

# HBOZ

HONEY BUNCHES OF NOTES



## Upcoming Events:

- January 13:** Curriculum Celebration, 5:00 - 7:00pm
- January 16:** MLK Jr. day, No School
- January 17:** Enrollment Meeting, 5:30 - 7:30pm
- January 23:** Enrollment Meeting, 5:30 - 7:30pm
- January 25:** Board Meeting
- January 27:** School Improvement, 1/2 day & Records out to families

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Dear Community,

## Director's Notes:

Happy New Year! With the onset of 2012 there are many events occurring at Honey Creek. Our Winter Curriculum Celebration will be taking place this Friday, January 13, from 5-7 pm. This year, we will be filming parts of the Celebration to augment our outreach efforts.

We will also be celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday the following Monday, January 16. School will be closed, and many of us will be celebrating by providing community service in honor of Dr. King.

If you have friends who are interested in sending a child to Honey Creek, we have two enrollment meetings planned in January, one on January 17, and one on January 23. Both will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Enrollment meetings are the first step in enrolling a child in Honey Creek. Attendance is required to participate in the open enrollment process.

On January 27, school will dismiss at 12 pm. The faculty will be participating in professional development on that afternoon. Additionally, Continuous Progress Charts (CPC) will be emailed to parents on that day. If you need a paper copy of your child's CPC, please inform Karen Giltrow.

Have a great 2012!

Al

# January 2012

## 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

Thank you for supporting Honey Creek through the Scrip process during this holiday season.

## Wellness Committee News

**There has been no reported news at this time.**

## Board News

**There has been no reported news at this time.**

## Stem Committee News

The Honey Creek STEM committee is eagerly anticipating the 2012 Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO) which will be taking place at Pioneer High School on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. 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. There will be an Event Coach meeting at Lawton Elementary on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 or 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in coaching is requested to attend.

An informational meeting regarding WESO will be held soon, 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.

Sincerely,  
Sara Brintnall  
Honey Creek Science Olympiad Team Organizer  
[sarabrintnall@hotmail.com](mailto:sarabrintnall@hotmail.com) or  
734.327.1206

## PTO News

At the morning assembly on December 9th, the PTO joyfully handed out medals and T-shirts to students who worked hard and made the Inaugural Walk-and-Run-Athon such an enormous success. The product of that effort, a check to help in purchasing the iPad cart, was presented to Al and the School.

Planning and organizing for the Auction and "Ball" is going on this month - if you can help out, let us know. Make sure to mark your calendar! (February 10th)

### **BAGELS BAGELS BAGELS**

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.

# 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

This month in Early Elementary, we started our integrated thematic unit, “How My Community Works”. In this unit, the children continue to explore the concept of systems. They are working toward understanding that their community is a system, they are part of many interconnected systems, including the food system and the economic system, that when something happens in one part of the community system it affects other parts of the community system, and that improving one part of the community system can improve the dynamics of the whole community system.

We begin this theme with a Fairness unit, in which the children learn about different kinds of discrimination (based on ability, gender, age, and race) and how people work together to overcome discrimination to make communities fair for all members. We are reading biographies about people who fought for civil rights in the US, and we will end the unit with an art project in which students share their dreams for the world after learning about Martin Luther King Junior’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

The next part of “How My Community Works” will be a unit on Food Systems. In this unit, 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 (relating it back to the field trip to Tandre Farm and their experiences planting the school garden) and follow bread through the food system from farm to factory to store and then home.

At the end of the unit, the children will learn about where the food for our hot lunch program comes from and use maps to discuss the environmental impact of food being shipped from far away. They will use graphic data to analyze the nutritional value of hot lunch foods and learn how that information can help them to make healthier choices at lunch. The unit will culminate in the children coming up with ideas for a related Academic Service-Learning project that will be carried out by the end of the school year.

## Middle Elementary News

We hope we’ll see all our families at our Curriculum Celebration on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure you are checking Mary, Tammy and Salli’s blogs each week as this is where you will get the most up-to-date information for each classroom.

