



Upcoming Events:

- October 12:** PTO Meeting
- October 19:** Conferences, 1/2 day
- October 24:** Board Meeting, 5:30
- October 26:** Conferences, 1/2 day
- October 26:** Fall Festival, 6-8:00pm
- October 29:** Professional Development, all day

Index:

Director's Note, Vision/Mission/Belief	
Statements & Goals	1-2
Phoenix Rising, Scrip, Outreach, Fine Arts, STEM and Board Notes	3
Academic Service-Learning, Wellness	
Committee, & PTO News	4
Direct Withdraw Form	5
Elementary School News	6&7
Middle School News	8
Specials News	9&10
After School Programs & X-C News	11
Contact Information	12

Director's Notes:

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that September passed so quickly, but the smiles and laughter that fill our classrooms and hallways suggest the students are successfully transitioning to the bustle of the school year.

October is another busy month starting with picture day and count day, which were on October 3rd and 5th. Please keep in mind that our funding is based on the number of students present on count days. While exceptions are provided for students who are not able to attend that day, it does require additional paperwork on the part of the school.

October is also MEAP month, the state requires that all students in third grade or higher be assessed at least twice per year. The TerraNova will be administered to all second through eighth grade students in the spring. The MEAP Schedule is as Follows:

October 9	Reading Day 1	Grades 3-8
October 10	Reading Day 2	Grades 3-8
October 11	Writing Day 1	Grades 4&7
October 11	Make-up Reading	Grades 3,5,6,8
October 15	Make-up Read/Write	Grades 3-8
October 16	Mathematics	Grades 3-8
October 17	Writing Day 2	Grades 4&7
October 17	Science	Grades 5&8
October 17	Social Studies	Grade 6
October 18-25	Make-up all subjects and grades	

At Honey Creek we pride ourselves in not teaching to the test. Additionally, we hope to keep the assessment process as stress free as possible. All we ask is that students get good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and do their best.

Fall conferences are scheduled for October 19 and 26, which are both half days. Watch your inbox for further information on conference sign-up.

Also on the 26th, I will be hosting the first *Coffee with the Director* from 7:45 to 8:15. As October is MEAP month, the topic will be assessment. *Coffee with the Director* will take place in the Cafetorium on the fourth Friday of Each Month. Please let me know if there is a topic that you would like me to address.

The month will wrap up with our Fall Festival on October 26th and a professional development day on October 29. The Fall Festival is wonderful community event with activities for children of all ages. I hope to see you there,

Have a wonderful autumn!

AI

Vision Statement:

Honey Creek Community School will be a model for high K-8 student achievement articulated through curriculum, assessment, instruction, and reporting.

Mission Statement:

Honey Creek Community School provides an outstanding education of the whole child so individual students reach their academic potential through a rigorous, project-based curriculum and a community focus. Honey Creek students develop critical-thinking skills, a positive self-image, and an appreciation and respect for diversity.

Belief Statements:

- We believe that students learn and flourish with experiential, integrated, and thematic instruction.
- We believe that there are experts of all ages in our community who contribute to student learning.
- We believe that the development of cooperative learning strategies and the ability to work successfully as a team member are essential life skills.
- We believe that every individual is entitled to a respectful environment that is both physically and emotionally safe in which he or she can develop to his or her full potential.
- We believe that it is essential for children and their families to be active participants in students' education, their school, and their community.
- We believe that celebrating academic, personal, and civic achievement promotes enthusiasm for learning and supports a positive self-image.

- We believe that fostering genuine relationships between the High Point and Honey Creek communities creates opportunities for students to share the joy of life viewed through a broad lens of human experience.

- We believe that curriculum based service learning projects enhance student learning.

- We believe instruction is academically rigorous when students are challenged to research, explore, and synthesize complex topics to develop a deep understanding of core subjects.

- We believe students demonstrate their learning as they share, explain, and transfer their new knowledge.

- We believe that our intentional commitment to small, multi-age classrooms leads to strong relationships that promote the development of each student.

Goals:

Curriculum: All core academics will be aligned both vertically and horizontally with the Common Core Standards and/or GLCEs and integrated with: (1) curriculum based service, (2) projects emphasizing environmental sustainability.

