



# Horizon Elementary School

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October 2017

## Principal's Post

A Note from Mrs. Fadorsen, Asst. to the Principal

Dear Horizon Parents,

I am so excited to write the Principal's Post this month! Mrs. Decker has asked me to personally share an exciting opportunity I have been given. Beginning October 31st, I will be the interim principal at Moran Elementary while their principal is out for a medical leave. This will be a short, but valuable experience for me as I prepare to lead a building of my own one day. My tentative return date to Horizon is Monday, December 4th. As excited as I am for this adventure, I will miss my Horizon Family and look forward to my return. During my absence, Mrs. Decker will continue to be at the helm. Emails and other communication can be directed to Mrs. Decker or your teacher. Thank you!

As we begin November, our Lifeline focus for the month is **Gratitude**. One of the things I'm most grateful for is to be a part of the Horizon community. We often refer to it as our "Horizon Family" because our teachers and staff care very deeply about each other and all of our students - their health, happiness, and success in school. As we are continually witness to some of the dangers and tragedies that go on in the world around us, it helps us see all we have to be grateful for. Expressing our gratitude by helping those in need, like through our fantastic **Hurricane Harvey Outreach** and our **Socktober Extravaganza**, teaches our children not only the importance of helping those less fortunate but to be grateful every, single day for the blessings in our lives. The Horizon Staff passionately works to protect and provide our students with a safe, warm, inviting environment to spend their days learning from extremely devoted and talented teachers. **THAT** is definitely something to be grateful for!

One friendly reminder -- With the weather turning wet and colder, please make sure your children come to school dressed for outside recess. Remember, the kids will go outside as long as the air temp is zero or above. **PLEASE, label all outdoor clothing**. Our "Lost and Found" overflows each year with hats, mittens, and YES, even coats and snow pants that students have left behind. If these items are not labeled, we cannot return them to their owners.

I wish you all a wonderful November and plan to be back to celebrate the holidays with everyone!

Sincerely,

Amy Fadorsen

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## Cold Weather / Dress Code Reminders

While we'd all prefer the sunny days of summer, reality is setting in....the cold weather is coming! Here are a few friendly recommendations for dressing your kids for school in the cold weather months.

- Please send your child to school in long pants, long sleeves, and shoes that completely cover the foot (no sandals). Girls who wear skirts/dresses should have leggings/tights on - no bare legs. Brrrrr!
- Always be sure your child wears boots to school & has a pair of shoes to change into. We don't want kids wearing their snowy boots all day.
- Kids must have a winter coat, snow pants, snow boots (not fashion boots), hat/hood, mittens/gloves in order to play in the snow at recess. Kids without proper snow gear will remain on the paved, black-top area only during recess.
- Kids should never throw or kick snow or ice. (No snowballs, sorry!)
- Kids may build snow forts, snowmen/snowwomen, & snow sculptures - this is lots of fun & the kids can be so creative! (Please do not send snow tools or toys to school.)



## Horizon Elementary is on Social Media!

We have begun a social media push to share some of the wonderful things going on at Horizon each and every week. With the help of Mr. West's video producing talent, we are sharing our story in new ways via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Please like/follow us so you can see some of the excellence in action. Our social media posts will be a variety of fun, inspiring, educational, and simply funny things happening at school. Our hashtag is **#HorizonSuns**, so feel free to use it whenever you share your own "good news" about our school. We're all part of the story!

