grade poets. Enjoy!

Heaven

By: Lauren Marks

For t'was a day with nothing to do
But to play in a sky of blue
To see things I've never seen
before
And experience a world without war

And on this day I would see
A place filled with joy waiting for me
A place where there was nothing to
fear
Where no person shall shed a tear

Many people would say that is only
in dreams,
A place where truly no one screams
A place like this is nonsense they
say
Others tell me, "A place like
that...No Way!"

But I tell you this place is true
That is what I will tell all of you
What is this place's name you ask?
Heaven is its name, now I've
completed my task!

The Sea

By: Scarlett Gobel

A sea of bluish-green.
Waves rolling up, with
foam in between.
Reflects all the light, and
all the trees,
Sit upon the sand, who
doesn't love the seas

The sand is perfect; no
clump in the grain,
The horses run by with a
beautiful mane
The sea is a place where
sailors yell, "Ahoy!"
The sea is a place that
brings me pure joy

The fish swim with grace;
The lionfish have a grand
race,
Collecting the shells on
the shore,
The sea is a place that
can never bore.

The sea is a place where
sailors yell, "Ahoy!"
The sea is a place that
brings me pure joy.

Time

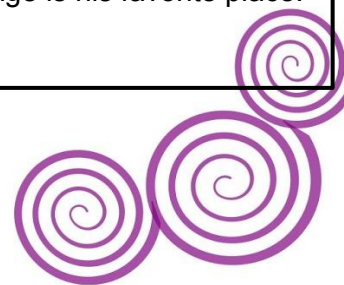
By: Ava Hurley

Time Passes by
A second at a time
Flying by the moon
On this sunny day in June
I see the sun
Yet, the day is almost done.
Now I'm here in the dark
Can't see any mark
Of Light
On this dark, June night!

The Dog

By: Wyatt Amm

Inside the garage in the shade,
A dog laying,
His body shaking, his body
breaking,
His paws in front of his stubby
face,
This garage is his favorite place.



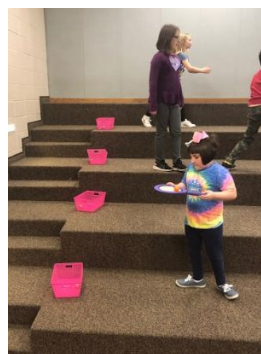
How do we...P.E.?

During the month of April, students were experimenting with a new challenge tribal game from New Zealand called Rahi Ball. It is basically a giant game a keep away and our students LOVED it! It was great fun to watch them experiment with something *none* of them have ever played before.



In the month of May, we will finishing our baseball unit and beginning our First Tee Golf unit! It's going to be a great spring!

Also in April our classes were displaced to the LGI while Mr. West worked on the production of his show choir performance. In the LGI we had an "Eggs-cellent" time! After completing an eggs-change warm-up activity students were challenge in a pass the egg activity. Here is a picture of a few 3rd graders showing "eggs-traordinary" concentration!



Musical Notes

April was an exciting time in music at Horizon! Both the 4th & 5th grade show choirs performed an amazing show based on some of the greatest show tunes of our time!

Also, the entire school enjoyed performing a flash mob to perform at the Silver Mile to the song, "High Hopes"! Thanks to all families who supported us!

FLASHMOB!

Next month, Grades One, Two, and Three will showcase their music skills as they perform a tribute to literature and music with the stories of Aesop.

Grade 1: Monday, May 20 (8:15AM)
Grade 2: Tuesday, May 21 (8:15AM)
Grade 3: Wednesday, May 22 (8:15AM)

AESOP



Students OF THE MONTH

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

Kindergarten: Will Szymarek, Gerritt DeHoog, Tyler Lundquist, Ali Trevino, Elijah Deming, Alexander Stumpf

1st Grade: Brady Ross, Kyle Linsky/Shania Lee, John Gaddy, Becca Sears/Travis Rayl, Kayleigh Anton/Sawyer Demitruk

2nd Grade: Natalie Seanor, Liam Osbourne (not pictured), Sofia Hamdani, Lucas DeVon, Olivia Dygulski, Erica Baker, Drew Mack

3rd Grade: Alexis Werner, Molly Breden, Christian Krause, Leah Gour

4th Grade: Ayvah Bell, Jayvin Enyart, Wyatt Amm, Rayna Doland, Xintian (Cathy) Wang

5th Grade: Isabella Wroblewski, Jayden Xayamath, Julian Miller, Vincent Procaccino, Genavieve Ramirez, Erin Scott, Owen DeMoss, Dani Hershberger



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

IMC News you can Use!

