



Horizon Elementary School

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

horizon.phmschools.org

Principal's Post



December 2018 / January 2019

Dear Horizon families,

Happy New Year! On behalf of the entire Horizon staff, please accept our heartfelt wishes for good health, success, and much happiness in 2019.

I am pleased to announce the following recent additions to our staff:

Universal sub – Mrs. Lynee Martens

Universal sub – Mrs. Julie Mead

School Counselor (Youth Service Bureau) – Ms. Trish Wolf

For the first time ever, PHM has allowed us to hire two universal subs to meet our staffing needs at Horizon. Universal subs are "on call" in the event a teacher or staff member is absent and unable to secure a substitute to cover their absence. In the event that they are not needed as subs, they serve as classroom aides, helping students and teachers in each grade level throughout the day.

We are grateful that PHM is expanding its support of social-emotional learning by providing us with a full-time school counselor from the Youth Service Bureau. Ms. Wolf, our counselor, is truly passionate about helping students! You'll soon recognize her as the lady who always has a smile on her face and a joyful outlook. We think she's a perfect addition to our team. Ms. Wolf will be teaching a variety of lessons in classrooms, working with small groups and individual students based on their specific needs for support. Parents will always be contacted and permission forms signed before the counselor meets with small groups or individual students. If you feel your child might benefit from meeting with our counselor, please let your child's teacher know. Permission forms can be sent home anytime.

We also want to welcome **Mr. Derrick Fairbotham** who will be teaching 4th grade while Mrs. Rulli is on maternity leave for the remainder of the year. We congratulate Mrs. Rulli and her husband, who welcomed their first child, Luca Lloyd Rulli, on December 31st. Luca and his momma are doing well, and Mr. Fairbotham is ready to step right in on January 7th.

We plan to hit the ground running when school starts on January 7th, 2019, and look forward to the excellent lessons, experiences, and opportunities that lie ahead for your children. We have so much to be thankful for at Horizon!

With joy and anticipation of a wonderful new year,

Mrs. Tressa Decker, Principal

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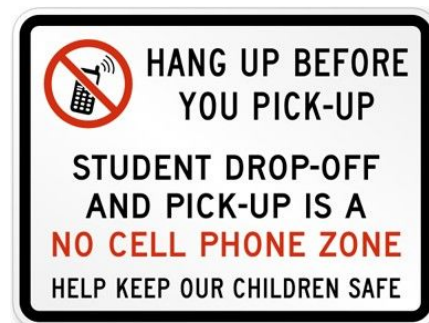
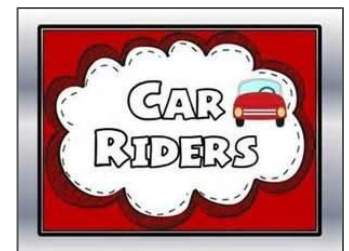
Please dress your child for the weather!

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/wet 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.



More CAR RIDER REMINDERS:

1. Always let the buses in/out of our driveway. If you see a bus trying enter or exit our parking lot, please be courteous and let them in/out so they can get where they need to go.
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, and there are no traffic assistants outside, you must PARK your car and walk your child(ren) to the office to sign in, because our supervised drop off at Door B has ended. **Never park along the curb and send your child in alone. 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.

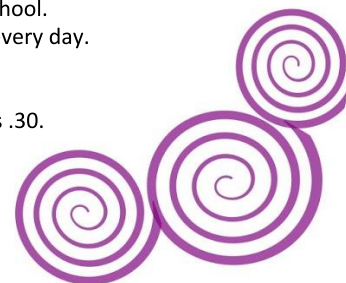


School Breakfast - Good for Kids and Good for Parents!

For parents with busy schedules, it can be hard to make sure that kids are eating a healthy breakfast before they go to school in the morning.

Sometimes children aren't hungry right after waking up, and it's hard to find food they like to eat that is also healthy. Also, some kids refuse breakfast at home but are hungry when they arrive at school. Fortunately, we have a great breakfast program for all students, and it's available at school every day.

If morning meals are difficult for your family, let the School Breakfast Program help you out! Free meal students receive a free breakfast. Reduced price breakfast for qualified students is .30. **Regular priced breakfast is \$1.10 at elementary.**



PreK News

We are still practicing letters C and A as well as reviewing colors and numbers.