This month, we will finish our playground projects. Students will have built their model playgrounds, keeping in mind the needs of the different communities in our building (social studies). On the playground, all students were required to have different

landforms and to consider how these impact the human-made structures (science). Many measurements will be made at the end of our planning and during the building of the structures (math). After reading about communities in general, students will write and put together a nonfiction article about their playgrounds with multiple text features (language arts).

Along with the measurements on our playgrounds, we will also start doing more geometry and fractions in math. Math skill groups will start back up in mid-January.

Once the Curriculum Celebration is over and the playground models are sent home, we will continue to work within this theme. One of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade requirements in social studies is to have students identify and write about a public issue in the local community. A requirement in the English language arts is to have students write a persuasive essay or letter. We will be combining these and having students identify a problem with our current playground, create a solution and write a persuasive piece addressing why their solution makes good sense. It is not likely that huge, structural changes will happen on our playground, but we do want students to start to see how they can be a part of changing things to benefit all members in a community.

## Later Elementary News

Happy new year from the 4/5s! We hope everyone had a great holiday season and that this new year is starting off well for everyone! We're looking forward to an exciting and fast paced start to 2012! Here's a quick look at what's on tap in the 4/5 classrooms.

In social studies, students completed their MR. HeLP geography posters in preparation for the winter curriculum celebration. As we look forward to the rest of the month, students will continue their study of early American history. Over the past several weeks, students learned a bit about the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown, paying particularly close attention to what this settlement meant for the Native Americans living in that region. We'll continue to explore this early European presence in North America by examining the geography of the southeast, mid-Atlantic, and northeast regions of the continent. Students will look at how geography influenced European settlement decisions in each of these regions, and they'll learn about the economic practices of Europeans in these different regions. Students will also learn about early colonial governmental structures in each of these regions. As we continue to examine European colonization of the North American continent, we will continuously explore the following essential question: What did all of this mean for the Native

Americans?

In science, students wrapped up their biomes projects in preparation for the winter curriculum celebration.

In language arts, students began the new year by presenting their fantasy scrapbooks. Wow! It was amazing to see how hard everyone worked! We will be beginning our new class novel, Maniac Magee, by Jerry Spinelli, in mid-January. This is a book that fits into the new genre of tall tales, myths and legends. It also has a story line that provides a foundation for our February work discussing racial issues.

Interspersed with reading from our class novel, students will explore several different, short, tall tales, myths and legends. A final project for this unit will be for every student to choose one of these short stories, re-read it several times, choose a character in the story and, dressed as that character, retell the chosen story for his or her classmates. Look for this video at the spring curriculum celebration!

Again, we wish everyone the best for a happy new year! We're looking forward to a productive start to 2012 in the 4/5s!

# Middle School News

## Social Studies

In Social Studies we have finished up our very thorough unit on Cambodia and will be putting on a simulation at the upcoming Curriculum Celebration. All are welcome to join us.

Our next project is a bit of a transitional project, which requires students to build either a rural or urban Cambodian dwelling. This fits with our theme this year, Homes and Habitats, but it also connects two units: Cambodia and Homelessness. The latter will begin in the middle of January and will involve another simulation sometime in February.

## Science

Weather or not, here it comes!

The middle school science classrooms are investigating the weather we are experiencing in Michigan now, as well as what happens when different fronts move by our region. In understanding the science behind it, students will become proficient weather forecasters. Soon you might see these students on a weather report for HCCS Channel 2 news!

## Language Arts

Through the month of December, we held our first literature circle groups both online and in person. Students were able to choose between one of two books about Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge. While many students chose to read *Alive in the Killing Fields* by Nawuth Keat, quite a few read *The Clay Marble* by Minfong Ho. Great discussions took place about overcoming adversity as well as survival and loyalty. It was a great round of discussion! Also, thanks to the generous donations from parents, we were able to reduce the cost of the books from over \$1000 to just under \$200. Thanks, as well, goes to Nicola's Bookstore for providing her educator discount to the parents purchasing books for the school.

