



Horizon Elementary School

10060 Brummitt Road
Granger, IN 46530
574-679-9788

horizon.phmschools.org



Principal's Post



September/October
2018

Dear Horizon Families,

What a wonderful start to the school year we have had at Horizon! Thank you for the many ways you have contributed to your child's success thus far. While these may seem like small things, each time you check your child's planner, go over homework, read together, listen to your child read, practice spelling words, or simply talk about the school day, you are making a difference. Your actions tell your child that their learning is important, their work is important, and THEY are important!

Horizon has a long history of strong parental involvement, and we're very grateful for our parents, grandparents, and other volunteers who support our students and their teachers. This year, we are in need of a few more volunteers to serve in the library, computer lab, and a couple of classrooms during the week. If you are able to volunteer, please let your child's teacher know what days/time are best, and we will get you plugged in. Thanks!

In this issue of our school newsletter, I am pleased to announce our ISTEP+ scores from Spring 2018. With the increasingly rigorous state tests, these scores earned Horizon a ranking of #33 of 1,426 public elementary schools in the state. We are very proud to be a high performing school!

Percent Passing	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Avg. Gr. 3-5
ELA	87.3%	90.5%	82.0%	86.5%
Math	87.3%	84.8%	91.0%	87.7%
Science		86%		
So. Studies			79%	
% passing both ELA & Math	80.3%	81.9%	82.0%	

Thank you again for your role in supporting your child's education!

Mrs. Tressa Decker, Principal

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Please dress your child for the weather!

It's that time of year when it is now too cold for shorts, t-shirts, and bare legs. Remember, we go outside for recess every day unless it is raining or BELOW ZERO, so your child should be dressed accordingly. When the snow comes, children must have a winter coat that zips, hat, gloves, snow pants and winter boots in order to play in the snow at recess. Children without proper winter gear will play on the blacktop only.

COLD WEATHER



IT'S A CELEBRATION!

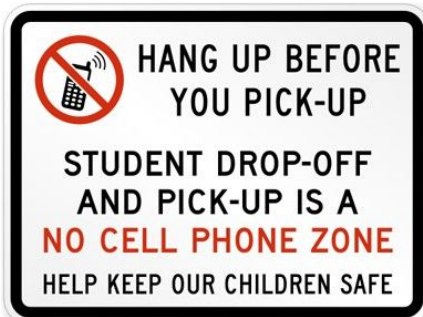
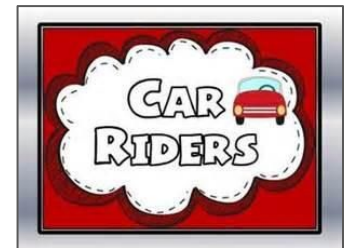


IT'S A CELEBRATION!

Horizon Elementary is ranked #33 out of 1,426 public elementary schools in the state? We are proud of our students & staff!!

CAR RIDER REMINDERS:

1. Please stay in line at all times, unless a traffic assistant with a flashing light signals or tells you that you can move your car out of line.
2. Please put your cell phone down during drop off and pick up times. We are trying to avoid collisions in line.
3. If it is 7:50 or after, you must walk your child(ren) to the office to sign in, because our supervised drop off at Door B has ended. **If there are no adults Outside and Door B is closed, please do not send your child up to the building unaccompanied. This is a major safety concern.**
4. Make sure that your child is ready to get out of the car as soon as you come to a complete stop along the sidewalk. Kids should NOT be eating breakfast as they get out of the car. They need to have their coat on and all belongings ready to go when it's time to get out.



This will help all students and staff to remain safe and get into the building in a timely fashion so that learning can begin. Thank you!



Lunch Account Balances must be kept up. If your child's lunch account is in the negative, you will receive a notice. Please pay negative balances immediately. Thank you!



PreK News

We have been practicing Buddy Reading in PreK! In these photos, the kids are taking a picture walk, looking for characters and finding the setting of their story.

They are on their way to being wonderful readers!!

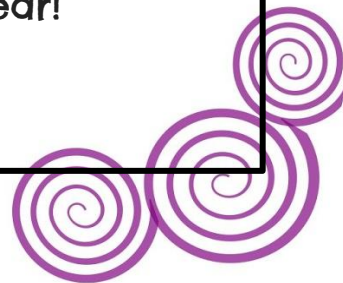


Kindergarten News

The month of September was filled with lots of fun for Kindergarten. We got to know new friends, learn our ABC's through Bootcamp, and listen to Mrs. Decker read us a story!



