

Honey Bunches of Notes

A Monthly Newsletter

May, 2011

Upcoming Events:

- May 6:** Professional Development, 1/2 day
- May 12:** 2/3 field trip to Greenfield Village
- May 18:** Board Meeting
- May 20:** Curriculum Celebration
- May 25:** Spring Performance: 3:30
- May 26-27:** fifth grade trip to Camp Tamarack
- May 30:** Memorial Day, no school
- June 2:** 2/3 field trip to Kensington Metro Park



News From the Director

Greetings,

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize two phenomenal events that took place during the last two weeks. On Thursday, April 25, we celebrated Earth Day. Thanks to all of the planning and organization by Deb Lentz and Jane Pacheco, the day began with a presentation by an outstanding storyteller, which was followed by a series of activities promoting efforts to sustain our planet. A large cast of volunteers worked to assure the success of this event.

Similarly, last Friday we began the day with an assembly in which, Patty O'Brian Novak gave an inspiring presentation on Engineering. The day culminated in our second annual STEM Fair, largely organized by Nadine Wang and Sharon Paskus. A large cast of parent volunteers supported the effort, and over fifty students participated.

A great big thank you to all of you who participated in these two events. The continued support and energy given by our community thoroughly enriches the experience of all of our students.

We have several events taking place over the next few weeks. On Tuesday, May 3rd, the countywide election will be held to renew the special education millage will take place. Please vote!

On Thursday May fifth, Honey Creek will be holding its Visioning Event in rooms three and four of the ISD building. The event will begin at 6:00 pm and continue until 8:15. I hope that you can join us and be a part of defining Honey Creek's future. Please RSVP with Karen Giltrow if you are able to attend. This will give us the ability to have ample materials and refreshments on hand.

Our Spring Curriculum Fair is on May 20 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to view your child's work, and to gain a greater sense of how our project-based curriculum is implemented. Please feel free to invite friends and family to join you.

The Spring Performance will take place on May 25 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. This Spring, the show will be Broadway Beat. Katie and all of the students have been working hard and this should be a great performance!

Kristin is presently in the process of planning for PE Play Day. As always, we need a number of volunteers to run the various challenges. Please contact Kristin if you are able to help out. PE Play day will take place from noon until 3:15 on June 3.

Please remember that when attending a Honey Creek event, parking is only permitted in the lot. Vehicles parked along the curb that borders the building restrict access by emergency personnel, and those vehicles may be towed.

Once again, thank you to all of you who do so much to support our school. Your efforts provide our students with many very rich and rewarding experiences.

See you soon!

Al

Phoenix Rising Campaign

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

Scrip News

Thank you for supporting scrip sales this year. With less than two months until the end of the school year I would like to see if we can sell all the remaining stock and ensure you have what you need until the end of the school year and during the summer months.

The last order for this school year will be on **Wednesday, 25th May**. You can email the orders or leave them in the scrip mailbox or at the scrip table on Wednesday or Friday mornings.

If you would like to order in May, I will let you know the deadline closer to the time. You can order supplies for the summer. If you don't want to pay for them all in May, and I have enough interest, I will arrange to be available two days over the summer so people can meet with me and pay for and collect orders.

For a full list of scrip available from Great Lakes Scrip please see <http://www.glscrip.com/index.aspx?gclid=CLSswJ-hq6gCFQbCKgodWSgIGw> and refer to the retailer list.

We also purchase scrip directly from local supermarkets: Polly's Country Market, Wholefoods, Peoples Food Co-op, and have recharge cards for Arbor Farms, Hiller's and Busch's.

~Alex Foulis

PTO News

Once again, the Talent Show was a huge success. Congratulations to all performers on such a great show! An absolutely tremendous amount of work goes into planning, coordinating and producing this event each year. Here is what is likely to be a partial thank you list for those who worked so hard to make this event happen. Thank you to (not in any order): The Middle School Teachers, Peter & Linda Knox, Scott Mahler, Matt Cyrulnik, Tim Donohue, Joan Sitomer, Frank Desanto, Will Hathaway, Kelly Krawke, Kenny Simon, Hannah Hotchkiss, & Riverfolk Music & Arts.