As we move into January, we are finishing up our written memoirs, and will be starting on our biography project. Each student will choose a biography to read, and students will be doing multi-genre projects based on the person they have studied. The multi-genre projects we did last year were fascinating, and I am excited to see these as well!

## Mathematics

We return to school with most of the projects completed and ready for Curriculum Celebration on Friday, January 13! Good work, kids. A new semester begins this month with an even more productive pace anticipated.

In **Course 1** we will continue our work with fractions, this time reviewing, learning, and mastering the four operations (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing) with fractions and mixed numbers.

**Course 2** will be getting an introduction into functions, as well as exploring patterns as they relate to functions.

In **Course 3** we are trying out a new project... and math video. The kids will be asked to choose a problem and film a creative video of it's solution. Which reminds me... I may be asking for a volunteer judge or two.

In **Algebra** we are really getting deep into linear functions; learning all the "forms," you remember  $Ax + By = C$ ;  $y = mx + b$ ;  $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ ; etc.

Isn't math great!?

# Specials News

## Physical Education/ Swimming

I hope everyone had a wonderful break! 2012 is a new year and now is the time to get motivated to live healthy! We will continue to work with that in mind during PE/Swim, where we are learning how to stay healthy for a lifetime.

Honey Creek swimmers have been doing a phenomenal job in the pool, working very hard and becoming very strong! Upcoming, in January, swimmers will be focusing on the side stroke in addition to all other strokes they have been working on this year.

PE has been fun this month, with the older classes learning a new game called Rookie Rugby, and the younger classes focusing on movement concepts. In January, younger grades will focus on manipulative skills while older grades focus on creating their own movement sequences in small groups.

Please come check out a fabulous slide show at the Curriculum Celebration on January 13th. There are many pictures of what your child has been up to in PE and Swim classes.

## Art

K/1 classes are beginning the New Year by learning about the work of Keith Haring and focusing on his dogs. They are learning how with simple shapes and lines, we can "build" a picture.

2/3 classes are learning more about abstract and organic designs and focusing on the design concept of rhythm.

4/5 classes are beginning a project which combines art and music together. Students are learning about drawing musical instruments and will make a collage with their drawings.

Middle School students are working on their printmaking project and will be printing designs on fabric in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you again to all of the parents, friends, and family members who have visited the artsonia website over break and left comments and made gift purchases. I know everyone is as proud of our student's artwork in the first half of this school year as I am!

## Music

Thank you to everyone who came to our Winter Performance. The students did a fantastic job and had a lot of fun performing for everyone. In the music classes we will now move on from our concert music and begin new units. The K-1 students will be learning how to read music and recognize simple rhythms. 2-3 and 4-5 classes will be learning to play recorders. Band students are going to be studying our lesson books and learning new notes so we can play more challenging music. Choir has many new songs, so they will be working on how to sing as a group.

## Media Center

We've been busy here, keeping up with Middle School students' research projects, voracious readers, and cataloging new books! The collection continues to grow with items needed to support our curriculum, and with pleasure reading for students across the grade levels.

We now have six computers available for research, and they are very well used. Students are finding the Media Center's home page helpful as they do projects; books, databases of articles and eBooks, and web site advice get them started in a one-stop-shop fashion. We continue to add web sites both to our home page and in our catalog, where they can be looked up by subject, just like books.

Since we have more students eager to work on research projects and homework during recess, we have slightly changed our procedure for that time. Students who intend to read or do work are asked to get a pass in the morning from their base class teacher. Passes are given to Marion when they come in. Our talkers and hangers-out now have their space in the cafeteria, where noise and distraction don't matter. Please remember that the Media Center is grateful for donations of books. We keep a wish-list on Amazon.com for

those items we could especially use for curriculum support. To make finding this list easy, we've included a link on the Media Center's home page to it, found near the bottom of the page.