Instruction: All classrooms will have high quality differentiated (same learning outcomes, different means) instruction that is integrated, project-based and challenges each child to achieve at his or her greatest level.

Reporting: All grade levels will provide consistent and informative reports on student achievement, social growth, and classroom activities.

Community: Sustain and enhance Honey Creek Community School by encouraging and connecting the time, talent, and resources of our entire community.

Note: Specific action plans, metrics, and timelines will be developed with input from the faculty, administration and community. As those action plans are developed they will be shared with the entire Honey Creek community.

Strategy Screen:

Any strategy must meet the following criteria:

1. Support the Honey Creek Community School Mission
2. Be aligned with the Honey Creek Community School belief statements
3. Be sustainable in terms of human and financial resources
4. Meet quality criteria, i.e. do whatever it is really well
5. Communicate the Honey Creek Community School story
6. Possess measurable academic and social outcomes

S.T.E.M. Committee News

The Honey Creek Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) committee will be met for the first time this school year on October 5, 2012 at 8:30am. All community members interested in STEM are invited to attend (being a scientist is not required!) Should you have any questions, please feel free to email Serena Poli (mpoli@emich.edu). If you are a fan of STEM, and are willing to donate some of your time, please consider becoming a co-Chair.

Fine Arts Committee News

The Fine Arts Committee met on 9/7/12 and plan to meet on the first Friday of each month at 8:20AM location TBA. We welcome new members at anytime. Our goal is to support our mighty fine arts teachers, Katie Bush (music) and Lindsay Parrish (art) and to enhance and enrich the already fantastic arts curriculum at Honey Creek by providing what we can in additional opportunities for our students.

Last year, our committee facilitated the purchase of a portable stage. We helped our middle school students produce another fantastic Talent Show and we helped find resources for some of our students to enjoy field trips to the U of M Museum of Art.

We will again be supporting the production of the Talent Show. We will be helping coordinate, working with Lindsay and other faculty, more field trips to the UMMA. We have some other ideas that we hope to implement, working in partnership with our teachers, including performances of music, dance or spoken word. Another exciting idea is a student art show. More specifics will be shared as plans are solidified.

Phoenix Rising Campaign

There is 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!

Outreach Committee News

The Outreach Committee works to improve communications both within the Honey Creek community and with external audiences. We plan to meet once a month on the third Friday of the month. **Our next meeting is Friday, October 19 at 8:15 a.m.** (location to be determined). We welcome new members at any time. Contact Nina Nabors if you are interested or if you have any questions/suggestions related to the Outreach Committee: nina.nabors@waldenu.edu.

Coffee with the Director

In October, the Committee is helping to launch a new monthly event, *Coffee with the Director*. Honey Creek's Director, Al Waters will be available to meet with parents during the fourth Friday Bagel Day each month. The first *Coffee with the Director* meeting will occur on Friday, October 26 from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. and the featured topic will be student assessment. These new meetings are planned in response to feedback received in the communications survey conducted by the committee last school year.

Website Improvements

The committee worked closely with Honey Creek staff to improve the school's website. The new and improved site that was unveiled during last school year has drawn praise. However, we want to ensure that we keep the website fresh and look for ways to improve the site's ability to serve both external and internal users. The committee is looking for people interested in helping with this ongoing effort. If you have ideas for how to improve the website and/or expertise with web design, please contact Scott Mahler: samahler@umich.edu.

Scrip News

Contact Alex Foulis with any questions: alexfoulis@hotmail.com

Board News

The Honey Creek Community School Board Of Trustees met September 25, 2012

-The Fund Development Committee has submitted for 501c3 status which will provide the school with greater fund raising capabilities. After a short hiatus, the committee will begin active meetings in October with regular meetings planned for the third Wednesday of each month at 4:30.

-The Outreach Committee is now chaired by Nina Nabors who reports the committee will work on creating an ongoing process for website maintenance. They are also helping coordinate Coffee with the Director sessions as well as working on outreach within the school and local communities and evaluation of the effectiveness of Honey Bunches of Notes as the primary means of communication. As part of the Strategic Plan, Nina is also working with Al and Shellee to document Honey Creeks Story. The committee will meet the third Friday of each month at 8:15 am.

-The board unanimously agreed to provide additional funding to help offset the cost of the staffs health care benefits.

-Al reported the School Improvement Plan was amended to reflect the changes enacted as a result of the HCCS being identified as a Focus School, in that the additional support will be offered during the school day and not after school.

-Sally Kropp was welcomed as the new faculty liaison

-The next board meeting will be held October 24, 2012 at 5:30 in the High Point Reception room (i.e. the pit).

This is an open meeting and community attendance is welcomed and encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Krawcke
Board Secretary

Academic Service-Learning:

The total for last year's recorded service hours is 3,860 hours!!! Great Job Honey Creek!!!

Wellness Committee News

Save the date:

HARVEST DINNER

FUNDRAISER – Friday, October 26 in conjunction with Fall Festival. Alex Young from Zingerman's Roadhouse will cook up a delicious meal again for us this year. Funds will be used to champion Wellness Committee causes, including providing fruit for classroom fruit/veggie bowls.

FARM TO SCHOOL -

September's Farm to School event in the cafeteria featured tastes from the school's own edible garden. October featured rainbow carrots from a regional farm. Look for food made with our featured produce on the lunch line and on the open-to-everyone Try-it Thursdays.

PTO News

The PTO meets on the second Friday of every month, at 8:30, in the Pit.

Every member of the Honey Creek community is welcome to participate, at any level and at any time. There are many ways to get involved, and you do not have to be present at the monthly meetings. To learn more, contact a Theme Committee, ask your room parent, or visit the PTO website: <http://honeycreekpto.wordpress.com/>.

At the first PTO meeting of the school year, we caught up with the Theme Committees, reviewed summer and fall fundraising activities and events, and approved the 2012-13 annual PTO budget

The Theme Committees - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Wellness, and Fine Arts - assist the Honey Creek community by planning and implementing "bonus" activities and events. Examples include Try-It-Thursdays and the Harvest Dinner with the Wellness Committee, Lunch with an Expert and the STEM Fair with the STEM Committee, and a Fine Arts Fair and extra field trips with the Fine Arts Committee. To become involved with one or more of these committees - with a one-time idea or event or on an ongoing basis - contact Deb Lentz or Jane Pacheco (Wellness), Serena Poli (STEM), or Sherri Borer (Fine Arts).

Over the summer, twenty Honey Creek families (and 33 children) participated in the Summer Read-a-Thon. Thank you to those families, and thank you to Trish Gearhart for organizing the event. Funds raised will go

toward the non-fiction leveled library fundraising project.

While it is impossible to acknowledge everyone who has supported the PTO, we'd also like to thank Rick Meader, who organized the Summer Picnic, and Matt Cyrulnik, who is continuing Bagel Sales. Thank you to Angie Tracey, who organized the Walk-N-Run-A-Thon, and to room parents, who have been handling signups for classroom needs and activities, have planned grade level potlucks, and have organized the Middle School Dance.

UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

- **Bagel Fridays:** Relax with breakfast at the school on Friday mornings (or the last school day of the week). Bagels, cream cheese and juice, OH MY! There are also toasters available for use.
- **October PTO Meeting:** Friday, October 12, 8:30-10:30 AM
- **Fall Festival:** Friday, October 26, 6-8 PM. Planning starts now! Help the middle school students make a fabulous haunted house, design and run activity tables and games, or talk to STEM about their pumpkin trebuchet.

If you would like to add an item to the PTO meeting agenda or have a concern with which the PTO may be able to help, please contact the PTO Chair, Mike Birdsall, m.g.birdsall@mbirdsall.com, or co-Chair Catie Wells, cgbwells@gmail.com.

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

We are off to a wonderful school year, and our thematic learning is well underway! 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.

Middle Elementary News

Welcome to 2nd and 3rd grade with Tammy, Mary, Salli and Ashley. We are having a great time getting to know your students, teaching routines and beginning to work on reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

For the most up-to-date information, please check our classroom blogs each week. One urgent request we have for families is to make sure your child has inside shoes for the classroom. Slippers, clogs and flip-flops all work well to keep our classroom clean.

After completing assessments, students have been working on building stamina in reading and writing, starting timed math tests in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as working on linear measurements.

In October, students will be working on the scientific process and properties of matter in science. Social studies finds us studying Michigan geography and beginning to learn about native Michiganders.

We are in our 3rd year of using CAFE to help us think about reading strategies. Comprehension is understanding what we read. Accuracy is reading the words correctly, Fluency is reading smoothly and with expression and Expand Vocabulary is noticing, understanding, learning and using new words. The acronym roughly puts the strategies into importance

with comprehension being the first goal. We have access to great information sheets called Parent Pipelines. If you ever want more information about any of these strategies, please let your child's teacher now.

We're looking forward to seeing you at conferences later in October.

Later Elementary News

In later elementary things have started rolling like the proverbial snowball! This first month is always focused on team building. We have spent a lot of time discussing our grade level values and practicing how to keep our four guiding principles of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility present in everything we do and say. This can be a really challenging task! One thing that helps at home is to use this common language and to ask your children to reflect on their choices. It's amazing how much we, as teachers, learn from this practice! This is a great group of students and we're really excited about the potential this year.

Academically, students are actively engaged in each content area and have already finished some mini-projects with diligence. In math, all classes are working through our first unit on number sense. Some concepts may seem redundant, but through repeated assessments we are working to identify and fill holes in knowledge so we can tackle the rest of the content.

In literature we have been working through our poetry unit. This has included reading and listening to some well-known poems, watching some slam (aka performance) poets and delving into what poetry "is." We have come to the conclusion that it is almost everything and everywhere! Students have written at least eight different styles of poetry as well as others

that they were inspired to write (no assignment necessary!). They are now working to revise and edit these and compile them into poetry books. You may be amazed to see what your child has created!

4/5 Social Studies classes have been working diligently on their map making skills. Students are practicing skills of precision and neatness of work, as well as developing understandings of key components of all maps such as: scale, cardinal and intermediate directions of a compass rose, title, and legends (keys). In our next unit, currently underway, we are working on being able to locate specific points on Earth using latitude and longitude, as well as identify landforms based on key definitions. These skills are imperative to master because the rest of the year's curriculum is very 'place based.' Mid October, we'll pause in our study of geography to begin our unit on the Presidential Elections.

Science is finding the fourth and fifth grade students elbow deep in consumer testing! We are using what we have learned about the scientific method to test and compare four types of commonly used paper towels. The students are designing their own tests for measuring wet strength and absorbency, given a set of common materials. It is really interesting to observe them working in groups, deciding how to use what they are given to create a procedure that will measure the correct variable. The faces made when the washers break through the paper towels

are priceless! We will be moving into a short study of energy that will be capped by a presentation from the National Energy Foundation and DTE in late October. It's going to be a great year in science!

Middle School News

Social Studies

In Social Studies, students have been studying the early history of humans - how and why they evolved, their migration out of Africa, and how they survived in various environments. We started the year off with a Jeopardy pre-assessment activity in class, which allowed kids to demonstrate their knowledge in teams. They took a test over that material, which has laid the foundation for what we will cover in greater depth this first unit. In the next couple of weeks, we will spend some time on the Agricultural Revolution, learn about the development of towns, cities, kingdoms and empires, and eventually ask the question, "What is progress?" This unit will lead nicely into the next, when we cover some of the first civilizations of North and South America: the Mayans, Incas and Aztecs. Look for student presentations about those empires at the Curriculum Celebration in January.

Science

Earth Rocks is the first unit that the middle school scientists will be investigating this semester as we "journey" in, over, and around the Earth. We start off with investigating watersheds, especially the one that Honey Creek School is involved with... the Huron River watershed. We are partnering with HRWC to do a field stream study as an outdoor school trip and will need parent volunteers to help chaperone students groups. We are projecting Thursday, October 25th as the date, rain or shine. If you are interested in helping out please feel free to contact me or signup when the informational email comes out this week. In addition we are partnering with Sarah Fick, graduate student at University of Michigan, to assist and participate in her graduate work in science education. Our own classroom will be a laboratory area where we will help her investigate how students learn science topics most effectively. With parent permission she will document and use this data for her dissertation.

Mathematics

What a great way to begin the year with a week at camp... it really gives all of us a chance to get to know one another. After camp the kids were given their class rotations and we have been busy reviewing and learning math since. For those who were not able to make it to Curriculum Night I wanted to direct you to some very helpful websites... to check on homework that is assigned or it's due date you can go to the middle school math website: honeycreekschool.org/ms/mathematics. There, you will also find Math Expectations, reviewing how the kids will be evaluated. If you look farther into your students specific course level you can see what we intend to cover throughout the year.

