

Honey Bunches of Notes

A Monthly Newsletter

January, 2011

Upcoming Events:

- January 17: MLK Jr. day, no school
- January 18: Enrollment Meeting
- January 20: 2/3 Field Trip (see Middle Elementary News)
- January 24: Enrollment Meeting
- January 26: Board Meeting
- January 28: School Improvement, 1/2 day



News From the Director

Happy New Year!

So far, January has been a very active month, and there is much more to come. The teachers have been hard at work preparing your child's Constant Progress Chart (Honey Creek's version of a report card), and they are scheduled to be emailed to families on Tuesday, January 18. If you have changed your email address and not notified the school. Please do so. If you do not receive your child's CPC by noon on Wednesday, please email me directly and I will update our grade book system and forward you your child's report.

I'd also like to remind you that school is closed on Monday, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Many families use this day as a day of service to the community.

Also, we will be hosting a blood drive that day. If you would like to donate blood, please visit the website www.redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code honeycreek to make an appointment.

As many of you know, Bill Miller, The Superintendent of Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) retired in December. The District has engaged the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) to conduct the search for the new Superintendent. The WISD is our charter authorizer, so the selection of a candidate who supports the Honey Creek mission is vital to our school's future. Presently, MASB is developing a candidate profile. There is a brief survey at <http://www.wash.k12.mi.us/adminandcommdept/superintendentsurvey.php> where

you can share your thoughts about the kind of skills, experience, and attributes the new Superintendent should possess.

Finally, January is School Board Recognition Month. When you see Honey Creek School Board Trustees, please remember to thank them for their service. Our Trustees are Simona Golden, Scott Mahler, Libby Sheldon, Carol Borgeson, Patrick Conlin, Brian Hockley, and Linda Knox.

Have a great weekend,

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!

Board News

The Honey Creek Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 15, 2010.

The highlight of December's meeting included a look at Honey Creek's Special Education distribution. Monitoring of our fiscal stability in support of our staff and student achievement was also discussed.

The Strategic Planning process is in full swing as the first focus group, consisting of twelve HCCS graduates, convened on December 9th. Additionally, the Strategy Group held its first meeting on December 14th.

We appreciate the community feedback that was solicited from you at the Winter Performance. Thank you for your important participation.

Happy New Year!

Libby Sheldon
Secretary

Board Kudos

-to the entire Honey Creek community of students, parents and teachers for an amazing Curriculum Celebration! What a wonderful representation of our outstanding community of learners!

-to Sue Huczek for leading ICT work!

-to Salli Kropp and Tammy Hall for attending the ICT training on 12/3/10.

-to Al Waters for working with the IC Team on a meeting schedule that benefits all staff.

-to Helen Hartman for donating games to After Care.

-to Shelly Crundwell for donating hanging folders in support of administrative needs!

Honey Creek PTO

The PTO has decided to alternate the Faculty-Parent Ball with a Family-Faculty Ball every other year. This new event is currently being brainstormed! Please make a note in your personal calendars that the Faculty-Parent Ball currently scheduled on the school calendar for Feb 12 will not be taking place. Stay tuned for information on our Family-Faculty Ball to be held later in the spring!

BAGELS BAGELS BAGELS

Don't forget: you can let your kid(s) sleep in for a few minutes longer on Friday mornings because breakfast is available at school! Stop by the cafeteria on Friday mornings for a bagel, cream cheese and 100% fruit juice for a suggested donation.

Want to be a hero at the office? Did you know you can make arrangements to buy quantities of bagels on Friday mornings? Ask Matt for details by email (jenscg@gmail.com, or matt@elephantearsonline.com) or at the bagel table any Friday morning.

Scrip News

Hello All!

Thank you for supporting our scrip sales this year. Please continue to make any purchases you can with scrip or recharge - it is the easiest way to raise money for our school because you don't need to spend an extra penny! Just make your regular purchases with a card you have bought through the scrip program and a percentage (which varies from 1 to 20%) will come back to Honey Creek. We will be continuing to sell every Wednesday and Friday morning. If that is not convenient for you, let me know, and I can meet you whenever works best for you - I am usually at school every day.

We are pleased to announce that you can now buy Target scrip cards in \$25 and \$100 denominations. Target will donate 2% of the cost of the card to the school - it all adds up! We will keep cards in stock but let me know if you want to order some. Check the website, www.glscrip.com for a list of all participating retailers.

Orders will be submitted on the following Wednesdays: **Jan. 12th**, Feb. 9th, March 9th, April 13th and May 11th. Drop your order off at the scrip table, leave it in the scrip mail box or e-mail your order to me.

