



Upcoming Events:

April 20: Earth Day

April 27: Professional Development, 1/2 day

April 27: STEM Fair

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Greetings all,

Director's Notes:

Welcome back! I hope that you had a safe and healthy spring break.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the talent show performers on a job well done. I was so impressed by the wide pool of talent. I'd also like to thank the middle school students as well as the adult volunteers for preparing such a delicious dinner as well as for all of the work that went into preparation, set-up, and staging of the show. All of you did a fantastic job.

With spring break behind us, we have a very busy two months ahead. Our Wellness Committee is hard at work preparing for the Earth Day events on April 20th, and the STEM Committee is putting the final details in place for the STEM Fair on April 27. Please keep in mind that April 27 is a half-day. Students will be dismissed at noon.

Enjoy the warm weather!

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Phoenix Rising Campaign

There is now an option to use a direct debit form to contribute to Phoenix Rising. Using the ACH will make contributing to Phoenix Rising easier for some people! Please return the completed form/voided check to Shellee Almquist or Karen Giltrow. Your information will be kept safe. Thanks!

Scrip News

Scrip is available for purchase every Wednesday and Friday morning. Contact Alex Foulis with any questions:

alexfoulis@hotmail.com

Stem Committee News

Lunch with an Expert, the Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad, FIRST Robotics, sheep's eye dissection, Paleo Joe, and the STEM Fair.... so many exciting STEM events are coming up in April!

On Friday, **April 13**, Lunch with an Expert will feature three guest experts, speaking about a diverse range of topics--- the art and science of creating casts of fossils at the UM Museum of Natural History, medical illustration, converting solar signals to sound signals as a means to study the sun, and the science and engineering of materials.

The FIRST Robotics State Championship will be held at the EMU Convocation Center on Saturday, **April 14**, and we are hoping to organize an informal Honey Creek group to go see it. This is a chance to preview the next level beyond the FIRST Lego robotics league and to see the big robots compete.

The Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad tournament will be held on Saturday, **April 21**, at Pioneer High School. Honey Creek's WESO teams and coaches have been working hard, and we wish them the best of luck! Even if you are not on the team, you

can check it out for next year--- hands-on activities which are open to the public will be going on all day.

Thursday, **April 26**, and Friday, **April 27** are STEM Celebration Days at Honey Creek! On Thursday, 5th graders will dissect sheep's eyes, courtesy of our PTO chair and resident veterinary ophthalmologist, Trish Gearhart. On Friday, the award-winning traveling paleontologist and author, Paleo Joe, will give a presentation to the elementary school.

And finally, on Friday, **April 27**, from 5:30-8pm, is the Honey Creek STEM Fair! If you haven't started thinking about a project for the STEM Fair yet, now is the time! The STEM Fair will feature students' STEM projects, prizes for all who contribute projects, a potluck dinner, the return of the Honey Creek trebuchet, mouse embryos & microscopes, and many more exciting hands-on activities. Registration forms can be found on the STEM bulletin board (across from the hall conference room), and will be available online, too. Students of all ages are invited to enter a project, and everyone-- even if you haven't done a project-- is invited to the STEM Fair for food and fun activities!

PTO News

The HCCS Talent show rolled out, as planned, at the end of March. This was the inaugural use of the new stage. Thanks to everyone for all the work in making the Talent Show successful!

The PTO is undertaking a number of initiatives; working more closely with and involving the teachers. We had a group meeting with them at lunch and gathered ideas as to where they think we could be most beneficial. We are also having representatives from the PTO attend the start of the faculty meetings once each month to help keep information flowing.

Wellness Committee News

Farm to School for April will be on **April 12** and will feature Michigan Spinach. Subsequent Try-it Tuesdays in the month of April will feature items made with spinach.

Please join us on Saturday, **April 14th** from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to help prepare Honey Creek's Edible Garden for spring planting. Everyone is invited to come for the morning to help turn soil, spread compost, weed, and prepare the beds for Earth Day planting. Please bring a dish to share for a pot-luck lunch. Questions? Contact Sara Brintnall at: sarabrintnall@hotmail.com.