To check out the online textbook, or watch a tutorial of a particular math skill go to: my.hrw.com - your student will have the username and password written in their planner, front page. Speaking of your student's planner, remember this is our first line of communication. We, the teachers, will stamp the planner if an assignment is completed and turned in on time, and we will circle it if it is not. Feel free to ask your student why they have a circle if they do, and ask to see the completed assignment :)

The **Algebra** class will be having their first test on Tuesday, October 2 over the Foundations of Algebra. The kids have done a great job working independently and budgeting their time, to review this material. We have taken this opportunity to learn how to read a math textbook and how to extract knowledge from it... something they have not done before.

In **Course 3**, these first few weeks have found us in heavy review. Understanding the rational number system, pulling all the knowledge we have learned about integers, fractions, decimals, terminating decimals and repeating decimals, etc. These are skills that have been taught over the middle school and elementary years but we are combining them like never before. Our first test is scheduled for Monday, October 8.

Course 2 gets to have a little fun with two-dimensional geometry. Relearning all of the vocabulary and classifications that go along with geometry can be a little confusing at times... but we have worked hard to make it crystal clear. Ask your student to see their notes from class and you will see the work they have put into it. The test is coming soon.

In **Course 1** we have been working with number sense and patterns. Sorting out the differences between prime and composite numbers, factors and multiples, GCF and LCM, preparing us to move into Number Systems like integers and rational numbers. We will be taking our first test on Monday, October 8.

FYI: our students will be participating in taking the MEAP exam beginning October 9. Please be sure they are getting enough sleep and a good breakfast during testing times.

Thanks for partnering with your student and me in having a year filled with growth,
Cindy

Language Arts

We have launched this year's reading and writing workshop by starting with narrative writing. Students have been digging deep in to their personal experiences to come up with the moments that they have learned from and grown with. Narrative writing is probably the easiest place to start, because students are writing on a topic in which they are experts- themselves! In the coming weeks, we will be shifting our focus from short narrative to short fiction. We will be studying both classic and contemporary works of short fiction, as well as trying out writing our own.

Specials News

Technology

Welcome to another exciting year for the technology program at Honey Creek! I am really looking forward to working with your students this year.

In 2/3 technology, students have started out their exploration and use of technology with our iPad cart. The first few weeks, we worked on basic usage, including procedures for how to get out the iPads and use them, our appropriate use policy, and exploring with several different apps. Since then, we've started to investigate why and when we use different tools (for example, making a drawing on paper vs drawing with an app on the iPads) and when each tool is appropriate. Last week, we had a discussion about systems, and students identified systems and their components by annotating on a digital photo they took with their iPad.

In the 4/5 technology classes, we started out the year by getting students geared up to use the technology they will need to be familiar with during the school year, including their new Google Apps accounts for document creation and sharing, as well as introducing our typing program Type to Learn. The last 2 weeks, we have begun our first project, which is guided by the essential question, "How can we use technological tools to allow us to learn and discover more than we could without them?" This connects to the observation work students in 4/5s have been pursuing in science class; in this technology project, students are learning how slow-motion video can allow them to observe more than they could with the naked eye. Students have been writing up their proposals for what they'd like to see, and are getting ready to start recording their own slow-motion videos using our tools.

The Middle School technology classes have also started out by getting familiar with the technology they'll need during the school year. For middle school, this includes Google Apps, Moodle, and the various computing devices like laptops and iPads. We did a series of quick activities the first 3 weeks to make sure students were familiar with these tools, and have now begun our first inquiry

unit. During this unit, entitled "Better Understanding our World Through Technology", students will be learning how to use sophisticated instruments like temperature probes, pH sensors, and others to collect data about the natural world, and help them analyze and understand this data through graphing and research.

Finally, the first-semester technology elective this year is called Appropriate Technology. We started our semester by bringing in special guest John Barrie, who runs the Appropriate Technology Collaborative in Ann Arbor. Appropriate Technology, sometimes called "Design for the Other 90%", deals with the use of varying technologies to improve the lives of people all over the world, helping to bring about clean water, renewable energy sources, and so on. The first projects students are working on are solar ovens, which allow one to cook without consuming fossil fuels.

I look forward to a great year in technology this year!

Art

I hope everyone has had a beautiful summer and is ready for some more great art projects produced by our Honey Creek students! I am thrilled to be back as your children's art teacher and am looking forward to working with each one of our students throughout this school year.

The K/1 classes will begin by exploring the art element of lines and primary colors. 2/3 classes will be starting a clay project which goes along with the 2/3 reading unit about Mitt the Michigan Mouse. The 4/5 students will be studying the art of camouflage by use of pastels in a Liu Bolin-inspired project. Middle School classes are doing a unit project on the celebration of Dia de los Muertos and the associated symbolism and cultural traditions. Middle School Elective has been creating canvas-covered "art journals" and will be beginning their first drawing project shortly.

I would also like to inform everyone once again about our school's online art gallery, Artsonia. This website page was

created by myself with the purpose of joining the thousands of other participating schools across the country in showing off our artists' wonderful talents and skills. Each student has their own online portfolio which displays each of their art projects and goes with them from grade to grade, year to year. If your student is already registered on the website, you do not need to fill out another permission slip. If your student is not currently on the site, or if your student is new to Honey Creek this year, you can pick up a permission slip and send it back in my staff mailbox or to your student's teacher so that I can register them online. This process is a safety precaution and also protects your child's privacy, allowing the parents or guardians that fill out the permission slip to have control over who can view their child's work. You can visit our page at www.artsonia.com/HoneyCreekCommunity1. Half of the proceeds from sales through the gift shop go back to our school to buy more art supplies, and your support is, as always, very much appreciated.

I'm looking forward to another wonderful year!

Physical Education/ Swimming

So far this school year in physical education, we have been working on team building and cooperative activities. Recently we just started a soccer unit. The first few weeks of swimming have been used to see what levels all of the kids are at and what they need the most work on. In the next few weeks, we will begin work on developing different strokes and becoming more confident in the water.

The field hockey season has gotten off to a slow start with some tough losses against some good opponents. We have been utilizing great teamwork and communication to stay competitive, despite having a small team and often no subs. Our next game is Tuesday, Oct. 9th against Maumee Valley.

Media Center

We're happy to be back at it here in the Media Center. The beginning of school always comes in like a tidal wave of projects, great ideas, and hopes for the new year.

Joining Marion in the Media Center this fall semester are Middle School student workers Evan, Nyah, Alix and Noah. They're helping to keep the Media Center running smoothly and looking good, while working on some job skills like punctuality and following directions. We also welcome adult volunteer Liz Meurer, who comes in on some Friday mornings to help shelve books and work with the classes that come in. Glad to have them here!

A marvelous- and NEW!- addition to the Media Center's capabilities is a set of four computers, which Bill has been working to get fully set up and ready for student projects and research. We appreciate all the work he's put into both keeping our four elderly machines working last year, and in getting the four new ones up and running. These computers will be a wonderful extension of our ability to help our students succeed.

The Media Center is playing a role in the Middle School's independent project, which started in mid-September. They're researching local places, concentrating on the areas in which they live. Marion presented some information and strategies for researching local history, and the students heard presentations on the land on which Honey Creek School now stands, and on doing research in their individual towns from representatives of local history groups. They will likely be approaching family members for memories of what the town in which they live looked like back in the day.

Please mark your calendars- and your winter holiday shopping lists- for the Fall Festival Book Fair coming on Friday, October 26. Our wonderful local bookseller, Nicola's, will be hosting the sale in the Media

Center, and will give 20% of all sales to the Media Center to build its collection. With the coming of fall also comes a slew of new books, which our students are already asking for. The Book Fair is a great chance to do some winter holiday shopping for the kids on your list, an opportunity to support a local business, and a way to help Honey Creek's Media Center grow!

Recess in the Media Center will begin again on October 2. Each day, a portion of our students is welcomed into the Media Center during recess for that quiet reading time or homework-catchup time that some crave during a busy day. Grades 2/3 can come in on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4/5s come on Wednesdays and Fridays, and Middle School students may come in any day with a pre-arranged pass from their base class teachers to do their work or reading. While it suits some students best to be active on the playground, we try to preserve a space of calm during the day for others to relax and take a break with a good book.