The PTO raffle netted \$1151 and added another bit of entertainment to the evening. Thank you to Christine Kelley, Trish Gearhart and Simone Jenkins for organizing donations for the raffle. We would also like to thank Lily Jungen, Doug Hartman, Lara Thomas, Jean Steppe, Chandra Mitchell and Heather Ross for volunteering to help with ticket sales during the event, and of course we would like to thank our sponsors for generously donating prizes: Tree Town Toys, Footprints, Wild Swan theatre, The Ark, Learning Express, Lexi's toy box, Weber's, Mudpuddles, Heavenly Metal, Planet Rock, Vinology, Seva, The Earle, Michigan Theater, Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tearoom, Bivouac, Performance Network Theatre, University Musical Society, Chelsea Tree House, Purple Rose Theatre Company, Morgan and York, Kaizen Healing Arts, Tantre Farm, Elephant Ears, Hands On Museum, Stampin Up, Gamestop, Honey Creek Summer Camp, Lunasa, and Creative Memories. What a great evening, good food, good company and great entertainment!

Board News

The Honey Creek Board of Directors met for its monthly meeting on March 23, 2011.

At last month's meeting we were presented with a history and an update regarding the current status of Academic Service Learning, as it relates to our practice and curriculum at HoneyCreek.

Committee reports were reviewed. Each of the Board Committees is making continued progress toward said goals for this year.

- Define and establish a formal structure to lead fund development.
- Create a formal mechanism to organize and manage the development, governance, and membership of the School Board.
- Implement and develop an outreach plan to foster understanding of the pedagogical approach within the HCCS community and throughout the WISD region.
- Lead the Honey Creek Community in completion of the Strategic Plan.

We continue to closely monitor and plan for the financial stability of Honey Creek, particularly in consideration of the upcoming WISD millage renewal vote on May 3, 2011. Information on the millage can be found at: <http://www.wash.k12.mi.us/adminandcommdept/millage.php>.

2011 Board Elections will be on May 25th. The nominee's application materials and resumes are posted near the entrance of the school across the hall from the office; please consult these as you participate in this important vote.

Libby Sheldon
Secretary

Board Kudos

- to Nayan Khanna for creating and hosting a game of Fictional Character Jeopardy and to Ben Birdsall for emceeing a wonderful thumb wrestling tournament in extended after care, and for creating the championship belt for the winner (Zach Sabin).
- To teachers, parents and students for participating in Student Parent Teacher Conferences.
- To Honey Creek parents; Kelly Krawcke, Shannon Davis, Liza Green, Grant Greenberg, and Elaine Economou for sharing their professions during "Lunch with an Expert".
- Congratulations to Honey Creek's Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge Team (Laria Reynolds, Abby Kangas, Matthew Koziol, Jake Belcher, and Alex Quinn) for their moon water recycling unit project that has been selected for further judging.

- To Cheryl Quinn, Rick Kangas, and Itzik Henig for their leadership of the Waste Limitation Management Team.
- To the Wellness Committee for "Try It Tuesdays" and giving Honey Creek students the opportunity to sample deliciously prepared healthy food choices.
- **To the following/ parents who have shared their expertise so generously with our 4/5 students;** Grant Greenburg, Liza Green, Kelly Krawcke, Elaine Economou and Shannon Davis

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

K-1 has begun our last thematic unit of the school year, My Journey through the World. The focus of this unit is weather and its role in our world. The children will complete activities and a project to facilitate their understanding of these three key principles: Learning about the worlds' weather helps me to see patterns in the weather, I can make observations to discover weather patterns, and when I see a weather pattern, I can make informed choices .

We began the unit by showing the children a weather report from a local news station. We discussed its features and shared our idea for the final project: making a television weather report. Children were put into table groups at the beginning of the school year and were asked to name themselves after a severe weather event for the purpose of this project. Each table group will now work together to feature their severe weather event in their weather report. Other requirements of the report are to describe the severe weather event, identify some safety precautions for the severe weather, give a five day forecast, and describe weather and activities associated with a particular season.