Earth Day will be celebrated on Friday, **April 20** at Honey Creek. We need many volunteers that afternoon to help implement our Earth Day activities. Please contact Jane at lunasa.us or Deb Lentz at tantrefarm@hotmail.com if you can help.

The Wellness Committee is supplying organic, whole fruits, available for 50 cents per piece, on Friday mornings in the cafetorium.

Our next Wellness Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **April 19** at 8:15 in the Pit.

Board News

No news was reported this month.

Honey Creek Community School ACH Authorization Agreements

Direct Payment Withdrawal Authorization Form

I hereby authorize the HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION to initiate debit entries, from my account indicated below, for payment of the amount listed on this agreement. I, also, authorize HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION or CHELSEA STATE BANK to reverse any debits made to such account in error. This authority is to remain in full force and effect until HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION and CHELSEA STATE BANK a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Date _____ Name (Print) _____ Financial Institution Name _____

Employee Number/SS# _____ Account Number _____ Financial Institution Number _____

IMPORTANT! CIRCLE TYPE OF ACCOUNT: CHECKING or SAVINGS

Please Withdraw \$ _____ from my account

once a week, on the ____ day of the week

or

once a month, on the ____ day of the month

or

every ____ months on the ____ day of the month

Signature _____ Amount _____

CHECK ONE:

I am not currently participating in the Direct Payment Withdrawal Program

ADD - Withdraw my payment from the account shown.*

I am currently participating in the Direct Payment Withdrawal Program

CHANGE - Change financial institutions and/or account number.*

CANCEL - Stop my participation in the program

TAPE YOUR VOIDED CHECK HERE

NOTE: Always get the Financial Institution Number from a check; never use the information from a deposit slip.

Early Elementary News

In Early Elementary we are wrapping up our integrated thematic unit, “How My Community Works”. In this unit, the children continued to explore the concept of systems. They worked toward understanding that their community is a system, they are part of many interconnected systems, including the food system and the economic system, that when something happens in one part of the community system it affects other parts of the community system, and that improving one part of the community system can improve the dynamics of the whole community system.

We began this theme with a Fairness unit, in which the children learned about different kinds of discrimination (based on ability, gender, age, and race) and how people work together to overcome discrimination to make communities fair for all community members. We read biographies about people who fought for civil rights in the US, and ended the unit with an art project in which students shared their dreams for the world after learning about Martin Luther King Junior’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

The next part of “How My Community Works” was a unit on Food Systems. In this unit, the children investigated where the food in our community comes from. Using bread as an example, they learned about the natural and

human resources needed to get food from producer to consumer.

They learned about food production (relating it back to the field trip to Tantré Farm and their experiences planting the school garden) and worked in groups to follow bread through the food system from farm to factory to store and then home. They baked bread in the classroom, conducted experiments with yeast and with bread mold, and visited Great Harvest Bakery to experience baking on a commercial scale.

At the end of the unit, the children will learn about where the food for our hot lunch program comes from and use maps to discuss the environmental impact of food being shipped from far away. They will use graphic data to analyze the nutritional value of hot lunch foods and learn how that information can help them to make healthier choices at lunch. The unit will culminate in the children coming up with ideas for a related Academic Service-Learning project that will be carried out by the end of the school year.

Middle Elementary News

April will be all about animals, how they adapt to their environment and how different body characteristics help animals survive. Each student has chosen an animal to research. This project will also spread into our reading and writing times quite extensively. Lindsey is collaborating with us on this project as well.

We are heavily into fractions and finding out all types of new things about this strand of math. Meanwhile, we are still working on mastering subtraction facts for 2nd graders and multiplication facts for 3rd graders.

While this update is short, please don't forget to check our blogs (<http://honeycreekschool.org/2-3/>) each week for the most current and individual information for each of the classes.

Later Elementary News

Happy April from the 4/5s! We've got a lot of exciting things coming up over the next couple of months! Here's a brief look at things to come.

