



Upcoming Events:

- May 4:** Professional Development, 1/2 day
Staff Recognition Day
- May 18:** Curriculum Celebration 5:00-7:00pm
- May 22:** Spring Performance, 3:30-5:30pm
- May 23:** Board Meeting
- May 28:** Memorial Day, no school
- June 1:** PE Play Day/Picnic
- June 7:** Graduation, 5:00pm
- June 8:** Last day of school, 1/2 day

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Greetings,

Last Friday, individual TerraNova assessment results were sent home with students. Student scores are reported in National Percentile (NP) and Scaled Score (SS). The NP shows where your child scored when compared with other students across the nation. For example, a NP of 61 means that your child scored higher than 61% of the students in the nation. Participants in this assessment include many private schools, traditional public schools and charter schools.

The scaled score range extends from 100 to 900. Tracking scaled scores from year to year gives an insight into your child's growth in a specific subject area. For example, if your child's scaled score in reading was 655 in 2011, and remains 665 in 2012, this indicates that your child has made one full year's academic growth. If the scaled score drops this is an indicator that there is less than one year's growth. The opposite is true if the scaled score increases. If you have specific questions regarding your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher. Please see the following page for more information.

As you know Cam McCord will be leaving us at the end of the school year. Please join me in wishing him well in his new adventure. This 4/5 teaching position has been posted on AnnArbor.Com for the past two weeks. It has also been posted on several educational websites. I will begin reviewing applications the week of May 14th, and will schedule interviews before the end of the month. Many individuals have expressed interest in participating in the process, and our interview team is now complete.

Additionally, Kristin Vespa will be taking a leave of absence to complete graduate work during the upcoming school year. The PE position has been posted along with the 4/5 teacher position, and we presently have several applicants. If you would like to participate in the interview process for the interim PE teacher, please let me know by email. I hope to have both of these positions filled prior to the start of summer break.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Pacheco, Deb Lentz, the Wellness Committee, and the entire cast of volunteers who made our Earth day event such a phenomenal success. The students were all highly engaged in the activities, and it was a great balance of learning and fun.

May is always a busy month at Honey Creek, so I'd like to remind you of some of the upcoming activities. Our Spring Curriculum Celebration will be held on May 18th, and our Spring Musical Performance will take place on May 22nd. The fifth grade Tamarack trip is on May 24th and 25th, and the eighth grade camping trip will run from May 29th through June 1st. June first is also PE Play Day. I look forward to seeing you at these events!

Al

Director's Notes:

May
2012

The table below outlines how each class performed. Scores are reported both in National Percentile and Scaled Score and compared to 2011 scores. The data in the table is based on raw scores and has not been adjusted for anomalies. Adjusted scores will be presented in the annual report in August.

		Reading 2011	Reading 2012	Language 2011	Language 2012	Math 2011	Math 2012
Grade 2	NP	74.4	70.5			75.5	75
	SS	636.4	623			589.7	607.8
Grade 3	NP	69	86	52	49.7	60	77
	SS	631.6	650.7	609.6	620.8	623.9	629.4
Grade 4	NP	74	69	72	64.7	64.5	66
	SS	659.8	648.7	651	649.3	643.4	647.2
Grade 5	NP	71	76	69	79	68.3	77
	SS	668.1	661	661.3	663.3	663.1	666.6
Grade 6	NP	64	78	75	75	65	73
	SS	685.7	684.6	679.1	680.6	671.8	693.4
Grade 7	NP	81.3	74.3	81.5	80.5	68.5	79
	SS	691.7	699.1	686.7	685.7	694.6	699.6
Grade 8	NP	75	80.3	72	81.7	87	76
	SS	699.8	706.5	694.5	703.9	725.3	714.1

Middle School Social Studies and Science Scores: These assessments were not administered in 2011.

		Social Studies	Science
Grade 6	NP	80.3	75
	SS	688.9	687.9
Grade 7	NP	67	68.5
	SS	684	691.9
Grade 8	NP	78.5	78.5
	SS	707.7	713.5

News Alert

May 1, 2012
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Rogers; 517.327.5908; jrogers@masb.org
Newsroom, www.masb.org

Two Washtenaw County schools take home Education Excellence Awards

Lansing, MI—The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) and SET SEG School Insurance Specialists are proud to announce the recipients of the 2012 Education Excellence award. The winning programs represent 15 counties across the state, including Washtenaw County. In the face of complex education challenges and limited resources, two schools in Washtenaw County, **Saline Area Schools** and **Honey Creek Community Schools**, kept the focus on student achievement to create an innovative solution to address their needs.

