

HONEY BUNCHES OF NOTES

HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Dear Families:

You may have heard that Michigan recently modified the administrative rules that change how medical waivers for immunization will be processed for all school and childcare programs in the state. The new rules went into effect on January 1, 2015.

From this date forward, parents will need to provide as part of their enrollment paperwork for all students, and re-enrollment paperwork for seventh grade students, one of the three following forms of documentation:

- A completed, certified State of Michigan Nonmedical Immunization Waiver form (obtained through Washtenaw County Public Health)
- A physician signed State of Michigan Medical Contraindication form (obtained through your child's pediatrician)
- A complete immunization record (obtained through your child's pediatrician)

You may be aware that the High Point facility services many medically fragile individuals. For this reason, the Board of Directors of Washtenaw Intermediate School District has adopted the policy that all programs located within an ISD facility will exclude students who do not present one of the required types of immunization

February Events

Mark your calendar

Feb. 6th
1/2 day

Feb. 11

Count Day

Feb. 16-20

Mid-winter

Break

Feb. 25

Board Mtg.

5:30

March

March 13th

Annual

Talent Show

& Dinner

March 20th

and

March 27th

1/2 day for

Student/

Teacher

Conferences

documentation. Honey Creek Community School will begin excluding students for non-compliance with this policy effective September 1st, 2015.

If you plan to obtain a religious or philosophical waiver, please contact Washtenaw County Public Health:

Washtenaw County Public Health
555 Towner St, PO Box 0915
Ypsilanti, MI 48179-0915
(734) 544-6700

You may also find additional information at www.michigan.gov/immunize

Over the next several weeks, I will be contacting individual families if their student's present immunization records are not in compliance with the new rules. At that time I will provide you with the specific vaccination requirements as outlined by State rules. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please feel free to contact me at (734) 994-2636, ext. 2210 or email me at awaters@hc.wash.k12/mi.us .

Stay healthy!

AI

Talent Night – Auditions

K-8 TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS ARE COMING!

This year's 2015 talent show auditions will be held:

K-1 Mon, Feb 9 **6-8** Thurs, Feb 12
2-3 Tues, Feb 10 **4-5** Fri, Feb 13

When: During lunch! **Where:** The Pit (meeting room near the front lobby)

**** One K-8 makeup audition will be held on Tues, February 24** (again, in the Pit during lunch) for students who miss their above audition slot **due to absence**.

BE SURE your child brings their COMPLETED AUDITION FORM to their audition - download the audition form [here](#).

Also – if the act requires pre-recorded music, please email an MP3 to honeycreek@email.com **BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S AUDITION**.

Finally, be sure your child packs all items they need (instrument, sheet music, lyrics, dance shoes, props, etc... costumes/stage outfits are NOT necessary for auditions).

Talent Night – FAQ

2015 Talent Show FAQ!

- 1) When is this year's talent show?** The evening of **Friday, March 13th** – as part of Honey Creek Talent Night, a night of K-8 student talent that also includes a yummy dinner and student art exhibition. With a little help from parents, Honey Creek Talent Night is entirely planned, produced & performed by Honey Creek kids and supports this year's eighth-grade trip.
- 2) What kinds of acts have performed in past talent shows?** Music, singing, dancing, comedy, skits, magic, hula hooping, gymnastics, yo-yoing, spoken word and more!
- 3) How long can an act be?** In the interest of giving everyone a chance (and keeping the show a manageable length), **no more than about 3 minutes please**.
- 4) How many acts can a student be in?** Each student may appear in **ONE act**. Due to Honey Creek's growth, our K-8 talent show has grown, too. To keep the show from running too long, by parental request we're limiting performers to one onstage appearance.
- 5) What are the chances of my K-5 student being in the actual show?** K-5 students will audition for a team of trained 6-8th graders. In the spirit of inclusiveness, we aim to allow any K-5 student who auditions to perform in the show. However, students must be fully prepared to demonstrate their act at the [audition](#) (it need not be perfect) and must present a

completed [audition form](#) at that time (and MP3 file, if needed – see 7 below). Due to Honey Creek's growth, we cannot guarantee a spot for performers who do not complete these steps on time.

6) What about middle school performers? Are their auditions different? New this year, 6-8th grade students will audition for adult Fine Arts volunteers who will choose a select group to appear in the show. Performers will be chosen based on quality and preparedness. This change has been made to help enhance 6-8th grade participation, as interested middle schoolers have expressed their eagerness for a higher stakes audition experience that isn't a guaranteed "in."