In social studies students are continuing their study of Colonial America. They've spent quite a lot of time researching the differences between the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies, and over the course of this month students will be working in groups to better define these three colonial regions. Looking ahead to the end of the month, our focus will begin to shift to the causes of the American Revolution.

Spring is a mystery....at least in our language arts work! Students are busy choosing or reading their self-selected mystery books and will begin working on their projects at home. In class we're listening to a variety of other mystery writings and discussing the common elements of the works. Students will also be putting on short mystery plays in small groups. Look for the outcome of this work at our next curriculum celebration!

On a belated note, the 4/5 teachers would like to congratulate Webber Ketz and Eric Mackie for their outstanding work at the charter school spelling bee in February. They were selected to represent our school after a third through fifth grade spelling bee at Honey Creek and both finished in the top five at this next level! We couldn't be prouder of their hard work!

This month in science, we're working on finishing up our 3-D models of elements, soon to be on display, hanging from the ceiling in M-2. We are also finishing up our unit on matter, soon to be moving on to a unit about energy and motion. Please keep an eye out for an email calling for any "experts" who wish to spend time helping us out with our highly dangerous and destructive experiments. (Really, it's just for extra sets of hands and / or ears / brain cells, etc.)

Middle School News

Social Studies

In Social Studies we are swimming in a pool of economics. Each class period is dedicated to a different concept and thus far we have covered scarcity, market vs. command economies, opportunity costs, factors of production, economic incentives and competition.

We are continuing with a few more concepts, like supply, demand and equilibrium price, and then will begin focusing our attention on the Bartering Bonanza. This is a big event that will require every middle school student to make a product to market and "sell" in an effort to raise items needed at the local homeless shelters. Look for this event in the second or third week of April.

Science

The middle school science classes are investigating the science behind our Earth's climate and the role humans are contributing to it. We also have the privilege of testing out experimental curriculum from the University of Michigan's Department of Education, which involves testing and giving student response to the lessons and activities they've created. In addition to this, the middle school plans to develop ASL (Academic Service Learning) projects to contribute to the fight against pollution of our Homes and Habitats.

Language Arts

What an exciting time it's been in the middle school language arts classes! We have been reading *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer as a whole class, and have had some great discussions about fair treatment, discrimination, ethics in science, and the overarching theme of good versus evil. Ask a middle schooler about their new favorite science fiction novel!

While we have been reading this great piece of fiction, we have begun writing nonfiction. Each student has chosen an issue that matters to them and have started doing research on the topic. When we return from break, we will begin drafting persuasive essays. Look for logical, well crafted arguments in your middle schooler's writer's notebook!

Mathematics

Geometry is the main topic in Middle School Math this month. Course 1, Course 2, and Course 3 will all be focusing on geometry in April. Of course each of them will have a slightly different focus: In Course 1 the basics of Area and Volume will be discussed. Course 2 will spend more time identifying and classifying various objects and shapes, and the move into 2-D and 3-D geometry. Finally, in Course 3 we'll focus on transformations, volume and surface area.

Now that we know how to add, subtract, and multiply polynomials in Algebra, this month we will be learning how to factor, you remember, "unFOIL." It's sure to be great fun! Before the end of the month we will be moving on to Quadratic Equations! It's an exciting time in middle school math these days :)

Specials News

Physical Education/ Swimming

I am excited to announce that the Middle School Swim Elective will be taking a field trip to Canham Natatorium on April 25th. Canham is located at the University of Michigan and is the pool where Michael Phelps trained. Traveling here will not only be inspiring for our students but it will allow them to practice skills that we can't practice in the Honey Creek pool. Students will learn diving skills and also be able to see themselves swimming by looking at the bottom of the pool that is filled with mirrors. This will prove to be very helpful! If you are a parent of a middle schooler who is in the swim elective please let me know ASAP if you are able to volunteer to drive. We will leave the school by 12:30 and return by 2:30.

The Middle School completed their maturation unit in March. I would like to commend them on doing a fabulous job of participating and listening well!