"This year's Education Excellence winners demonstrate that excellence is all around us in our public schools, despite their numerous challenges, financial restraints and unending reforms. This year's winners clearly know what it takes to positively impact student achievement," said Kathy Hayes, MASB executive director. "Our public schools are stepping up to get the job done."

The Education Excellence awards honor the top three local school district programs in each of eight categories and the top three intermediate school district programs for a total of 27 honorees. Entries are judged by an independent panel of state education specialists. Each school or district will receive a trophy, street sign proclaiming it an "Education Excellence Winner" and a surprise cash award from SET SEG. Winners will move on to round two judging to determine "Michigan's Best" where recipients receive a cash prize to help further the goals of the programs.

The programs will be honored Wednesday, May 9 at a luncheon hosted by MASB and SET SEG School Insurance Specialists, the exclusive sponsor of the awards. The luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the Eagle Eye Golf Club in Bath. School board members, administrators, teachers, students and other school personnel will be on hand to celebrate this achievement. All media are welcome to attend; please check in at the registration desk.

See page 2 for a description of the Washtenaw County winning programs.

MASB LeadStrong
Michigan Association of School Boards

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Category: Professional Development/School Improvement
Saline Before and After Program
Saline Area Schools
Program Coordinator: Jennifer Barnard, 734.944.8946

Noting the lack of training options available for those providing school age and school-affiliated child care services, Saline Area Schools and partners in neighboring districts set out to provide professional development and training for before and after school programming. Existing development opportunities focused on infants, toddlers and preschoolers. With state licensing requiring 12 hours of professional development per year, many childcare staff members received training that didn't apply directly to their roles with older children. In conjunction with the Washtenaw County School Age Child Care Association and staffs from Dexter, Milan, Saline and Ann Arbor, child care professionals now have access to a two-hour training session each month, and more than 16 hours of professional development per school year. Training is specific to the needs of school age and school-affiliated child care, and topics are driven by input from the employees themselves. The program regularly trains more than 50 child care professionals at its monthly training sessions.

Category: Improving Student Achievement in English Language Arts & Social Studies
Homelessness & Microeconomics
Honey Creek Community School * First Time Winner *
Program Coordinator: Joe Griffith, 734.320.9551

Founded on the principles of academic service learning, Honey Creek Community Schools combine service with content-based learning and community partnerships. The complementary themes throughout both the Homelessness and Microeconomics middle school courses aim to raise awareness, challenge students' views on society, alleviate stereotypes and participate in activities that help to better the community. The first unit examines the homelessness trends and the reasons behind them, and provides students with a realistic view of homelessness in their community. The second unit explores principles of microeconomics leading to a simulation where students create, market and sell products to younger students in exchange for items needed at a local homeless shelter. Together, the classes empower students, raise awareness, teach fundamental social studies concepts and provide real service for the community.

MASB provides quality educational leadership services to all Michigan boards of education, and advocates for student achievement and public education.

For a complete list of winners, visit www.masb.org and click on "Awards and Recognition."

The Education Excellence Awards are made possible through the generous sponsorship of SET SEG School Insurance Specialists.

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Phoenix Rising Campaign

There is now an option to use a direct debit form to contribute to Phoenix Rising. Using the ACH will make contributing to Phoenix Rising easier for some people! Please return the completed form/voided check to Shellee Almquist or Karen Giltrow. Your information will be kept safe. Thanks!

Scrip News

Scrip is available for purchase every Wednesday and Friday morning. Contact Alex Foulis with any questions:
alexfoulis@hotmail.com

Stem Committee News

The last STEM activity of the school year should be a really exciting one--- Lunch with an Expert will feature David Ausmus, who will be speaking about safety engineering and emergency response techniques. David is a safety expert who was sent to Ground Zero after 9/11 to coordinate safety measures to protect emergency responders. Lunch with an Expert will be Thursday, May 31, in the Pit.

