

Gator Gazette

Mt. Horeb Elementary School Newsletter



February 2012

Students, Teachers and Technology

As part of the district's commitment to providing instruction that is engaging and focuses on developing critical learning skills, there has been continued emphasis on acquiring and appropriately applying technology within the instructional day. The newly developed Innovation and Design program which is being delivered by Mrs. Piller and Mrs. Lewis is a great example of technology applied in a way that incorporates creative and critical thinking in a collaborative format. In addition, four teachers from Mount Horeb School are participating in the district's 21st Century Learning Institute. As part of this process, teachers are developing scenario based units that require students to apply communication, information, research, and process skills to open ended scenarios.

The district has also committed resources to the use of assistive technology. There are many technology applications that provide students opportunities to use programs to assist and enhance their learning. The modifications made possible through the software the district has acquired enable students to develop their self-reliance and work independently through the use of different assistive tools. For example, a co-writer application anticipates spelling for students who are composing on the computer. This promotes writing fluency for the student who has difficulty spelling and enables the child to focus his/her efforts on composing rather than spelling.

The goal of assistive technology is to increase student engagement in the intended learning task; it is not intended to provide applications for students who do not need it.

Regarding whole class presentation materials, over the past four years the school has outfitted almost all rooms with Smartboards. Teachers continue to work with one another and take professional development classes to develop their skills in using this technology. The PTO is supporting the purchase of additional presentation hardware. Last year and early this year we purchased four ELMO projectors that enable immediate scanning of text and images that can then be projected as digital files. The images can range from student work to pages of a text that teachers want to highlight more clearly for students. In addition, we have over 50 laptop computers available to our students in grades 3 – 5.

As always, having the hardware and software available is only the first step. Staff is to be commended for the manner in which they have embraced the importance of providing students opportunities to use and experience technology in a manner that extends and enhances the learning experience. We will continue to investigate and implement strategies for enhancing instruction through the use of technology.

William Kimmick
Principal

Box tops & Campbell Soup Label Update

We raised \$363 for our initial submission of Box tops and Campbell Soup Labels – way to go everyone!

We will use the money raised so far and put it toward the purchase of an ELMO for the school. So please, keep collecting and sending in your Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels!!!

Thank you to all of the families who supported this activity for our school!!

Nancy Phillips, Free Money, Chairperson

Denim & Diamonds - 1st Annual Dinner Dance

Please save the date for Mt. Horeb's 1st Annual Dinner Dance, Friday, April 20th 2012 in the evening. Join us at the Martinsville Inn for a night of dancing, food, drinks and our very first Casino Night!! Get ready to get lucky!!! We will have a Silent Auction, Gift Baskets and a 50/50 Raffle!! Denim and Diamonds means wear your nice jeans, no need to buy a new dress or wear a suit! ***We will use the money raised to fund our Teacher's Wish Lists for their Classrooms for the 2012/2013 School Year!***

This "adult only" event is open to parents, teachers and friends, so mark your calendars to attend. Tickets on sale in February!! Advance ticket sales event only!! Any questions, please contact Celeste Campos or Cecilia Beisler.

INTERNATIONAL DAY PLANNING IS WELL UNDERWAY!

International Day – Wednesday, March 7

Don't miss out on being part of this special, educational and fun day for both the kids and the school. Come join us in the day – THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR! Our countries and "head" volunteers are now in place. We need volunteers to assist the "heads" with this wonderful day. If you want to volunteer to help, please contact Deneen Gatto at dmgneen@myway.com or 732-560-1850, Lori Weiss at mitchw13@aol.com or 908-626-0762 or Nancy Phillips at lmnp88@optonline.net or 908-604-0325.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Thank you to all the people involved in running our fun Bingo Family Event. We received many, many generous donations that we used for prizes for our event. Thanks to all of our families that donated prizes for our bingo games. Also, we would like to thank all of the students that volunteered for the day, they really helped to make things run smoothly. And finally, thank you to the baking committee for providing delicious goodies for the bingo event -- they were a big hit.

Kathy Ciraulo, Family Fun Bingo Event Chairperson

Dear Families of Mt. Horeb School,

The Mt. Horeb Staff would like to thank all of the families who contributed to the very generous Holiday gift. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness. We are very fortunate to work with such supportive families. We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Mt. Horeb Staff

A Note from the School Nurse.....

The winter season is upon us and with it, colds, coughs and the stomach virus. The stomach flu, commonly caused by the rotavirus can last up to five days. Although any age group can get the rotavirus, the younger and smaller you are, the more prone you are to serious dehydration. Some signs of dehydration include: dry, pasty mouth and cracked lips, lack of urine or small amounts of dark yellow urine, dry, cool skin, lethargy, irritability, fatigue or dizziness. Like the influenza virus, the rotavirus thrives in cold, dry winter climates. Frequent hand washing and using water bottles instead of fountains are preventative measures that are emphasized in school. If your child complains of nausea, has vomited or has had diarrhea the morning of or night before school, please keep your child home.

With the cold weather upon us, please send coats, hats and gloves with your child to school. *Despite the colder temperatures, going outside in the winter is actually very beneficial to children. The average American boy or girl spends just four to seven minutes in unstructured outdoor play each day, and more than seven hours each day in front of an electronic screen. Research shows that outdoor play can improve a child's ability to sleep and therefore to concentrate and do better in school. A survey of parents of children with ADHD indicated children who played outside regularly had milder symptoms, resulting in better concentration and less impulsive behavior.*

The New Jersey Department of Health has established immunization requirements affecting all students entering the 6th grade. The requirements state: All children born on or after January 1, 1997 and entering Grade 6 are required to receive **one booster dose of the Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine.** Please make arrangements with your physician to have these vaccines administered prior to the start of school in September. This is required by NJ State law and your child will be excluded from school in September without these vaccines. If your child receives these vaccines before June 3rd, please send MD documentation to me. However, if your child receives the vaccines after June 3rd please send the appropriate documentation to the Middle School Nurse.

In March I will be conducting scoliosis screenings on 5th graders. This is a visual exam only that looks for a lateral curvature of the spine. Permission slips will be sent home shortly. If you have any gently used boys pants/sweatpants in size 8 and boys long sleeve shirts in size 10, please consider donating these items to the health office.

Doris Zanchelli RN, CSN

FEBRUARY 2012	MT. HOREB SCHOOL CALENDAR
2	EARLY DISMISSAL 1:20 PM with Lunch Period
7	Gr. 4 & 5 Report Cards sent home
9	Gr. 2 & 3 Dental Day
13	Board of Ed. Meeting 7:00 PM
15	Fingerprinting 9:30 AM
16,17,20	SCHOOLS CLOSED
22	Preschool, Kdg. & Gr. 1 Dental Day
24	Ice Cream Day
28	Board of Ed. Meeting– Central School 7:00 PM

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We invite children to celebrate their birthdays at school. The New Year brings a good opportunity to review birthday celebration guidelines.

Please remember that board policy emphasizes moderation. Birthday treats should be small in size, easy to serve, and provide an opportunity for students to share a brief celebration. Small sized treats like cupcakes, munchkins, and individual cookies are appropriate for birthday celebrations.

Please avoid large treats like full donuts, large cupcakes, and ice cream as these can result in longer serving and eating times. Moderation helps model good eating habits and reduces the impact to the instructional day.

Please remember to contact your child's teacher to make arrangements for a date to bring in treats. There are weeks where there may be multiple celebrations in a single class.

All food items must include an ingredient list and be delivered to the main office before 10 AM.

Sincerely,

William Kimmick, Principal

BOARD CORNER
FEBRUARY 2012

After much discussion among members of the Board of Education Finance Committee and district administration, a preliminary budget has been developed. Until we hear the governor's announcement of state aid numbers in late February and make any necessary adjustments to the overall budget, the budget is not final. The 2012-2013 budget reflects an emphasis on maintaining high quality programs for our students while staying within the state-mandated cap on tax levy increases, focus areas clearly heard from the community last year. Next year's budget will include the continued support of 21st century skills, the expansion of the Mandarin program at WMS, and the continued implementation of the pre-engineering program in grades 3-8. Discussions regarding the budget will continue over the next several weeks. Feel free to contact members of the Finance Committee (Roberta Monahan, Don Huber, Jim Sena, Tia Allocco), the Business Administrator (Pat Leonhardt), or the Superintendent (Tami Crader) with questions or concerns. Feel free to participate in ongoing budget discussions by sharing your opinion at upcoming BOE meetings. Board meetings this month will be held on February 13th (BOE conference room) and 28th (Central School) at 7:00 p.m.