

Honey Bunches of Notes

A Monthly Newsletter

October, 2010

Upcoming Events:

October 1: Middle School Dance

October 8: Professional Development: 1/2 day

October 22: Conferences: 1/2 day

October 27: Board Meeting

October 29: Conferences: 1/2 day, Fall Festival

November 5: K-1 Field Trip to Matthaei Botanical Gardens 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



News From the Director

Greetings,

Along with the changing leaves, the MEAPs are upon us. Students began testing Tuesday, October 12th (I sent out an earlier email informing you of the schedule). While many schools spend weeks preparing for the MEAPs and teaching to the test, our approach has always been to teach students to think critically while building skills that will help them be successful in school and life, and this approach has met with a great deal of success. The best way to help your son or daughter do well on these assessments is to bring them to school well rested. All we ask is that each child do his or her best.

This past Friday, the faculty learned about the new process for school improvement, which was put in place with the Race to the Top legislation and the adoption of the Common Core Standards. For the next few months, we will work on putting together our 2011-2012 School Improvement Plan. Once the basic outline is complete, we will hold a community meeting and ask for your input in attaining the broad educational goals required in the plan. The faculty is committed to meeting or surpassing the state's new requirements while at the same time maintaining the unique culture of Honey Creek.

Since early summer, I have been working with a group of community members and a consultant to do the foundational work necessary to begin our strategic plan. The first phase of

that work is complete, and surveys will go out to our graduates this week. This will be followed by a series of focus groups made up of graduates. Once we have data outlining our strengths and opportunities, we will share that data with the community and move into the strategic planning process. As information becomes available I will share it through email or in our newsletter.

We are also just two weeks away from our Fall Festival, which will take place on October 29th. Please watch for emails with further information. For those of you who are new to the community, this is a great opportunity to get to know us better while enjoying a fun, family oriented evening.

Enjoy the rest of October!
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

The year is in full swing and I hope that everyone is settling in.

An Important Message to Families who shop at Busch's Grocery:

Starting Nov 1, you will need to have a Busch's MyWay account to link your recharge purchases to in order for Honey Creek to earn Cash for Education. You can use your current recharge card as your form of payment, you just need to enter the number from the back of the card into the MyWay form of payment page. If you don't have a MyWay program account, you will need to sign up for one, otherwise your use of the recharge card will not be credited to Honey Creek school. Busch's is one of our top contributors. We are sorry for the inconvenience. If you have any questions about how to link your recharge card, come see us on Wed. or Fri. mornings or email any of the parents below.

The next deadline for scrip monthly and special orders is Wed, October 20. Pickup an order envelope on Wed morning in the front hall during morning drop off or on Bagel Friday morning at the Scrip Table. Or email one of the scrip team or drop off a request in the Scrip mailbox located in the A-wing across

from the Middle School math room (A0).

Please consider scrip and grocery recharge as part of your school routine. Scrip and grocery recharge are fundraising while you shop for those things that you would normally buy. We all buy groceries whether it's at Busch's, Kroger's, Country Market, or Whole Foods. Every store where our families shop has a funding opportunity for Honey Creek.

We have recharge cards available to purchase for:

Arbor Farms Market
Buschs
Hillers
Morgan and York

We have gift (scrip) cards available to purchase for:

Country Market (Polly's)
Peoples Food Coop
Whole Foods Market

The following retailers make funds available to Honey Creek through rewards programs:

Plum Market
Krogers
Meijers
Target

Please contact one of the following parents for more information. Thank you for your support of our great school!

Sue Kirkup sue@mbirdsall.com
Alex Foulis alexfoulis@hotmail.com
Anne Dimitry chloe713@yahoo.com
Simone Jenkins
sjenkins@morganandyork.com

Honey Creek PTO

Doing A Little is Doing A Lot!

Are you over-scheduled? Do work or family or other obligations prevent you from attending PTO meetings on a regular basis? Relax! The Honey Creek PTO practices the same sort of inclusiveness that our children are taught! There are many ways to get involved, and you do not have to be present at the monthly meetings.

A few of the ways to contribute:

- From time to time we will email the community asking for volunteers to do specific tasks relating to events or other needs as they arise. Look for these emails and reply if you can help.
- If you would like to add an item to the PTO meeting agenda or have a concern the PTO may be able to help with, please contact us at ptoagenda@honeycreekschool.org
- You can also contact either the PTO Chair, Simone Jenkins sjenkins@morganandyork.com or Co-Chair, Trish Gearhart tgearha1@gmail.com
- The PTO standing school enrichment committees meet on days and times that suit the individual committee's needs. The standing committees are:
 - o STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
 - o Health & Wellness
 - o Fine Arts

The PTO meets on the first school day Friday of every month.

Board News

On behalf of the entire Honey Creek Board of Trustees, we would like to welcome new and returning students, families and staff to the 2010-2011 Honey Creek Community school program year.