What a STEM-filled April we had at Honey Creek! Many thanks and congratulations are in order...

First of all, a big thanks to April's guest experts, John Klausmeyer of the UM Museum of Natural History, Robert Alexander of the UM Design Science program, and Dr. Nancy Dean. We learned a lot of from them about fossils, medical illustration, how sonification can be used as a tool to study many different types of natural phenomena, and the materials science behind metals.

Secondly, congratulations to all the kids who participated in the Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad! This was Honey Creek's second season participating in WESO,

and thanks are due to Honey Creek's head coach, Sara Brintnall, and the other parents who put in many hours as coaches for the different Olympiad events. The following Honey Creek student teams won medals: 2nd Grade Sink or Float, Caroline Andrews and Leah Mackie (coached by Karen Andrews) and 3rd Grade Rock Hunters, Eli Atkinson and Ben Rich (coached by Michele DeYoung).

Third, thank you to Trish Gearhart, Sandy Little, Cheryl Quinn, and the 4/5 teachers for giving the 5th graders the chance to dissect eyes... not many elementary school students get to have such an experience! It's a perfect example of one of the Honey Creek core values.... that students' learning can be enhanced through the expertise of members of the community.

And finally, congratulations to all the kids who participated in the 3rd annual Honey Creek STEM Fair! It was impressive to see the number and variety of fascinating projects on display. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made the STEM celebration possible!

Board News

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

The Fund Development Committee has completed the initial Articles of Incorporation of the new fund raising organization and is awaiting attorney review prior to submitting for 501c3 status.

The Outreach Committee recently sent an email including a survey for the community to complete. They have also invited the new HCCS families to our Spring Festival and Curriculum Celebration to get a better sense of the uniqueness of HCCS.

The Strategy Committee met and drafted a fourth strategic goal which is remains a work in progress.

The updated anti-bullying policy was unanimously approved and can be viewed on the website.

There will be two vacancies on the Board for the 2012-2013 school year. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Kelly Krawcke at kkrawcke@umich.edu for additional information. Nominations are accepted thru May 15th with the election to be held May 22nd during the Spring Performance. Another email will be sent with the application this week.

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2012 in the High Point conference room (known as the Pit). As always, the meeting is open to the community.

Respectfully,
Kelly Krawcke, Secretary

Academic Service- Learning:

There have been some exciting things happening lately! With Earth Day came many opportunities for our students to engage in AS-L activities. I have heard stories of students working in neighborhood parks and with Habitat for Humanity and I have seen many parents and children taking on some hard work on school grounds. Beyond that, we are very fortunate to have a hard-working committee who not only scheduled an amazing Earth Day program, but stuck with it to reschedule it after school was cancelled!

Most of you also know the huge success that was Joe's Bartering Bonanza. Our middle school students were engaged in valuable lessons and provided an opportunity for the whole school to take part in their work. Congratulations to Joe and the whole middle school for the great work that has been noticed far beyond our Honey Creek Community!

Please continue to share stories of the different projects your families are involved in outside of school! Don't forget to take an AS-L log and keep track as well over the summer.

Wellness Committee News

The Earth Day celebration is rescheduled for Monday, May 7. We still need volunteers for the afternoon activities. Please contact Deb (tantrefarm@hotmail.com) or Jane (Jane Pacheco janeden@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in helping.

The featured vegetable for May is Michigan-grown asparagus*. Farm to School and Try-it Tuesday dishes will contain the asparagus. The Wellness committee is providing fruit for the classroom snack bowls the week of May 21 and for bagel Fridays (50 cents a piece).

Our next Wellness meeting will soon be announced. Our last meeting will be an informal gathering to recap the year and to plan for the next.

*Asparagus Facts -
Other asparagus facts: Michigan is 3rd in asparagus production in the U.S. Asparagus is another member of the lily family. It's a good source of folic acid, vitamin A, B, and C, plus fiber. White asparagus must be grown in the darkness by mounding the hills over the crowns to become white. The stalks of white asparagus must be peeled before cooking.

PTO News

Thank you to all who made the STEM fair a success. It takes a lot of work by a lot of people to put it all together. I heard a great deal of excitement about having all the exhibits to wander around and see, and of course the trebuchet.

