

HBOZ

HONEY
BUNCHES
OF NOTES



Upcoming Events:

- February 8:** Count Day
- February 10:** Professional Development
1/2 day
- February 10:** Ball and Auction 6:30-8:30
- February 15:** Board meeting
- February 20-24:** Mid-winter break

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Greetings all,

Director's Notes:

We have had a number of children sent home with a stomach virus this month, so I hope that you are presently in good health. I also want to remind you that the speed limit through our campus is fifteen miles per hour. Please keep in mind that between Gretchen's House and Honey Creek we have many small children.

Report cards were emailed home earlier this week. If for some reason you did not receive your child's report card, please contact Karen Giltrow and we will provide you with a copy. I expect the state to release MEAP scores sometime in February. This year, the state has made significant changes to the cut scores, which will result in an increased number of students scoring in the not proficient or partially proficient range. The state has estimated that there may be as much as a 30 percent increase in the number of students who score below the proficient cut score. Once the state releases this data, I will forward the Honey Creek results on to you.

Count day is February 8th and will account for approximately 10% of our overall funding. Please make sure your child is present on the 8th. We can account for children who are absent; however, it does require a significant increase in paperwork.

Major events this month include the Honey Creek Ball and Auction and our mid-winter break, February 20-24. Tickets for the Ball are available through the PTO. They can be purchased in the front lobby on Thursday mornings at a cost of \$25.00 each. I hope to see you there.

All the best,

Al

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.

Wellness Committee News

Apples from Al Mar Orchard were featured as the January Farm to School produce of the month. Crimson Crisp, a sweet-tart apple, was voted the favorite among the students. February will feature locally produced dried beans.

Grab & Go Lunches are still being offered on Fridays. Students need to specifically request this meal option. Since many of the younger kids cannot see these lunch bags you may need to prep them to ask for the Grab & Go Lunch. February 3rd's lunch will include a turkey ranch wrap, a whole fruit, a veggie, and a white milk.

Whole fruit is now being offered at Bagel Fridays. A suggested donation of \$.50 per piece is requested.

On February 16, from 6:30-8, the Wellness Committee will host local yoga instructor, raw food advocate, and Honey Creek parent Ellen Livingston to speak on wellness issues. Her talk is titled, "Nature's Way to Vibrant Health for Your Family."

Board News

The Honey Creek Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, Wednesday January 25, 2012

Al reported he has applied for a dissemination grant which will fund further development of HCCS project based-learning practices as well as provide an opportunity to share our approach with the greater educational community by providing training and mentorship to other schools. This would be a two year grant of one-hundred thousand dollars per year to start March 2012. Al hopes to hear soon if HCCS was chosen.

The enrollment meetings were very successful with about 140 applications given out over the two meetings.

The Finance Committee approved a \$400 mini-grant to Bill Van Loo to support his participation in the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association national conference. Bill was part of the conference planning committee. They also approved a \$1000 grant to Cindy Wauer to support a middle school trip to see a production of Eureka, a performance about how math affects our world.

The Outreach Committee has successfully launched the new web site.

The Fund Development Committee is actively working on obtaining a separate 501(c) status to help coordinate and increase the schools fundraising ability. The committee is seeking additional volunteers, including parents and teachers, to share their ideas to make this transition seamless and successful. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 9th at 5:30 in the conference room by Al's office.

The Strategic Planning Committee will present their report to the board for approval at the February meeting.

The Governance Committee continues to work on finalizing the Director Evaluation.

The Board will meet next on February 15th, 2012 at 5:30 pm in the Pit. The meeting minutes are available for review on the HCCS web site.

Respectfully,
Kelly Krawcke, Secretary

Stem Committee News

Lunch with an Expert: A big thank you to Bruce Worden for being our guest expert at January's Lunch with an Expert! Bruce discussed the many ways in which science and art can intersect, and showed fascinating examples of how art can help science and science can help art. The next Lunch with an Expert will be on Feb. 17; the topic will be electronic music technologies.

