

HONEY BUNCHES OF NOTES

HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Greetings,

March is Reading Month and it will be a very busy month at Honey Creek. This Friday, March 6, we will hold a Read In from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Feel free to join us; just bring your favorite book! On March 24, students are encouraged to wear clothing with words on it. Please keep it appropriate, and on March 27 students are encouraged to dress as a favorite book character.

We will also be holding our Talent Show and dinner on March 13. This is always a fun event, so I hope to see you there.

I also hope to see you at the Wellness Committee's follow up to their first movie night. Dr. Elizabeth Koschman of the U of M Department of Psychology will be presenting on tools children can use to cope with anxiety.

Speaking of anxiety, many students and parent experience anxiety over transitioning to middle school. To help parents better understand this transition, I will be hosting two middle school transition meetings. The first will be from 8:30 to 9:30 A.M. on March 24, and the second will take place from 2:15 to 3:15 P.M. on March 30. Both Meetings will be held in the PIT.

Finally, I was quite disturbed by two incidents that I observed in our parking lot last week. The first incident involves one of our youngest students. The child ran from the car unaccompanied and sprinted between two large snow piles in to the main drive without looking. Had a car been passing it

MARCH

Events

Mark your calendar

March is Reading Month

March 6th Read-In

March 13th Annual Talent Show & Dinner

Spring 3/20

March 20th & March 27th 1/2 day for

Student/Teacher Conferences
March 25th Board Meeting

April

6-10 Spring Break
17th Earth Day
22nd Board Mtg.
24th Professional development 1/2 day.

would not have seen the child. The second incident involved cars passing on the main drive. Please keep in mind that this is a one-lane drive. We have many children moving among cars, and we want to keep each and every one safe. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The speed limit on campus is 15 MPH.
- The entire stretch of the main drive is a no passing zone.
- Turn signals should be used whenever entering and leaving the drop-off lane.
- The drop-off lane is a no parking zone. If you need to leave your car, park in the lot.
- Young children often break away from their adult and run into the drive between parked cars. Be alert.

I know that all of us get in a hurry at times, but I also know that all of us want to keep the children safe. Your support exercising safe driving practices is greatly appreciated.

All the best,

Al

Welcome to March is Reading Month!

All across the country, schools will be celebrating March is Reading Month. Monday, March 2nd is Dr. Seuss's birthday, which is commemorated as Read Across America Day. Honey Creek's reading celebration will be a Read-In on Friday, March 6, from 10AM-11AM. Honey Creek students, High Point students, and kids from Gretchen's House will all be part of a kick-off event in the gym and then have time for reading. We are excited for this opportunity for the schools to collaborate.

The Honey Creek/High Point Literacy Committee (yes, it is a new committee!) put together the March calendar (see below) to provide some other reading inspiration for students and families. It has some optional ideas, so choose the ones that work for your family.

We are happy to share the news that ALL Honey Creek students qualify for a free Ann Arbor Library card even if they don't live in Ann Arbor. You can print the application <http://www.aadl.org/files/MinorsLcardappREV02-14.pdf> and take it to any branch.

Students need to show proof (report card) that they attend Honey Creek. The adults signing will need to show photo identification.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please reply to kevlar198@aol.com.

Happy Reading!

From the Literacy Committee (Dianne Baker, Stephanie Boling, Tammy Hall, Michelle Manthei, Dianne McLaren-Brighton, Karen Larson, Liz Scott, Renee Swart, Johnny Thompson)

MARCH 2015

WHAT IS A READ IN? For a short time on the morning of Friday, March 6, students from Honey Creek, High Point, and Gretchen's House will assemble in the gym to kick off our first ever **Read In**. Whether a student is being read to or reading to someone, this is a fun way to celebrate our appreciation for reading! This calendar also offers some optional suggestions for how to celebrate March is Reading Month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Seuss Crafts! A2 downtown library- from 1-2pm in the multi-purpose room appropriate for K-5 www.aadl.org/events	2 Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss' Birthday)	3	4 Make up a story while you are in the car on the way home from school.	5	6 Read In 10-11am K/1: Read to Feed Turn in reading logs.	7
8 Read to a family member!	9 What is your favorite Dr. Seuss book?	10	11 With a grown up's permission, read some- thing other than a book—a magazine, an online article, etc.	12	13 Read the talent show program! The dinner and talent show are tonight!	14 Today is Pi Day and Albert Einstein's birthday! Read about Pi. http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/exploring-pi
15	16 Did you know that Dr. Seuss wrote "Green Eggs and Ham" on a bet that he couldn't write a book with fifty or fewer distinct words?	17 St. Patrick's Day Read about Ireland: http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/ireland-guide/	18 Can you take a "shelfie"? - A photo of yourself in front of your book- shelf	19	20 1st day of Spring—write a poem about spring 1/2 day for Conferences	21 Have a Family Reading Night.
22 Read a story with a flashlight!	23	24 Wear clothing with words on it. (School appropriate of course.)	25	26	27 Dress as your favorite book character 1/2 day—Conferences Read the menu for PTO's California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser	28 Other than using electronics for home- work, can you go without electronics today?
29 "The more you read, the more you will know. The more you learn, the places you'll go." Dr. Seuss	30 Did you know the Ann Arbor Library has book club kits? Search the aadl.org catalog for "Kids Book Clubs to Go".	31	Did you know that all Honey Creek students are eligible for an Ann Arbor library card even if they aren't Ann Arbor residents? Print and fill out the application: http://www.aadl.org/files/MinorsLcardappREV02-14.pdf Students need to show proof (a report card) that they attend Honey Creek. Also, the parent /guardian signing for the student will need to show identification.			

PTO

March 20th and 27th – Community provides lunch for teachers/staff.

March 27th – PTO's California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser flyer on page 6.

PTO is organizing lunch potlucks for the teachers/staff on two half days/conference days in March – March 20th and 27th. Conference days are hectic, and the teachers have limited time to eat lunch, so your donations really help. **The 20th is a traditional potluck with Honey Creek families providing the food and beverages.** Here is the sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444abab22a75-spring1>

March 27th is a catered meal from California Pizza Kitchen (because it is also the day for Honey Creek's fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen). Please consider donating cash or a check (made out to Honey Creek PTO) to pay for the teachers' luncheon that day. Your donation will be converted to SCRIP (an additional 10% back) AND 20% of the money we spend on the teachers' luncheon will be donated back to PTO because of the fundraiser. Cash/checks can be given to Jennifer at the SCRIP table on Wednesday or Friday mornings or delivered to Karen Giltrow's office.

Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up the luncheons on the 20th and 27th. Please consider signing up (same sign up genius) for one of these important jobs. Set up happens by noon so you can pick up your student(s) and clean up happens around 1pm.

THANK YOU for supporting the tradition of providing lunch to the teachers/staff on conference half days.

Questions?

Please direct potluck questions to Jody Klein jodyscout@gmail.com

and fundraiser questions to Karen Larson kevlar198@aol.com.

PTO Update

This month, you'll see in the A-wing two bulletin boards with PTO information. Please be sure to check them out!

The first one will have PTO positions on it....many of which are open the 2015-2016 school year. Each position will have a brief description of their role and time commitment as well as who to contact if you are interested in taking that on. We're especially hoping for parents who were new to Honey Creek in 2014!

The second bulletin board will have clear and detailed information about the many easy and virtually effortless ways to save money for Honey Creek.

Our goal is to have these boards up by Wednesday of next week! Be sure to take a look at them.

Save the Date for Honey Creek's Earth Day Celebration

Friday, April 17th is Honey Creek's Earth Day celebration. Parent volunteers are needed to make this day possible. If you are willing to help with planning and/or on Earth Day, please contact Jody Klein (jodyscout@gmail.com) or sign up on the PTO web site <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094daca92faa8-201420151> . Thank you!

STEM Committee

Teams are forming now for the HoneyCreek Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO). This team-based event is for 2nd through 5th graders, and is a wonderful opportunity for students to acquire STEM-related knowledge in a fun, team setting.

Sign your child up to be a part of one (or two) olympiad event teams. Detailed description of each event team may be found at: <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/wesowizards.home/home>;

There are also opportunities for parents to **volunteer as a coach or assistant coach for an event.** (Anyone can volunteer as a coach so even if you do not have a 2nd - 5th grader at Honey Creek, please consider coaching one of our teams.)

Please contact Head Coach, Sara Brintall for more information. Online sign-up is possible by [clicking here](#).

Hello from the Honey Creek Wellness Committee!

February's "Farm to School" featured a unique snack for the kids to try: Michigan grown roasted garbanzo and black beans with several different spices as toppings.

The children enjoyed this healthy treat! Watch for honey at "Farm to School" on Thursday, March 5. The Wellness Committee also hosted a screening and discussion of the film *Project Happiness* on February 26, which was well attended by students and parents. Watch for details about another mental wellness event in March! And, please join us for our next Wellness Committee meeting, which will be on Friday, March 20 at Panera Bread on Jackson Rd. We would love input and ideas from our Honey Creek families!