7) Our act uses pre-recorded music. How & when do we get this music to you? We need an MP3 emailed to honeycreek@email.com **BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S AUDITION.** You can purchase MP3s from [Amazon](#), [iTunes](#), etc. Or – new this year – we'll purchase MP3s for you for \$5 per song (profits support this year's eighth-grade trip). [Email us](#) for details.

8) Can my student sing along to someone else's vocals? *No.* This year, we are requiring all singers using backing music to use a "no-vocal" (karaoke) version so the audience can best hear performers' own wonderful voices. (We can acquire no-vocal MP3s for you; see item 7 above.)

9) How can I find out more?

Visit the Talent Night Web page at tinyurl.com/hcrocks for ongoing updates. You can also email us at honeycreek@email.com.

Student & Teacher Art Exhibition

Calling All Artists!

As part of talent night, students are invited to submit artwork for display during the performance and the following week. What kind of artwork are we looking for? Drawings, paintings, sculpture, hand-crafted items and photography have been included in the past. Please send an email to drsborer@gmail.com if you have a question regarding something to submit.

What's new? Teachers have been invited to submit artwork this year!

Applications can be found on the PTO website, in Karen Giltrow's office, or on the Fine Arts Bulletin boards in the A-wing. Students can request a copy from Sarah Van Loo, the art teacher.

All entries must be received by Friday, Mar 6th to guarantee inclusion in the exhibition.

K-1

As part of our Fairness Unit celebrating the work of Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights activists, we are reviewing the conflict resolution technique we use at school, called "S-O-S". Students are taught how to use it in the classroom and teachers help them work through the process until they are able to do it independently in most cases. If there is a conflict, students work through these steps:

S = Story: each child takes a turn to explain their side of the story (without interruptions) to the other child. They are asked to look at the other person, and to use a kind voice, a calm face, and "I Statements". For example, "I felt sad when you broke the Lego car I built." "I felt mad because you take those pieces every day and I wanted to use them."

O = Options: Both children propose options for solving the problem. For example, "You could use them tomorrow." "You could let me have them now." "I could give you the piece you want the most and use a different piece on my car."

S = Solution: They settle on a mutually agreeable solution. "Okay, you can give me that one piece that I really want."

2-3

2nd and 3rd grade students will be wrapping up our study of Michigan history with the book Erie Trail West. Our standards have us going up to Michigan becoming a state and then the 4th grade standards pick up from statehood.

A major reading skill in 2nd and 3rd grade is to figure out the meaning of new words. Within our class books, independent reading and small reading groups, students are exposed to new vocabulary and ways to figure out the meaning of new words. Our favorite way is to use context and prior knowledge. Prior knowledge includes all things students now about a topic, character or situation. Context is using the sentences around the new word to help use gain meaning.

We are also starting a unit on writing small story moments. 2nd and 3rd graders are encouraged to really focus in on one part of a story and use many types of details to tell us lots about one thing instead of a little bit about everything. We don't want children to write bed-to-bed stories,

where they tell us everything that happens to them on one day, but to telescope in on one event. Beside the bed-to-bed and telescope analogies, we will also be using a watermelon/seed comparison. We don't want children to write about the whole watermelon but to dig deeper and find a small seed story. Families could help by highlighting small moments in your child's life that would make good stories.

While we are always working on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts, we are also working on the many types of measurement this month. 2nd graders need to be able to estimate, measure and solve problems in inches, feet, centimeters and meters. This includes using these units to find the perimeter of an object. 3rd graders need to estimate, measure and solve problems with grams, kilograms and liters. They also need to measure area of rectangles with unit squares and start to relate this to multiplication. We also continue to build skills in measuring money and time. There are lots of things to measure in 2nd and 3rd grade!

4-5

check out our website: honeycreek4-5.weebly.com

Thanks!

Middle School

For more information visit us at: <http://honeycreekschool.org/ms/>

PTO UPDATE

Greetings to all from the PTO Executive Committee.

What, you may ask, is the PTO Exec Committee? It's a group of parents who have taken on a leadership role working to support the school and community. Members volunteer for their positions and are voted on at the May general meeting. The current officers are:

Elka Francisco, Chair; Janet Sherman, co-Chair; Sue Kirkup, Secretary; and Mary Edlund, Treasurer.

The Chair plans and leads both the general PTO meeting and the Executive Committee meeting, setting the agenda, and making sure that the PTO's calendar of events runs smoothly. The Chair is also the PTO liaison with the faculty and administration of the school. The co-Chair supports the Chair. S/he is usually responsible for Room Parent coordination, and writes a monthly report for Honey Bunches of Notes.

The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at all meetings, maintaining a permanent file of meeting minutes, sending out correspondence and taking care of other paperwork as needed.