Each group will be responsible for creating the content and props used in their weather report. To prepare, the children will read books, watch movies, record weather observations, and engage in group discussions. We will film the children and use our I-Movie application for editing to produce weather reports that will debut at the Curriculum Celebration in May.

Middle Elementary News

Our 2nd and 3rd grade authors are busy writing, revising, publishing and illustrating their fiction stories. This has been a bigger project than we thought it would be, but the children are really excited. We are thankful to Hollander's in Kerrytown for the donation of book-board which we will use to make the covers for our final books. Please let them know you appreciate their support if you shop there!

We are finishing up geometry and fractions in math as well as coming back to operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to dig deeper into these topics. Graphing is also a current topic in our classrooms.

Students are learning about Newton's laws of motion in science and doing lots of great experiments. We are also diving into boats and Archimedes in Technology with Bill. In conjunction with the boats, all classes have read or are reading *Erie Trail West* by Janie Lynn Panagopoulos and have learned about the role the Erie Canal had in the history of Michigan.

Don't forget our field trips to Greenfield Village on May 12th and to Kensington Metro Park on June 2nd. Volunteers will be needed for the June 2nd trip. We already have many, many chaperones for the Greenfield Village trip.

Many of you may have heard that we are now selling Homework Passes and Lunch with your Teacher passes once a month. Students buy these with their tokens and are very excited about these fun opportunities!

Later Elementary News

The economy has taken main stage over the past several weeks in social studies. Students have been learning about basic ideas and principles of our market economy, discussing and learning about things like **incentives, opportunity cost, competition, voluntary exchange, consumers, producers, substitute goods**, etc. We've discussed the government's role in a market economy. We had a lot of questions about rising gas prices and the effect higher fuel costs have on the economy. These are some great conversations to have at home! As we look forward to the last couple of months, we'll be focused on the idea of "Three Worlds" - North America, Europe, and Africa. We'll be heading back into the past to talk about the indigenous peoples of North America, European exploration, the people of west Africa and the trans-Atlantic slave trade. We'll bring it all together by talking about how these three words collided here on the North American Continent. It should be a fun and engaging end of the year in social studies.

In language arts students are approaching the end of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Students have learned a lot about what life was like for African Americans in the deep South during the 1930s. We've had some very challenging and meaningful discussions about equality, justice, and race throughout the course of reading this novel, and students have been asked to reflect upon these ideas and how they relate to life today. Currently, students are watching the movie. As we move forward in language arts, students will be starting a new unit on biographies. Feel free to start talking with your kids about your family's history. What questions do biographers ask when interviewing people? What resources do they use when researching biographical information? This should be a fun unit!

In science students recently wrapped up plant cycles. They planted seedlings for the edible garden and participated in Earth Day activities involving science concepts learned throughout the unit. As students move forward in science, they'll be learning about the solar system, moon cycles, and other astronomical topics. If we ever experience another cloudless night, feel free to check out the moon and other parts of our interstellar neighborhood with your kids!

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

Just a quick note for fifth grade families: The fifth grade trip to Camp Tamarack is just around the corner. We'll be leaving on Thursday, May 26th and will return by the end of school on Friday, May 27th. More detailed information will be forthcoming as those dates approach.

Thanks for all you do for your kids!
~The 4/5 Team

Middle School News

Language Arts

As March turned to April, we continued to work in literature circle groups to examine the roles of characters with disabilities in contemporary realistic fiction. Not only did students participate in face to face discussions, but the forum function on the moodle was used once again. Also, during this time, students chose a disability, or an aspect of disability awareness to research, and they are creating multi genre projects that will reveal their findings. Look for these projects at the curriculum celebration in mid May. There certainly are some amazing decisions being made on the part of the students in deciding how they would like to present their findings through multiple genres. I have also been impressed by the amount of empathy students have for those different from themselves. I think it has been an eye opening experience for us all.

Elizabeth Scott
Middle School Language Arts

Social Studies

In Social Studies, students have been learning about major concepts in nineteenth century America: gender, technology, expansion and race. All of these topics are leading up to the Civil War, which we will embark upon at the beginning of May. The plan is for students to create an exhibition of the life of soldiers and citizens during the Civil War. This will be modeled, to some degree, after the exhibition on display at the Museum on Main Street, which the middle school visited on April 30th. Our exhibit will be shown at the Curriculum Celebration in May. Our pace has been somewhat feverish lately, as was, for quite a while, trying to get to Africa at the end of the year. I've recently come to terms with the impossibility of that task and will postpone that unit until next year. We will finish the year out with (a more thorough look at) the Civil War.