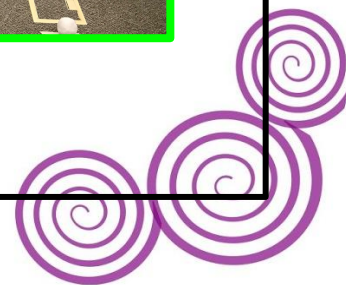
Our field trip to the planetarium was a success, the kiddos loved seeing the laser light show. We've learned how being kind can make our hearts grow like the Grinch. While we were on the Polar Express we had a special visit from Santa!

We hope you have a safe and happy winter break and holiday season!!



Kindergarten News

We have been busy in kindergarten researching reindeer and "traveling the world" to learn about different cultures and holidays. We've visited and learned about Israel, Italy, Mexico, Sweden and Germany. And we even visited the planetarium for a fun holiday laser light show!



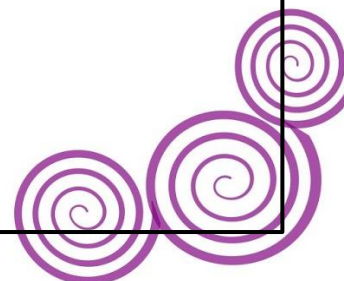
Good News from First Grade



Our first graders are strengthening their **NUMBER SENSE** by making number scrolls. They are starting by writing their numbers to 100, and then continuing with additional grids for numbers beyond 100. When they're finished they will have written their numbers to 1,000!!! *If your child is struggling to write their numbers correctly, please practice with them at home. This should become "automatic" for them, and that only comes with practice. Thank you!*

Second Grade News

The second graders had an opportunity to see the performance of Hansel and Gretel at the Lerner theater this month. This was the perfect literature tie in for the students to compare and contrast the performance they saw to the books they read in their classrooms. Students were able to retell the story including key details. Lastly, some students wrote a narrative about their experience.



Third Grade

Third graders have worked hard to complete their informational writing pieces about airplanes. Many students chose to “spread their wings” and complete amazing visual aides to go along with their research. *Way to go above and beyond!*



IMC News you can Use!

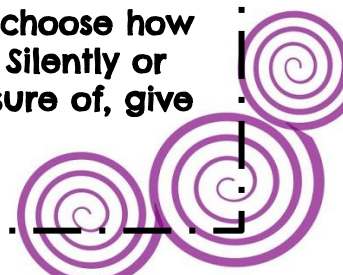
It comes as no surprise that children love school holidays! Being free of the restraints of going to school every day and being able to relax is a valuable part of growing up. Regular reading time, which is a part of our children's school day, often comes to an end during vacation, with so many other activities, gatherings, and fun things going on. So, please take note:

Research has shown that when kids put down school books on their breaks, their reading ability drops with it.

Here are some tips to make sure your kids stay engaged over the school winter break!

1. **Make reading time fun (and quick!)-**You should aim for no more than 10 minutes. Make it fun but using character voices and overly large movements.
2. **Visit bookstores and the local library-**They often have kids storytimes as well as books to check out. This can be another way to get your kids to love reading over breaks.
3. **Allow children to choose what they would like to read.-**Book Choice is vital to reading success. While we want kids to read books that are within their Lexile range, we also want them to read book they will enjoy. Compromise and have them read one that is within their range but also something like a graphic novel that is outside of that range.
4. **Have a “screen-free” night-**Devices will be given as gifts but for one night everyone takes out a hard copy of a book and reads.
5. **Give books as gifts.**
6. **Read together using supportive strategies.** Allow them to choose how they would like to read: either with you or by themselves. Silently or aloud. If they come to a word they don't know or are unsure of, give them a chance to struggle with it before you help them.

Wish you and yours happy reading!!! See you in January!



4th grade

Fourth grade students have been working hard completing classroom jobs, paying bills, and accumulating hard earned (mini economy) cash! This month students had an opportunity to participate in our first mini mall of the year. Many students added to their saving and/or buying potential by creating a variety of products for their shops. All students had the opportunity to shop with their earnings. Take a look at some of our budding entrepreneurs and their wonderful displays.

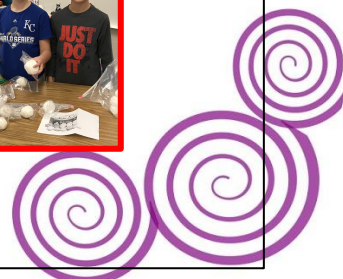


They also worked on silhouettes. These silhouettes give a new meaning to "FaceTime".