Alex Foulis
Scrip Coordinator
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

The K-1 children are engaged in our second thematic unit of the year "My Journey through School". The children looked for patterns in our school community, proposed service project ideas, and they are now in the process of planning and implementing the projects chosen by each class.

The children are also learning how to use maps, how to make maps by making a map of the classroom, and how to use a map of the school to find their way around the school.

In addition, the children are exploring germs' journey through our school. They generated questions based on their observations, read a book about germs to answer the questions, and helped to plan and conduct an investigation about where germs are found in our classrooms!

Middle Elementary News

The big news this month is that we will be taking our first field trip on January 20, 2011 to the Michigan History Museum in Lansing. Our bus will leave at 8:15AM, so please make sure your child is on time and that your child has a sack lunch. We are collecting \$7 for this trip and our other field trip in June. Please send the money in to your child's teacher.

At the museum, we will be learning all about Michigan history, including our current unit of exploration. Children will learn who came to Michigan in the 1700s, why they came and what impact that had on our state. In science, we will begin to study force and motion.

While we are always reading, writing, practicing grammar, spelling and handwriting, January will find us focusing on traditional literature: folk

tales, legends and fables. We have been reading many legends by Kathy-jo Wargin and will begin to try writing our own legends. All classes will be listening to Traders in Time, by Janie Lynn Panagopoulos. This exciting author has also written many other historical novels about developments in the Great Lakes region.

In math, we will begin to explore geometry and fractions. These topics are always fun and children enjoy finding how these topics are all around us at home and in school.

Please make sure your child has warm, winter gear for outside play and slippers or other shoes for use in the classroom. Wearing wet boots in the classroom makes for muddy, messy conditions.

Later Elementary News

Happy New Year all you wonderful 4/5 families! Another year is behind us and a new and exciting one has just begun! We've got lots of fun and exciting things to look forward to during our second semester. Here's a brief look at the month ahead.

In social studies we're starting a unit on civics and government. The timing for this unit couldn't be better - with the swearing in of the 112th congress, a new administration in Michigan, and new federal and state legislative sessions just beginning, there will be ample opportunity to connect classroom topics to actual political events. We began our unit by thinking about questions political scientists ponder about government in the United States. From there we'll begin to familiarize ourselves more with the three branches of government, and the U.S.

Constitution's defining role in that government. Students will examine the first three articles of the Constitution, and they'll work in groups to better define those articles

and therefore come to a better understanding of each branch of government. We'll continue to focus on the idea of checks and balances, and we'll attempt to understand the thoughts and the rationale behind the creation of the Constitution. Why did our Founding Fathers create these three branches? Where did their ideas come from?

In language arts students are making their way through the book, *Hatchet*. Students have been asked to draw pictures, write about, and describe their feelings about different chapters throughout the book.

In science, students started a new unit on body systems. The first system kids learned about was the digestive system - always an interesting topic for 4/5's! Stay tuned as kids continue their journey through the human body. Just a quick reminder, Teresa is still very interested in hearing from any potential human body experts! As her earlier email stated, kids will be "touring" the circulatory, respiratory, skeletal, muscular, nervous, and excretory systems (along with digestive)... so if your area of expertise somehow overlaps with one of these body systems - and if you have any extra time in your schedule - please don't hesitate to touch base with Teresa!

Please feel free to contact your child's math teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding math.

Again, we hope this new year is off to a spectacular start for everyone! Thank you all, once again, for the generous holiday gifts and the kind well-wishes over the winter break. Thanks for all you do for your kids each and every day!

Warm regards,
The 4/5 Team

Middle School News

Language Arts

The month of December brought immersion in the 1700s as we continued to study historical fiction, partnered with Joe's unit on the American Revolutionary War. Students participated in literature circles, and posted their discussions on their chosen novels on our class' Moodle website. I look forward to using Moodle again in the future! It was a really interesting way to have larger book discussions between middle school students.

Just before winter break, students had two major projects they were working on. First, they were writing their own historical fiction by doing the "Create a Character" assignment. This was a joint assignment between Social Studies and Language Arts. They were really interesting to read!

Second, they created reader response projects, and many students went beyond expectations and posted their projects to websites! They did some amazing work!

As we move in to January, students will be given more choices as we start a readers and writers workshop unit. Each student will choose their own novel to read, and will participate in daily writing invitations, that will turn into their first choice draft. I am really looking forward to seeing what sorts of writing they produce given a little more latitude!

Social Studies

Students will be wrapping up the unit on the Revolutionary War, so that at the semester changeover we will begin fresh with a unit on the Constitution. This unit will look at the historical process behind the creation of the Constitution, as well as the application of it today. Once that unit is finished, we will begin studying the challenges America faced in its early years in a unit called The New Nation.