Science Olympiad: The Honey Creek Science Olympiad teams are taking shape and about to begin preparing for their April tournament. There are still a few spaces open on some of the teams, and the Potions (i.e., Chemistry) team is still in need of a coach. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sara Brintnall (327-1206) by the first week of February. Go Honey Creek Olympians!

PTO News

UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

- Faculty / Parent Ball-Gown-Optional Ball February 10 at Hathaway's Hideaway 6-8PM
- Honey Creek Annual Talent Show Thursday March 29

Food Allergy Awareness

Imagine a long table filled with food at one of our Honey Creek Potlucks. Did you know that for some members of our community, instead of looking like the start of a great meal, that table may look more like a food allergen danger zone for themselves or their children? Please read the following informational article written by our own *Karen Andrews* and learn a little more about this important issue so that we can all stop and think before preparing a dish for a potluck or a sweet treat for a bake sale.

Food Allergies in the Honey Creek Community

As many as 15 million Americans have a food allergy, including approximately 6 million children. At Honey Creek, we believe the number to be over 25 children affected by food allergies. The most common allergy-causing foods are peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, pecans, almonds, cashews, etc.), milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat, and soy. Recent studies showed that 3.3 million Americans are allergic to peanuts or tree nuts.

What are some of the symptoms of a food allergy?

The most common symptom of a food-allergy reaction is hives.

Other symptoms can include one or more of the following:

- tingling in the mouth
- swelling of the tongue and throat
- difficulty breathing
- stomach cramps
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- eczema

Some symptoms or reactions can be life threatening, and repeated exposure to allergens can actually increase the severity of the response. This is why it is critical to raise awareness to eliminate accidental exposures, and your help is needed.

A lot of kids have questions about food allergies. It's great that they want to help their classmates and friends who must always be vigilant about the food they consume. <http://fankids.org/> is a great website designed for kids to understand food allergies and how to be a "PAL" of a child that has an allergy.

A good "PAL" to a child with allergies:

- Knows what foods need to be avoided.
- Does not eat the food
- classmates are allergic to when kids are together.
- Asks questions about what is in food because the allergen foods can be found in unexpected places.
- Always washes his or her hands and keeps the eating area clean.
- Doesn't tease or call names because someone has a food allergy.

- Doesn't try to get kids to eat foods they shouldn't.
- Knows the symptoms of a reaction and how to get help.

As parents, it's also important for us to be aware of the needs of the children in the HoneyCreek community to ensure inadvertent exposures do not occur. Some ways you can help:

- Know what restrictions may exist in your child's classroom.
- Ask questions of the parent of the child with allergies to understand the specifics.
- Read labels to ensure you understand what ingredients are actually in the food or snacks you're sending to school.
- Take extra care when bringing in class treats to understand the needs of the classroom.
- At school events, like Bake Sales, avoid nuts as an ingredient, and if you must include them, wrap each item separately and CLEARLY label the items as including nuts.
- If you are volunteering at a school event where food is served, accept that you must understand all ingredients in the food to accurately answer questions for kids who will inquire about possible allergen ingredients.

Parents of kids with allergies will be profoundly grateful for your help in these simple ways; it can be very scary to send your allergic child off to an uncontrolled environment. What I have found out is that my child's classmates are her biggest advocates and a little education and awareness goes a long way!

Thank you for reading this piece and for your willingness to become more aware.

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

K-1 is just beginning the second part of our integrated thematic unit, "How My Community Works". The last half of this unit focuses on Food Systems. The children will investigate where the food in our community comes from. Using bread as an example, they will learn about the natural and human resources needed to get food from producer to consumer. They will learn about food production and follow bread through the food system from farm to factory to store and then home. The children will get an opportunity to bake bread and participate in science experiments related to bread, yeast, and mold as well.

In Language Arts, we are working on nonfiction writing. The purpose of this unit is to introduce students to nonfiction and procedural writing. All children are experts on some subject matter, and this unit will give them the opportunity to be not only a writer but a teacher as well.

