

# HONEY BUNCHES OF NOTES

HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Dear families,

Spring is here, and our break is scheduled from April 6 through April 10. I hope that all of you find some enjoyable family time. When we return from spring break, the Michigan academic testing season will begin. The new assessment, the M-Step, will be given to the various grade levels at different times. The eighth and fifth grade will take their English Language Arts assessment on April 14 and 15. Math and Social studies will be given the 21 through 23. The other grades will take assessments during the following weeks. You will find the entire schedule later in this news letter.

Please keep in mind that we take a low-pressure approach to assessment. All we ask is that students arrive rested and fed. Participation is critical as our funding, academic rating, and charter reauthorization are all dependent on the data generated through this assessment.

Last month I sent out an email regarding immunization waivers. I've recently been informed by Washtenaw County Public Health that they are anticipating a high volume of requests for waivers. As we have large numbers of medically fragile students in our building, I strongly encourage you to immunize your child, but if you chose to waive your child's immunizations, you must make an appointment at the Washtenaw County Public Health Immunization Clinic to speak with a nurse. The clinic is located at 555 Towner Street in Ypsilanti. The phone number is 734-544-6700. All students entering kindergarten or seventh grade or enrolling in the school for the first time must submit either an immunization record, a physician issued medical waiver or a Washtenaw County Public Health issued

## April Events

Mark your  
calendar

April 6-10  
Spring Break

April 17th  
Earth Day

April 22nd

Board Mtg. 5:30

April 24th

Professional

Development 1/2

Day.

MAY

8th

Staff Recognition

Professional Dev.

1/2 day

15th Curriculum

Celebration

5:00-7:00 pm

19th Spring

Performance

21-22 5th grade trip

25 Memorial Day

26-29 8th grade trip

27th Board Mtg.

29th P.E. Play Day

waiver. Students who do not have one of these forms of documentation will be excluded from attending Honey Creek Community School until appropriate documentation is submitted. If you plan to obtain a waiver, I urge you to contact Washtenaw County Public Health to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

Have a healthy spring break!

*al*

### M-STEP Testing Schedule Grades 5 and 8

April				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	14- English Language Arts, Day 1	15- English Language Arts, Day 2	16- Make- Up English Language Arts	17- Make- Up English Language Arts
20- Make- Up English Language Arts	21- Math Day 1	22- Math Day 2	23- Social Studies	24- Make- Up Any Content Area
27- May 1 Make-Up Any Content Area				

### M-STEP Testing Schedule Grades 4 and 7

April-May				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	28- English Language Arts, Day 1	29- English Language Arts, Day 2	30- Make- Up English Language Arts	May 1- Make-Up English Language Arts
4- Make- Up English Language	5- Math Day 1	6- Math Day 2	7- Science	8- Make- Up Any Content

Arts				Area
11-15 Make-Up Any Content Area				

### M-STEP Testing Schedule Grades 3 and 6

May-June				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	19- English Language Arts, Day 1	20- English Language Arts, Day 2	21- Make-Up English Language Arts	22- Make-Up English Language Arts
25- Memorial Day	26- Make-Up English Language Arts	27- Math Day 1	28- Math Day 2	29- Make-Up Any Content Area
May 1-5 Make-Up Any Content Area				

### Literacy Committee

Do you know what your student enjoyed most about March is Reading Month? For many kids it was the "Read In" with High Point, Honey Creek, and Gretchen's House on March 6th. Thanks to Jessica P'Simer, Kristyne Cole, Doug Miller, and Christine Billick for their help that day. A special thank you to Liam McGlohon, Michael Tracey, Anneka Billick, Zach Sabin, Emmy Rhizal, Ana Morgan, Katherine Andrews, Caroline Andrews and Eli Atkinson for your entertaining reading.

Students (and parents) have been enjoying the "Get Caught Reading" posters in the lobby. (Thanks to Tammy Hall for making them!) If you haven't seen them yet, check them out before the April vacation. New posters were added throughout the month, so you might not have seen them all.

March is over, but we are still coming up with more plans to celebrate reading. Stay tuned for news about a used book sale and some fun summer reading plans!

The Literacy Committee

## **Save the Date for Honey Creek's Earth Day Celebration**

Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> is Honey Creek's Earth Day celebration. Parent volunteers are needed to make this day possible. If you are willing to help with planning and/or on Earth Day, please contact Jody Klein ([jodyscout@gmail.com](mailto:jodyscout@gmail.com)) or sign up on the PTO web site <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094daca92faa8-201420151> . Thank you!

Please contact Head Coach, Sara Brintall for more information. Online sign-up is possible by [clicking here](#).

### **Thank you from PTO!**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the teacher luncheons on March 20th and 27th! Whether it was making food, purchasing food, donating cash for the CPK gift cards, or volunteering with the set up/clean up – we appreciate your involvement!

Thank you to everyone who supported the California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser on the 27th. There was a crowd of Honey Creek families at lunch and at dinner. The total raised for PTO by Honey Creek families participating AND the teacher luncheon is \$536.98! Thank you for the great show of support!

### **Happy Spring from the Honey Creek Wellness Committee!**

March's "Farm to School" featured honey from local beekeepers, Sandy and Randy Graichen. The children enjoyed this healthy, sweet treat! The Wellness Committee hosted a second mental wellness event on March 17, following February's Project Happiness movie. Clinical social worker, Carryn Lund, visited the classrooms to speak to the children about stress and anxiety. Dr. Elizabeth Koschmann, research investigator at U-M Dept of Psychiatry, followed up the morning presentations with a talk for parents to discuss helpful tools for children with general anxiety. Please join us for our next Wellness Committee meeting, which will be on Friday, April 24 at 8:30am at Panera Bread on Jackson Rd. We would love input and ideas from our Honey Creek families!

Thanks for all you do to support wellness in our community!



## Honey Creek STEM Committee Report for Honey Bunches of Notes

The Goals of the STEM Committee are to provide curricular support for teachers and enrichment activities for students. We are seeking ideas for Lunch with an Expert: please help us recruit and share ideas with Serena Poli, who is leading the LWE series this year.

Our Science Olympiad (WESO: 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) teams have been formed and have begun practicing. There are many opportunities to volunteer both the day of the event and in advance. Please contact Sara Brintall if you can help.

Our next meeting will be held in April – please look for an announcement coming out soon.

**The Arts Committee** would like to thank the small army of volunteers that helped pull off this year's amazing Talent Night. This event starts early in the year with planning, picks up with the LifeSkills classes in January and culminates with the big event of a dinner, talent show and art exhibition. There is no way we could pull this off without many, many hands.

### Special thanks to...

Rebecca Aikman, Douglas Allen, Shellee Almquist, Karen Andrews, Tim Andrews, Yvette Atkinson, Jon Baek, Liz Barry, Audrey Becker, Lili Boggess, Sherri Borer, Rob Borer, Katie Bush, Cristy Cardinal, Matt Cyrulnik, Adam Druckman, Alex Foulis, Sue Gillett, Karen Giltrow, Hannah Hotchkiss, Sue Hofbauer, Julie de Jong, Lily Jugan, Rachel Kanaan, Emma Kirchmeier, Sue Kirkup, Linda Knox, Karen Larson, Deb Lentz, Scott Mahler, Ellen Meader, Jenna McElroy, Doug Miller, Buddy Paul (lighting), Elizabeth Scott, Claire Sparklin, Shereen Sukkar, Anne Thomas, Chris Untalan, Katie Untalan, Bill Van Loo, Sarah Van Loo, Nadine Wang, Al Waters, James Watz, Cindy Wauer, Catie Wells, Bruce Worden and the many others who stepped up to perform some task right when they were needed!

# Classrooms

## **K-1**

We have begun our final theme unit for the year: My Journey Through the World. During this unit students will focus on the following understandings: that learning about myself and the world helps me to see the patterns in the world and my role within it, that I can make observations to discover world patterns, that when I see patterns in the world I can make informed choices, and that my choices can contribute to creating a just and sustainable society.

We will also learn much more about the severe weather events that each table group is named for and what precautions should be taken for human safety and will also be busy tracking and describing weather and learning about the four seasons.

Our final theme poem for the year is as follows:

*My fourth journey's through the world  
It has sun, seasons, weather, and it twirls  
There are patterns I'll see  
If I know the world's geography,  
Then the world can be  
The best that it can be!*

To wrap up Read-to-Feed, K-1 will be taking a field trip to the Howell Nature Center on Thursday, April 2nd to visit a Heifer Global Village: <http://howellnaturecenter.org/programs/heifer-global-village/> We will be learning about how people get what they need to live in different places around the world, and how Heifer Project works to help families become self-sufficient.

## **2-3**

This month will find 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders finishing up small moments, our narrative writing unit this year. The students are publishing these without teacher edits. We are hoping that this will give us a better assessment of what our children can do as editors. After this unit, we will begin to work on writing opinion pieces.

As readers, we all are building stamina as independent readers, working in small groups on various skills and working to write longer and more detailed responses to our class book read aloud by the teacher.

In math, we are working on projects to help students understand area, perimeter and geometry. Math facts are always on our agenda as well.

We have switched our focus from social studies to science. Our first science unit was properties of matter, and our second unit will be force and motion and the final science unit

will be the energy of sound and light. Our final field trip, on May 1, will have us exploring several of these science topics.

Please continue to read our [blog posts](#) and all emails from Tammy, Salli and Mary to stay up to date with what we are doing!

## 4-5

Later elementary is journeying through exploring new boundaries as fourth graders are antsy for more leadership roles and fifth graders are poking their heads into the world of middle school. Spring brings some interesting behaviors and it's been an opportunity to talk about our values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility through some new lenses. Everyone is stepping up to the challenge of meeting our raised expectations.

In language arts, everyone is busy working on gathering their historical figure research. After break, we will begin turning this research into a five paragraph (or more) essay and start to talk more about the 4-5 wax museum that will take place in May.

Literature continues to be an exciting place. We're more than two-thirds of the way finished with Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry and are busy making predictions and connections. All students will be writing a literary analysis at the completion of the novel.

In Social Studies, we have been sailing through our unit on European Explorers and creating a "Lapbook," (an interactive study guide) to help them make connections to these men and women in history. Our kids have really made the connection as to WHY we spent SO. MUCH. TIME on our geography unit, and how imperative it was making connections to this unit. Look for the final product, along with others from this unit at the Curriculum Fair in May.

We are studying the idea that life has a history in science. Through the study of fossils, we can learn much about how life has changed over time. We were thrilled to have Dr. Serena Poli, Professor of Oceanography, visit with all of the classes! She is a marine micropaleontologist, studying tiny fossils found in core samples taken from ocean core samples. The students were able to look at these tiny animal remnants through microscopes, comparing samples 300 million years old to those only 10 years old from a beach. It was a fascinating opportunity, one the students really enjoyed!. We'll be moving to a unit of electricity to go with the Technology unit about Vibrobots.

Please have a look at our 4/5 website for more information and to download resources!

## Middle School

### Science

CO2 and You!

Students are collecting data about their family consumption and production of carbon-based gases. We are running experiments to see what kind of impact we can make towards being better citizens of our environment, and possibly our wallets!

After this project, we are moving towards a new unit that involves GPS, GIS, and ARC! We are hoping to incorporate technology to study the homes and habitats around Honey Creek. For more information visit us at: <http://honeycreekschool.org/ms/>

### Literature

As March draws to a close, we are wrapping up persuasive writing, and moving into mystery reading. Students will be working in book groups for the first time this year. Also, we'll be working on reading the text closer and writing literary analysis with a new project: companion book writing.

### Social Studies

#### Writing

Students are learning to identify big historical themes from Chinese history (which we have been studying) in primary source documents. They will write a quiz soon where they are given a source quote and must identify the theme and explain their reasoning and understanding of the theme, or where they are given a theme and must discuss (in writing) primary sources we have explored which illustrate the theme.

#### Technology

Students have been creating advertisements of Ancient Chinese Inventions using the LucidChart App. They are focusing on the significance of the inventions and connections to history, and have also been discussing the larger historical significance of the big 4 Chinese Inventions: Paper, Printing, Gunpowder, and the compass.

#### Upcoming Topics

We will do a mini-study of the Communist Revolution in order to provide background for several topics in modern China:

Population Issues, Pollution Issues, Chinese Factories.

### Math

Course 1: has begun a unit on two dimensional geometry

Course 2: is working on surface area and volume of 3 dimensional cubes and prisms.

Course 3: is also working on surface area and volume but of more complicated 3 dimensional objects like pyramids, cones and cylinders.

Algebra: is solving Quadratic Functions.

Geometry students continue to work independently.

## Middle School Boys Soccer

Over the winter a group of soccer-crazed middle school boys thought it would be a good idea to have a Honey Creek soccer team. Led by 8th grader Ben Simon and with the help of Chris Culbertson, they recruited a team that could show it's skills somewhere other than the playground at recess and Honey Creek FC was born!

They played both Winter 1 and 2 seasons at Wideworld Sports Center in Ann Arbor and only lost one game in the 12-13 year old rec. gold division winning the league both seasons! Hopefully next winter we can recruit some girls too and have two coed teams. Thanks to Norman Dannug for his help coaching, Chris Culbertson for getting everything organized and all the parents and friends for their support.

Congratulations Mosiah, Kyle, Riley, Mario, Ezra, Will, Roman, Ben S, Ben B, Andy, Avi, Sam, Talin, Jackson, Robbie, Xavier, Mateo, and Collin. Go Honey Creek!



### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING "EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS:"** April 24th and May 8th. If you have not already registered online, please register by emailing [afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us](mailto:afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us). 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: April 6th-10th; May 25th; and June 10th.

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

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Music Lessons	Music Lessons
Basketball 4-8 (1/12 - 4/13)	Basketball 1-5 (1/13 - 4/14)	Girl Scouts K-8 (12/3 - 6/3)	Indoor Soccer 2-3 - FULL (1/3 - 4/2)	Chess K-8 (1/9 - 5/15)
German K-3 (2/2 - 6/1)	Theatre 4-8 - FULL (12/9 - 4/23)	Black Belt K-8 (1/21 - 4/1)	Theatre 4-8 - FULL (12/9 - 4/23)	Spanish K-8 (TBA)
DIY Studio (TBA)	Spanish K-8 (TBA)	Aerial Silks 4-8 (1/28 - 4/22)	DIY Studio (TBA)	
	Art K-3 (1/27 - 4/14)	Art 4-8 (1/21 - 4/1)	Juggling 4-8 (3/19 - 5/14)	
	Swim Lessons K-8 (1/13 - 4/14)		Field Hockey 2-4 - FULL (4/2 - 6/4)	
	Italian K-8 (1/13 - 4/21)			

Please pick up a registration form 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, Ballet, Baseball, Campfire, Capoeira, Chinese, Cooking, Crafts, Cross Country Skiing, Dance, Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Fitness, Football, French, Gaming, Garden, Gymnastics, Harp, Hip Hop, History Club, Kickball, Korean, Knitting, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, Sewing, Skateboarding, Spiral Scouts, Soccer (K-8), Study Skills, Stunts, Tap Dance, Tech, Tennis, Tutoring, Volleyball, 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 snow pants, boots, coat, hat, and mittens or gloves in order to play in the snow and sled.

### SUMMER CAMP!

**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>

## Board News, April 2015

The board met on March 25, 2015. Board members present: Greg White, Angie Tracey, Christine Kelley, Nina Nabors, Karen Andrews, John Lonsway, Pam Reister, Steve Rich. Public present: Will Hathaway, Karen Giltrow, Al Waters, Shellee Almquist, Sue Hofbauer, Mary Bassett, Dr. Stephen Gill.

### Board Spotlight:

Dr. Stephen Gill presented on the topic of innovation in education, and prompted a lively board discussion about Honey Creek's approach to education and how that readies our students for the new landscape of college and the workforce.

### Director's Report:

--Testing: Al Waters reported on the M-STEP testing that is beginning April 14 and will run through May 15. A schedule of test dates has been sent to parents, and teachers are being as creative as possible to minimize impact of testing on classroom instruction.

--The Marketing committee continues to work with data pulled together from Catchafire volunteer as well as two groups from the UM business school (they will prepare presentation for April).

--Replication/Expansion committee continues to work gathering information on the requirements for expansion, with the support of the WISD. Next steps will involve gathering some data around finances and possible locations.

--Facilities: Randy Trent has been working with Honey Creek to implement a new form to speed up process of responding to teacher-initiated work orders. His crew has also been working to address rodent issues (new weatherstripping, closing gaps and passageways, working with exterminator to properly address issue). Conversation continued around air quality in the classrooms. Al will purchase an air quality monitor and will gather data to bring to Randy. The question of cleaning generally and cleaning air ducts, etc., continues.

### Finance Committee Report:

Angie asked Board to approve updated 2014-15 budget (few new items, include stipends and bonuses); board voted to approve.

--Finance committee asked board to consider asking Foundation for a gift of \$50,000 for this year; after discussion, the board voted to ask foundation for \$65,000 for the school year.

--John Lonsway handed off work on the Honda Grant to Al and Shellee for completion by May 1 deadline.

#### Foundation Liaison Report:

--Foundation has raised around \$37,000 this fiscal year. Work continues around a spring fundraising push, perhaps for a specific set of costs. Sent out update sheet for Pi Day indicating number of families contributing, etc. Also continuing work on donor database and identifying events/third party fundraising opportunities.

--The foundation board has filled the Development Officer position. Sara Britnall will join us in April; a committee is forming to set goals and establish a work plan.

#### Governance Committee Report:

--Waiting for WISD to give feedback to bylaws updates; should be ready to vote on by May.

--Director's evaluation is getting underway.

--Committee provided plan for continued board development, and continues to work on board orientation materials.

#### Communications and Outreach Committee Report:

--Work continues on improving communications among all stakeholders. Plans are in place for middle school transition meetings (for parents), rekindling parent ambassador/mentor program for new families, improving flow of communication, meeting with all stakeholders in fall.

--PTO has approved \$999 in funding so committee can move ahead with a promotional video primarily for an external audience.

--Work is being done on improving content on website, and we are starting to look at Parent Handbook for next year.

#### Faculty Liaison Report:

--Board luncheon/fall retreat: All teachers who responded were positive about interacting with the Board, although there were some mixed reactions to luncheon vs. retreat vs. having Board (or representative) attend a staff meeting. Board recognized these competing preferences, and will plan to move forward as sensitively as possible.

--Mary reported on faculty conversation around Honey Bunches of Notes, and acknowledges that there are mixed opinions among teachers here, as well. Board engaged in conversation around this, with Christine providing some context and information about the goals of the tool. She provided Mary a written summary of these remarks following the meeting. The goal is to keep improving communication within and outside of community.

**Public Participation:**

Karen Andrews read Elka Francisco's email concerning air quality in classrooms to the Board. Discussion around next steps followed, and Board expressed a commitment to continuing to address the issue.

**Board Kudos:** To the vast crew, including Fine Arts committee and other parent volunteers, who made Talent Night so successful. To teachers who so thoughtfully and thoroughly prepared for conferences. To the Wellness committee, for several well-planned events focusing on mental health, for students and families.

**Next meeting:** April 22, 5:30 pm in the Pit. All are welcome.