Thanks to all of the wonderful parents who volunteered their time at the Museum on Main Street: Sarah VanLoo, Will Hathaway, Tom Quinn, Ann Hunter-Greene, Karen Karatzas, Dave Koziol, Vince McCarver and Kelli Uphaus.

Science

Matter matters! The middle school students are investigating "how matter works" through activities in material science. As we venture from starting with the atomic basics, through how and why materials exhibit certain chemical and physical properties, we'll investigate these using our chemistry skills. At curriculum celebration we'll present our own version of the periodic table as well as other examples of our investigations through this unit.

Mathematics

In Middle School Math **Course 1** we completed our unit on ratios and proportions with percent applications. As a review we did a mock shopping excursion and lunch out working out sale discounts, taxes, and tips. We have started a geometry unit which will likely take us until the end of the year. Our focus in geometry will be to review the basics and understand area and perimeter of two-dimensional figures, touching on identifying and understanding surface area and volume of some basic three-dimensional figures.

In **Course 2** with a few finishing touches to make on our dilation project, we pushed on into geometry as well. We too, will be review the basics and two-dimensional figures and will be spending more time with three-dimensional figures.

Course 3 has been working with geometry for a while. Having completed our review portion three-dimensional figures will be our focus. We will be taking 3-D object apart, looking at their "nets" and constructing nets of our own to build 3-D sculptures. With the creative parts we will be adding quantitative measurements - surface area and volume - of the objects we construct.

The **Algebra** students have completed the unit on multiplying polynomials (FOIL, for those of you who learned it when I did) and have been working on factoring polynomials. It's all great fun, and they seem to be liking it! Before the end of the year we will be learning about radicals and operations with radicals.

Physical Education/

Swimming

PE and Swim has been very active in the past month! Older students participated in a frisbee unit while younger students focused on activities that centered around nutrition education, particularly on the food pyramid. The middle school swim elective learned how to turn their clothes into flotation devices for an emergency situation and the 4.5's started to learn their newest stroke, side stroke. Coming up will be the last unit for this school year focusing on outdoor, team building activities. In swimming we will continue to develop front crawl, back stroke, breast stroke and elementary backstroke. Please consider enrolling your student in summer swimming lessons and/or encouraging them to swim for fun in local pools and/or lakes!

Music

Our Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 25th at 3:30. The theme for this concert is Broadway Beat! It will feature songs from famous Broadway musicals including: Hairspray, Music Man, Rent, Wicked, The King and I, and Grease. During the coming weeks students in elementary classes will be learning songs from these musicals, as well as, discovering the history of musicals and Broadway. Middle school band and choir have been hard at work for several weeks on their concert songs and we will be putting the final touches on these in the coming weeks. They will be performing "Chant and Tribal Dance", "Highlights from Star Wars", "What a Wonderful World", and "Time Warp". We hope you will be able to attend our performance.

Musically Yours,
Katie Gates

Technology

The 2/3 **students** have finished their Energy: Sound and Light unit, and spent a few fun weeks exploring Comic Life. This is a program that lets students create visual stories in the form of comics, and the students had a lot of fun creating their own comics with this software. They took photos of themselves, gathered photographs from the Internet (and learned how to properly credit the use of 3rd party images in the process), and created short visual stories.

They've since moved on to their final design and engineering challenge, which will be to design, build and test a boat that can hold 50 grams of weight and use a propulsion system to travel at least 1 yard. Final tests for these will be in the school pool, and students are very excited for this!

This month, the 4/5 **students** finished up their Vibrobots project documentation by finalizing their Keynote presentations. After that, they embarked on a short project using Google Sketchup, which is free 3D modeling software offered by Google for both Mac and PC.

