

HONEY BUNCHES OF NOTES

HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Greetings all,

October has been a very eventful month. The Walk/Run-A-Thon was a huge success, and I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who contributed on what was a rather cold and damp day.

The spirit of community again filled our school at the fall festival. All the work that went into the Harvest Dinner, Haunted Stage, and numerous festival activities made for a fun filled evening for children and adults. To all who contributed, many, many, thanks.

I'd also like to thank those of you who have supported Honey Creek by contributing to our foundation. If you have been following the various political campaigns, you know that the messages about how schools are funded have become rather confusing. On December 2nd, I will hold three meetings to explain how changes in funding continue to threaten our little school. The meetings will last about 40 minutes and will be held at 8:30 am, 3:30 pm, and 5:30 pm. Please consider attending one.

Finally, with the shorter days we will once again experience darkness in the morning and early in the evening. I ask that you remember to drive safely and slowly as you drop off and pick up your children. Keep in mind that the speed limit on campus is fifteen miles per hour.

Thank you, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Al

November EVENTS

Nov. 5

4-5 Field Trip

Nov. 12

Finance Meeting

4:30

Nov. 19-21

Learning

Express

Fundraiser

Nov. 19

MS Field Trip

Nov. 19

Wellness Meeting

noon

Nov. 19

Board Meeting

5:30pm

December

Dec. 5

STEM Fair

Dec. 11

Performance

Craft Fair

SERVICE LEARNING

Service-Learning and building a spirit of service in order to positively impact the world are core components of Honey Creek Community School's mission. Curriculum-Based Service-Learning happens in the classrooms, but many students are motivated to serve others outside of school hours as well. Each year we recognize students and families who spend 50+ hours/year serving others with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

The deadline to submit hours is June 10th, 2015. An awards ceremony will be held the following year to honor all recipients. On the subject of awards ceremonies, we hope to honor those students who earned the 2013-2014 award as soon as our awards arrive.

In the meantime, thank you for supporting our students as they learn to become philanthropists, giving of their time, talents, and treasures to benefit the common good. In short, thank you for being heroes!

Thank You From PTO

PTO would like to thank everyone who contributed in some way (money, food, time for set up or clean up) to the teacher/staff luncheons in October.

A special thank you to Morgan & York for their generous support of our school. In addition to donating coffee and some of the food, Morgan & York is also giving 10% back to Honey Creek PTO for the community's purchases that day which is \$84.63.

When you shop at Morgan & York, please remember to thank them for all they do for Honey Creek.

Happy fall from the Honey Creek Wellness Committee!

The Wellness Committee sends a big thank you to: Mani Osteria, Tantre Farms, various local businesses, and all the parent volunteers who made the Fall Festival Harvest Dinner such a huge success! Almost 200 people attended dinner, which raised money for mental wellness initiatives that will take place during this school year. The October "Farm-to-School" featured local pumpkins made into a delicious dip with apple slices for the kids to try. If you haven't done so already, please consider volunteering to periodically fill the bowl in your child's class so that our kids may have access to healthy snacks. And, you are welcome to join us for our next Wellness Committee meeting, which will be on Wednesday, November 19 at Noon at Northside Grill.

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

K-1

We are beginning our project work to complete our first theme unit, "My Journey," and will soon be moving on to the second unit for this year's theme, "My Journey Through School."

In this thematic unit students will be learning about how maps can show us where things are in our classrooms and school, how people use maps on their journeys, how we can make observations about what goes on in our school and try to make things more fair and sustainable by doing Service-Learning projects. Additionally students will learn about how germs journey from one person to another to make them sick, and how to stop them at school.

We will discuss how learning about and observing patterns at school can help us make good choices. We will choose Service-Learning projects based on our observations of patterns of things that do not work so well for the people in our building and will work together as a level to complete them. As so many improvements have been made to the building over the last year, our observation walks will be touring the grounds outside of the school building specifically to see if there are ways we can help to improve things to make our school a better place. We will even use our experiences on our field trip to The Leslie Science and Nature Center to talk about how we can learn more about nature here at Honey Creek!



2-3

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us during our two days of conferences. As always, please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Your child learns best when he or she is well, well-rested and arrives to school on time. Thank you for all you do to help your child be ready to learn!

Students are busy building stamina as readers. While students are reading their Just Right Books, teachers are meeting with smaller groups. All students have started using Scholastic News magazine. This is a great resource for current events, written at a 2nd or 3rd grade level. The magazine's nonfiction articles and activities are always tied closely with Common Core State Standards.

All classrooms will have started hearing *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich. This wonderful piece of historical fiction gives us an idea of how Native Americans lived 150 years ago in Michigan.

In writing, students will be working on nonfiction writing. 2nd and 3rd graders need to have an introduction and a conclusion. In the middle of a writing piece, students should be using facts, details and descriptions. Students may start with writing about something they know but will eventually research a topic and then write an informational piece to share their knowledge.

In math, students are working on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division strategies. We are breaking down these operations into smaller strategies, such as partial sums, partial products and make 10. Many of our students will also start a unit of money and time. We still use analog clocks in the curriculum! If you have one, please start using it with your child. Students that have mastered all of the time and money objectives in grades 2 and 3 will be solving word problems with money and time.

We are using some new social studies lessons this year and teachers and students love them. The lessons incorporate reading and writing as well as the social studies content. We are moving away from geography to look at Michigan government.

4-5

Thanks once again to the generosity of the Fine Arts Committee, the Later elementary is journeying to the University of Michigan Museum of Art on Wednesday, November 5. There, we will focus on the scientific method as we explore art. We will also be following up on a presentation by street artist, Patrick Hershberger, as we use maps to explore some of Ann Arbor's street art.

Monthly Compositions? Yes, this is the newest assignment in later elementary. This is a writing task that allows students to learn more about something they find interesting or share a particularly meaningful experience with their teacher. Students completed one in October, working as a class and following a model. For November, everyone will write two of these compositions, and revise them, at home as part of their homework for the month.

In literature, students are ending their poetry journey and beginning their journey into adventure. This begins with an introduction into our class novel, *Hatchet*, and information about the individual book project that is to be completed by January 5 (but is recommended to be completed by December 19 to avoid holiday work stress).

Life Savers, Life Savers everywhere! Students are working through independent projects that ask them to design an experiment using Wint-O-Green Life Savers. Each student has free reign to design any experiment that answers a question they have about this candy. They will use their knowledge of the Scientific Method to build a hypothesis, create steps, collect data, evaluate the results and form a conclusion. Look for these final results at our January Curriculum Celebration. Next up? We'll be journeying into landforms and geology.

Students have been finding their place in space as they learn how to use latitude and longitude. They have found specific coordinates on Earth and applied this knowledge to create a longitude and latitude dot-to-dot. This was the final assessment. Their understanding is directly correlated to whether or not another child can complete the dot-to-dot they created. Everyone also got to experience a classroom size coordinate grid.

2014 Middle School Cross Country

Our grades 5-8 Runners had a successful and exciting season! We competed at a total of eight meets. Three of these were large, very competitive weekend invitationals with many hundreds of runners. Our runners took home many medals and memories.

Our other meets were against our regular competition, including Greenhills, St. Mary's, St. Thomas, St. Francis, and Hillel Day School. In these meets, our boys team dominated, and our girls were also at the top.

A majority of our runners dramatically improved their times over the season!

We celebrated our season with an awards banquet on October 22. Here are some of our awards winners:

Robbie Oates (Grade 7) - MVP
Hannah Jyawook (Grade 5) - MVP

Will Barhite (Grade 6) - Scholar/Athlete
Ruhi Khanna (Grade 7) - Scholar/Athlete

Hannah VanLoo (Grade 5) - Most Improved

Mosiah Selassie (Grade 7) - Outstanding Potential
Roman Quesada (Grade 6) - Outstanding Potential

Spencer Jyawook (Grade 7) - Leadership
Ben Simon (Grade 8) - Leadership

The season was a success due to the efforts of many families. Special thanks go to Alex Foulis, our team manager, Nobuko Jyawook, who helped with coaching, and Patty Deldin, who created a concession stand which raised funds for our new Race Clock. Thank you - parents and athletes, for a wonderful season!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ON-SITE EXTENDED DAY STUDENT CARE **WILL** BE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING “EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS:” February 6th; March 20th & 27th; April 24th; and May 8th. If you have not already registered online, 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 27th & 28th; December 22nd-January 2nd; January 19th & 20th; February 16th-20th; April 6th-10th; May 25th; and June 10th.

HONEY CREEK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS: November 3rd-7th, 2014					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	November 3rd	November 4th	November 5th	November 6th	November 7th
3:15-3:30pm	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance
3:30-4:00pm	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
4:00-4:30pm	<i>SNACK: Crackers & H2O</i>	<i>SNACK: Goldfish & H2O</i>	<i>SNACK: Fruit & H2O</i>	<i>SNACK: Pretzels & H2O</i>	<i>SNACK: Popcorn & H2O</i>
4:30-5:45pm	ACTIVITIES: 1) Ball Tag w/ Riah 2) Riddles w/ Amani	ACTIVITIES: 1) Soccer w/ Erin 2) Hand Turkeys w/ Jasmine	ACTIVITIES: 1) Telephone w/ Riah 2) 4-Corners w/ Chris	ACTIVITIES: 1) Tag w/ Amani 2) Harry Potter w/ Val	ACTIVITIES: 1) Handball w/ Chris 2) Crafts w/ Erin
5:45-6pm	Clean Up	Clean Up	Clean Up	Clean Up	Clean Up
STAFF	STAFF	STAFF	STAFF	STAFF	STAFF
Early EL A1/A2/A5	Chris	Chris Jasmine	Chris	Chris (hw)	Chris
Middle EL A6/A9/A10	Riah	Riah Julie (hw)	Riah	Riah	Riah (hw)
Later EL M1/M2/C10	Amani	Amani Erin	Amani (hw)	Amani	Amani
MS CLUB M1/M2/C9/ MSM	Val (hw)	Val Danny (LG)	Julie	Val til 4:30	Erin Julie (LG)
Tutor					
OFF	Danny		Danny	Julie	Val
	Julie		Val (sub til 5:30)	Jasmine (sub)	Danny
	Jasmine (sub)		Jasmine (sub)	Danny	Jasmine (sub)
	Erin (sub)		Erin (sub)	Erin (sub)	
CLUBS	Jr Lego 3:15-4:30 (A6)	Swim Lessons til 5:30	2nd Girls Soccer 4-5:30	Lego 3:15-5 (A0/A9)	Swim Fit til 4:15
	Lego 3:15-5 (A0/A9)	Art til 4:15 (A1)	Aerial Silks til 4:15 (gym)		Chess til 4:30 (A0)
		NO Italian 4:15-5:45	BBA til 4:15 (gym)		Sewing til 4:30 (A9)
NOTES	Cliches, Texas, Japan, Dogs in Space	Election Day, Light Bulbs, King Tut, Wagon Trains, Common Sense	FDR, Basketball, World Soil Day	Basketball, Sousa, Saxophone, Environment	Marie Curie, Magazines, Hug-A- Bear Day, Science
KEY	<i>Coordinator - responsible for all tasks</i>		hw=homework room	Plan (if ratios allow)	T=Tutor
	<i>Asst. Coordinator - snack, dishes, boots</i>				

Board News, November 2014

The board of trustees met on October 22. Present: Karen Andrews, Yvette Atkinson, Christine Kelley, John Lonsway, Nina Nabors, Pamela Reister, Angie Tracey, Greg White, Al Waters, Shellee Almquist, Sue Hofbauer, Mary Bassett, Karen Giltrow.

Committees reported on their work:

Finance committee: Planning for stabilizing future revenue streams; working to determine if bonuses for teachers are feasible with the current budget; working with numbers that continue to change. John Lonsway is working on grant proposals to Honda and GM for STEM funds.

Foundation Liaisons: Reported on continuing fundraising efforts, including planned end-of-year push for donations. Updated board on ongoing project to determine whether hiring a paid professional would be helpful for the Foundation's work.

Governance Committee: Presented and led discussion of revised board bylaws and articles of incorporation. These will be submitted to lawyer and WISD before being approved by Honey Creek board.

Communications and Outreach Committee: Reported on continuing efforts to improve communications and build relationships between all HC stakeholders. Subcommittee will be taking a look at our digital design, and another subcommittee is looking at branding.

Teacher Liaison: Reported feedback from teachers, primarily around responses (and some confusion) around financial situation at Honey Creek.

Director's report: Al reported on his work to bring Honey Creek into compliance with Michigan State Police criminal history records information practices. Also reports that he is drafting more explicit language to create a Religious Expression policy and an LGBTQI policy.

Al also presented some news about finances: Honey Creek no longer qualifies for our Small and Rural Schools grant (~\$28,000), we do not qualify for the State's "performance bonus" this year (~\$15,000), and we are required to pay an additional ~\$16,000 for teacher retirement fund offset. The state is likely increasing each student's foundation allowance by \$50. Honey Creek will also pursue "Best Practices" award of \$50/student.

Al has posted a project on a volunteer matching site, Catchafire, for help with branding/marketing and also monetizing the expertise of Honey Creek. Karen Andrews is also exploring a partnership with the Social Entrepreneurship initiative through the EMU business school.

Board offered kudos to Angie Tracey and all the volunteers that contributed to a successful Walk-and-Run-a-Thon, and also to the fantastic teachers who put so much time and effort into the parent-teacher-student conferences.

Next meeting will be November 19 at 5:30 pm in the Pit. Public participation is always welcomed!