The Treasurer, jointly with the other officers, prepares the annual budget proposal and presents it at the first PTO meeting of the school year. S/he maintains all financial records, files required reports, reconciles the PTO checking account, makes payments for approved expenditures, tracks PTO expenses and revenue relative to the budget, and presents budget updates at the monthly PTO meeting. Finally, s/he acts as liaison to the HCCS administrator for finance.

The Secretary and the Treasurer generally serve one - two years. The Chair and the co-Chair positions run for two years, with a new co-chair starting every year. Terms start in July for the next school year. The current expectation is that the secretary and treasurer positions will be open for next year.

The PTO also has three standing committees: Fine Arts, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Wellness. Each of these committees supports and advances the mission of the school and the PTO through programming in support of the curriculum and extra-curricular enrichment opportunities. The chair of each committee recruits and works with their members to make sure that events, such as the STEM Fair,

Talent Show and Harvest Dinner, are well-planned and executed. The current committee chairs are Deb Lentz and Julie de Jong (Wellness), Karen Andrews (STEM) and Sherri Borer (Fine Arts).

More details are available on the PTO website:

www.honeycreektopo.wordpress.com If you are thinking about taking a leadership role with the PTO in the future, please feel free to speak with any of us about these positions. More information will be shared soon via a fabulous bulletin board.

Look for our "Ways to Save" bulletin board near the entrance hall. We will be putting up easy to read and understand (we hope) information about ways that the PTO raises funds while you shop.

The next PTO meeting will be February 6 (the first Friday this month) at 830AM. Watch your inbox for location and agenda!

Save the Dates!

PTO is organizing lunch potlucks for the teachers/staff on two half days/ conference days in March – March 20th and 27th. The 20th is a potluck

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444abab22a75-spring1>

and the 27th is a catered meal from California Pizza Kitchen.

Honey Creek's PTO will benefit from a fundraiser on Friday, March 27th. Watch for more details and the flyer in March.

Donate

Used Books in Good Condition to Honey Creek

PTO is planning a used book sale. Please consider donating your gently used books so that someone else can enjoy them. Once a date is set it will be posted on the PTO web site.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING "EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS:"** February 6th; March 20th & 27th; April 24th; and May 8th. If you have not already registered online, please register by emailing 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: February 16th-20th; April 6th-10th; May 25th; and June 10th.

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
Basketball 4-8 (1/12 - 3/30)	Basketball 1-5 (1/13 - 3/31)	Girl Scouts K-8 (12/3 - 6/3)	Indoor Soccer 2-3 - FULL (1/3 - 2/27)	Chess K-8 (1/9 - 5/15)
German K-3 (2/2-3/30)	Theatre 4-8 - FULL (12/9 - 4/23)	Black Belt K-8 (1/21 - 4/1)	Theatre 4-8 - FULL (12/9 - 4/23)	Sewing 2-8 (11/7-1/30)
DIY Studio (TBA)	Spanish K-8 (TBA)	Aerial Silks 4-8 (1/28-4/15)	DIY Studio (TBA)	Spanish K-8 (TBA)
	Art K-3 (1/27 - 3/31)	Art 4-8 (1/21 - 4/1)		
	Swim Lessons K-8 (1/13 - 3/31)			
	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, Dance, Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Fitness, Football, French, Gaming, Garden, Gymnastics, Harp, Hip Hop, History Club, Juggling, Korean, Knitting, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, 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.

Board News

The Board of Trustees met on January 28, 2015 at 5:30 pm. Board members present: Greg White, Yvette Atkinson, Pam Reister, Angela Tracey, Karen Andrews, Jon Lonsway, Christine Kelley. Public present: Al Waters, Shellee Almquist, Mary Bassett, Rhonda DeLong.

Board Spotlight:

The Board met with Randy Trent, facilities manager for last 1.5 years at WISD. We thanked him for his work so far (replacing floors, fire damage, etc.). Emphasized collaborative approach to WISD maintenance. We addressed concerns around cleaning the building (especially mice/mice droppings, nightly mopping), interruptions from the PA system throughout the day, slippery entry to the modulars, and also concerns about air quality in some of the classrooms. Randy committed to speaking with cleaning staff, weatherstripping to try to remove entry points for mice, and working with the other entities at the WISD to improve the appropriate use of the PA system. The air quality issue is a work in progress. Randy will provide logs so that teachers and students can let him know what problems specifically are encountered, and then he can target cleaning and testing with that data.