The regular September Board of Trustees meeting was held on Wednesday, September 22nd. The focus of this meeting was to learn about findings from the recent auditor's report completed by Yeo and Yeo for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. Honey Creek was found to be in complete compliance, and was found to be in sound financial standing.

Other Board initiatives this month, included the annual Board of Trustees Retreat which took place on Friday, October 1, 2010. Here we focused on articulating and identifying Board goals for the 2010/2011 school year. We are pleased to report a productive retreat and will be reporting on our goals after their official adoption at our Wednesday, October 27th meeting

Board Kudos

We would like to share our deep appreciation with Shellee Almquist for a seamless audit and for keeping our school in strong financial status during uncertain economic times. Your hard work and dedication is much appreciated. Thank you Shellee!

Thank you to all of the organizers and helpers who carried out a great kick off picnic at Independence Lake

Hats off to Karen Giltrow and her helper, Zane Almquist, for all of the administrative support which allowed for a great beginning to the school year!

The entire Middle School staff for another amazing experience for our students at Camp Tamarack

To PTO Co Chairs Simone Jenkins and Trish Gearhart for organizing and carrying out a great beginning for our families

To ALL of the teachers and staff for the hard work, professional days, and for setting the stage with a successful Curriculum night, to get this program year underway!

To all camp staff for an amazing summer: Amber Byers, Laura Edmonds, Matt Scott, Sarah Mancos, Charlie DeSautel, Katie Gates, Jeannie Crayne, Kristin Vespa, Alicia Meza-Wison, Eric Howe, and DeShaun Young.

To the IC Team who trained the staff on Sept. 1st: Mary Bassett, Salli Kropp, Tammy Hall, Teresa Gonzalez Woods, Jon Baek, Barbara Naess, Elizabeth Scott, and Amber Byers.

-Libby Sheldon Jarratt

Secretary

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

Journeys is our year long theme in K-1. We have four thematic units over the course of the school year which we refer to as “My Journey”, “My Journey Through School”, “My Journey Through the Community”, and “My Journey Through the World”. Throughout each thematic unit is the overarching concept of patterns in journeys. The children are working toward understanding that learning what we teach them helps them to see patterns, they can make their own observations to discover patterns, and when they discover patterns, they can make informed choices.

We introduced the children to this year's theme by discussing the definition of a journey, different types of journeys, how life is like a journey, and how learning helps you on your many journeys. We read the Dr. Seuss book, “Oh, the Places You'll Go” and the children got a blank map to draw some of the places they might want to go to or journey to some day.

In “My Journey” the children have begun to explore family diversity, self-identity, and personal histories through a variety of activities. We will proceed to learning about heredity, plant and animal life cycles, and family histories.

Our first field trip will be a journey to Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Friday, November 5th. We will be leaving Honey Creek at 9:30 A.M. and will return by 12:30 P.M.

Middle Elementary News

With the brisk October weather here, we now begin the daily battle of getting your children to wear coats outside!! Please ask your child to show and/or explain the weather guidelines bulletin board outside of A9. We use this to help your child be warm enough when they go outside.

Many of our routines are firmly in place and our classrooms are buzzing with children reading, writing and doing math. Homework has started and most children are doing a fantastic job with this. Planners should be coming home daily, Monday through Thursday.

We've introduced Buddy Reading this year in the classrooms and the kids enjoy this. The children are also fond of Read to Self and Writing Workshop. We are learning all about the writing process; it takes authors a long time to come up with a finished story! All classes are reading Mitt, the Michigan Mouse and are tickled to hear about Mitt's adventures throughout our great state. Spelling groups happen twice a week, with a lesson on Monday and the test on Fridays. Handwriting is being taught as well. All 3rd graders are working on cursive and 2nd graders are reviewing printing and some are even choosing to work on cursive as well.

In math, we are finishing up our assessments, working on Math Daily(s) and learning lots of great math games. Ask your child which one is their favorite and try to squeeze in a game of this sometime! Having your child explain the rules to a game is great way to practice important communication skills. All classrooms have also done work with time and money. If you have an analog clock in your house, make sure your 2nd grader can tell time to the hour and half hour and your 3rd grader can tell time to the minute. Have your child count out coins for you or figure the change in their head at the grocery store.

Michigan has been our focus in social studies and we've enjoyed looking at maps and learning basic facts about our state.

In October, look for us to dive into our Native Americans of Michigan unit, properties of matter in science, measurement, complete sentences and reading and writing nonfiction.

Later Elementary News

Happy October to you all! The year is off to an unbelievably fast start, and we've all adapted quickly to the new routines and expectations of 4th and 5th grade! Here's a quick update of what's been happening here in the 4/5's!

