



HORIZON PTO NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015

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The PTO mission is to provide all students at Horizon the opportunity to excel in academics and in life by providing committed volunteers and supplemental funding for supplies and programs that will enhance the learning environment at Horizon Elementary

HORIZON PTO

Elections and Committees

Many of the PTO Officers and Committee Chairs are moving on as their kids are going to middle school next year. As of the printing of this newsletter, a PTO leadership void is shaping up for next year. Without leadership and parent participation, events and programs are likely to be eliminated. Please consider volunteering your time. The PTO welcomes all and encourages sharing of responsibility. Your contributions are needed!

Nominations for PTO President and Treasurer are now being accepted. Submit any candidate names to horizonpto@yahoo.com. The PTO President (or Co-Presidents) oversee all the committees and lead the PTO meetings. They are in contact with Dr. Gehrig in regards to school volunteers, upcoming events and planning. This is a great way to become involved and lead the planning of the school year. Preferably, it is a 2 year position.

The PTO Treasurer administers the checking account, check writing, maintains the cash box and creates the monthly treasurer report. Knowledge of Quick Books is helpful but not required. This is a 2 year position.

If a board position seems too daunting, there are openings for Book Fair, Accelerated Reader Program, Family Movie Night, and Bingo Night.

MAR PTO MEETING

**THURS
3/19/15
6:30PM**

**HORIZON
LEARNING CTR
Guests:
MLP
Teachers**



U-46 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Vote April 7th!

10 candidates are vying for the five open seats on the U-46 school board. There are 7 total school board seats. Donna Smith, a past Horizon parent, and Veronica Noland are not up for re-election.

The race for the 4 four-year term seats features incumbents Traci Ellis and Jennifer Shroder and candidates: Lawrence "Larry" Bury, Phil A. Costello, Susan E. Kerr, Ed Novak, Arisleyda Taylor and Jeanette Ward. Two candidates, Cody Holt and Kai Rush, are running for the single two-year term seat.

The new board will Hire the new U-46 Superintendent and Adopt the strategic plan that replaces Destination 2015. There are marked differences between the candidates which can and will affect you. Make your voice heard and Vote on April 7th!

You can see all the candidates in action and find out their positions by watching the CAC Candidate Forum on the School District U46 YouTube channel. Additionally, the candidate bios and candidate questionnaires are available at www.u46cac.org (click on committees then legislative).

Feb Raffle Winners

Prize	Winner
\$75	Dawn Martin
\$50	Julie Henaghan
\$50	Abhiram Thati
\$25	Salud Perez
\$25	Pam Murdoch
\$25	Susan James



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bingo Night

Horizon Bingo Night is coming!! Last year the Caught Being Good winners called the games and did such a great job that we are going to do it again this year!

The night includes FREE Bingo, popcorn, pizza and snacks for sale along with the ever popular Horizon Bingo Raffle. Tickets are a \$1 each or six for \$5, and 12 for \$10. We have several awesome prizes donated. Don't forget we will be doing the 50/50 raffle too.

We are still looking for donated Bingo prizes (new toys, science kits, decorative items) & raffle items (gift baskets, tickets to local events, restaurant gift cards). Now is the time to re-gift those items lying around the house you'll never use to a good cause!

We are also looking for volunteers that night to help make it a great event. Please email the PTO or Julie Bowler at juliechristine22@gmail.com if you have any questions. Donations can be dropped off at Horizon, please be sure to label them "Bingo Night".

NEW End of Year Family Event

The PTO is considering a NEW end of the year Family event, tentatively slated for May 14th at Horizon. The event will celebrate the success of another school year and is the bookend to the Harvest Fest. It is a chance to use up all of the energy that has been cooped up all winter long.

A planning committee is being formed—please join! Ideas include...

Last Fling Dance-a-Rama

Daddy Daughter/Mother Son Dance

Fun-a-thon (Sports, Dance, and Game Nite)

If you like any one of these, let us know via email. Do you have a better idea? Call or email us ASAP! Your input is invaluable!



Saturday
March 21st

thru

Sunday March
29th

SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

Once again the PTO is selling School Supply Kits for the 2015/16 school year. Look for ordering information in your child's backpack the week of March 16th. Orders will be due no later than Monday, April 13th. Parent pickup will be Monday, May 18th, from 5-7pm at Horizon.

SPRING FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fannie May Spring Fundraiser! Orders from 36 families and 3 staff enabled the PTO to earn just over \$1300 which will go towards buying document cameras.

Delivery to your door will be around March 21st (spring break week!)