In PE, the K/1 and 2/3 classes will be focusing on jump rope skills. This is an important skill to learn and it takes much practice. Please consider purchasing a jump rope for your home and encouraging your children to practice!

The K-5 swimmers have been working hard all year long. They have become very strong swimmers- some able to tread water for 10 minutes and more! The 4/5s are able to swim up to 10 laps in one class period! We have 20 K/1 deep end swimmers and 49 out of 53 2/3s have passed the deep end test! Your students have proven they know how to be safe in the water! Please congratulate them on their hard work and effort in the pool.

Art

Spring is here, and that means some exciting new art projects are happening at Honey Creek! The K/1 classes are currently learning about Vincent van Gogh and his Sunflowers. The students are learning to further their art history knowledge, as well as their drawing and painting skills with this project.

2/3 classes are working on their animal drawings. They are learning about scale, texture, and proportions when drawing.

4/5 classes are finishing up a project on Georgia O'Keeffe; in which colored pencil and pastels are used to create soft blends, vibrant colors, and show details in some beautiful plants and flowers.

Middle School classes have just finished their Easter Island sculpture lesson, and the results of their painted Moai figures have been outstanding!

The Elective class is currently learning about color theory and painting techniques in preparation for a final project in which each student will choose an artist, research that artist, and create a piece inspired by their style and work. Remember, you can see all of our students' hard work on our Honey Creek art website, Artsonia, by going to www.artsonia.com/HoneyCreekCommunity1

Technology

In 2/3 technology, we are finishing up the "Inventors and Inventions" unit. The last inventor we studied was Leonardo da Vinci. Students heard a historical fiction story about him during read-aloud time ("Monday with a Mad Scientist", one of the Magic Treehouse books), and we were able to use this as a language arts tie-in to make connections with what students already knew. Students

also practiced sketching mechanisms by drawing and writing about some simple tools and machines, and have been using Erector to build their own "useful machines" inspired by Leonardo's designs and ideas.

The 4/5 technology classes have now finished their Trading Cards project. Students took photos, learned how to design cards using Pages, and have been getting their designs printed out. They look great!

The Middle School technology classes are in the middle of the Sustainable House Design project. Most students have finished their rough floor plans (which they created using Autodesk Sketchbook Mobile on the iPads), and are working on finishing their final floor plans using graph paper, design templates, and other tools. We're starting construction now that we are back from spring break!

The Middle School technology elective class, 3d Modeling and Prototyping, has been making great progress in the process of drawing, designing, and creating objects. Students are having great fun going through the design process, using SketchUp to bring their ideas to life in 3-D. Watch for more great things in the next few months, as prototypes get built and we go further into topics like 3-D animation, 3-D printing, and the manufacturing process.

Media Center

There are **several projects going on now** in the school that the Media Center is part of. The 2/3s are just about to begin their first research project. The subject is animals, and we have been busy planning with their teachers, arranging some demos of resources they'll need and putting links onto the Media Center's web page, and gathering print material ahead of time. We're really looking forward to this, as it will be the first time students have done organized research that will result in the answering of key questions about animals and presenting their findings. It will, hopefully, be a fun assignment for them; it certainly is for us!

The 4/5s are doing two projects: a Newbery-medal winner reading challenge, and a Social Studies research project on colonial American regions. They are trying to answer the question, "What was life like in...?" We've gathered print and electronic resources for this one, too, and have been working with students to ferret out the tricky, hard-to-find bits of info. There is also a cart full of all the Newbery winner and honor books that the collection holds. Our student librarian, Dianne McLaren-Brighton, has been busy compiling lists of these, and of the titles we don't yet

own. This list will be part of next year's collection development plan.

Coming up in May is an event the Honey Creek community won't want to miss: **the Spring Book Fair**, hosted by our local bookseller, Nicola's Books. The Fair will run during the spring Curriculum Celebration, and will have lots of good books that students and others will want to have ready to go for summer reading.

Anyone who would like to honor a graduate, a good year's work by a student, a birthday, or other special event by donating a book in that person's honor to Honey Creek Media Center may want to shop the Book Fair on May 18. The Media Center keeps a wish-list on Amazon.com that can be used to select items particularly needed. Nicola's can likely get anything on this list if you want to buy locally.