During the first part of this nonfiction unit, students will write their own "how-to" book. The second portion of the unit will be devoted to creating "all-about" books. We will use nonfiction books by authors such as Gail Gibbons to do research on the text structures of nonfiction. Children will be using graphic organizers and planning paper to help them create their books.

We are gearing up for the 100th day of school with our current math unit. Children are learning to compare and order numbers and use the 100 chart to count by 2s, 5s, and 10s. In the math unit we are just finishing children worked on problem solving and were introduced to telling time to hour and half-hour.

Middle Elementary News

Please make sure the check Tammy, Mary and Salli's blogs each week as this is where you will get the most up-to-date information.

We are going to be going on two different field trips, the Leslie Science Center on Monday, April 9th and Hudson Mills Metropark on Friday, May 11th. Salli has set up an electronic volunteer sign up through signupgenius.com. There is no fee associated for chaperones to attend the field trips with the exception of a parking fee at Hudson Mills **but we are asking for a \$16.00 donation for each student to attend both field trips. We would like to collect the money by March 9th and you can send cash or a check with your child made out to Honey Creek Community School.** If you have any problems with signing up electronically, please contact Salli and let me know right away. The focus on these two field trips will be animals and their habitats, wetland discovery and the plant cycle.

This is the time of the year when we start really focusing on math facts. It is hard to do the dedicated practice with the intensity students need in a multi-aged classroom as there are so many different levels. Please make sure that you are helping your child develop speed and accuracy with math facts. It makes the conceptual and higher level things we do in the classroom much easier. The Common Core standards are that 2nd graders can fluently add and subtract within 20 and that 3rd graders can fluently multiply and divide within 100. We are trying to put together a complete and cohesive list of ways to practice math facts and we will be posting these on the blogs as soon as we get this document one.

February will find us digging in to rocks and minerals and science and government in social studies.

In language arts, we are getting back into the routine and building more stamina in writing and reading. Using details is strategy we are using in all types of reading and writing. Good writers use details to help their audience better understand the message. Readers use details from the text to support inferences, predictions and connections they make.

Later Elementary News

Well, we're already into the second month of 2012! Thus far we certainly haven't had much of a winter! Let's keep our fingers crossed that February is kind to us, too! Here's a quick look at the month ahead in the 4/5 classes.

In social studies we'll be focusing on the European slave trade and slavery in Colonial America. I've talked with students recently about the idea of keystone events/concepts in history. There are just certain historical events and issues that have to be understood in order to understand the human experience throughout the years. I've argued that the institution of slavery - in Colonial America, the United States of America, and throughout the rest of the world - is one such issue. It's impossible to understand how the United States was formed without understanding the role slavery played in its formation. Similarly, it's impossible to truly understand our society today without fully discussing and learning about our nation's sordid slave-holding past.

Things that will be discussed during our study of slavery in Colonial America include: The Triangle Trade (people and goods that were traded - and the Middle Passage); The lives of enslaved and free Africans in the Colonies; and the formation of a distinct African American culture in the colonies.

In science students are working on the scientific method by

making paper airplanes. They're conducting test flights and making modifications intended to get their planes to fly further.

In language arts students are continuing to read "Maniac Magee" and discussing topics dealing with social justice and equality. These topics tie in nicely with our current social studies topic. Students are also continuing their work with the six traits of writing.

Throughout the upcoming month students will be focusing on the traits of word choice and ideas.

Please feel free to touch base with your child's math teacher if you have any math related questions. We hope you all have a great start to February! Thanks for all you do for you kids!

The 4/5 Team

Middle School News

Social Studies

We have transitioned from our *Building a Dwelling* project into a unit on homelessness. This fits with the inquiry strand in Social Studies and ties in with our theme of Homes and Habitats. It also is meant to lead into our next unit on microeconomics.

Students will start the unit off by writing a narrative of a homeless person, which will act as a means to share our own thoughts (and biases) about homeless people. We will compile information about gender, race, age, and struggles from the narratives and compare them to national averages.