Earth Day activities ran into some last minute problems with the loss of power at the school, but are rescheduled for May 7th.

A reminder that large PTO project resolutions will be open for public comment on the PTO website (at honeycreekpto.wordpress.com) for a month before voting. To comment on a resolution, just use the blog to make a comment to the entry where the resolution is written. This is your chance to provide input on PTO resolutions, whether you can attend a meeting or not.

We are looking for nominations for PTO officers for the 2012-2013 school year at the May PTO meeting or as soon after as possible. We will be voting on officers at the June meeting. If you would like to get more involved with the PTO, this can be a good way to help out.

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

In K-1 we are finishing up the school year with our last thematic unit “How The World Works.” The children are in the process of developing the following understandings: The world is a system, they are part of many interconnected systems, when something happens in one part of the world it affects other parts of the world system, and improving one part of the world can improve the dynamics of the whole world system.

The children are learning about machines in “How My World Works” because the world uses machines to get work done. Computers, vehicles, appliances, and many other types of machines are used everyday. That's how the world works! When people invent new machines it can change things all over the world. Additionally, just as the world is made up of different parts that function as a system, machines are comprised of different parts that operate as a system.

We are approaching the study of how the world works as scientists and inventors. At the beginning of the school year, each group of students sharing a table chose a machine to name their table after. In the interest of learning how their specific machine works, the children learned about machines and the scientific principles that govern how machines work. Through books, videos, demonstrations, discussions, and

hands-on experimentation, children explored forces, properties of matter, states of matter, and magnetism. In addition, the children acquired knowledge about the process of invention by learning about the lives of inventors from diverse backgrounds.

After the children gained an understanding of how physical properties affect the way machines work, they were instructed to think like scientists and pose a question about the machine their table chose. An expert from Honey Creek's community came into our classrooms to meet with each group to answer all of their questions and explain how their machine works. The students are now preparing to present what they learned to the rest of the class by supplying answers to a group reflection sheet and by constructing a model of their machine.

To reinforce this content, K-1 will be going to Greenfield Village on Wed. May 30th. We will leave Honey Creek at 9:30 and return by 2:30. On this field trip, the children will see the Wright brothers' bike shop, visit Edison's Menlo Park lab where he produced a steady stream of inventions, including the phonograph and the light bulb, and we will also see how different materials are used to make items such as pottery and glass decorations at Liberty Craftworks.

In math, we are finishing a unit on money, measurement, and problem solving and we're now beginning our next unit on place value, time, and problem solving.

Additionally, in our language arts curriculum, we are focusing on poetry in writing workshop and retelling narrative story elements in reading workshop.

Middle Elementary News

We hope you're reading the classroom blogs each week to get up-to-date and specific information on what is happening in each classroom! Our last field trip will be to Hudson Mills Metro Park on Friday, May 11th. Exactly like the trip last month, we will leave at 8:15, children need a lunch and plan dress for the weather as we'll be outside the whole day. If you have questions about chaperones, please contact Salli.

May is busy! Along with a field trip, Earth Day, Curriculum Celebration and our Spring Performance, we have "Move-Up" for the 3rd graders on May 10th. On this morning, they will spend some time in each of the 4/5 classrooms to get an idea of what next year will bring. Because May is so busy, we have changed the spelling schedule slightly. Please see the classroom blog or check with your child for the specific schedule. The last week for homework and spelling will be May 21st-25th.

All children have been working hard on their animal reports. We'll also be writing poems about our animals and putting in several examples of using our math skills with our animals as the star! Children have loved learning about the classifications of animals and how animals adapt to their individual habitats. Jean Craighead George writes a wonderful series that we're listening to called *One Day in the (Rainforest, Desert, Prairie, Woods, Alpine Tundra)*. These books are packed with information on plants and animals. These books will be the bridge that leads us from animals to plants for our final, big unit of the year.

As a part of the plant unit, the 2-3 classes will be turning the garden in front of A4 into a 2nd edible garden. If you are interest in helping with this 2nd edible garden, please contact Christine Billick.

While not in our state-required social studies objectives, all classrooms have been learning about the seven continents and five oceans. We have found this to be necessary for the children to understand about their animal's habitats. It also helps support some of the gaps the HCCS social studies' committee has found in 4/5 and middle school.