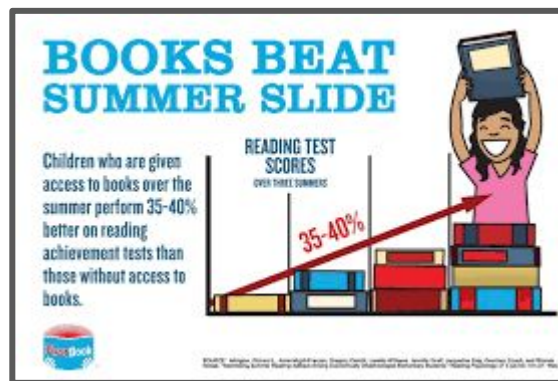
Summer is just around the corner and you may have heard about the dreaded “summer slide.” It’s not the fun kind of slide that you will find at a city park or playground. The “summer slide” is not something anyone wants to ride.

The **summer slide** is a decline in reading ability and other skills learned throughout the school year that occurs when school is not in session. There have been many studies on this notion that students tend to regress when they do not practice those skills, especially reading.

So, here are some ways to beat the “summer slide”.

1. Have your child read at least 20 minutes every day. (THIS is the #1 suggestion!)
2. Explore different kinds of books. (for example, cook books, recipes, chapter books, magazines, graphic novels.)
3. Go to the public library to read together & check out books.
4. Listen to audiobooks on long car trips.
5. Review skills at home with fun, hands-on activities like refrigerator magnets, a game of Scrabble or Boggle, or watch Wheel of Fortune & try to solve together.
6. Talk to your children to help build their vocabulary.
7. Learn a new hobby together.

No matter what you do, most importantly, have fun doing it. It will make all the difference.



Our May “Lifeline of the Month” is..... **Perseverance!**
Perseverance means to “keep on trying and don’t give up.”

Upcoming Events

- May 6-10: TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!!!
- May 16: Kindergarten Screening Day (for our incoming Kindergarten students)
- May 21: 5th grade Celebration @ Sky Zone!
- May 30: Kindergarten Graduation @ 12:30pm
- May 31: All Library Books are DUE today (students will be charged for missing/unreturned books)
- **May 31:** Field Day
- June 3: Summer Birthday Celebration
- June 3: Yearbook Autograph Parties
- June 4: 5th grade trip to Brookfield Zoo
- June 4: “Senior Walk” (Penn HS seniors who are Horizon alumni will be back to say farewell)
- June 5: End-of-Year Awards & STUDENT’S LAST DAY!
- June 5: Preschool End of Year Celebration



MAY IS NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH



For 70 years May has been the **National Mental Health Month**. Since 1949, **Mental Health America** and affiliates reach millions to spread the word that May is National Mental Health Month and mental health is something everyone should care about. A healthy lifestyle can help to prevent the onset or worsening of mental health conditions, as well as chronic physical conditions like heart disease. It can also help people recover from these conditions.

Mental illnesses are real, and recovery is always the goal. Living a healthy lifestyle may not be easy but can be achieved by gradually making small changes and building on those successes. Finding the balance between work and play and the ups and downs of life can help you on the path towards focusing both the mind and body.

KEY MESSAGES FROM MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

- Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being.
- Mental illnesses are common and treatable.
- A healthy lifestyle can help to prevent the onset or worsening of mental health conditions, as well as chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. It can also help people recover from these conditions.
- For those dealing with a chronic health condition and the people who care for them, it can be especially important to focus on mental health.
- Humor, spirituality, recreation, animal companionship, and work-life balance are important for everyone, but may be of special importance to people also living with chronic health conditions and those who care for them.
- Finding a reason to laugh, going for a walk, meditating or playing with a pet can go a long way in making you both physically and mentally healthy.
- Sometimes life is far from funny, but finding humor in a situation can lift moods with laughter and help people to better deal with and overcome difficult experiences.
- Whether you go to church, meditate daily, or simply find time to enjoy that cup of tea each morning while checking in, it can be important to connect with your spiritual side in order to find that mindbody connection.