We recently wrapped up our Constitution Day lesson on the Bill of Rights in social studies. We went over the first ten amendments to the constitution and discussed them all in detail. Kids were asked to summarize the amendments and then they worked in groups to develop an illustrated version of the Bill of Rights. Not only did this activity coincide with Constitution Day, but it also met many of the social studies standards and benchmarks concerning government and civics. Lately students have been creating and labeling their own Michigan maps. They were given a list of towns/cities, geographic features, and industrial activities to locate, and they were given Michigan road maps to help with locating these different map features. This activity was particularly useful for familiarizing students with the geographic layout of their home state. Looking ahead, we'll be working on a Michigan history timeline project (1930's to present) intended to describe and analyze important events in Michigan's past.

Students continue their study of geology and geography in science. They recently worked with dough to create their own landform models. This science unit fits nicely with our social studies unit on Michigan's history, geography, and economic activities. And in language arts, students are still working through their poetry unit. Recently students learned about different poetic devices – similes, metaphors, alliteration, etc. Students continue to work on spelling with their base class teachers. If you have any questions about spelling – or math – feel free to contact Teresa, Johnny, or Cam.

Have a wonderful start to October!

Middle School News

Social Studies

We're off to a great start in Social Studies, laying the geographic groundwork for the rest of the year's history units. Students have chosen events from the Revolution to the Civil War and are using research to determine whether or not the environmental conditions impacted history.

We are about to embark on the technology aspect of the project, where kids will travel back in time to report on the event. Google Earth, PhotoBooth and iMovie will be their means of completing the project. This unit will transition nicely into the Revolutionary War, which we hope to begin by the end of the month.

Language Arts

In the Middle School Reading and Writing workshop, we have been focusing on writing autobiographical vignettes, imitating some of those in Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*. Students have been learning some of the different elements of style, such as simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, sensory detail, and repetition. They have composed multiple drafts employing such elements, and will be choosing one to "publish" in the coming weeks. Stay tuned in late October for Historical Fiction!

Elizabeth Scott

Mathematics

We are in full swing in Middle School Math classes, listen to what been happening...

In **Algebra** we are finishing up with our first project, Local Experts. The students were to pick a mathematical skill to review and present to the rest of the class. They could create a storybook, textbook, brochure, or game to teach the topic and then present it to the rest of the class. Look for these artifacts at the Curriculum Celebration in December. Next we will be jumping into the fundamentals of Algebra.

In **Course 3** we are just finishing up on reviewing basic operations with rational numbers as well as, simple one- and two-step algebraic equations. Next we will be focusing on Ratios and Proportions with a fun project at the end of the unit (Dilation Dummies).

In **Course 2** we had our first test covering Patterns & Sequences, Mathematical Properties, Exponents, Prime Factorization, and the Order of Operation - that's quite a bit, but it was mostly review. Next we will be covering operations with integers and applying them to all rational numbers (including fractions and decimals).

Course 1 has also taken their first test covering Patterns & Sequences, Mathematical Properties, and the Order of Operation. Next we will be focusing on Fractions and Mixed Numbers.

Please visit the Middle School Mathematics website. I have recently placed a document called *Test Corrections for Extra Credit* there. When the students receive their test back, I expect them to have a parent sign the test. They are also welcome to improve their score by correcting to the problems they got wrong (detailed explanation on the website).

If their score is less than 80%, it is mandatory that they make test corrections. Please take a minute to ask your student about this when they bring their test home. NOTE: Algebra students are not expected to have the test signed.

Science

For the month of October, students are investigating the concepts of force and motion, specifically dealing with speed for now and in a couple of weeks with the six simple machines. How many different ways can you move an object from one location to another? Can one describe an object's motion from a graph of distance versus time? What forces are involved with this motion?

Towards the end of the month, we'll start our engineering project of building a "complex" machine that will move an object. In engineering teams, we'll work to understand the problem, brainstorm on possible solutions, design a plan, construct based upon our design, and test to see what our results are. As true engineers, we'll take our results and start the engineering process again to find a better solution.

Calling any engineers out there, are you interested in sharing your experiences in the field? Contact me! (jbaek@hc.wash.k12.mi.us).

Music

The music program has so many talented students and we are all working on a variety of fun units. Early Elementary students are learning about the music terms forte and piano which mean loud and quiet. Last week they created a thunderstorm using hand instruments and they learned that thunderstorms begin quietly or piano, in the middle they are loud or forte and at the end they are quiet or piano again.

The Middle Elementary students are working on the instruments of the orchestra. They are learning about the four families of instruments; strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion. They will learn the name of each instrument and what it sounds like. The Later Elementary students are also working on an instruments of the orchestra unit, to help them review what they learned in Middle Elementary. After this unit they will be moving on to a short music history unit.

Band I is doing well learning their instruments and we will be coming together as a band for the first time starting October 19. It will be very exciting for them to hear how the band will sound for the first time!