As we go deeper into the unit, we will begin to look at public policy in Ann Arbor and around the country, which will be the basis of a persuasive essay and debate. The final piece will be a student-run simulation in which parents have to go through a day in the life of a homeless person in Ann Arbor.

Science

Channel 2 News team at Honey Creek Community School will be coming to a viral video near you! These expert weather scientists will be explaining their local forecast at the guest locations all over the United States. Using their knowledge about weather/ climate conditions, and data collected from those locations, these outgoing and enthusiastic meteorologists will make their mark under a lot of high pressure.

Language Arts

In the month of January we are starting big things! We have wrapped up the writing of memoirs, and are moving into the study of biography.

This shift also kicks off our multi-genre project for this year. For this project, each student had to choose a biography or autobiography to read, and in the coming weeks will be producing several genres to represent their study of that person (or cat or horse in some cases). The multi-genre projects last year were stunning, so I am looking forward to watching these develop.

Mathematics

The semester is over, progress reports have gone out, it's a good time to review the progress your student has made. If they're doing well, be sure to tell them; if they're not, problem solve with them to see how things can be improved for the rest of the year.

In **Course 1**, February finds us reviewing/learning/and understanding fraction operations. We will be reviewing addition, subtraction, and some multiplication, and we will be learning (some for the first time) dividing fractions. A new method that we've learned when multiplying fractions and mixed numbers is to use cross canceling. Many of the kids really like it - because they view it as a shortcut. Who doesn't like a good shortcut? Feel free to ask them about it.

Course 2 just began a unit on Ratios, Rates, and Proportions. This unit will take much of February as we will incorporate a dilation project with the new material. Since this year's theme is Homes and Habitats, I'm thinking about making a castle... you'll find out at the next Curriculum Celebration.

You may have noticed your **Course 3** student filming with friends lately... they just finished up a Problem Solving Video Project. Overall, they are very creative kids, I enjoyed watching them work. For February we will be focusing on Exponents and Roots, as well as Percent Problems.

The **Algebra** students just completed a unit on Linear Functions. In February, they will be using that knowledge to evaluate Systems of Equations and Inequalities. This is usually another opportunity for the kids to use what they are learning and apply it to real life - they will be assigned a project using systems of equations to compare and analyze different companies.

Specials News

Physical Education/ Swimming

This past month the lower and middle el have been focusing on manipulative skills. They worked on underhand and overhand throw and catch, soccer kick and trap, and striking with an implement where they tried tee ball, scooter hockey, tennis and pillo polo. The upper el and middle school have been working on designing their own games. In small groups they have to come up with a creative game that does not already exist. Then they present it to the class and the class votes on which game they like best. The game with the most votes is played on the final day of the unit. The kids have really gotten excited about this project and are doing very well. February will consist of approximately 2 or 3 yoga lessons using yoga pretzel cards, Wai Lana's Little Yogi's DVD's and Global Family Yoga's Chill Children.

In the pool the students had a basic assessment of their front and back floats, front crawl and back crawl. Students are expected by state standards and benchmarks to be able to achieve these skills by the end of 2nd grade. Most of our students are surpassing this and many are well on their way. Some of the K1's are moving onto the elementary back stroke and the middle and upper el are starting to learn the basics of the side stroke.

Art

February is shaping up to be an exciting month for the artists at Honey Creek! K/1 classes are finishing up their Keith Haring dogs project, while 2/3 classes are finishing up their project about rhythm, and how it is not only used in music, but also in art! 4/5 classes are working more on their musical instrument drawings and getting ready to add watercolor, pastel, and collage elements to their work. Middle School classes just finished up their printmaking project and will be learning about the art of the Pacific Islands next, and creating a clay sculpture to go along with that.

