

Honey Bunches of Notes

A Monthly Newsletter

June, 2011

Upcoming Events:

- June 2:** 2/3 field trip to Kensington Metro Park
- June 3:** P.E. Play Day/picnic
- June 7:** 4/5 field trip to downtown Ann Arbor for a team photo scavenger hunt
- June 9:** Graduation
- June 10:** Last day of school, 1/2 day
- June 14:** Last day for teachers
- June 22:** Board Meeting



News From the Director

Greetings,

Summer and the end of the school year are rapidly approaching; however, we still have two major events on our calendar. PE Play Day is this Friday and will begin at noon. This is an afternoon of fun-filled activities, so I hope that you will be able to join us.

Also, our eighth grade graduation ceremony is on Thursday, June 9, at 5:00 pm. All are invited, so please come and help us celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates.

Once again I'd like to thank all of you who participated in the Sweet 15 competition. Your repeated efforts secured Honey Creek a third place finish and a check for ten thousand dollars. We've received a few suggestions about how we might use the money, but have not yet made a decision. If you have an idea, please feel free to email me.

Terra Nova scores have arrived and parent reports will be distributed to the base class teachers later this week. You may pick up your child's scores from his or her classroom teacher beginning on Monday. The table below provides the scores in both national percentile (NP) and scaled scores (SS). The national percentile will tell you how the class performed when compared to other students across the nation. The scaled score is a score out of 1000 and can be used to compare class or individual performance from year to year.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer,
Al

		Reading	Language	Math
Grade 2	NP	74.4	46	75.5
	SS	636.4	610.3	589.7
Grade 3	NP	69	52	60
	SS	631.6	609.6	623.9
Grade 4	NP	74	72	64.5
	SS	659.8	651	643.4
Grade 5	NP	71	69	68
	SS	668.1	661.3	663.1
Grade 6	NP	64	75	65
	SS	685.7	679.1	671.8
Grade 7	NP	81.3	81.5	68.5
	SS	691.7	686.7	694.6
Grade 8	NP	75	72	87
	SS	699.8	694.5	725.3

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!

PTO News

BIG Thank-Yous go out to our Wellness and STEM Committees for hosting a wonderful Earth Day celebration and a fantastic STEM Fair!

Both of these events require a huge amount of planning, work, coordination and volunteerism. The Earth Day celebration was a big hit, with numerous activities, and if I remember right, the Wellness Committee even arranged for some respite from our wet wet spring and brought in some sunshine for the day.

Also, while we are thanking Wellness Committee members for their hard work, I'd like to say that the ongoing Farm to School programs and Try-It Tuesdays are really fun for the kids. As a parent who recently heard that her own kid was convinced to try a new vegetable dish on asparagus day, I want to say I personally appreciate it too! Plus, volunteers organized by the Wellness Committee helped distribute flowers for the High Point/Honey Creek Flower sale. AND the Wellness Committee is hard at work on the Edible Garden. If you want to be involved with that project, contact Sara Brintnall.

The STEM Fair was also a big hit again this year. The entire STEM Committee worked so hard on this event, but it could not happen without active participation from the kids and families who spend some

extracurricular time on voluntary STEM themed projects. The STEM Fair is a great way to showcase these projects, have fun and learn something in the process. A big thank you goes out to Nadine Wang as STEM Committee Chair and also to the other parent volunteers for the event, Sharon Paskus, Anne Dimitry, Cheryl Quinn, Michele DeYoung, Alicia Schuster, Karen Andrews, Scott Mahler, Shannon Davis, Sara Brintnall, Doug Noll, Cecilia Fellon, Wayne Potter, Alex Foulis, Liz Barry, Joan Sitomer, Veronica Hadjiyski, Fifi Moghtassed, Heather Khanna, Keith Walter, Kathryn Bodary, Ellen Meader, Rachel Davis, Deb Lentz, Linda Knox, Dennis Crawley, Kathy Osterholzer, Angie Tracey, Brian Wells & Sandi Little. And lets not forget Bill VanLoo and Al Waters!

What a great year it has been!

Board News

The Honey Creek Board of Directors met for its regular monthly meeting on May 18, 2011.