Science

Lights! Sound! As we move into the new semester, middle school students will be investigating how light and sound energy work. Although we encounter sound and light everyday, we often don't think about the science that explains what happens. For students, music and media are often concrete examples and experiences of both sound and light that they encounter on a daily basis. While we learn about the characteristics of both sound and light, we incorporate that knowledge into a project that will hopefully please the senses.

Mathematics

Back in the saddle again... After a nice long winter break, and the end of the semester, all classes are beginning new topics in January. Here's a quick synopsis of what to expect in January:

Algebra is embarking on a quest into functions. Defining what they are, what they are not, and the many different ways they look when graphed.

Course 3 is will be able to answer questions about populations and sample groups as they will be studying Data and Statistics.

Course 2 is beginning a multi-chapter section on basic Algebraic concepts.

Course 1 is moving from fractions to decimals and percents and how they all relate, as different ways of expressing parts of a whole.

Music

Thank you to every one who attended the winter performance of *Joust! A Medieval Musical!* It was a great success and so much fun to see the production. I hope you will join us again in May for our spring performance.

Until then music classes will be working on recorders in 2-3 and 4-5. K-1's will be learning about composers and jazz music. The bands and choir will be working from our music books for a few weeks so they can learn more notes and rhythms to prepare them for the next challenging set of music.

Physical Education/ Swimming

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break! This month in PE, the whole school will be practicing yoga. From yoga videos to yoga pretzel cards, Honey Creek students will be working on their yoga postures to help increase flexibility!

In swimming class, the 4/5's will be focusing on their breaststroke. 2/3 classes will continue perfecting front and back crawl. K/1 students will be continuing to work on being comfortable floating and kicking on their backs and surface diving for toys.

Art

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a fun and relaxing break! The kids are starting some wonderful projects this semester and I hope they will be as excited about them as I am! K/1 classes are learning about texture, and how to take materials normally used for 2D art and turn them into 3D art. They are using construction paper and techniques including cutting, folding, tearing, layering and twisting to create a paper "sculpture."

2/3 classes are making their own scratchboard using crayons, tagboard, and black paint. They will be creating animal drawings to scratch away the black paint and reveal their crayon designs underneath.

4/5 classes will be starting tessellations, by creating their own designs, and studying the work of M.C. Escher. Middle School classes will be taking their Pop Art unit to the next level by collaborating with each other on a Jasper Johns inspired alphabet and number project. All of their projects will be displayed together in one large middle school art piece. I also wanted to mention how proud I am of my elective students for completing their abstract paintings on canvas with such maturity, feeling and growth.

Congratulations!! I am looking forward to the next group of elective students, and many more creative projects.

Also, our Artsonia site has been doing wonderfully and it is thanks to all of the parents, family, and friends who participate. We recently earned \$75 toward new art books, markers, and other supplies for the upcoming projects. Thank you all for your support!

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “EARLY DISMISSAL FRIDAYS:” January 28th; February 11th; March 4th & 11th; April 22nd; and May 6th. 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.

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
Dance?	Italian	Choi Kwang Do	Basketball 4-8	Swim Lessons
	Basketball K-3	Theater		Dance?
	Photography			

Please pick up a registration form from the after school programs bulletin board or online. **IMPORTANT:** You must give 30-day written notice to change/cancel your regular after care schedule. You may email your changes to: afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us.

4H	Basketball	Chess	Baking/Cooking	Baseball	Music
Writing	Drums	Football	Yoga	Swim Lessons	Art
Gymnastics	Knitting/Sewing	Violin	Crafts	Fitness	Theater
Orchestra	Tech	Study Skills	Soccer	Tutoring	Scouts/Campfire
Dance (ballet, hip hop, international, tap)	Language			Rockets & Robotics	
Lessons (Chinese, French, German, Spanish)					

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.

ACADEMIC SERVICE-LEARNING

Many students have been hard at work contributing to their communities. As always, although it is never about doing it for recognition, we do ask students to fill out AS-L logs so that we can track the number of hours Honey Creek students are putting toward service for others. Blank forms are available outside of the aftercare office and can be turned into the same place or placed in Johnny Thompson's mailbox.

We are hosting this blood drive as one more opportunity for service for our Honey Creek families. Students are being taught about the importance of donating blood and asked to help recruit adults to give at our drive on Martin Luther King Jr. day. We hope to see you there!

Honey Creek Community Schools

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We're on the Web!

<http://honeycreekschool.org>

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!