Director's Report:

It appears that email issues with Dream Host seem to be resolved. Expansion/replication committee met and reviewed enrollment/demand. Next steps: Feb. 10 meeting, laying out needs for K-8 building, curriculum requirements for high school, and also laying out needs for high school. Al has met with special education staff and implemented a spreadsheet to record all progress made on IEP goals, making data aggregation easier. The University of Michigan Ross School of Business sent out an appeal for projects in which students would conduct a market review; this was accepted and Al will attend the student presentation in April; board members may also be invited.

Immunization regulations: Al reports that the State of Michigan has changed requirements for waiving immunizations. Families seeking religious/philosophical waivers will now need to attend class and have a form signed by health department; Honey Creek will exclude anyone without a waiver for next school year. Compliance goal is 95%.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee Report:

Jon Lonsway is working with Jessica P'Simer on a technology grant application.

Fund balance remains at 15%. The committee recommended reinstating stipends for teachers: board liaison, CSLE teachers, math alignment project. Karen Andrews moved to approve, Pam Reister seconds. Unanimous vote to approve stipends. Board will continue conversation about 2% raise for staff at retreat.

Foundation Liaison's Report:

Foundation donations are nearly the same as they were during 2013-2014 school year.

Foundation is engaged in a lively conversation about the board's recommendation to hire an Executive Director, and may instead opt for a modified position that is less costly.

Governance Committee Report:

New board members: We have two nominees for the board: Steve Rich (parent) and Rhonda DeLong (referred by Yvette Atkinson). Rhonda DeLong, Marketing and Communications Director for University of Michigan School of Public Health, introduced herself and described her experience around marketing and communications, design, web, internal communications and messaging. DeLong talked about her work with School of Public Health especially doing fundraising, honing messages for developing donors. Board thanked her for her interest, welcomed her involvement. Karen and Greg explained a bit about what being a board member is like (time, responsibilities). Al introduced rebranding project as a potential area where DeLong could consider contributing. Discussion followed. Governance committee will vet the two nominees and bring recommendations to the next board meeting. Governance will invite two candidates as guests to the board retreat.

Reporting requirement around reviewing salaries. Committee is reviewing salaries of other charter schools in county; noted that this was not a good market comparator (because of management companies); also look at independent charters in Michigan. Will also look at salaries for other administrators and teachers. The issue before the board will be: what do we want to make of this data?

Board retreat to review goals and set new 90-day goals will be February 7, 8-12 at Gladwin Center.

Board development: We will invite Diana Kern to speak to board, either as Board Spotlight or stand alone training. Karen will follow up with her to bring back options. Also potential for Stephen Gill to do Board Spotlight (innovation in education); Deborah Parizek (from Henry Ford, about monetizing experience). Governance will also flesh out online independent training options. Al has copy of Innovation and Change, and will be glad to loan out.

Yvette would like to have training in what works for independent charters in terms of business model. Karen invited Yvette to do some more research around other potential speakers.

Beginning process for Al's evaluation. Form will be outlined toward the end of March. This year will be an abbreviated evaluation.

Communications and Outreach Committee:

There was a written report in the board packet. Committee remains very active, and has several projects in process.

Faculty Liaison:

One faculty member expressed support for the Wellness Committee assisting with air quality, if WISD leads. Another faculty member expressed extreme concern around mouse problem in A Wing. A third faculty member voiced concern around loud and interruptive PA announcements for High Point. Al indicates that this may be a problem with substitutes on front desk misusing PA system; there is also a need to have more training on the phones. One faculty member responded to Al's question about Workman's Comp claim, declining to do so. Karen Andrews suggested potential of having a committee that could tour facility 2x/year. Al volunteered to make this an administrative committee, Greg White volunteered to serve. Will invite faculty, Wellness, potentially students.

Old Business:

Relinquishment of Title 1 Funds. Al has had communications with the state about relinquishing the funds. Letter has been drafted. Christine moved, Karen supported, and board voted unanimously to withdraw funds.

Board Kudos:

To the faculty and students for their hard work on the curriculum celebration. To the speakers at the two enrollment meeting for giving time and points of view—Rita Hathaway especially for fielding question. Thanks to Will and Rita Hathaway for editing and posting video of the financial state of the school meeting. To Karen Andrews for work on Governance Committee, Christine Kelley for work on Foundation board/communications committee. To Shellee Almquist for work on enrollment process, and for Johnny Thompson for her help with forms.

Coming Meetings/Events:

February 6, 2015 Professional Development ½ Day of School

February 11, 2015 Count Day

February 16th - 20th Mid-Winter Break

Next board meeting will be February 25, 2015, 5:30p.m. in the Pit. Public participation is always welcome! Full board minutes are available at honeycreekschool.org.