Follow us on Twitter.... @HorizonPhm <https://twitter.com/HorizonPhm>

Like us on Facebook.... @HorizonElementaryGranger

<https://www.facebook.com/HorizonElementaryGranger/>

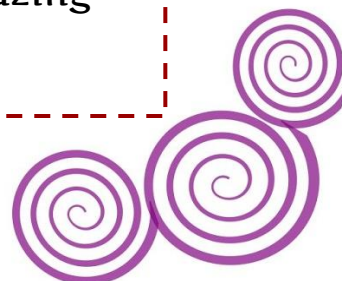
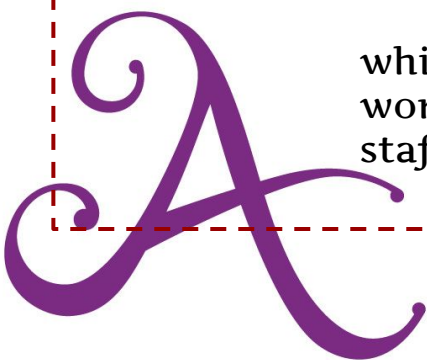


Follow us on Instagram... horzonelementarygranger

## Celebrating Horizon's Success!

Horizon received a letter grade "A" from the Indiana Dept. of Education for our performance during the 2016-17 school year. The school grade represents our high achievement on the ISTEP+ test in grades 3, 4 and 5 as well as students' academic growth from year to year.

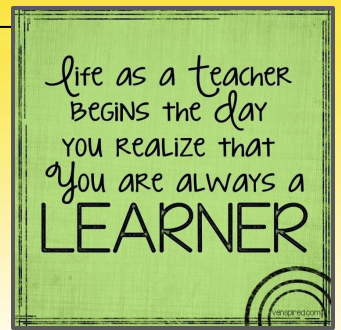
We celebrate this achievement, which is a reflection of our students' hard work and the dedication of our amazing staff.



## The Teacher's Corner

Here are a few highlights regarding our teachers & staff:

- **Teacher Leadership Teams (TLT's)** have been established in each P-H-M elementary school this year. Horizon's teacher leadership team this year includes Mrs. Shenk, Mrs. Polizzotto, and Mrs. Cussen, along with Mrs. Fadorsen and Mrs. Decker. Our TLT meets weekly to focus on a specific instructional practice. Then, the TLT members take the information and resources about the weekly topic to grade level teaching teams, leading professional conversations about the instructional practice. These professional dialogues have been very meaningful & are helping all of us continue to learn and refine our practice.
- **Teachers as Scholars** - Mr. Selmon is participating in this year's *Teachers as Scholars* program at Notre Dame. Teachers as Scholars provides rigorous academic opportunities for educators. He will spend two days attending a seminar called "American Media and the 'Problem' of Race" taught by Professor Jason Ruiz. Thank you to the University of Notre Dame for this wonderful program!
- **PHMEF Grants** - Mr. West & Mrs. Chettleburgh received a grant which allowed them to purchase a classroom set of ukuleles (yes, ukuleles!). What fun to watch the kids learning this new instrument. Mrs. Hartline also received a grant which funded the purchase of Kelso's Kit, which is a curriculum resource for teaching conflict management, character-building, and social skills. Teachers & staff can utilize Kelso's Kit when working with small groups of children in need of this type of additional support.



## Pre-K / Kindergarten News

Did you know Horizon houses a P-H-M Early Learning Academy preschool class for 4-year olds? Yes, we do - and these little ones are amazing learners! Preschool rocked "Letter T day" with Tie dye and Tie day! We used Teamwork at school to make our fabulous Tie dye shirts! These kiddos think preschool is TERRIFIC!!!

Kindergarten "Letter Boot Camp" has ended, and the kids celebrated learning their letters an ABC Fashion Show! Each child decorating their own alphabet vest to letter, then "modeled" it in the Show. The kids have been learn their letters, and we are very proud of them!





## Good News from First Grade

What do you do when the weather doesn't cooperate and you can't go out for Recess? You stay inside and create things like these students from Mrs. Hartline's First Grade class. Awesome creativity!

First graders continue to work on becoming better readers. Teachers want to encourage all first grade families to spend time reading at home together everyday. When kids hear fluent readers (like parents and older siblings) they become more themselves. Thanks for spending time reading with your child each day!