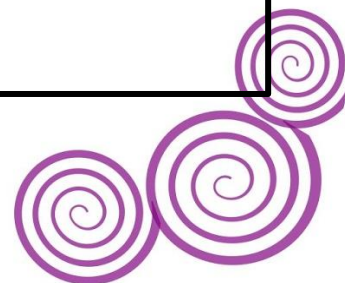
5th grade

Tis the season to shop and the fifth graders shopped at school! We had our first mini-mall of the year this past week. Students had to fill out an application for a space to rent where they displayed their wares. All products had to be preapproved and handmade. Many of the students teamed up to make merchandise, name their stores, and assign prices. All fifth graders were able to shop through the different stores and purchase products from their friends. There were ornaments, decorated pencils, lip gloss, origami, sports memorabilia, and snowballs to name a few. This is a great learning opportunity as students experience supply and demand first hand, learn what products sell, and discover how to price items. You may be opening one of your child's purchases at some point over the holidays. Enjoy!



PE News

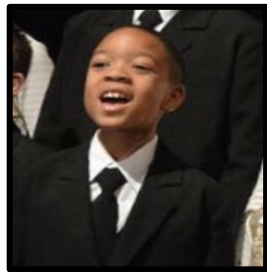
During this month students have been learning different games and activities to use with a pool noodle. That's right - a pool noodle! In grades PreK-2nd students went on a road trip with their noodle: exploring different places around the USA like kayaking in the Mississippi River, riding horseback in Texas, and laying on the beach in Florida. Students also practiced creating giant letters with a group of 3 by using their noodles :) Also, just before Winter Break students enjoyed turning the lights out and transforming the gym into a bowling alley! "Glow-in-the-Dark Bowling" is an annual tradition at Horizon and it brings joy to each and every one who participates. Bowling is always a great family activity. I challenge you all to take your family out to the alley over break!



Musical Notes

December was very exciting in the **Horizon Music Department!** In class, we played ukuleles, performed Solfege hand signs to a variety of songs, and prepared for our annual All-School Sing Along on the last day of school before Winter Break.

Additionally, Horizon's Show Choir students had a concert titled "Holiday Road" AND received a special invitation to sing Carols at Heritage Square's Open House in early December. These talented kids did a GREAT job!



Coming Events

January 7 - Classes Resume!

January 14-18, 2019: SmART Week

January 15, 2019 - PTO Meeting at 8:15a.m. (We need a new PTO secretary!

Anyone interested, please contact our PTO and plan on coming to this meeting!)

January 21, 2019 - Recess Day - No School

January 22, 2019 - **Kindergarten Registration Begins!** (must be 5 yrs. old by Aug. 1st.)

January 24, 2019 - (during school) **Horizon Science Fair** Judging of Projects

January 24, 2019 - (after school) **Horizon Science Fair** Open to Parents/Guests

January 30, 2019--100th Day of School (1ST-5TH)

January 31, 2019--100th Day of School (Kindergarten)

**HAPPY
100
DAYS
OF
SCHOOL**



Students OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our NOVEMBER Students of the Month, who were recognized for demonstrating the Lifelines of **"Kindness and Generosity"**.

Kindergarten: Savannah Love/Mia Haut; Emma Curry/Amelia Jelinski; Collin O'Connor/Lorelai Osborne; Matthew Cowsert/Alexander Stumpf

1st Grade: Makenna Drake/Leighton Stultz; Leah Knapick/Cade Farkas; Patrick Shelton/Lea Tafelski; Omar Khan/Logan Clark; Piper Waech/Cora Berger

2nd Grade: Landon Uselton/Amelia Langham; Kiera Cano/Finlay Zaber; Sammi Krueper/Aubrey Foglesong; Brendon Burress/Grant Robinson; Leah Pressler/Maddy Szymarek

3rd Grade: Paige Williams/Izzi Cartwright; Maddie Underhill/Sophia Drake; Ella Simper/Harper Johnson, Haven Skarritt/Chylynn King

4th Grade: Erin Sencaj/Charlie Butler; Calvin Hart/Dreama Root; Mia Grashorn/Grace Benthem; Mazwi Sibanda/Myah Cruz, Raylin Brown/Dustin Lambert

5th Grade: Rey Villarreal/Nadia Hernandez; Carley Carmichael/Jasmine Petresh; Niah Rose Jackson/Sam Mattucci; Zachary Girton/Ella Shaver



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade