



# Horizon Elementary School

10060 Brummitt Road

Granger, IN 46530

574-679-9788

[horizon.phmschools.org](http://horizon.phmschools.org)

## Principal's Post



September 2017

Dear Parents,

We've had such a smooth start to the school year, and want you to know we appreciate your role in helping that happen. Classrooms are abuzz with learning, and the kids continue to impress us with their insights and conversations. Every day is a GREAT day to be a Horizon Sun!

We are pleased to see more parent volunteers in the building and appreciate the time and energy our volunteers give us. If you are wondering about volunteering, please contact your child's teacher. Whether it's once a week, once a month, or once during the year, your help can make a big difference. We are always looking for good volunteers to help us in the library, so if that is something you feel you'd enjoy, please let us know and we'll put you in touch with our librarian, Mr. Selmon. Thank you!

Empathy has been our Lifeline (character focus) for the beginning of the school year. We've seen so many wonderful examples of kids caring for one another, supporting one another, and making someone's day better by being kind. Please ask your child about Empathy if you haven't already. They just might amaze you with their responses.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held October 24th and 25th. Please be watching for information to come home soon & RSVP using the form provided. You will receive your child's report card at your parent-teacher conference as well as other important updates. These are very important meetings between parents and teachers, and we can't stress enough how important your attendance is at parent-teacher conferences. Keeping the lines of communication open has a significant impact on student learning! We look forward to seeing every parent at their scheduled conference in October.

Thanks again for making your child's education a priority!

With appreciation and joy,

Tressa Decker, Principal

## In This Edition:

Principal's Post

[Important Safety Message!](#)

[New Gym Mural](#)

[Kindergarten News](#)

[Good News from First Grade](#)

[Second Grade News](#)

[IMC News You Can Use](#)

[Third Grade smART News](#)

[Did You Know..?](#)

[4th grade](#)

[Go for the Gold!!](#)

[5th grade smArt News](#)

[PE News](#)

[Musical Notes from Mr. West](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

## IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE!

We have had a number of injuries on the playground with students who are wearing sandals like THESE (see examples below). This style of sandal has a very slippery sole & is not adequately secure to the child's foot. We kindly ask that children not wear these type of sandals on the playground or in the gym. Thank you.



### New Gym Mural!

Please join me in thanking **Mrs. Lynee Martens** (former Horizon parent) for designing and leading the team who painted this beautiful new mural on the gym wall at Horizon. WOW! It really makes our gym look fantastic & encourages lots of school spirit. Others who helped in the creation of this mural include: Mr. Jon West, music teacher, Mrs. Jeannie Chettleburgh, Aide, Mrs. Jen Sidorowicz, Aide, and Mrs. Traci Lancaster, parent. THANK YOU ALL!

## Kindergarten News

Kindergarten is off to a great start! The kids have been busy making new friends, learning new procedures, and getting used to their new daily routine.

Kindergarten students have also been excited to eat in the cafeteria. Many used the lifeline of COURAGE as they bought their lunch for the very first time.



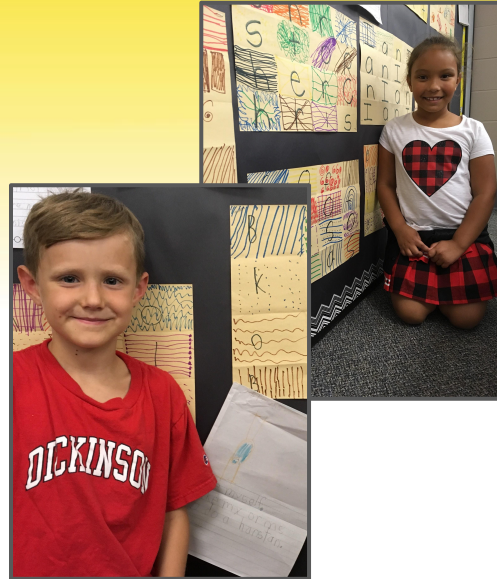


## Good News from First Grade

First graders in Mrs. Hartline's class wrote their name using a variety of "lines". After doing this they wrote a short story.

Sofia says, "I like myself. I like my brown eyes because they help me see".

Brooks wrote, "I like myself. I like my arms to do handstands."



Thank you to our **P.T.O.** for supporting student learning with:

\*\* Hokki Stools    \*\* Field Trip support    \*\* Library books  
\*\* Go for the Gold Prizes    \*\* Scope Magazine (5th gr.)    \*\* and more!

THANK  
YOU

## Second Grade News

The second grade heroes used color and creativity with their first Horizon smART project of painting rocks. They've also been learning about life cycles, and these young scientists get the opportunity to see the life cycle of a butterfly right before their very eyes!



Rock Painting  
#KindnessRocks

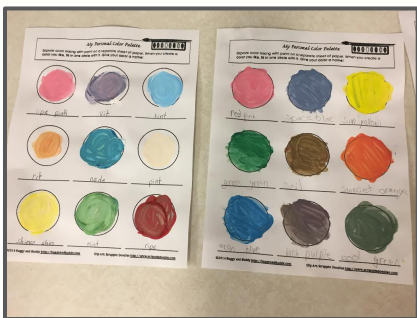


Learning about Life  
Cycles of Butterflies  
#ScienceRules!



## Third Grade smART News

Third grade enjoyed experimenting with color in the first SmArt lesson of this school year! Learning about color and shading and then using that knowledge to create colors of their own was an exciting experience!



### Did you know....?

We've had as many as 21 students arrive late or leave school early on any given day this year. That's a lot of kids missing school! Absence, even for part of a day, affects student learning. It disrupts the classroom, causes kids to fall behind, and also creates extra work for our office staff. We kindly ask our parents to schedule appointments for after school hours whenever possible. Thank you so much!



## IMC News you can Use!

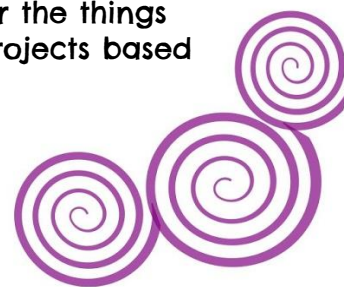
After 20 years and several thousand students walking around, the library finally got **NEW CARPET!** But that is not the only thing; with the new carpet comes a new layout and focus!

Three major sections of the Library have been shifted and more books have been added.

Students in 4th and 5th grade have been given the opportunity to apply to be Student Library Assistants. They must fill out an application, write an essay about why they want to be a library assistant and convince me they will be responsible. They must also get a teacher recommendation. There is an after school training they must attend once they are selected.

4th and 5th grade students are also being held more accountable for the things they learn in the Library. We will be using Google Classroom to do projects based on what they have learned, just like in their regular classrooms.

The younger grades continue to be introduced to the general principles of the Library and how to find "GOOD FIT BOOKS".





## 4th grade

### Horizon's fourth grade has a brand new look!

Did you know that all students rotate to three or four different blocks of curriculum each day?

The students attend one block of Language Arts, Math, Writing, Science/ Social Studies.

Language Arts teachers are: Mrs. Rehlander and Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Rulli and Mrs. Lira are the Math instructors.

Mrs. Rehlander and Mrs. Rulli also teach a block of writing, as Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Lira handle the science and social studies curriculum. So your students are being instructed by at least two different fourth grade teachers each day. When students were asked how they like the new structure, their answers included:

*"It's fun to meet different teachers."*

*"I like being with different groups of students."*

*"It is cool to be able to walk and move around between blocks."*

*"It sure makes the day go faster!"*

Please know that the 4th grade teachers are working very diligently to be consistent in their procedures. We ask parents to please help with checking and returning agendas and purple take home folders each day. We also hope that all parents/guardians will accept their child's teachers' invites to join [Remind](#). Remind is a program/app that allows parents to receive important classroom information via cell phone or email. The information on how to join these groups was sent home with each student on Thursday, August 31. If you need information, please contact your student's homeroom teacher.



Horizon's School-wide reading incentive program is STARTING October 1st. "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 watch for information coming home Soon!



Horizon Teachers are HEROES!

To the world  
you may be just  
a teacher but to  
your students  
you are a HERO!



## 5th Grade smART News

The fifth graders enjoyed their first smArt session! They used clay to make any creation of their choice, with the guideline of keeping it within the size of their hand. They will finish the project by painting their sculptures at a later date. Thank you to all the amazing parents who volunteered and helped everything go so smoothly!



## PE News



### THE MINDS in MOTION LAB

This lab is sometimes referred to as “YOGA” for the brain! It combines developmental gymnastics, balance exercises, and complex movements through a rotating set of obstacles. The cross-hemispheric brain activities range from full-body exercises to isolated eye movements. This lab supports children’s academic, athletic, and social success.



### RECESS Feedback:

We have added a RECESS FEEDBACK area in the gym. Students may write down feedback that would support RECESS success. We will review this feedback throughout the year to constantly make adjustments making sure that RECESS is successful!

Physical Education blended with Recess expectations helps students have a positive and safe experience while out on the playground. PE class this month has included: playground expectations, conflict resolution strategies and activities students can use during Recess time.

### PE SPORT OF THE MONTH

Students worked to appreciate, develop and enhance the skills necessary to enjoy the benefits of SOCCER as a lifetime physical activity. Students demonstrated basic soccer skills, safety and sportsmanship!



As a reminder, please make sure students have **proper shoes** and dress appropriately for PE. Thank You!



## Musical Notes

I am extremely excited about our musical opportunities this year at Horizon Elementary. In class, we have been reviewing Solfeggio singing and Kodaly hand signs.

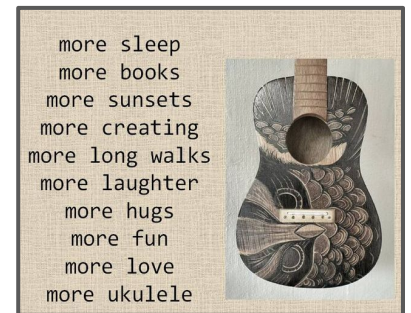
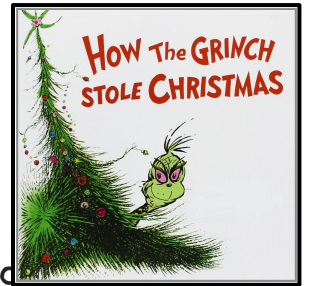
In the upper grades, we are going to begin learning to play the ukulele! We were able to purchase a classroom set of ukuleles through a PHM Education Foundation grant & look forward to adding this new element to music class!

I will continue with my blog every Sunday night, so that you can have a glimpse of what's happening in the music room each week and so your children can review and practice lessons at home. <http://blogs.phmschools.org/jwest/> or go to the PHM website and look under Staff Blogs for my name.

Next month we will hold auditions for our all-school "*How The Grinch Stole Christmas*." Watch for more information coming soon on this exciting opportunity.

I am looking forward to another musically exciting year here at Horizon Elementary!

Teacher EMAIL Groups have not been working properly through our student management software (TAC). If you haven't been receiving emails from your child's teacher, this may explain why. Please be patient as the tech department works to resolve this issue. Thank you!



## Upcoming Events

**October 2-6: Scholastic Book Fair**

**October 3: 2nd Grade "Experience the Ice" Field Trip to Notre Dame**

**October 6: Grandparents/VIP Day - Schedule of Events coming soon**

**October 8-13: smArt Week #2**

**October 16: Grades 1, 3, and 5 Vision Screening**

**October 18: End of 1st-9 Week Grading Period**

**October 19: Great American Shake-Out (Earthquake Drill)**

**October 24-25: Parent/Teacher Conferences**

**October 26: "Boo"gie Ball - Costume Dance 6pm-8pm**

**October 27-30: Fall Break (No School!!!!)**

**October 31: Back to school** (please do not send Halloween candy to school with your child)