Thanks for all you do to support wellness in our community!

Sweet!



**Friday,
March
13**

**A very special night
planned, produced & performed
by Honey Creek students!**

Honey Creek TALENT NIGHT

**Featuring
the
Aerial Silks
team!**

**With a
special
performance
from the
teachers!**

suggested \$8 donation

**Proceeds support this
year's 8th grade trip!**

**Art
Exhibition
& Dinner
5:00**

**Talent
Show
6:00**

The **Talent Night** festivities are less than two weeks away! Please mark your calendars for Friday, March 13th at 5pm. More details, and your opportunity to volunteer, can be found by following this link to the [SignUpGenius](#).

We are pleased to announce the menu for this year's Talent Night - a yummy brunch-style meal, including specially-prepared fritatas (with meat and veggie options!). **Full details [here](#).**

Many adult hands are needed, so please consider how you may contribute to the success of the event!

The [Honey Creek PTO Website](#) has been kept thoroughly updated with this year's details, please check it out!

Reminders:

Art Exhibition Deadline: Art must be submitted by Friday, Mar 6th to guarantee inclusion.

A printable application form, with rules, can be found at [Art Application](#).

Advertising Space Available! Gold Sponsor still needed!

If you own a business, big or small, this is a great chance to inform the Honey Creek community. We need your ads to make a successful Talent Show Program!

[Download our advertising/sponsor Rate Card](#)

Classrooms

K-1

March is reading month!

The children are focusing on resource use in our theme, "My Journey Through the Community". The students learn that all resources come from the environment and are limited, and that how we use resources affects the environment. People can choose to take care of the environment by learning to reduce, reuse, recycle, and renew.

We sorted through a typical bag of garbage to identify which things could have been reused, recycled, or composted in order to reduce the amount of garbage in the bag. We also calculated the annual garbage we generate from snack time at school, and after asking parents to pack a garbage -free snack, we made additional calculations and compared the two. The children discussed whether it was important to bring less trash, if there should be rules about trash, and how sometimes people buy items with a lot of packaging because they think it is easier.

A variety of hands-on activities are included in this unit: making our own paper, making reusable snack bags, and planting in the spring.

Additionally, the children will suggest ways to improve resource use at school and carry out a related service-learning project. We are also participating in a Service-Learning project that will benefit Heifer International.

We will continue to Read to Feed through March 6 and collect pledges so the children can pool their money and decide which animals they would like to donate.

~ Best Wishes to all our students performing in the Talent Show!~

2-3

Please continue to read our [blog posts](#) and all emails from Tammy, Salli and Mary to stay up to date with what we are doing!

4-5

Things are still chugging along in later elementary. Monthly compositions and reading logs are less confusing and time consuming and we're really happy to see students' progress! We ask our parents to help children keep track of these assignments, and all others, by going over planners every night. This is such an important part of the later elementary ritual and should open up conversations about what's happening during the school day.

In literature we are continuing our class novel, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred D. Taylor. This book ties directly to our social studies curriculum as well as provides a platform for some important social justice discussions and furthers students' abilities to be reflective readers. We read together each class period, delving into the historical references, the beautiful figurative language of Mildred D. Taylor and her characters' motivations. This unit will also include guest teacher, Simona Goldin, leading two lessons about Lincoln and guiding students to make informed judgements about his character based on historical evidence.

All base classes are also gearing up to begin our historical biographies unit which will culminate with a wax museum tour. Look for information about viewing this spectacle in April!

In science, we are finishing our study of Geology! We started with discussion and modeling of our planet and how it works. We talked about Earth's layers and how they relate to what is happening here on the crust. We talk regularly about what's under our feet, what is happening down there that impacts us up here. We have done several labs that have grounded the students in the idea of weathering and erosion. The rock cycle will be covered a bit more. Then, onto a study of fossils and the history of the Earth. We will take a break in a couple of weeks, to do a study of electricity, and begin our technology project; vibrobots! The kids love this project!

Social Studies classes finished our mapping, 'Where in the World Unit,' and have dived into our next unit, 'When Three Cultures Collide.' As the name suggests, this unit focuses on the history throughout the colonization of the Americas and how the European, African, and Native American cultures created a new culture of its own.

We begin by telling stories about people and places in history, and learn to understand how any and all purposes for human movement on the planet can fall into any or all of the following reasons: Climate via Geography, Resources, and Religion.

Students will be creating a huge 4/5 timeline exhibiting these stories from early Native American movement to North America thirty thousand years ago, through to present day.

check out our website: honeycreek4-5.weebly.com
Thanks!

Middle School

Science

CO2 and YOU!

During these cold months, the middle school science students are learning about climate change through the SPECIES curriculum, created by the University of Michigan College of Education. In the midst of this, we will also be learning about the impact humans have on the environment around us and how we can participate better in our role. What can we do to realize our "carbon footprint" and enact change in ourselves and our families? "CO2 and You" is an ASL project we will participate in to help us understand those responsibilities.

For more information visit us at: <http://honeycreekschool.org/ms/>

Literature

In February, the middle school started reading the science fiction book, *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer. There are so many interesting things to discuss, like the ethics of cloning, crime and punishment, equal rights, the treatment of other living things, nature vs nurture, and much more! Also, we've started writing fiction. Our tables are full of story arcs, and there is talk of character development and conflict in our small groups. Perhaps one of our more exciting pieces of news is the addition of 10 Acer Chromebook computers through a [donorschoose.org](https://www.donorschoose.org) project. Our writers have been so much more productive, and we are able to keep our whole class in the same room! **Thank you to everyone who gave!**

Social Studies

Students have been studying Chinese history. They had a lively debate, are reading primary sources, are preparing dramatizations, and will eventually explore technological innovations.

Math

Course 1 is finishing a unit on operations with decimals.

Course 2 is working on two-step equations.

Course 3 is working on choosing the best representation of data and two-way frequency tables.

Algebra is factoring polynomials and choosing a factoring method.

Geometry students continue to work independently.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING "EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS:"** March 20th & 27th; April 24th; and May 8th. If you have not already registered online, please register by emailing afterschool@hc.wash.k12.mi.us. 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: April 6th-10th; May 25th; and June 10th.

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
Basketball 4-8 (1/12 - 3/30)	Basketball 1-5 (1/13 - 3/31)	Girl Scouts K-8 (12/3 - 6/3)	Indoor Soccer 2-3 - FULL (1/3 - 4/1)	Chess K-8 (1/9 - 5/15)
German K-3 (2/2-3/30)	Theatre 4-8 - FULL (12/9 - 4/23)	Black Belt K-8 (1/21 - 4/1)	Theatre 4-8 - FULL (12/9 - 4/23)	Spanish K-8 (TBA)
DIY Studio (TBA)	Spanish K-8 (TBA)	Aerial Silks 4-8 (1/28-4/22)	DIY Studio (TBA)	
	Art K-3 (1/27 - 3/31)	Art 4-8 (1/21 - 4/1)		
	Swim Lessons K-8 (1/13 - 3/31)			
	Italian K-8 (1/13 - 4/21)			

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, Campfire, Capoeira, Chinese, Cooking, Crafts, Dance, Drums, Eco-Maniacs, Electronic Music, Fitness, Football, French, Gaming, Garden, Gymnastics, Harp, Hip Hop, History Club, Juggling, Korean, Knitting, Orchestra, Photography, Pilates, Rocks & Robots, Rockets, Sewing, Skateboarding, Spiral Scouts, Soccer (K-8), Study Skills, Stunts, Tap Dance, Tech, Tennis, Tutoring, Volleyball, 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.

SUMMER CAMP!

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

Board News, March 2015

The board met on February 25, 2015 at 5:30 pm. Present: Greg White, Yvette Atkinson, Christine Kelley, Karen Andrews, Nina Nabors, Pamela Reister, Angela Tracey, Al Waters, Shellee Almquist, Karen Giltrow, Sue Hofbauer, Mary Bassett.

Highlights included updates on ongoing board goals, which were clarified at the board retreat in February. The board continues to work toward improved communications and marketing, gathering information on potentially replicating our efforts (in additional K-8 or high school facilities), looking at ways to improve revenue, and board development.

Governance committee recommended, and the board approved, nomination of 9th board member: Steve Rich. He will join us in March. Rhonda DeLong has agreed to co-chair the newly formed Branding and Marketing committee, and the board is grateful to both individuals for being willing to volunteer their time.

Angela Tracey notified the board that she will be resigning in June, in order to more fully turn her attention to the needs of the Honey Creek Foundation. The board expressed gratitude for her continuing service.

There will be three vacant board seats to be elected in the spring. The board agrees that areas of need include finance and banking.

Upcoming events:

- March 13, 2015 Talent Show/Dinner 5:00p.m.
- March 20, 2015 Conferences, ½ Day of School
- March 25, 2015 Board Meeting 5:30p.m.
- March 27, 2015 Conferences, ½ Day of School