Though she's been busy making Newbery lists, Dianne has also been active in working with our students during her field placement time here. She's doing read-aloud with some of the classes, is working on a presentation on the poet Shel Silverstein, has done lots of research and reference help with students, book selection for next year, and many of the daily tasks that keep a media center running smoothly. She'll be here until the end of April,

when she will finish her program.

As we start to close in on the end of the school year, the Media Center will be sending out reminder notices to students of the items they have checked out. The lists will include both current check-outs and items they've had for some time. **Those planning to be in another school next year** are asked to pay particular attention to these, as all borrowers' accounts should be clear by the end of school. We're grateful for all the help we receive from parents who work with their kids to develop responsibility for borrowed items, and who return things by the bagful! Thank you!

Music

The month of April means that it is concert preparation time in all music, band and choir classes. When the students return from break we will be digging deeper into all of our songs for choir and the bands, and learning our songs in the K-5 music classes. Please note that the concert date has been changed and is now on Tuesday, May 22nd at 3:30. We look forward to putting on a wonderful show for everyone. Stay tuned for the May HBonN to discover what this concert's theme will be.

Academic Service-Learning:

Spring is a wonderful time to be outdoors! Take this opportunity to do some work in your neighborhood--clean up a park, help build new benches for an outdoor area in your neighborhood, walk a neighbor's dog--your opportunities are endless! If you're looking for a more academically founded opportunity, work with your student to write letters (or e-mails) to your local parks and recreation administrators and develop a plan to meet a need in the community. This offers opportunities for fund raisers, budget work and making a plan to execute the project that needs to be done.

At Honey Creek, you can look forward to another outstanding Earth Day program sponsored by some of our community members. Don't forget to fill out your AS-L service hour sheets so that we can track our work as a school. Blank sheets can be found across the hall from Cindy's room (A-wing) and can be turned in to Johnny's mailbox.

Thank you for all of your efforts!

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL** BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “EARLY DISMISSAL FRIDAYS:” April 27th; and May 4th.

Please register 1 WEEK BEFORE in order to receive the Early Bird Discount. Also, please remember that you MUST give us 48-hour WRITTEN notice to cancel any pre-registered care without being held financially responsible.

REMINDER: **NO ON-SITE STUDENT CARE DURING BREAKS OR ON CERTAIN HOLIDAYS.** This includes: May 28th; and June 8th.

SPECIAL CLUBS There are still openings for the following after school special clubs:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Swim Lessons
Chess- ADV	Art K-3	Choi Kwang Do?	Capoeira	Music Lessons
	Italian	Art 4-8	Eco-Maniacs	
	Dance K-1	Chess - BEG/INT	Dance 2nd-8th	
	Tennis			

Please pick up a registration form online or from the after school programs bulletin board down the hall from the parent mailboxes.

Please stay tuned for information on these and other activities:

4H, Baseball, Brownies, Campfire, Chinese, Cooking, Crafts, Dance, Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Fitness, Football, French, German, Gymnastics, Harp, History Club, Open Swim, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, Running, Sewing, Skateboarding, Spanish, Spiral Scouts, Soccer, Study Skills, Tutoring, Writing, Yoga, Youth In Government, Zumba

PLEASE CARE WHAT YOU WEAR. Recess will be outside everyday. Except for hazardous weather conditions (lightning, severe storms, wind chill below -10° F), we will always go outside for recess. There is limited indoor space that allows the children opportunities to move around energetically. Children should always dress for the weather. Students must wear rain boots to play in puddles.

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP! Camp is filling up fast. Please reserve your spot soon to join us for a fun-filled summer. Information and registration is available outside the After School & Camp Programs office and at <http://honeycreekschool.org/summer-program>

Honey Creek Community Schools

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Need to submit something to next month's newsletter?

Email submissions to Amber Byers at:
abyers@hc.wash.k12.mi.us
by the last Friday of the month!

We're on the Web!

<http://honeycreekschool.org>