We had the opportunity to meet the nominees for the board election, which took place at the Spring Performance on May 25th. Thanks again to all those who participated in the election process. Please join us in welcoming Kelly Krawcke and Lisa Wozniak to the Honey Creek School Board.

Tammy Hall presented the work of the strategy committee that was guided by community input through the visioning process. This was the first reading of the revised mission and belief statements. We are planning to meet again for a special board meeting on June 14th to finalize these foundational documents and for a first review of the committee's high level strategy recommendations.

The Fund Development committee recommended that the board support the creation of a new 501(C)3 organization that would combine the PTO and Phoenix Rising activities with a goal of increasing and diversifying the schools funding sources while still continuing to serve in many other important ways. We are excited about the potential for how this new organization will be able to support the school through existing and extended methods.

Our next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 6:15pm.

Board Kudos

- To Shawn Bale & All the King's Men for bringing after school chess to Honey Creek.
- To the Dante Alighieri Society for another enriching session of after school Italian.
- To all the Stem Fair organizers and participants, with special congratulations to our NASA H2O Maniacs team for their honorable mention in the national competition!
- To all the participants in the Strategic Planning Visioning process.
- To Dave Koziol, Elli Gurfinkel, Will Hathaway and everyone who helped Honey Creek win the Bank of Ann Arbor's Sweet 15 contest.

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
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Employee Number/SS#	Account Number	Financial Institution Number
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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 year's theme in K-1 has been Journeys. Making observations and discovering patterns has been our key focus throughout theme. We began with a unit called My Journey in which the children focused on family histories and their own personal story from birth to present day. The children discussed things from the past and made comparative observations to things from today. The children also had the opportunity to learn about the life cycles of different creatures: frogs, plants, butterflies, and chickens and to make observations over time of the Painted Lady butterfly, wherein they got to see its journey of development and the process of metamorphosis. Our second unit was called My Journey Through School. During this unit the children found patterns of schedule and activity that we observe here at school, did various mapping activities to get to know our building and their own classrooms better and talked about germs and how to stay healthy. Our third unit was called My Journey Through the Community. Here the focus was the community as a whole and the children learned about fairness and standing up for justice as well as resource use and how to care for the environment. We continued to take notice of patterns and always connected those patterns to our own decision making. Noticing patterns, of course, helps us all make choices! We wrapped up our final thematic unit with a field trip to the UM Exhibit Museum of Natural History. This last unit, called My Journey Through the World, was all about weather and its role in the world and our field trip included a planetarium show that even explored weather on other planets! It has been a very busy year full of learning and fun. We're looking forward to next year's theme: How Things Work.

Middle Elementary News

These last few days are still packed with learning here in the 2/3 classrooms. We will be enjoying a look at water in many different ways, as a resource, as a type of matter and as a force. This topic will be highlighted at our final field trip to Kensington Metro Park on Thursday, June 2. All children will need a sack lunch, bathing suit, towel and sunscreen. We will also be visiting the Farm Center.

Students will be doing some final projects and assessments in math, reading and writing. We hope that you encourage your child to do all of these things over the summer as well. While there is no official "homework" for the summer, there are plenty of opportunities to instill a love and appreciation for these subjects with your child. Take the time as a family to read a new author, series or genre with your child and delight in the way your family conversations will sparkle! Write a letter to relatives or journal about summer adventures. Take turns typing or writing what your child has to say about the wonderful things they see. Point out all the places where math is lurking and alive in your lives this summer.

Along with all of these things, we wish you a safe, happy and restful summer. We will be recharging our batteries and planning for the amazing adventures that await in 2011-2012. Tammy, Mary and Salli

Later Elementary News

Hi, All! Welcome to June - the month of summer! We've had a fantastic year with your kids - this has been a great group of 4/5s and we look forward to an enjoyable last two weeks! Here's a quick look ahead at our final push.