During our reading, writing and researching, we are constantly amazed at how much stamina and growth the children have gained in reading and writing! Students should be really proud of how much they have learned this year. We are so grateful to parents that provide a structure for daily reading at home as this is essential for optimal literacy learning.

Math finds us working on fractions, graphing and in the final push to master subtraction facts for 2nd graders and multiplication facts for 3rd graders. In addition, 2nd graders should be secure in their knowledge of regrouping (carrying and borrowing) two, 2-digit numbers and 3rd graders should be using multiplication to figure out division facts and be able to multiply a 1-digit number by powers of 10 (3x90, 6x50, etc.).

Darnell hosted and organized the 2nd 2-3 soccer tournament in April. The children were super excited and are looking forward to the 2-3 track meet in May.

Later Elementary News

4/5 Science classes are bouncing, sliding, flinging, and propelling objects all over the classroom in their quest to understand energy (kinetic and potential) as well as how all this energy transfers through materials. We move on this month to study different forms of energy: electric, solar, wind, hydro, sound, mechanical, chemical, and more!

We've spent a lot of time over the past month discussing what life was like for different groups of people living in Colonial America. Students have been working in groups to develop posters highlighting what life was like during this pre-Revolutionary period in American history. After our spring curriculum celebration we'll be focusing on the reasons for the American Revolutionary War, the key players responsible for stoking revolutionary sentiments, and the key battles that took place early in the war.

Look for the culmination of a lot of thoughtful projects at curriculum celebration! Students' book projects are due May 14 and will be on display. You will also be able to watch students' individual retellings as well as small group mystery plays. Finally, you will see their Maniac Magee maps that show the important locations from our whole-class novels. Throughout the month of May students will be wrapping up these projects in preparation for curriculum celebration. They will also begin studying the usefulness of thesauruses and create their own, personal thesaurus, for their most commonly used words.

Middle School News

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we have wrapped up a very successful microeconomics unit, ending with an eventful Bartering Bonanza. Students raised an impressive amount of items to donate to the Delonis Center, shattering all previous records. It's early May and I'm still taking items to the homeless shelters. Thanks to everyone who popped in to witness the Bonanza or helped out in one way or another.

We have just begun our final unit of the year: Africa. In line with the Language Arts and Science sub-theme of *Mystery*, I have created the unit with the intent of having kids do some detective work. I have presented them with three present-day scenarios and students have to match them up with the following three countries: Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Then, they will have to use their research and inquiry skills to determine what factors put each of those countries in its current state. They will study economics, history, geography, politics and culture to create hypotheses as to why South Africa seems relatively stable while Zimbabwe is in utter shambles. It's an ambitious unit for just five weeks but we'll do our best to cover as much as we can.

Language Arts

Things are getting mysterious in the middle school reading and writing workshop as we have just started reading mystery novels in small groups. It is fun witnessing the students' book talks and hearing their speculations of who is guilty of what crime! Look for their character and clue maps at curriculum celebration!

We just wrapped up persuasive writing and will be finishing out the year with writing portfolios. Those will be done on the google sites we started earlier in the year. I look forward to hearing more about what students enjoyed and found valuable this school year. Can you believe only a few weeks are left in the 2011-2012 school year?

Science

Middle school students are finishing up the "Climate Change" Curriculum that they are providing feedback to the University of Michigan Department of Education, and will finish with a short project on how they can suggest to minimize their carbon footprint. Our school year's theme of Homes and Habitats helps us to see how much of an impact humans can have on the Earth around us.

For the month of May, students will switch over to "hCSI" (Honey Creek Crime Scene Investigation), as students will learn and use science to solve crimes. Using the principles of the scientific method and the science involved with the human body, students will gather data and evidence and either prove or disprove their hypothesis.

Mathematics

At the end of April, the whole middle school got to go to a play, "Eureka!", at the Masonic Temple in Detroit. The kids were great and the play was fun! In the play, math concepts were brought up that we have discussed at one point in class or are working on now; like the Pythagoras Theorem. Ask your student what they learned.

GEOMETRY remains to be the main topic in most of the classes. Reviewing formulas for basic figures and extending that knowledge to other figures like parallelograms, trapezoids, etc. We will be using these area formulas of 2-dimensional shapes to calculate surface area of 3-dimensional shapes. Volume of 3-dimensional shapes is another topic for examination.