Thanks to everyone who supports the Honey Creek Media Center! We appreciate you! Here's to a happy New Year! Marion

## Technology

The 2/3 technology classes have been working on a project called "The Engineer's Notebook", combining design and building with using the iPads. In this project, students have been working on designing a simple idea using DoodleBuddy (an iPad app), then gathering the pieces for their project (either Lego or K'Nex), and documenting their building process using the iPad's camera. Once the building process is complete, they are creating a notebook documenting their experience using Pages on the iPad. This has been a great project and I'm excited to show this work during January's Curriculum Celebration.

After finishing work on their Scratch projects, the 4/5 technology classes were introduced to our newest technology asset, the iPad cart! We've had several sessions for students to learn how to use various apps, including iMovie

on the iPad (which is a great tool for quickly putting together a video with multiple clips, music, and easy transitions between segments).

The Middle School technology classes are currently wrapping up a project called "Analyzing Technology". In this unit, students are given the hypothetical situation that the school must replace all the computer mice in use, and are given 3 options. Students are required to research the 3 choices, and write a convincing argument for one of the 3 choices, based on 4 points of data (including cost, student preferences gathered from classmates, and other data of their choosing).

The Middle School technology elective, Programming with Processing, is wrapping up, as the semester winds to a close. Their final work for this class is to choose their 3 favorite pieces of work to assemble into a digital portfolio, which will be shown during January's Curriculum Celebration.



## Academic Service-Learning:

This is a time of year when many people are feeling thankful for what they have and looking for ways to share their time, talents and material belongings with others. So many great deeds go unseen at Honey Creek, but I want to bring attention to the fact that, though many in our community are quiet helpers, we have an inordinate amount of generous souls. Many thanks to all who made donations this month! Between Food Gatherers, a drive to help a school in Tanzania and the time and effort that went into both the winter performance and craft sale, the collaborative effort of our community is astounding. Especially at this time, it is beyond impressive that our small community is able to do so much!

Honey Creek hosted a blood drive on January 10th, 2012. The hours were 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and the WISD is kindly allowing us to use their seminar rooms 1 & 2 for a comfortable location! Honey Creek students greeted donors and helped with recovery, food and juice. We went way past our goal last year so they upped our target this year (to 60 participants!). It would be great to see them need to increase the target again next year. I would like to send out a BIG thank you to all family, friends, and community members who were able to come by the blood drive! Thank you, as well, to all students who volunteered their time.

Also, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is coming up January 16. We are having a school-wide assembly on Friday, January 13 to honor the work done by Martin Luther King Jr. and the many others who have worked toward creating a better world.

We have Monday off of school in honor of King's legacy. One way we encourage our community to celebrate this day and give back is by committing themselves to some act of service on this day. This day of service is quickly approaching. Start thinking about what your family can do and how you'll reflect on that activity. There are always many free community events at Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti libraries as well as throughout our county.

Monday, January 16, 2012 at 10:00 AM the University of Michigan Detroit Center will be hosting events in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Thank you sincerely for all you do to foster our culture of service at Honey Creek.

## After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL** BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING "EARLY DISMISSAL FRIDAYS:" January 27th; 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: January 16th; 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          | Choi Kwang Do | Capoeira      | Theater - (3-6) |
|                 | Basketball (4-8) | Art 4-8       |               | Music Lessons   |
|                 | Italian          | Theater (3-6) |               |                 |

Please pick up a registration form online or from the after school programs bulletin board down the hall from the parent mailboxes. IF YOU INTEND TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THESE CLUBS, PLEASE HELP US SEND YOU A CORRECT INVOICE ON JANUARY 1ST BY SENDING US AN EMAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO: [afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us](mailto:afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us).

**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](mailto:abyers@hc.wash.k12.mi.us)  
by the last Friday of the month!

We're on the Web!

<http://honeycreekschool.org>