In social studies we're wrapping up our Three Cultures unit. Kids did a great job on their continent posters that were on display at the Curriculum Celebration. The next step is to connect the three cultures and discuss how Native Americans, Europeans, and west Africans came together on the North American Continent. We've done some talking

recently about historical "winners" and "losers". The facts that Europeans drove Native Americans out of their sacred lands and that people of European descent were slaveholders resulted in a dominant European, white, male historical perspective. How do we critically think about history knowing that it has been written from a biased perspective? How would our understanding of history be different if it were interpreted through the eyes of the oppressed? These are just a few of the questions that form the justification for our study of history, and they're each related to the the bigger critical question: How does the study of history help us to better understand who we are as a people today?

For the rest of the year in science, students are working through our weather unit--- how apropos! Students will begin by a brief study of the layers of the atmosphere and air pressure, then will move on to jet streams and weather phenomena. We'll also be planting our seedlings from our Plant Unit into the Honey Creek edible garden.

In language arts students are finishing their autobiographies in class. Rough drafts are done and they are doing final revisions and editing. The last week of school students will have the opportunity to share both their book project and autobiographies with their classes. It should be a great time, everything they've shown so far has been outstanding!

Our end of the year, scavenger hunt field trip around Ann Arbor is coming up on Tuesday, June 7th. On another note, we had a terrific time at Camp Tamarack with our fifth graders! It may have been a bit rainy and cold, but we certainly made the best of it! Your kids were great sports and they seemed to enjoy themselves a ton!

Again, we've had a fantastic year with your kids! Thank you for all you do for them on a daily basis - they're all great young people, and that's a reflection of your love, support, and guidance. Please don't hesitate to contact Johnny, Teresa, or Cam if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,
The 4/5 Team

Middle School News

Language Arts

We are concluding the year in the middle school Language Arts classroom by taking a brief look at Greek Mythology and some Greek hero stories. We read the tale of Perseus, and then compared it to the 1981 film "Clash of the Titans." As we finish the year, we are reading the myth of Hercules, and then comparing it to the Disney film version of the same name. As we read the myths and view the films, we are sometimes surprised by the decisions and changes Hollywood has made, and we have had some discussions about why. We have also examined the classic formula for a hero's tale and taken a look at modern stories that contain that same structure.

If you wish to help your child retain some of the skills they have learned over the school year, there is no need for specific programs or workbooks. If you are taking a trip, encourage your child to write in a trip journal, or simply just write in a journal every day. There is no need for formal essay writing, simply keeping the pen moving or the keyboard clicking will help some of those skills stick. Also, reading 20-30 minutes a day will keep reading skills sharp. Summer reading doesn't even need to be classic literature. "Beach blanket novels" or "bubble gum books" will do just fine. Especially for students who struggle with reading and writing, keeping a daily routine of using those skills will help reduce summer lag.

It's been a pleasure working with your children this year. Once again, I have been amazed this year by some of the thoughtful reading and writing that has taken place in my classroom. Thank you! Elizabeth Scott

Social Studies

In Social Studies we are putting the final touches on the Civil War unit. It really was a good decision to spend more time on this period in American history; we're able to cover it in the kind of detail that students need to understand it. We were very happy with the Museum on Wagner Road. We used the exhibit for our final assignment, which is to answer the following three questions: Why did the North win? What was the role of African-Americans in the war? And, What impacts did the war have on America? Students are required to write an essay for each.

Thanks to everyone for coming to our exhibit and reading through the material. We hope you enjoyed it!

Science

Check out vinegartips.com, because our middle school students are experimenting with this household chemical. As we closeout the year, we are looking at how chemical reactions work. Students are also researching alternative cleaners that we could use, and finding ways to pass that information onto others as an ASL project. The last week of school will result in an all out science bonanza that will cover all the units we've covered so far.

Mathematics

As the school year comes to an end, you will find all middle school students doing the same homework for math... studying for a cumulative final. I realized, as I watched my son make his way through his freshman year at Dexter High School, that finals are a part of all my students' futures. And, taking and preparing for a final is quite different than taking a

standardized test (like the MEAP and Terra Nova). So, we have been actively preparing by reviewing the past test, using the online textbook to fill in gaps in our memories, and making notecards (that can be used on the final). We have also spent class time discussing "test taking" strategies. Courses 1, 2, and 3 finals are scheduled for the week after Memorial day, the Algebra final was scheduled for the week before Memorial day (as the vast majority will be at camp).