## Second Grade News

The second graders started off the month of October with an ice skating experience at the Compton Family Ice Arena at Notre Dame. Students learned to set goals for being a "fit kid" by staying active, eating healthy, and getting enough sleep. One highlight of the trip was that each student received a green Notre Dame T-shirt. Royal Excursion generously provided our transportation to and from the University. Riding in those big, fancy buses was AWESOME!



### Third Grade News

October has been filled with many fantastic moments in 3rd Grade. We welcomed Grandparents/VIP's into our classrooms for an afternoon of making memories. Students enjoyed multiple activities with their guests such as: Kahoot, bingo, crafts, and school memory interviews.



Students have also been enjoying many magical moments in their music classes with Mr. West thanks to a grant from the PHM Educational Foundation. Students have been enjoying their class time playing ukuleles and learning how to play in rhythm together.



Students have also completed their second "Horizon Smart" project of the year. The focus of this month's project was to emulate a close up perspective similar to Georgia O'Keeffe's imagery in her many designs of American Modernism.



Looking ahead to November, we are excited to venture outside of Horizon for our visit to the PHM Planetarium.

### IMC News you can Use!

As a reading specialist, I do my best to help my students understand the books they read and enjoy them as well. But parents also play a critical role in helping their students just the same. Here are some ideas to encourage literacy at home:

- **Play word games.**--Word games such as crossword puzzles and Scrabble help build vocabulary and word understanding.
- **Read aloud every night.**
- **Model reading as an enjoyable activity.**
- **Put their learning to use.**--Help children remember by having them explain information they have just read. Let them "teach" you facts from what they are reading.
- **Listen to books.**--This is a great way to provide models of fluent reading.

As always, if you have any questions about what we are doing in the library and/or if you would like to volunteer in the Library let me know at [aselmon@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:aselmon@phm.k12.in.us) .





## 4th Grade News

Fourth grade students had a “wonder-filled” time hosting their grandparents and VIPs this month. Students and their guests teamed up to play a Quizlet trivia game on their Chromebooks, and little did they know that there would be some blasts from the past. Thanks to all our special friends and the Horizon PTO for organizing this special event.

“Choose Kind” is our fourth grade motto and students have been doing just that. They have been making good choices and helping one another! When teachers observe such acts, students can be rewarded with a stamp on their Shine Card. It’s encouraging to see their cards fill up. Keep up the good deeds, fourth graders!

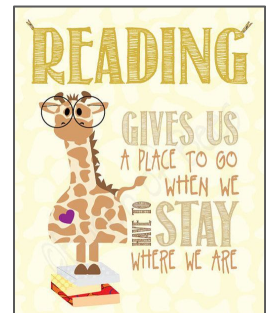


## 5th grade News

Fifth graders love to read! The following is a list of books (recommended by our very own fifth graders) to share with parents and grandparents who have been asking about what would be great gifts:

The Chemist  
Took  
A Dog's Way Home  
The Loser's Club  
Molly's Story  
Bridge to Terabithia  
Public School Superhero  
Castle Hangnail  
Julie of the Wolves  
Jacky Haha  
Amulet  
Sting  
The Key to Extraordinary  
Smile  
Nerd  
The Giver  
Wonder  
Wings of Fire  
Found

Report Card  
The Hardy Boys  
Pieces of Why  
Teddy and CO.  
I Survived books  
Judy Moody books  
Captain Underpants  
Zoobreak  
Finally  
Dork Diaries  
Harry Potter  
Out of My Mind  
Maximum Ride  
Big Nate books  
Chained  
The One and Only Ivan





Horizon's School-wide reading incentive program is currently going on! **"Go for the Gold"** is designed to encourage outside-of-School reading (reading for enjoyment). Each grade level has a goal for earning a Bronze, Silver, or GOLD medal in this program. We hope ALL families will participate in "Go for the Gold" this year! *Please continue to cheer on your students as they GO FOR THE GOLD!*