Band II has already received their concert music and we will be working on that for several weeks now due to its increased difficulty level. Band II's goal is to wow everyone at the concert with how much they have accomplished.

The choir is working on sight singing, rhythms, and learning to part sing.

Media Center

The Book Fair is coming to Honey Creek from Oct. 20 through Oct. 29 at the Fall Festival.

The books we'll be selling will be available for preview before you and your students buy, on Wednesday, Oct. 20 in the afternoon, and through the next Tuesday, Oct. 26. We'll begin selling on Wednesday, Oct 27 after lunch. Parents are welcome to visit the fair at any time, and the Media Center staff would welcome any help that parents could give to the Early and Middle Elementary students during the preview time as they compile their wish-lists.

Art

September has flown by, and art projects are in full swing as we move into October! The students at Honey Creek have shown tremendous creativity, enthusiasm, and teamwork in art class, and I am very proud of them.

K/1 classes have learned about Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky and his paintings of circles. They created their own colorful circles using crayons, and experimented with painting watercolor over crayons to create a watercolor resist. Grades 2/3 learned about using glue as a drawing tool to create a landscape. We discussed horizon lines and perspective, and the students used warm and cool colors of oil pastel on black paper to create some wonderful works. Grades 4/5 had a chance to study and view mosaic art from around the world, and used a tree template to create a mosaic of their own by cutting construction paper "tiles." Middle school classes viewed the exciting work of the Chinese artist Liu Bolin, and used his concept of camouflage to create an abstract oil pastel drawing and camouflage a magazine cutout of their choice. Middle school elective has been practicing drawing concepts by doing a series of value scales, and practice drawings of parts of the face (ears, noses, eyes, mouths, hair). This practice leads up to their current project, of drawing and rendering half of a portrait. I am looking forward to a year full of many more exciting projects with the students, and I am excited to display their art so that everyone can view what comes from the wonderful imaginations that our students possess.
Lindsay Parrish

Physical Education/ Swimming

The first month of PE and Swim has been great! We worked on soccer skills with 2-8 and movement concepts with K-1. We took the deep end test in swimming and started working on our front and back crawl with 2-5 and floating, blowing bubbles and flutter kick with the K-1's. In October we are working on volleyball with 4-8 and locomotor skills for K-3. Please remember to send your student with their bathing suit, towel, AND goggles on their swim days and gym shoes on their PE day.

Technology

In the 2/3 classes, we are gearing up for a great year of using technology and becoming technologically literate. This means lots of hands-on practice with our tools like the laptop computers as well as discussions about why we use technology to help us solve problems. We've been working with TuxPaint and Pages to do drawing and writing with the computers, and will soon be learning about the school's file server.

The 4/5 classes have been working on an exciting project for the past few weeks. The school recently purchased a high-speed digital camera that allows us to record video and play it back in extreme slow motion (210 frames per second!). The 4/5 groups have been having a lot of fun learning about this technology, and have been using it for their first project. They developed a project proposal describing something they'd like to see in slow motion, then used the high-speed camera to record it and made observations based on what they saw.

In the Middle School, students have been working on creating their Camp Tamarack video diaries using the footage that was shot during their week at camp. They've been selecting footage to use and learning how to edit in iMovie, and are creating 90-second masterpieces!

The MS technology elective class in Web Design has been working hard to learn the basics of HTML code, which is the language used to make web sites. They've finished up creating their first pages from scratch, and are now getting into more advanced HTML and CSS coding.

The school's Lego robotics teams are also underway now, and they are extremely excited for this year's season! The challenge theme this year is Body Forward, focused on biomedical engineering. If you see a Legomaniac in the hallway, wish them good luck for this year's teams!

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “EARLY DISMISSAL FRIDAYS:” October 8th, 22nd & 29th; January 28th; February 11th; March 4th & 11th; April 22nd; and May 6th. Please register 1 WEEK BEFORE in order to receive the Early Bird Discount.

SPECIAL CLUBS There are still openings for the following after school special clubs:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Music Lessons				
	Italian	Choi Kwang Do		

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.

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

PLEASE CARE WHAT YOU WEAR. Recess will be outside everyday. Except for hazardous weather conditions (lightning, severe storms, wind chill below -10° F), we will always go outside for recess. There is limited indoor space that allows the children opportunities to move around energetically. Children should always dress for the weather. Students must wear snow pants, boots, coat, hat, and mittens or gloves in order to play in the snow and sled.

Other News:

Congratulations to Joe Griffith who presented his Cambodia unit at a workshop at U of M's Museum of Art on October 6. He was a part of a crew of presenters who analyzed Buddhist relics on display at the museum and provided insight to fellow teachers on how to present Southeast Asian topics. His presentation focused on the Khmer Rouge and ways to engage students on topics like genocide.

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!