Quadratic equations and a "flipped classroom" are the main happenings in Algebra class. I am experimenting with a flipped classroom style; that is, they receive instruction at home, through online sources, videos, textbook, etc. Then during class we are able to work through practice problems, spend time exploring concepts and ideas, and have discussions on the different/best ways to approach problems. It's going well so far.

FINALS is the other thing on our minds in middle school math these days. For many of our students this will be the first "final" they have ever taken... good practice for high school. The Algebra class will be taking their final the week of May 20th, before they go to 8th grade camp. The other classes will be taking their finals the week of May 27, while we are at 8th grade camp. Jessica, the middle school instructional assistant in math, will be giving the finals to Course 1, Course 2, and Course 3 students.

Specials News

Physical Education/ Swimming

Thank you to all of the parents who have signed up to help out for PE Play Day. PE Play Day is an amazing afternoon for students at Honey Creek. The event starts off with an all school picnic which parents are encouraged to attend, located outside next to the cafeteria. Afterwards we head down to the soccer fields for many different fun and active games. There will be an optional fun run following the games. To finish we will head to the playground for popsicles and pick up. I hope every Honey Creek student will be present to share in the fun!

If you have a student who will be in Middle School next year and is interested in playing field hockey please email me ASAP and let me know. I need to have a rough estimate of the number of players we will have. Field hockey is a great team sport that is offered to both males and females at Honey Creek. It is a great experience to work together as a team, get a lot of exercise and spend time outside. It runs 3 days a week (typically M, T, and Th) for September and October.

In May the PE classes will be wrapping up jump roping (K-3), floor hockey (4-5) and volleyball (MS). We will begin to go outside more and do all of the outdoor games the students love, including: ga-ga, capture the flag, kickball, and ultimate frisbee. In swimming students will continue developing their strokes and stamina. Now is the time to start considering enrolling your student in summer swim lessons. They will be offered here during Honey Creek's Summer Camp or you can also register through Ann Arbor Rec and Ed.

Lastly, I would like to thank the following people for allowing the MS Swim Elective class to attend the Canham Natatorium in a very

successful field trip. Al Waters, Shellee Almquist, Karen Giltrow, Matt Scott, Darnell Talbert, Mario Jordan, Christine Rawak, Tim Donahue, Joanne Barhite, Will Hathaway and Lily Jungan. I would also like to thank the students for doing an amazing job representing Honey Creek!

Technology

The 2/3 technology classes have spent their last 2 sessions learning about macro photography, which allows us to take photos of things that are extremely small. Students had an opportunity to go outside and see the natural world in a different way, taking close-up photos of things like flowers, bark, and other things. We're learning now how to import these photos into the computer to use in our own designs.

The 4/5 technology classes have started a new project: they are identifying and coming up with a technological solution to a problem they face in their school day. They are working in 2-3 person teams to identify a problem, then figure out and build a prototype solution. To facilitate this project, they're using Moodle for the first time to discuss and document their work. Moodle is the online learning management system we use, and this is especially important for 5th graders who are moving up next year, as it's a tool we use a lot in the Middle School. Lots of interesting school-day problems have been identified, and students' solutions are really taking shape!

The Middle School technology classes are still working hard on the Sustainable House Design project. We spent 2 sessions learning about different building materials and the tradeoffs involved (for example, using a gas furnace versus a geothermal heating/cooling system).

Students are finishing up their final floor plans using graph paper, design templates, and other tools, and are working on calculating the estimated cost of construction for the house they've designed. Construction has begun on several house models already as well!

The Middle School technology elective class, 3d Modeling and Prototyping, has been making great progress in the process of drawing, designing, and creating objects. Students are having great fun going through the design process, using SketchUp to bring their ideas to life in 3-D. Prototypes are being built, and we continue to go further into topics like 3-D animation, 3-D printing, and the manufacturing process.

Music

Please join us on Tuesday, May 22nd at 3:30pm in the Honey Creek gym as K-5 music classes present: "It's Easy Being Green!" During the K-5 section of the concert the students will be singing songs that feature small things you can do every day to help save our planet. If possible please have your student(s) wear a green colored shirt OR a shirt that has a message about saving the environment (recycle, save the planet, go green).