## PE News



### THE MINDS in MOTION LAB

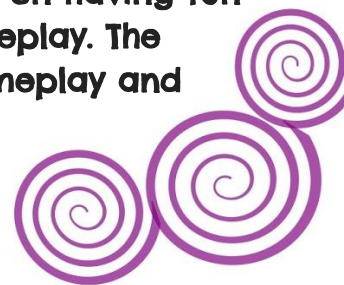
We have added steps to the lab to help children develop whole-body coordination! The lab continues to be like "YOGA" for the brain! It combines developmental gymnastics, balance exercises, and complex movements through a rotating set of protocols. The activities ranges from full-body exercises to isolated eye movements. This lab supports children to accelerate academic, athletic, and social success.



**Recess Feedback:** If you or your child is wondering about instructions for a game, an idea or question about recess time, please have your child fill out a sheet in the gym We want to work together to support RECESS success. We will review this feedback throughout the year to constantly make adjustments.



**Volleyball:** We worked on the following skills, passing, setting, serving and even a spike or two! As with every unit in p.e. class, the focus is on having fun & being respectful to ourselves and our classmates during gameplay. The students worked very hard through 2 days of skill work and gameplay and then got to put it all together in our day 3 & 4 of stations!





### Musical Notes from Mr. West

We are making great use of the Ukuleles provided to Horizon through a PHM Educational Foundation grant. I'm sure that several students will be asking for them this year at Christmas!



Additionally, we have been looking at seasonal music for this fall festive time such as Saint Saens' work, "Dance Macabre."

We are also underway with our work on the Horizon Drama Club musical, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", which will be performed on Dec. 7th & 8th here at Horizon!



Cast members and parents -- Remember to check your email regularly for important information regarding the musical!

Teacher EMAIL Groups should now be working properly through our student management software (TAC). Thank you for your patience as we work through our technical glitches! Anyone not receiving emails from school should contact the school office to make sure we have your correct email information. *Thank you!*



### Upcoming Events

November 3: Cindi Clawson's *Read Across Michiana* Marathon comes to Horizon's 2nd grade

November 13-17: Horizon smART Week--Each Grade has a specific day and time

November 14: Picture Re-Take Day, morning only

November 15: 1st grade Vision Screening with the Optometrists

November 17: PTO Family Fun - Math Night! @ 6pm

November 23-24: Thanksgiving Recess-No School!

December 7 & 8: Horizon Drama Club presents "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

December 8: PHM's Thank-a-Teacher forms are due







# 2017 Thank-A-Teacher for the Holiday!

You may Thank-a-Teacher (or recognize ANY P-H-M employee) with a truly meaningful gift. A donation to the P-H-M Education Foundation Grant Fund tells your child's "Special Person" that you honor him/her and value education at P-H-M. Your contribution to the Grant Fund will be returned to the schools in the form of teacher grants for programs and projects that cannot be funded through school budgets.

Your child's "Special Person" will receive a holiday greeting and special pin telling him/her the name of the donor (not the amount given). All contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible, please contact the office if you would like a tax receipt. To learn more about the P-H-M Educational Foundation, visit [www.phmef.org](http://www.phmef.org).

"Being a first-year teacher I was surprised

to receive a pin. On the days where I felt overwhelmed, I would notice my pin and remind myself that someone saw something in me and that I was making a difference."



Rebekah Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, 2015  
Horizon Elementary



## DONOR INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is to: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss \_\_\_\_\_

(First Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Special Message (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(*\$20 is the minimum gift per honoree*)

Please complete one form per honoree. Additional forms can be downloaded at [www.phmef.org](http://www.phmef.org).

Enter Credit Card info below if paying by credit card.  
We accept Visa, MC, Amex, and Discover.

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ SEC#(3 digit # on back) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Completed forms and payments are due by  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017.**

Deliver to your school's office, the Foundation office, or  
mailed to:

P-H-M Education Foundation  
Holiday Thank-a-Teacher  
55900 Bittersweet Road  
Mishawaka, IN 46545