Also, it's this time of year that many of you ask about math programs for the summer. Each student is different. Some kids will do great developing their basic facts and increase their speed of processing through games. There are many online math games, so many that I can't review all, but here is a site I really like, and so do the kids: <http://calculationnation.nctm.org/>. While other students are looking for or need more structure; the online textbook is a great resource. We can look at the past test and the final results to see what sections of the curriculum gave your student trouble and review it in the book over the summer. That website is: my.hrw.com, the log in information should be in your student's planner or you can email me for it. And, for those of you who feel your student needs even more structure to improve their math skills over the summer, a tutor might be just right. If your student qualifies for Title 1 tutoring, I highly recommend they take advantage of that program. If not, I can recommend Joe Griffith. He has helped many of our students over the past 5 years. Thanks for your support throughout the year.

Looking forward to next year,
Cindy

Physical Education/ Swimming

The 4.5's and MS celebrated this month for filling their marble jar. All classes worked together to fill a jar of marbles for their grade level. Once completed, they were able to have a "choice day" in PE and Swim for that week. In addition to this they are working on an "outdoor games unit". They played kickball, capture the flag, ga-ga and frisbee. The MS also had their maturation unit, and the 4.5's will be starting their maturation unit the week of May 31st. The younger classes have been improving their basketball skills, practicing correct underhand and overhand throwing/catching, and working on a fun obstacle course.

We have also had a change in staffing for the pool this past month. Matt Scott is no longer at Honey Creek (although he is in spirit!) and in his absence Zane Almquist has taken over as lifeguard with Mario Jordan moving to fill the swim aide position. All of the students have done a wonderful job improving their swimming strokes this year! Please encourage them to "show off" their strokes to you when you end up at a pool or lake this summer!

Kristin Vespa

Music

Thank you to every one you was able to attend the Spring Performance on Wednesday, May 25th. The show was a great success! Each of the groups worked very hard on their part and it turned out spectacular! For the rest of the year in music we will be wrapping up some units that we started earlier in the year. 4th grade students will be trying out instruments for beginning band. They will be choosing their top three favorite instruments. This will help prepare them for the beginning band meeting on the first day of school next fall. The bands and choir will be preparing music for the graduation ceremony. Graduation is Thursday, June 9th at 5:00. Band I will be joining Band II during this performance.

Katie Gates

Technology

In 2/3 technology, our students finished their boat design project, and ready to test this week on Friday. Students designed and built a boat that will carry 50 grams of weight (about 18 pennies) over a distance of 1 yard. During their final testing, they will be using the school's pool to test their designs and have fun celebrating their accomplishment. Great work, 2/3s!

The 4/5 technology classes spent this past month on a project which asked them to examine which light bulb they would choose to light their dream houses.

The students were given three choices: incandescents, compact fluorescent, and LED bulbs. They gathered data, did experimental testing to determine light and heat output, compared energy usage, and ultimately justified their decision based on the data they collected. This was a great process to go through, as we often use the same kind of decision-making process when evaluating all kinds of different technologies in our everyday life.

Middle School technology students have been learning about Digital Citizenship this month. Digital Citizenship is a phrase that represents how a person behaves in the digital realm, whether that be using e-mail, social networks, or other electronic devices to communicate and socialize. Students asked critical questions, engaged in discussions, and are currently completing their final project for the year. This project presented them with 10 rules of netiquette that should be observed when writing online, and asked them to pick one rule that they would explain and demonstrate the importance of.

In the technology elective, students are finishing up their final challenges with the LEGO NXT robots. We have seen robots that are remote-controlled by other robots using Bluetooth, robots controlled via iPhone, robots that use ultrasonic and light sensors, and much more creative problem-solving! The amount of learning and self-motivation displayed in this class is truly inspiring.

Bill

Media Center

The end of this school year is approaching fast, and the Media Center will have things to be accomplished before the last day. The Media Center closed to checkouts and for Recess on May 23. This gives until June 7 to gather in the material currently checked out, and to do a complete inventory. (The Media Center will be completely closed after June 8, as Marion is having surgery the next day.) This process is important in clearing up long-standing inaccuracies in the record of what is owned or is still showing as checked out to students or staff from months (years?) past. Please reassure your students that no overdue fees are charged; lost material must be either paid for or replaced with another copy of the same item. Teachers may want to look over their classroom book collections for stray Media Center material. If you find Media Center material during the summer, please return it to the Honey Creek office.