The kindergarteners are adjusting well to life at Horizon! We have a big group this year but that just means more kiddos to love on and have fun with! This is going to be a great school year!



Good News from First Grade

Our first grade students are using their observation skills to identify and compare physical structures of animals. They were asked to sort animal picture cards into groups based on the body coverings of the animals.



Second Grade News

The second graders have been learning about the life cycle of butterflies. They watched the amazing process and then released the butterflies. This unit is part of our science curriculum.



Third Grade

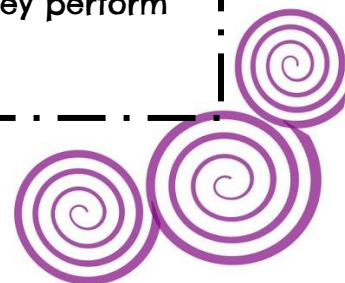
Third graders had a great start to the 2018-2019 school year! New friendships are formed as we begin to write and share our personal narrative stories. Students are enjoying Science and Social Studies units that include rocks and minerals, levers and pulleys, maps, plants, and local history. We look forward to growing our math skills as we begin to learn multiplication. SmART has also been a favorite in September as the students created their own colors through mixing colors.



IMC News you can Use!

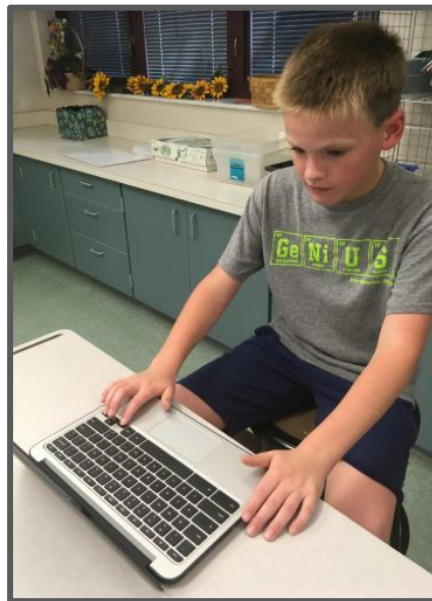
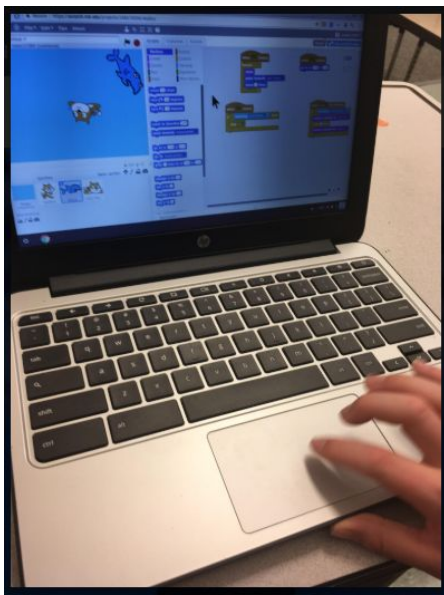
The **Scholastic Book Fair** ran from October 8 - 12th. Grandparents and VIP's were able to visit the book fair on Friday the 12th, which was such a special treat. We are pleased to report that sales from this book fair set a new record and resulted in Horizon earning over 100 new books for our school library AND the PTO now has over \$3,000 "Scholastic Dollars" which can be used to purchase more items and books for our school. **THANK YOU** all for your generous support of our Book Fairs each year.

Please encourage your child to **READ AT HOME** every day! The more a child reads, the better they will read. The better a child reads, the better they perform on ALL academic tasks. #ReadingMatters



4th grade

Horizon's fourth grade science is meeting the challenges of today's and tomorrow's world! This year's science program/standards have been revved up to include STEM standards. Throughout the year, students will receive instruction from each 4th grade teacher in a rotating fashion. The ever-changing science content and the underlying premise is that science education should be inquiry-based and hands-on. The units of study will focus on the following topics; physical science, earth and space science, life science, and computer science. Engineering standards have also been incorporated using "Project Lead the Way" modules.



Horizon's School-wide reading incentive program is underway. **"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 *Send forms in as your child completes them!*



5th Grade News

Fifth graders are taking a "new road" down the path of poetry this year. Each month we will be memorizing and presenting a poem in front of the class. For September students all memorized "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, so if you see a fifth grader, stop them and ask to hear the poem! Poetry allows us to talk about figurative language, rhyme scheme, meter, and many of the other various elements of poetry. The goal is to have "a poem in our pocket" all the time and become better readers and interpreters of the rich language of poetry. For the month of October, we'll be working on Robert Louis Stevenson's "My Shadow". By the end of the year, students will have memorized nine poems and become more confident not only in the language of poetry but also in the art of presentation.