4/5 **students** have now begun a project called Green Design, in which they examine the benefits and consequences of choosing and using different technologies. We are starting with an examination of three different types of light bulbs: incandescent, fluorescent (CFL), and LED light bulbs. Students will be collecting data, learning how the different types of bulbs work, and ultimately making a decision about which type of bulb they would buy.

The big news for **Middle School technology** is that the students have finally finished the Green Chemistry project, including giving their mock company's final presentations & assessing the waste that was generated during the course of this project. They will be moving on to several digital citizenship lessons in the upcoming weeks.

Many thanks to the parent volunteers who came into the classroom to serve as "potential investors" during Green Chemistry final presentations!

Bill

Media Center

We're still hoping for some more suggestions for web sites to add to our Alexandria online catalog. The new software also allows us to put web addresses into the catalog, subject-described just like books or AV material. If there are web sites you use and can recommend for inclusion in the catalog, please send the URLs to me. Students will be able to find books and electronic resources all in one search, right from our catalog.

As you know, we have lots of enthusiastic student artists at Honey Creek. The Media Center now features a "Student Artist of the Week" display. Any students who feel so inclined may offer a piece to be shown; the whole school comes through the Media Center in a week, so there is lots of opportunity to get their stuff looked at. Please pass along this information to your students.

Speaking of displays, the Media Center also now has a space dedicated to the new materials that we receive. Students sometimes wonder if the Media Center ever gets new books; this is the answer to their questions. The space may also be used for featuring works of a particular author, or a topic of current interest.

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. If parents ask about making donations in honor of their graduate, please let them know about this option.

I spoke this week with Nicola, our local bookseller, who is planning a Book Fair with us on Friday, May 20. This will coincide with the Spring Curriculum Celebration. Teachers are welcome to submit 5 or 6 titles that they would appreciate as donations for their classrooms. Please send me the titles you would like, and I'll forward them on to Nicola. Also, please begin to spread the word among the students that the Book Fair is coming. Our Media Center gets a percentage of the total volume sold. Time to look for some summer reading!

Turning to the topic of old books, I'm working on putting together a school archives. There are a number of student-produced books that are currently in the Professional collection, and a large group of books was removed from a storage closet and will be added to this area. The catalog will display the location information for the archival items. If you have any items that might be best housed in an archive collection, I'd be happy to add them.

The end of this school year is approaching fast, and the Media Center will have things to be accomplished before the last day. As has been past practice, the Media Center will close to checkouts on May 23. This will give 11 days to gather in the material currently checked out, and to do a complete inventory. The collection has not been thoroughly inventoried in a couple of years, and this process will be 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. You may want

to look over your classroom or home book collections for stray Media Center material. Recess-in-the-Media-Center will also end on May 23.

Art

Spring is here, and we have a lot of exciting things going on in art! K/1 classes have finished making "fingerprint geraniums" to celebrate spring, and are now working on a project called "On My Street..." where the students are using a combination of textures and drawing to create an imaginative street complete with houses, buildings, stores, etc. 2/3 classes have finished their Wayne Thiebaud-inspired cake paintings and are now moving onto designing and building their own kites. 4/5 classes have just completed a wonderful project inspired by Gustav Klimt's Tree of Life, in which the students painted trees and adorned them with cutouts and symbols which represent things that tell about who they are and what they like. We called this project a "self-portrait" even though we didn't draw faces. Middle School classes are starting their Egyptian themed project by creating an illustration which is Egyptian themed, and using that as a template for the gold scratchboard they are using as their final product. Elective classes have just finished a street art & graffiti themed project, and are now moving onto illustration and covering careers, artists, and artwork that represent the field.

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “ EARLY DISMISSAL AND NO SCHOOL DAYS:” Friday, May 6th; 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)	Chess		
		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/>.

Academic Service-Learning

Yeah, Honey Creek Folders! You made 1,243 paper cranes. When the Osh Kosh B'Gosh store received the Honey Creek box of cranes, it contained the largest number donated by any one group. Remember, for every crane you made, Osh Kosh is donating an article of clothing to the children affected by the tsunami in Japan. Nice work. Also, thank you to Creative Papers Online (handmade-paper.us) for donating paper and to Betsy Price for delivering the cranes to the Osh Kosh outlet in Howell. ~Hannah Hotchkiss

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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!