



Upcoming Events:

- December 13: Honey Creek and High Point Craft Sale and Winter Performance 3:30-5:30pm**
- December 14: PTO Meeting
High School Options Night**
- December 19: Board Meeting, 5:30pm**
- December 24-31: Winter Break**

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Greetings all,

Director's Notes:

I hope that you have had a safe and joyful Thanksgiving break. As we move into December, we can expect colder weather and an increased possibility of school closure due to snow and ice. Should we have inclement weather, it's always a good idea to check your email or the school website for a closure notice. We also notify all of the local television and radio stations as soon as the ISD notifies us of a building closure.

We have several events taking place in December, so if you have not yet marked your calendar, this is great time to do so. The High Point/Honey Creek Craft Sale will take place on December 13 and will be followed by our Winter Performance, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. We have also scheduled our first High School Night on December 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. More details on the event will be forwarded to middle school families via email.

Finally, our state legislature is considering three bills, which will significantly reshape our state's educational landscape as well as our present funding structures. Please take the time to explore this legislation and voice your views to your elected representative. I'll forward a summary of the legislation to the community later this week.

Hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Al

December
2012

S.T.E.M. Committee News

Dear Honey Creek Community,
Calling all Science Olympiad Coaches and Participants!

The Honey Creek STEM committee is eagerly anticipating the 2013 Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO) which will be taking place at Pioneer High School on Saturday, April 20th. Honey Creek will once again be recruiting 2nd - 5th graders to take part on our team! Official event descriptions are now posted on WESO's website: <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/wesowizards/home/home>.

Please take a moment to look at the event descriptions and talk to your child(ren) about participating. We are not only looking for interested students to be on the teams but parents as well to coach them. If you might be interested in being a coach or if your child would like to compete on a team please let Sara Brintnall know at your earliest convenience.

An informational meeting regarding WESO will be held immediately following Winter Break; however, it would be helpful to begin building our teams before then.

WESO is a lot of fun for participants and their families and we would like to encourage all students to consider joining the team.

Have a wonderful break!
Sincerely,

Sara Brintnall
Honey Creek Science Olympiad Team Organizer
sarabrintnall@hotmail.com or
734.327.1206

Fine Arts Committee News

No news at this time.

Phoenix Rising Campaign

There is 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!

Board News

The Honey Creek Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, Wednesday November 28, 2012

Fund Development Committee: Brian Hockley reports the process for completion the 1023 portion of paperwork needed to finalize 501(c)3 status of the Honey Creek Foundation. Once completed, this will lead to greater fundraising capabilities for the school.

Outreach Committee: Nina Nabors report they are actively working on completing the new teacher bios for the web site and she is actively working on the Honey Creek Story which will be used in a variety of ways including promotion of the school as well as fund raising. The committee notes the interest of some parents to represent HCCS at pre-K groups to further educate our local communities about HCCSS school and will help facilitate. The committee also discussed the evolution of Honey Bunches of Notes as a mechanism of communication within the school and will continue to assess.

Strategy Committee: Al and Shell continue to work with Nina on the HCCS Story which Al shared with Steven Nose'. Steven was instrumental in facilitating the HCCS strategic planning process. Al also reports the faculty has been working on a document outlining student expectations for each subject and grade level with the goal to share the information on the web site as well as potential families.

Director's Report: Al reports we received a refund from our liability insurance. The Focus School consultant states HCCS is required to complete two surveys which Al will work on with the faculty. We are in the 4th of our 5 year charter and Al is in the process of assessing the renewal process.

Faculty Liason: Salli reports the faculty remain interested in learning more about the potential development of a management company with regards to process and time line as well as other options the board is assessing with regards to the budget. Al to follow up.

The complete board minutes are available on the HCCS Web site.

The Board will meet next on December 14, 2011 at 5:30 pm in the High Point reception room.

Respectfully,
Kelly Krawcke
HCCS Board Secretary

Curriculum Based Service-Learning:

No news at this time.

Outreach Committee News Coffee with the Director

No news at this time

Wellness Committee News

No news at this time.

PTO News

For minutes from the PTO November meeting, please visit the PTO website:

<http://honeycreekpto.wordpress.com/>

Fundraising update: The Learning Express fundraiser raised \$405, all of which will go towards the non-fiction leveled reading library. Thank you to everyone who participated! The Honey Creek community has raised a total of \$4,017 for the leveled library. This K-8 library is the main PTO fundraising effort for the 2012-2013 school year, and it is a top priority for teachers. The entire cost for the library - purchase and shipping - is \$6,600. We need an additional \$2,583. At the December 14th PTO meeting, the PTO will vote on a proposal to use the Special Projects Committee Budget to fulfill the funds needed for the

library. For 2012-2013, the Special Projects Committee Budget is \$2800.

In accordance with the PTO Bylaws, this proposal is open for community review and comment, as every parent, teacher and administrator is a HCCS PTO member. If you are unable to attend the December meeting, please leave your comments on the PTO website or speak with a PTO officer.

High Point / Honey Creek

Craft Sale: Every November and December, parent volunteers help High Point and Honey Creek students with craft projects. Then, in December, kids and parents are treated to a craft bazaar, where they can purchase handmade items. Prices are \$0.25 and up. Children who would like to make several purchases are encouraged to bring some money from home. (Younger children can ask their teachers to help them keep their money safe.) However, the PTO will give each student a "PTO Buck," worth \$1.00, to use as they like at the bazaar.

The Craft Sale is a wonderful experience, both in making and in buying the crafts. Students have a lot of pride and ownership of their creations, and they love being able to buy presents for their parents and siblings. If you would like to help with the crafting or with the bazaar itself, please contact

Marta England
(englandmarta@hotmail.com)
or Val Mann
(valmannart@gmail.com).

UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

- **Bagel Fridays:** Relax with breakfast at the school on Friday mornings (or the last school day of the week). Bagels, cream cheese and juice, OH MY! There are also toasters available for use.
- **December PTO Meeting:** Friday, December 14th, 8:30-10:30 AM
- **High Point / Honey Creek Craft Sale:** Thursday, December 13th, during the school day

If you would like to add an item to the PTO meeting agenda or have a concern with which the PTO may be able to help, please contact the PTO Chair, Mike Birdsall, m.g.birdsall@mbirdsall.com, or co-Chair Catie Wells, cgbwells@gmail.com.

Scrip News

Hello All,

Thank you for supporting our scrip program - it is such a painless way to raise funds for our school and PTO without you needing to spend an extra penny!!

We will be placing our last order before the holidays on **Monday, 10th December.**

Please let us have your orders by then. You can either e-mail them to us, visit us at the scrip table on Wednesday or Friday mornings or order online at www.glscrip.com. At the website you can see the full selection of cards available.

You can pay by cash or check, or pay online once you have set up a presto pay account through Shop with Scrip.

Please contact us if you need more information to do this. You can also use the website to reload your existing cards or buy scrip certificates to print almost instantaneously. Again, please contact us for further details.

Now that everyone has scrip all figured out (lol), let me tell you about other ways to support the school. These include Reward Cards and Recharge cards. Rewards cards include the Kroger Plus card and the Meijer 1 Card. It's quick and easy to do. Just

obtain your Kroger Plus card from the Kroger Service desk (if you already have one you can use that one- no need to obtain a new one) then enroll in their Community Rewards Program online at www.kroger.com. Select Honey Creek Community school from the list of schools. You will need to re-enroll each year. This program gives 1% back to the school. If you don't already have a Meijer 1 Card you can apply in store, online at www.meijer.com/rewards or call [1-800-962-7011](tel:1-800-962-7011). If you already have the card you can link it to Honey Creek by using the school number 599628. This card gives 0.5% back with cash or pin-debit card purchases and 1% with Meijer Credit card purchases. No money to the school if paying with a non-Meijer credit card. Recharge cards work more like scrip cards except they are refillable. You can buy cards for Arbor Farms at the scrip table (\$20) and then refill them at the store. We also have cards for Hillers and Busch's that have a zero starting balance. Busch's cards need to be linked to a MyWay Account online at www.buschs.com then pick Honey Creek from the Cash for Education school list.

If you have any questions or need more info please stop by the scrip table on Wednesday mornings by the front door or Friday mornings at the bagel sale.

Thank you for helping support our wonderful school with scrip!

Jennifer Alexander and Alex Foulis

jenaalex@gmail.com,
alexfoulis@hotmail.com

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

Early Elementary students have finished up our first theme unit: "My Journey" and are working on finishing our family history projects and life cycle projects. The second unit in our theme is called "My Journey Through School." The second stanza for our Journeys song explains a bit about this unit:

My second journey is through school
I'll make maps and learn to help
because it's cool

There are patterns I'll see if I know
Honey Creek

My second journey is through school
("Honey Creek!")

In this unit students will be learning about how maps can show us where things are in our classrooms and school, how people use maps on their journeys, how we can make observations about what goes on in our school and try to make things more fair and sustainable by doing Academic Service-Learning projects, how germs journey from one person to another to make them sick, and how we can stop them. We will discuss how learning about and observing patterns at school can help us make good choices. We will choose AS-L projects based on our observations of patterns that are not so good for the people in our building and will work together as a level to complete them.

Middle Elementary News

The 2-3s have had two great field trips. Our first trip took us all the way to Lake Erie and focused on the lives of Native Americans in Michigan. We learned that seeds were an innovation that completely changed the lives of the woodland Indians, allowing them to remain in one spot and grow their food. The arrival of Europeans with metal items and wool blankets created another huge shift in how the native people lived in the Americas. Our 2nd trip took us to the Michigan Historical Museum where we toured the museum and experienced an excellent program on the French voyageurs. The students were involved in a great reenactment of paddling a 40-foot canoe and got to see and touch furs and many other artifacts that were traded between the French-Canadian and the Native Americans in Michigan. All classes will be finishing *The Birchbark House* and moving on, in January, to two novels by Janie Lynn Panagopoulos. Both are set in Michigan and help children learn more about the fur trade, French and English explorers (*Traders in Time*) and then the Erie Canal (*Erie Trail West*).

Please take some time to check your child's bathing suit, inside shoe and PE shoe status. Children can grow quickly and the pool eats through suits at an alarming rate. This is about when some children start complaining that PE shoes are too small (or have traveled home) or when bathing suits get too tight or too thin.

We wish you a happy and restful winter break but please sneak in some reading each day!

Later Elementary News

Science:

Fourth and Fifth Grade Science is really getting rocky! Literally, as we are moving into a unit on Geology!

The kids are really fired up about getting this unit off the ground, we are looking forward to learning about the earth's make up, the systems of plate tectonics and how volcanoes and earthquakes play into this system.

Water's place in the system, and the materials that make up the earth are all to come, as well as a focus on fossils and the geologic timetable of Earth. I look forward to lots of hands-on work and projects that relate to this topic.

Language Arts

We are continuing to read *Hatchet*. Students have been working on reflections in class for each chapter. Look for a comprehensive portfolio of their work at curriculum fair. Just a reminder, their adventure book projects are due Dec. 21st ... all rubrics/instructions can be found on Johnny's Literature page on our website.

Social Studies

Students have been building models of landforms out of salt dough in order to show an understanding of how land differentiates from water formations on Earth. This links nicely with Cheryl's science lessons in her geology unit.

4/5 students have also started working on the state projects to coincide our unit on Pure Michigan. More information will be on the website within the week. They are both rather large, cross-curricular projects that will be 'chunked' into smaller assignments for the students. This really helps them see how to practice using their time management skills on large projects.

Middle School News

Social Studies

In Social Studies students have been working in "centers" in order to learn about the Mayan civilization. In general, the classroom is set up with articles, websites and videos for them to view. They then float around the classroom, reading, watching or researching, as well as utilizing their note-taking skills. They also have the freedom to stay at each center for as long as they like and to use whichever note-taking style they prefer. This has worked brilliantly thus far. My role has been to organize the centers, continue to find them informational and interesting resources, and guide them along as they start planning their project. We take breaks to learn about various concepts, like Mayan math, play games, like the deadly Mayan ballgame, and watch videos that cover the ancient Mayan writing. We're going to pick up with the same approach throughout December, except that we'll be covering the Incas and Aztecs.

Look for interactive student presentations on these three civilizations at the Curriculum Celebration in January.

Science

Aloha!
The middle school will spend time "journeying" towards the amazing and tropical islands of Hawaii. There we will spend time understanding the processes of how the Earth created and allowed the islands to develop. From the different geological processes that shaped the islands to the biological areas that make Hawaii a unique place to evolve over time, we will be using our knowledge about watersheds to see it working there. In addition, we will journey to other places (Michigan, areas of earthquakes, etc.) and see how the Earth is being shaped there as well.

Language Arts

As we moved in to Thanksgiving break, we capped off our short story unit, and started reading fantasy fiction. Students are arranged in book groups and have chosen to read one of five titles, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis, *Skellig* by David Almond, *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman, *Gifts* by Ursula LeGuin, or *Puddlejumpers* by Mark Jean and Christopher Carlson. Each class period they meet to discuss the previous night's reading. In addition, we are working on developing literary theories that will culminate in literary essays!

Elizabeth Scott

Mathematics

No news at this time.

Specials News

Art

Our students have been busy at work on some wonderful creations in art class! The K/1 classes are currently learning about line & shape and creating a concentric circle project based off of the work of Wassily Kandinsky. 2/3 classes are beginning to learn about organic vs. geometric lines and shapes and exploring the idea of patterns. 4/5 classes are studying Gustav Klimt's 'Tree of Life' and painting gold trees that are decorated with symbols based off of their memories, favorite things, and hobbies. Middle School classes are learning about printmaking, drawing, and painting combined in a photo-to-canvas transfer project which will eventually become an entire Middle School mural based off of the idea of peace. Elective classes are moving from their painting project to a 3D sculpting project and producing wonderful work based off of their own creative ideas and concepts.

Don't forget that if you are looking for a great gift idea for this time of year, our school's Artsonia site (www.artsonia.com/HoneyCreekCommunity1) is a wonderful place to order gifts with student artwork printed on them! Part of every purchase goes back to our school for new art supplies.

Physical

Education/Swimming

Throughout December, students will be learning about Heart Rate and how they can utilize it for physical activity. They will also complete some physical fitness testing. Students will be given thorough explanations of each task and given time to practice each. In the pool, classes have been working on swimming endurance while improving their stroke ability. All the classes are making great improvements in their form and abilities.

Music

Join Honey Creek Community School on December 13th at 3:30 as we present Dig It! A Musical Tale of Ancient Civilizations. Travel back in time and join inquisitive archeologists, Taki and Tut, and their fossil friend, Lucy, as they explore the wonders of ancient civilization. From the farm laborers of early Mesopotamia and Egyptian mummies who "rap" to a chorus of Ancient Greeks and Romulus and Remus who dream of building a great city.

If your student is in band or choir please have them wear black pants and a white shirt. If your student is in the elementary concert please have them dress nicely. We look forward to performing a great show for you and hope to see you there!

Media Center

No news at this time.

Technology

In 2/3 technology, students have been working hard on their current project, called "kinetic contraptions". Students are learning about the engineering design process and working in teams to build their own contraptions! They are also using the iPads to document their work with photos and videos.

In the Middle School technology elective, students are working on their second major project, which sees them using the engineering design process to create devices that will produce clean, drinkable water. This is a more challenging project than you might expect on a first look, and students are getting a good chance to go through the design process, including testing and refining their designs. We hope to have this project finished in the next week or two.

In the 4/5 technology classes, students have finished their slow motion videos, and we celebrated this by watching them in class during our last session. We were off last week for Thanksgiving, but will be starting a new cross-curricular project integrating technology, language arts, and social studies, based on the "Pure Michigan" ads.

The Middle School technology classes have been finishing up their data collection activities and reflections. I expect all classes to be done by the first week of December, allowing us to start our next project at that time.

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL** BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “EARLY DISMISSAL & NO SCHOOL DAYS:” February 8th; March 1st & 8th; April 26th; and May 3rd. Please register ONE 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: December 24th-January 4th; January 21st; February 18th-22nd; April 1st-5th; May 27th; and June 12th.

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 | Music Lessons |
| LEGO=FULL | Italian | Black Belt | Soccer (2/3)=FULL | Chess |
| Spanish=FULL | Art K-3 | Art 4-8 | R.E.C.E.S.S. (4-8) | |
| | Swim Lessons | Daisies/Brownies | | |
| | | Dance Team (4-8) | | |

Please pick up a registration form from the after school programs bulletin board down the hall from the parent mailboxes. We are still working on offering the following clubs and activities (please contact us at afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us if you or someone you know is interested in coaching/teaching a special club or activity):

4H, Ballet, Baseball, Basketball, Breakdancing, Campfire, Capoeira, Chinese, Cooking, Crafts, Dance (K-3), Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Football, French, Garden, German, Girls on the Run, Guys on the Go, Gymnastics, Harp, Hip Hop, History Club, Knitting, Open Swim, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, Sewing, Skateboarding, Spanish (K-2 & MS), Spiral Scouts, Soccer (K/1, 4-8), Study Skills, Tap Dance, Tech, Tennis, Theater, Tutoring, Writing, Yoga, Youth In Government, Zumba,

PLEASE CARE WHAT YOU WEAR. Recess will be outside every day. 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.

Honey Creek Community Schools

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Need to submit something to next month's newsletter?

Email submissions to Margaret Wessel Walker at:
mwesselwalker@hc.wash.k12.mi.us
by the last Friday of the month!

<http://honeycreekschool.org>