The 5th grade and middle school bands and the middle school choir will also be performing at the concert. These students will need to wear a white shirt and black pants like they did for the winter performance. We hope you can join of on May 22nd and look forward to presenting a wonderful program.

Media Center

The end of this school year is approaching fast and, like every classroom, the Media Center will have things to be accomplished before the last day. The Media Center will close to checkouts/ classes and for Recess on May 29. This gives until June 8 to gather in the material currently checked out, and to do a complete inventory.

This process is important in clearing up long-standing inaccuracies in the record of what is owned or is still showing in the catalog as checked out to students or staff from months (years?) past. We think that we'll be able to finalize the inventory this spring after two years of clean-up work.

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. If you're worried about material that your student has possibly lost, payment or replacement needn't take place until the last couple of days of school; there is time to do the last searching for those elusive items. Teachers may want to look over their classroom book collections for stray Media Center material; items checked out to students sometimes end up there. If you find Media Center material during the summer, please return it to the Honey Creek office.

Our wonderful Spring Book Fair is this month! Look for the Fair during Curriculum Celebration, in the Media Center from 5:00- 7:00 p.m. on May 18. Nicola's Books will have copies of recently-released items as well as a number of things requested by teachers and students. Please support both our Media Center

and our local bookseller by shopping the Book Fair.

Honey Creek now has an Archive! During this spring, I have been locating, accurately cataloging, and arranging the material in our collection that has been written or generated by Honey Creek students and staff over the years. This Archive is available to anyone in the Honey Creek community who wants a look back at some of the projects and initiatives done at our school since the mid-1990s. The Media Center is happy to make copies of any information you might want from the Archives.

I'd like to offer thanks, on behalf of the Honey Creek community, to Dianne McLaren-Brighton. She recently completed here Master's degree studies in school media center management, and worked with us for her field work. She's also volunteered to help with some of the year-end inventory and clean-up in preparation for 2012-2013. Thanks, Dianne, for everything you've done for our Media Center this semester!

Thanks to each one of *you* for all the help you give to the Media Center all year; I hope that we've been a good part of your year, too.

Art

The school year has flown by and we are already in our last month of art projects! Each class has something exciting happening for the last chunk of our year together. K/1 classes are currently working on a project which incorporates a little science mixed with art. We are studying hot air balloons, how they work, how they are designed, and beginning basics of perspective.

2/3 classes are working on an exciting project which asks them to think about their favorite memories. They will each choose one to use as a subject for an illustration they will be creating based on that memory.

4/5 classes are starting a project on Pablo Picasso and his cubist style portraits, which asks students to think about the face in a very interesting way!

Middle School students are finishing up their optical illusion projects in colored pencil, and will be able to fit in one more project before the end of the year. Elective is currently working on their final projects, based off of the style of an artist of their choosing.

We will have a great new collection of work up on our school's art gallery website, Artsonia, in the coming week. Make sure you get a chance to check out the work that our wonderfully creative students have been doing!

[www.artsonia.com/
HoneyCreekCommunity1](http://www.artsonia.com/HoneyCreekCommunity1)

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL** BE AVAILABLE ON MAY 4th FOR EARLY DISMISSAL.

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: 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
	Art K-3	Choi Kwang Do	Capoeira	Music Lessons
	Tennis (FULL)	Art 4-8	Eco-Maniacs	
	Dance K-1		Dance 2nd-8th	
			Cooking (FULL)	

Please pick up a registration form online or from the after school programs bulletin board down the hall from the parent mailboxes.

Please stay tuned for information on these and other activities NEXT YEAR:

4H, Baseball, Brownies, Campfire, Chinese, Cooking, Crafts, Dance, Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Fitness, Football, French, German, Gymnastics, Harp, History Club, Open Swim, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, Running, Sewing, Skateboarding, Spanish, Spiral Scouts, Soccer, Study Skills, Tutoring, 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 rain boots to play in puddles.

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/summer-program>

Honey Creek Community Schools

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Need to submit something to next month's newsletter?

Email submissions to Amber Byers at:
abyers@hc.wash.k12.mi.us
by the last Friday of the month!

We're on the Web!

<http://honeycreekschool.org>