Middle School Elective has begun a new term, and I am very excited about taking the class on their first field trip to the University of Michigan Museum of Art on February 15th! A big thank you goes out to Bruce Worden and the rest of the PTO Fine Arts Committee at Honey Creek for helping make this trip possible. We are planning on a K/1 trip as well when springtime gets closer!

Music

The halls of Honey Creek are being filled with the beautiful sound of recorders. The 2-3 and 4-5 music classes are making great progress with the recorders. The classes have all successfully learned the first three notes: B,A,G, and also completed our first song: Hot Cross Buns. In the coming weeks we will continue to work with B, A, and G and learn other fun songs using those notes.

K-1 music classes have been learning about whole notes, composers, and jazz. We will continue to build on these ideas in the coming weeks and introduce whole rests.

Band and Choir classes are building on our knowledge learned during first semester and will soon begin working toward our next concert. If you hear any of these groups while wondering the corridors of Honey Creek, please feel free to pop your head in and listen for a moment.

Media Center

No new news at this time.

Technology

In 2/3 technology, students finished the "Engineer's Notebook" project using the iPads. We have now started a new unit called Inventors and Inventions. This unit helps students learn more about the invention process, study famous inventors, and gain a deeper understanding of how the fields of technology and engineering have changed our world. We've started with a fun invention to spark student interest: the roller coaster! Students started with using a computer simulation called WHOAler coaster, and have been working on building actual roller coasters (for marbles) the past few weeks.

WHOAler coaster can be found here:

<http://pbskids.org/fetch/games/coaster/>

In 4/5 technology, students have been working on becoming more expert with several different tools. We started using Google Earth as a way to understand how technology can allow us to learn more about the natural world (lots of connections to the 4/5 social studies geography here!). Over the last two weeks, we've been learning search strategies that can be used to become better at searching the Web for information.

The Middle School technology classes finished a major assignment called Analyzing Technology, where students were required to analyze three different styles of computer mouse and recommend one as the best choice for a school purchase. Over the last 2 weeks, we have started a new unit called Sustainable House Design. Students will be designing and building their own homes, based on a number of factors that include environmental impact, cost, and the occupants' requirements.

The Middle School Technology elective finished the Programming with Processing class, and students displayed their work at the Curriculum Celebration. The new semester's elective has now started, and it is entitled 3D Modeling and Prototyping. This class focuses on the engineering design process, and focuses on using Google SketchUp as a tool for creating 3D models.

Academic Service-Learning:

Greetings!

Our Martin Luther King Day assembly was a big hit! We were fortunate to have three different speakers present from three different forums--Skype, through a letter and in person. Our three guests brought words of hope and inspiration and left many students feeling reflective. It opened up some important conversations. Hopefully many of you were able to participate in MLK activities or acts of service. I would love to share some of these experiences. Please e-mail me jthompson@hc.wash.k12.mi.us with any stories you would like to share!

With this beautiful weather comes a terrific opportunity to spend time outside and encourage your children to practice acts of service! Take a walk in the park and pick up debris left behind, go for a walk in your community and identify areas and/or people who might need extra help shoveling when the snow does hit, be creative and take advantage of this time to be outside without the weight of all the winter gear!

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL** BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “EARLY DISMISSAL FRIDAYS:” February 10th; March 2nd & 9th; 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: February 20th-24th; April 2nd-6th; 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
Basketball(K-3)	Art K-3 (FULL)	Choi Kwang Do	Capoeira	Theater - (3-6) (FULL)
Chess- ADV	Basketball (4-8)	Art 4-8		Music Lessons
	Italian	Theater (3-6) (FULL)		
		Chess - BEG /INT		

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, Art, Ballet, Baseball, Basketball, Brownies, Campfire, Chinese, Cooking, Crafts, Dance, Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Fitness, Football, French, Garden, German, Guitar, Gymnastics, Harp, Hip Hop, History Club, Knitting, Open Swim, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, Sewing, Skateboarding, Spanish, Spiral Scouts, Soccer, Strings, Study Skills, Tap Dance, Tech, Tennis, Theater, Tutoring, Violin, 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.

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>