PE News

Hula Hoop Challenge:

Students in PE started off the year by doing this problem solving activity. They were instructed to jump on two feet through a line of hoops and play Rock-Paper-Scissors against the opposing team member. Object was to get all the way through the line and its competitors. For being such a simple activity, they loved it!!!



Soccer:

We started our first sport unit with grade 1-5 at the beginning of the month. The weather cooperated so well that we were able to be outside almost everyday! First we began with a few drills and skill practice like passing, trapping, and keep away. Then students were given the opportunity to play a real game during some group stations.

Football:

During the football unit the past few weeks in September students were challenged to define the word "Cooperation" for the word of the week. Many students gave the example of, "If your Mom tells you to clean your room, you cooperate!" Almost every class gave this example, it was comical! 3rd-5th grade students are exploring the meaning of cooperation by playing flag tag and ultimate football. 1st and 2nd graders have been practicing self control while balancing or tossing a bean bag. They also have been trying a game called Shark Tales with our giant Nemo fish!



Musical Notes

In Music, we have been immersing ourselves in reading music notation, both rhythms and pitch. We have reviewed Solfege and the Curwin hand signs.

Over 200 students recently auditioned for our after school drama club - wow! Drama club members will perform the musical, **HONK!** on November 15th and 16th. We can't wait to see these 125 fabulous Horizon students take the stage!



In October, we will begin playing Ukuleles. Remember you can always check on Mr. West's blog page to see what's going on in the music department regarding classroom activities or rehearsal schedules.

<https://blogs.phmschools.org/jwest/>

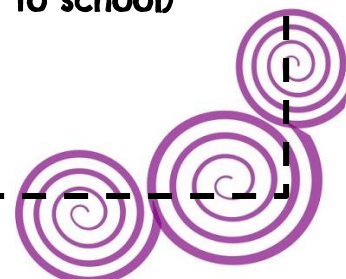
Coming Events

- October 15th-19th--smART Week
- October 17th--End of 1st Grading Period
- October 23rd/24th--Parent Teacher Conferences (all parents - please plan to attend!)
- October 25th--"BOO"gie Ball (costume dance) @ 6:30pm
- October 26th-29th--Fall Break, no school
- October 31st - 3rd grade trip to the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo!
- October 31st - Halloween (please DO NOT send costumes/accessories to school)
- November 1st - Day after Halloween (please DO NOT send candy to school)
- November 1st - Kindergarten trip to Kercher's Orchard!
- November 6th - Picture Retake Day!

HALLOWEEN

No Costumes on
October 31

It's our goal to keep a focus on learning and reduce distractions. We do not allow costumes, masks and/or face paint on Halloween.



Students OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our SEPTEMBER Students of the Month, who were recognized for demonstrating the Lifelines of **"ORGANIZATION and/or INITIATIVE"**.

Kindergarten: Olivia Kotys/Claire Mattucci, Lizzie Nowak/ Ryder Montie, Ben Stefaniak/Brody Olesen, Mason Olesen/Riley Sexton, Kate Michaels/ Kaylynn McKelvey

1st Grade: Damian Castillo, Kylie Kertes, Layla Khoja/Gregory Connors, Kiera Johnson/Chloe DeDario, Gavin Bueche/Drago Vaughn, Lorelai Eberhart/ Maya Hamilton

2nd Grade: Hailey Bush, Higgins Haq, Nolan Bauer/Anica Gensic, Brenna Adams / Katelyn Olson, Lena Carlton, Clara Gillin/Hayden Mentz

3rd Grade: Kaitlyn Corwin/ Nick Gray, Grace Abad/ Benjamin Eubank, Cooper Humphries/Bella Rodriguez, Brody Fletcher/Julian Reynolds

4th Grade: Iniya Christopher/Sophia Jerue, Leah Pyfer, Alayna Wittendorf/Matis Saint Jean, Kendyll Wallace/Emmanuel Singleton, Kendall Morrett/AJ Rimelspach

5th Grade: Carson Montie/Jackson Xayamath, Brady Bauer/ Miriam Amouri, Teagan Fronek/Max Hover, Sophia Salas/Kailyn Lewinski



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade