



HORIZON PTO NEWSLETTER

APRIL 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

2015/16 HORIZON PTO

Next year's PTO Board is starting to take shape. Current Board members Tammy Hopkins and Lisa Medendorp are stepping up and will be Co-Presidents. They are joined by Aaron Codak, 2nd Vice President and Barb Goetzke Co-Secretary. Openings for 1st Vice President, Co-Secretary and Treasurer still need to be filled. A nomination form was recently sent home in the backpacks, please take a moment to look it over and nominate yourself or someone else. Contact the PTO with any questions or suggestions at horizonpto@yahoo.com

U-46 BOUNDARY CHANGES

School Closings Put On Hold

The CAC E&F Committee removed any review of elementary school closings from the current round of school boundary changes. In fact, the committee is only going to make recommendations for relieving overcrowded elementary schools for the 2016/17 school year and push any middle and high school boundary changes to 2017/18. The committee felt that there was not sufficient time to adequately address everything. So, no boundary changes are planned for Horizon for 2016/17!

On the table for the underutilized southeast U46 quadrant are a variety ideas to better utilize the space. Tony Sanders has said that the district is evaluating the possibility of re-purposing one of the underutilized schools as a magnet school; not a charter school, which is run by an outside organization, but rather a STEM focused U46 run magnet school where students would apply for admission. Sanders has conceived that the magnet school could build on the curriculum developed by last year's charter school group and be phased in over the years, starting with grades K-2. The PTO will continue to monitor this developing concept, the new Board's view of it, and the possibility of school closings. Other adjustments could include re-locating ESL or Special Education classes to the underutilized schools from adjacent overcrowded schools.

Proposed boundary maps are due out in May. Community meetings are planned for the fall.

SAVE YOUR HARDCOVER BOOKS!

When cleaning over the summer, save your hardcover books for the Horizon Library. Due to decreased fundraising participation this school year, we may need to cut the library PTO budget. In Aug 2015, the librarians will provide a list of books they need. If you have some hardcover books you would like to donate this year please send them in at any time marked Horizon School Library.

MAY PTO MEETING

THURS
5/21/15
6:30PM

HORIZON
LEARNING CTR
Guests:
5th Grade
Teachers
&
Online Safety
Class
(Tentative)

Like us on
facebook.

OverCrowded U46 Schools

(Greater than 85% utilized)

Laurel Hill
Otter Creek
Coleman
Lincoln
Channing
Liberty
Harriet Gifford
Century Oaks
Sunnydale
Ontarioville
Creekside
Hillcrest
Nature Ridge



UPCOMING EVENTS

Teacher Appreciation and Staff Luncheon

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4th-8th. The PTO will be serving a Staff Luncheon on May 6th. We are asking for dessert donations or, if you like, bring your teacher a treat anytime that week. We polled the staff for some of their favorites and here is what we found...

Everyone likes something chocolate-y! Some other likes are

Burhans, Peanut Butter

Naccarato, Hard Candy

Olsen, Fruity things

Piper, Chocolate covered fruit or pretzels

Tamburello, Fruit and Cheesecake

NEW PTO Family Event

The previously discussed PTO Family Event - Fun-a-thon (Sports, Dance, and Game Nite) - has been tabled for this year. It is on the planning calendar for next year in February. The event will be a chance to use up the energy that has been built up all winter long. Look for it next year!

***BOGO
FREE***

Family evening hours on Tues!



***Book
Fair***

Monday & Tuesday 5/11 and 5/12

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Labels are due in to school by May 15th.

May is Double Bonus Month!!

BINGO NIGHT

Horizon Bingo Night was a great success!! Thank you to all the volunteers and especially the event chairperson Julie Bowler! You made it special!

March & April Raffle Winners

Prize	Winner (March - April)
\$75	Terea Eid - Castrovillari Family
\$50	Marco Zamora - John Maheras
\$50	Ryan Caputo - Cody Strang's Family
\$25	Avilez Family - Mia Javerto
\$25	Dawn Martin - Dawn Martin
\$25	Kayla Klein - Lupe Gallagos



U46 BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION RESULTS

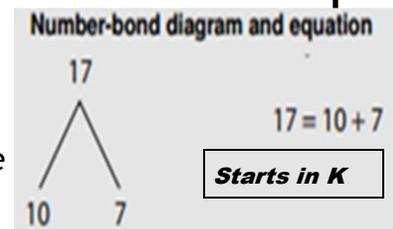
Traci Ellis, Phil Costello, Sue Kerr, and Jeanette Ward prevailed for the 4 year seats. Cody Holt won for the two year term seat. All will officially take office at the May 4th Board meeting. We wish them the best!

ENGAGE NY – EUREKA MATH - NY MATH

At the April PTO meeting, 3rd grade teachers, Mrs. Naccarato and Mrs. Dunnegan, presented the new district resource that will be used building wide & district wide next school year for math education. Here are the highlights.

Goal: To help students become good problem solvers & understand the power of mathematics.

- Whatever name you hear it called by, it is the same thing. Great Minds, Inc. wrote the program for the State of New York using grant money they won as part of the US Dept. of Education Race to the Top program. It is a free resource.
- The “NY” resource was written side by side with the Common Core standards so there is high alignment between the standards and resource in terms of the shifts and models. This alignment also exists with PARCC. The alignment is the main reason the district adopted the “NY” math resource.



- Common Core Math has 3 shifts from the previous standards.

Focus: topics are taught for mastery.

Coherence: each grade builds upon previously mastered skills.

Rigor: Must be fluent (fast and accurate) in math facts, apply skills to real world situations, and know the reasoning behind the math.

- Common Core also calls for the use of mathematical models to visually see math relationships and develop conceptual understanding.
- Each student will receive 1 workbook per module with Problem Sets and Homework, 1 year-long Sprint Book and 1 year-long Template Book.
- **Eureka Daily Lesson Structure**
 - Fluency (*See Table*) 10 min
 - Real World Application Problem 8 min
 - Carefully READ the problem
 - DRAW and label a model/picture
 - WRITE a math problem
 - WRITE the answer in a complete sentence
 - Concept Development 32 min
 - Student Debrief 10 min
- In the backpacks, you should see homework that is in the same form as the Problem Set completed in class. It will be in the same workbook for you to refer to.
- Online resources are available on U-46.org

A tape diagram used to solve a Compare problem

A big penguin will eat 3 times as much fish as a small penguin. The big penguin will eat 420 grams of fish. All together, how much will the two penguins eat?

Big penguin: 420g

Small penguin: **Starts in 1st**

Computation of 8×549 connected with an area model

	549 =	500	+	40	+	9
8		$8 \times 500 =$		$8 \times 40 =$		$8 \times 9 = 72$
		40 hundreds		32 tens		

Each part of the region above corresponds to one of the terms in the computation below.

F L U E N C Y	K	Add/subtract within 5
	1	Add/subtract within 10
	2	Add/subtract within 20 (know single-digit sums from memory) Add/subtract within 100
	3	Multiply/divide within 100 (know single-digit products from memory) Add/subtract within 1000
	4	Add/subtract within 1,000,000
	5	Multi-digit multiplication
6	Multi-digit division and Multi-digit decimal operations	



PTO BUDGET

The annual Horizon PTO budget is about \$15,000. About 90% of those funds go directly to the Horizon students in a variety of forms. From hand sanitizer for the Nurse, supplies and resources for each classroom, 6th Grade Outdoor Education buses, to Field Day treats, the monies raised enrich the school experience for each student. The remaining 10% is for operating expenses, like insurance and postage. The majority of the PTO Budget is spent on reading because it is THAT important. The Accelerated Reader program, which is 100% funded by the PTO, costs about \$3200 for the annual license and about \$1500 for the Rewards earned by the students. Another \$3000 is allocated to purchase new library books since the district provides little to no library funding.

Without the support of the school community, these services would be missing. Thank you!

ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

The AR Program has something for everyone. Students start in Kindergarten and continue on through 6th grade. The students level up by completing the requirements of the category. At the younger ages, kids can be read to and assisted when taking the online test. As the kids get older and more capable, they have to read books of increasing difficulty as represented by a point value. Students earn rewards, like gift cards, whenever they complete a category. Their accomplishment is also shared on the morning announcements!

Category	# of passed AR Tests	Book Point Value	Accumulate Total Points
Pre Emerging Reader	4 AR sheets with 5 books each	No minimum value	N/A
Emerging Reader	6 w/a monitor	No minimum value	3
Independent Reader	3	No minimum value	10
Super Reader	5	1.0 or higher	15
Advanced Reader	10	2.0 or higher	20
Star Reader	10	3.0 or higher	30
Superstar Reader	10	5.0 or higher & valued at 5 pts min	N/A
Classic Reader	3	7.0 or higher & valued at 10 pts min	N/A
Honors Reader	N/A	Specific Book List	200

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)

Do you get tongue tied at IEP meetings, not knowing what to say at times? Here are some answers to questions to consider.

- What do you say when you want something written in the IEP but they say “We automatically do that for our students”? Try, “That is great, but we still need to have you write that down in case something happens (eg., we leave the school district, you leave the district, etc.) then the next group will know what we agreed to.
- “There is not enough room to add the additional modifications or accommodations on the IEP form. We will add an addendum or extra sheets at the end of the IEP for these items.” Be careful. Any item you want in the IEP MUST be in the IEP, on official paper of the IEP, and included in the numbering of the sheets, not added to the end as an addendum.