If you are among the generous Honey Creek community who enjoys contributing to the library, please take a look at our wish list that is kept on Amazon.com. From the school home page, click on "Current Families" and then on "Media Center." You'll see a link called "Help Build our Collection." The link will drop down when you click, and you can see the items we're looking to add to the library. There is no need to buy the items from Amazon if you want to buy locally; just use it as an idea source for the things we need the most. Thanks in advance to all who contribute material to the Media Center's collection!

Here's to a great, productive, and fun fall!

Marion

Music

We are off to a great start in music classes this year. 4-5 classes have been studying great composers and have learned much about Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi. In the coming weeks they will be studying Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin.

2-3 classes have been reviewing instruments of the orchestra. Last week we created Wanted posters for the different instruments. Look for these to be hung up outside the cafeteria soon.

K-1 classes have been learning about the music of John Denver, including his songs, Take Me Home Country Roads, Sunshine on My Shoulders, and Grandma's Feather Bed. Through these songs we have studied beat, movement, vocal development, writing skills, and listening.

Band 1 students have just begun learning their instruments in small groups. Most of them know how to put together their instruments and can play the first three notes. They've also learned whole notes, whole rests, treble/bass clef, and time signature. In about two weeks we will begin playing together as a large band.

Band 2 students have been reviewing what they learned last year. We will continue to develop those skills throughout the year using our band book and band music.

Choir students have been working on developing good vocal technique. We've been working from our sight singing books to develop skills in music reading and soon will get our first sheet of choir music. We are looking forward to a great year in music!

After School Programs

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL** BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING "EARLY DISMISSAL & NO SCHOOL DAYS:" October 19th, 26th & 29th; November 5th & 6th; February 8th; March 1st & 8th; April 26th; and May 3rd. Please register ONE 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: November 22nd & 23rd; December 24th-January 4th; January 21st; February 18th-22nd; April 1st-5th; May 27th; and June 12th.

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
MS Field Hockey & Cross Country	MS Field Hockey & Cross Country	Black Belt	MS Field Hockey & Cross Country	
LEGO=FULL	LEGO=FULL	Art 4-8	LEGO=FULL	
	Italian		3/4 Field Hockey	
	Art K-3			

Please pick up a registration form from the after school programs bulletin board down the hall from the parent mailboxes. Please stay tuned for information on these and other activities:

4H, Ballet, Baseball, Basketball, Brownies, Campfire, Chinese, Cooking, Crafts, Dance, Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Fitness, Football, French, Garden, German, Gymnastics, Harp, Hip Hop, History Club, Korean, Knitting, Open Swim, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, Sewing, Skateboarding, Spanish, Spiral Scouts, Soccer, Study Skills, Tap Dance, Tech, Tennis, Theater, Tutoring, Violin, Writing, Yoga, Youth In Government, Zumba,

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

Cross Country Team News

The Phoenix Cross Country Team 2 has kicked off their season on fire. In their debut meet, the boys took 1st of 3 teams at Greenhills on September 20th. The Honey Creek runners created history hosting their first ever meet on our campus as they welcomed schools, Emerson and St. Thomas. The meet was highlighted with Honey Creek claiming 4 out of the top 5 places. The Phoenix harriers are back in action next week as we take the short drive down Scio Church to run at Emerson School on October 2nd. Race time is slated for 4:15 PM.

Mark your calendars for the 1st Phoenix Cross Country Invitational, October 16th, as Honey Creek hosts 5 Ann Arbor/Metro Detroit schools. Race time is 4:15

2012 Middle School XC Team 2 members consist of:

Tom Oates, Talin Khanna, Ellery Hatopp, Abby Knox, Dylan Reynolds, Wilson Noll, Ben Simon, Jackie Walter, Justin Alexander, Sam Jyawook, and Xavier Mahler

What makes our team unique from most others in the area is we allow our dynamic 5th graders to take part. Not only do they participate but they contribute greatly in practices and help produce our strong performances in the meets. 5th Grade Runners- Spencer Jyawook, Robbie Oates, & Julian Ascani

There is still space available to join the team. Come & Run with us!

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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>