A special thank you to the Proebstle Family (Jerian in Mrs. Rodriguez's 2nd Grade) had sales of over \$1000! Way to go!



NEW RESPECT FOR CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS

I had the pleasure of attending the Anderson's Bookstore Children's Literature Breakfast last week. Among the authors who spoke that day was Dav Pilkey, the author of the Captain Underpants series and many other illustrated books for kids.

I have to admit that up to now I really didn't appreciate the Captain Underpants series. After listening to Dav's presentation, I have changed my mind and I want to pass along the main point of what he said.

Dav Pilkey struggled with dyslexia and ADHD and got into lots of trouble at school. In fact, for a long time he had a desk in the hallway where his teacher ended up sending him every day! He loved to draw and make jokes, but as you may imagine, that is why he ended up in the hall.

Here's what he has to say about those struggles and why he write what he writes:

"My learning challenges have influenced my writing a great deal. I remember struggling with reading as a kid, and finding it very difficult to stay focused on books. I actually had my own "criteria" for books that I would choose to read as a kid: they had to have short chapters, lots of illustrations, loads of humor, tons of action, and had to feature robots, monsters, and/or mad scientists. Nowadays, I write for the kid I used to be, so each of my books contain the same elements that I used to look for as a kid.

When I began writing chapter books, I purposefully designed the Captain Underpants books to appeal to kids who, like me, either didn't like to read, or who had reading challenges. This meant the books had to have very short chapters, a high picture-to-text ratio, lots of mini-comics and novelty "Flip-O-Rama" pages, and ridiculously humorous stories and cartoons. I really made these books for the kid I used to be."

He also has this to say about graphic novels:

"I think it's important to keep in mind that a lot of kids have a very difficult time when it comes to reading. It can be a frustrating time, especially when kids are making the transition from picture books to chapter books. That's a HUGE step, and there's a good chance that some kids might get overwhelmed and give up on reading altogether. Comics can help with this transition because the pictures give contextual *clues* to the meanings of the words. This helps with reading comprehension, and can give kids the confidence and skill they need to tackle more challenging books, including the classics."

He is intentional with his writing and chapter length. He wants readers to feel a sense of accomplishment so he keeps his chapters short. That way the reader can feel like he is making progress in the book.

For more on Dav Pilkey check out his graphic bio at <http://www.pilkey.com/pdf/dav-pilkey-bio.pdf>. Perhaps you'll come to a new appreciation for Captain Underpants as well.

Heather Fagan
Horizon Librarian

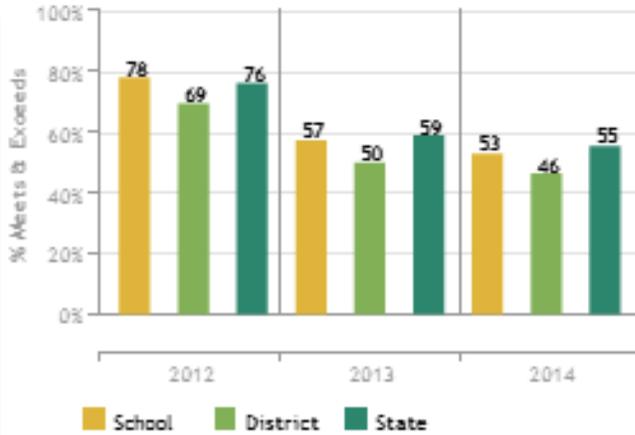


**HORIZON
2013/14
REPORT
CARD**

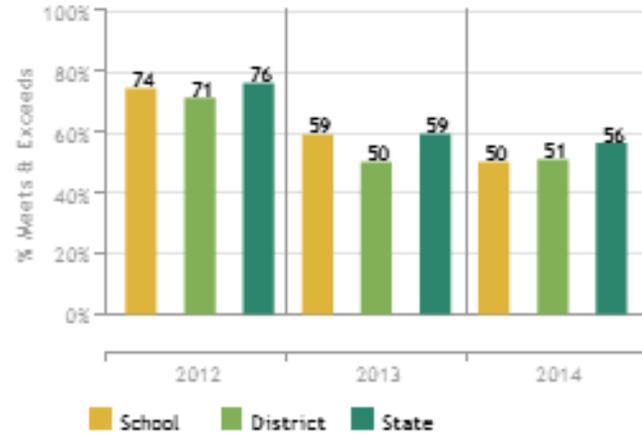
With our Horizon kids currently taking the PARCC test, here is a portion of the past Illinois State Report Card for Horizon that was based on the ISAT. The entire report is at www.Illinoisreportcard.com

For each year, the first column is school, the second is district and the third is state.

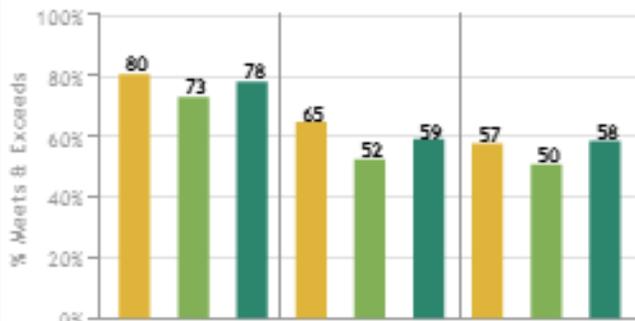
Grade 3 - ISAT Performance By All - Reading



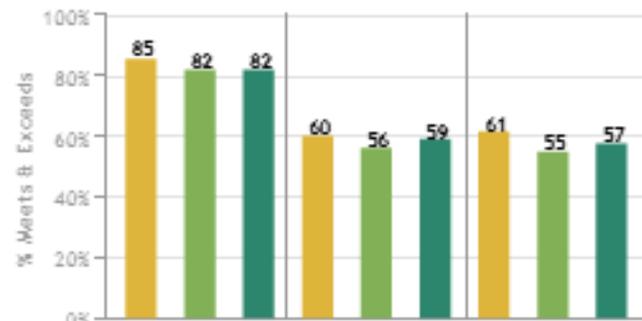
Grade 4 - ISAT Performance By All - Reading



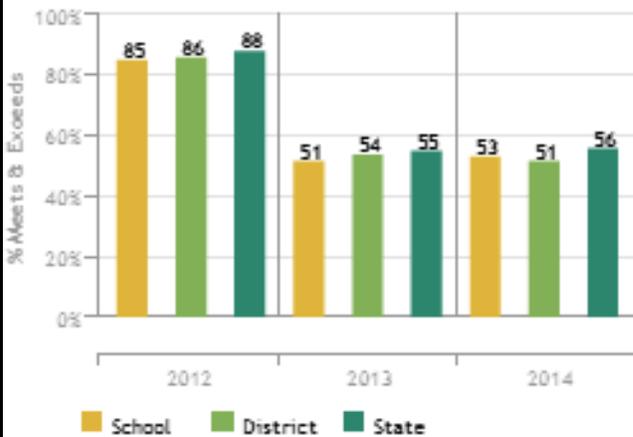
Grade 5 - ISAT Performance By All - Reading



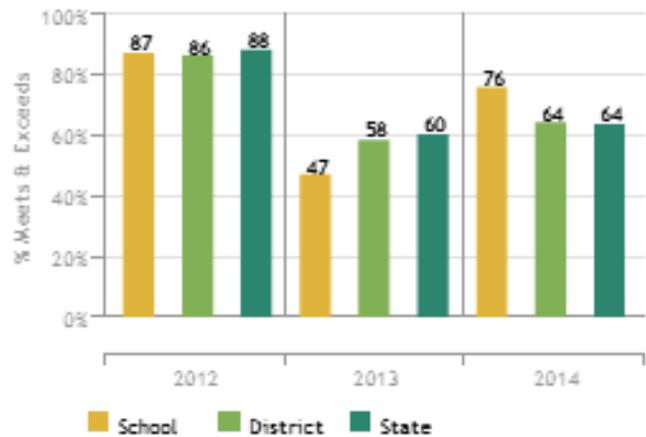
Grade 6 - ISAT Performance By All - Reading



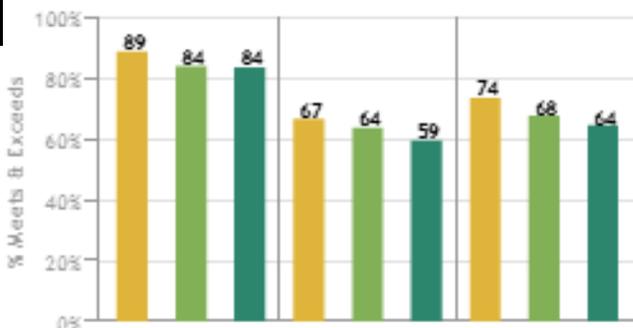
Grade 3 - ISAT Performance By All - Mathematics



Grade 4 - ISAT Performance By All - Mathematics



Grade 5 - ISAT Performance By All - Mathematics



Grade 6 - ISAT Performance By All - Mathematics