Anyone who would like to honor this year's graduating class might want to think about donating a book or two to the Media Center's collection. Remember that we maintain an Amazon.com wish list, which can be used to purchase things from Amazon itself, or as a guide to buying things locally.

Speaking of "locally," Nicola, our bookseller, put on a wonderful Spring Book Fair for us on May 20. During the Curriculum

Celebration, many parents and students came to the fair, and Nicola reports that she sold \$2000 in material, 20% of which will come to our Media Center in the form of books and/or cash. Thank you very much to Alex Foulis, Will Hasting, Dianne McLaren-Brighton, and David VanLoo for their help in setting up and taking down. We look forward to working with Nicola again in the fall of the new school year.

Thanks for all your support over this school year; I'm really grateful. It has been a wonderful year, and I look forward very much to working with Honey Creek in 2011-2012.

Marian VanLoo

Art

The end of the year is here, and we are finishing up some awesome projects in grades K-8! K/1 classes just finished their African-inspired masks, which they had a wonderful time cutting, gluing, and decorating. 2/3 classes are doing a fun project which involves building robots from cut paper, and learning different techniques to cut and create parts of their robots. 4/5 classes are doing a "batik" style fish using wax paper transfer and liquid watercolors. Middle School classes are finishing up an Aboriginal Dot Painting project in which they use traditional dot painting techniques and symbols to create a story through their art. Elective class is ending by doing a follow-up illustration project involving concept art, creating environments and backgrounds, and cartooning.

I'd like to give a huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated supplies for the classes this year, and also everyone who has joined, commented, bought merchandise, and expressed their support for our Artsonia page (www.artsonia.com/schools/HoneyCreekCommunity1). I am overjoyed to be able to work with such a wonderful community, staff, and students, and thank you all for making my first year as a teacher a memorable and rewarding experience!

Lindsay Parrish

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “ NO SCHOOL DAYS:” Wednesday, June 15th; Thursday, June 16th; and Friday, June 17th. 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 on Friday, June 10th; Monday, June 13th; and Tuesday, June 14th.

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 (FULL)	Art 4-8	Choi Kwang Do	AS-L Club	Swim Lessons
	Field Hockey - (FULL)	Art K-3		
	Garage Band - (FULL)	Theater - (FULL)		

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.

We will soon be planning activities for the 2011/2012 school year. Please email afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us if you are interested in running any of these activities (or others) next year:

4H, Baking/Cooking, Baseball, Writing, Yoga Knitting/Sewing, Gymnastics Crafts, Language Lessons (Chinese, French, German, Spanish), Rockets & Robotics, Study Skills, Drums, Football, Orchestra, Fitness, Run Club, Scouts/Campfire, Soccer

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP! Camp is filling up fast. Please reserve your spot soon to join us for a fun-filled summer. Information and registration is available outside the After School & Camp Programs office and at <http://honeycreekschool.org/after-school-programs-summer-camp/>.

SUMMER CAMP FAMILY ORIENTATION ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15TH FROM 5:30-7PM. The orientation is the deadline to change schedules and reserve dates with discounts.

We have scheduled all of the trips, but we are still working on bringing in additional guest workshops to the camp. Please note that all trips are tentative, pending final approval from AAPS Transportation.

- Tuesday, June 21st: Toledo Zoo
- Thursday, June 30th: High Velocity Sports
- Thursday, July 7th: Turtle Cove
- Thursday, July 14th: Cavern Club
- July 19th-22nd: African Drumming with Jaclyn Morrow.
- July 21, 22: Pat Hershberger, Street Art Workshop
- Tuesday, July 26th: Impression 5 Science Center
- Friday, August 5th: M Rock (older campers) and Extreme Bounce Zone
- Thursday, August 11th: Tandre Farms
- Wednesday, August 17th: Detroit Fly House workshop at Honey Creek
- August 23rd & 24th (Tuesday & Wednesday): Leslie Science Center workshops at Honey Creek
- Friday, August 26th: Independence Lake

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!