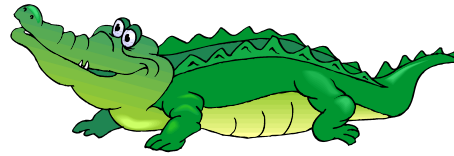


Gator Gazette

Mt. Horeb Elementary School Newsletter

OCTOBER 2011



From the Principal:

September 2011

The start of the school year was very successful for our students! The kindergarten students had a wonderful beginning and our older students did a fantastic job of successfully transitioning to the school year routine! A special thank you is extended to the PTO for their support in preparing for the start of the school year. The PTO quietly worked behind the scenes to support the new families, prepare the Schoolkidz materials, purchases folders for each student, arrange for the T- Shirts to be provided to the children, and provided lunch and breakfast for the staff in the first days for staff. Your support is valued and greatly appreciated and speaks to the importance of the community approach at Mount Horeb School!

Please read below for some important tips to help the students and families have a successful school year:

How long should homework take at each grade level? Please be sure to review homework guidelines that are outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. The handbook can be found on the Mount Horeb School webpage. Homework should be developmentally appropriate and should take *up to* ten minutes a night for each year a child is in school. For example, first grade should have up to ten minutes of homework each night; third grade should have up to 30 – 35 minutes, etc. Students should be able to complete homework assignments independently. Providing encouragement, support in locating an appropriate place to work, and minor explanations if something is not understood are great ways for parents to be involved in homework. It is important to communicate with the teacher if your child is demonstrating difficulty with a homework assignment.

How much should my child read at home every day? Children should read for a minimum of 20 – 30 minutes a day. This is their daily homework assignment from Mr. Kimmick. Reluctant readers will resist doing this and it is important to establish and maintain this daily expectation. This reading, coupled with the daily reading experiences completed at school, will ensure that your child is reading or being read to for at least an hour every day. This is an important benchmark for children as we know that students who reach this critical level of engaged reading time will generally fall within the 90 to 100 percentile nationally in terms of reading comprehension and fluency.

What if my child is an emergent reader who is not yet reading independently? Reading aloud to your child counts as reading time! For developing readers (and for older students as well), the read aloud experience provides an excellent model for reading, develops a child's sense of language and phrasing, and provides opportunities for a parent and child to spend quality time together.

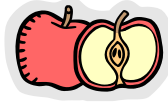
What if my child forgets his/her homework? If the teacher or Mr. Kimmick is not available to bring a student to the room, a child will not be able to retrieve assignments. Rooms are locked when teachers leave for the day and custodians have been instructed not to provide entry into classrooms. When a child forgets homework, sometimes the best consequence is to have the child write a note to the teacher stating that he/she forgot the assignment and have the child complete it the next day.

William Kimmick, Principal



**FOOD DAYS
BEGIN
OCTOBER 3RD!**

**HEALTHY SNACKS
AVAILABLE FOR PUR-
CHASE ON MONDAYS
AND FRIDAYS!**



Healthy Snack Days are scheduled to start on Friday, October 14, and continue on Mondays and Fridays throughout the year. Snacks served include assorted baked chips, apple sauce, fruit cups, 100 calorie pack snacks, goldfish crackers and pretzels. Kids will be limited to one (1) snack a day.

We need additional volunteers for serving snacks, so if you are interested please contact Liz Peterson at lizpeter-son@optonline.net or Linda Fletcher at fletcherwarren@msn.com.

Snack cards are a convenient alternative to cash, and are available for \$5. At any point throughout the year, please send in your payment with your child's lunch and they can purchase a card at the snack table. Checks can be made out to Mt. Horeb PTO, or cash is accepted.

**SAVE THE DATE
1ST ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**

Please save the date for Mt. Horeb's 1st Annual Dinner Dance, Friday, April 20th in the evening. Join us for a night of dancing, fine food and drinks!

The event is open to parents, teachers and friends, so mark your calendars to attend. More information to follow.

**HALLOWEEN PARTY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
6:30 PM AT MT. HOREB**

Please join us for a Halloween Celebration at Mt. Horeb School and enjoy a fun filled night with family and friends! There will be a D.J., Games and refreshments for all. Please come in costume and have a ball! Please contact Bonnie Lavoie at 908-350-7347 or at blavoie-family@gmail.com with any questions or to purchase your tickets.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

Come "host" a country...International Day, March 7th, 2012. Bring your friends and family in to help in your room/country. Look for the emails to sign-up. It's a fun and educational day; come be part of it! Please call/email Deneen Gatto (732) [560-1850](tel:560-1850)/dmgneen@myway.com, Lori Weiss (908) [626-0762](tel:626-0762)/mitchw13@aol.com or Nancy Phillips lmnp88@optonline.net/[908-604-0325](tel:908-604-0325). Thanks!!

**BRITE NITES
OCTOBER 19TH 7PM - 9:30PM
MT. HOREB & ALT NIGHT**

Wagner Farm Arboretum has set aside a special night just for Mt. Horeb & ALT Elementary Schools to attend the Brite Nite Event!

There is a fantastic display of over 1,000 Pumpkins all hand carved, Haunted House and a Cafe for refreshments. Please mark your calendars as tickets will be going on sale very soon. Children are encouraged to come in costume and enjoy an evening with their families and friends. Tickets are \$10 per Adult and \$7 per child. Please contact Cecilia Fontana at 732-627-0304 or at candmfontanta@verizon.net with any ques-

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who came out to support Outdoor Movie Night. A special thank you to all of the children who helped sell concessions. Your efforts were greatly appreciated. Also, thanks to Linda Draper, Angie Bateh, Christine Black, Jane Cerwinski, Meghna Vaidya, Sandy Cagno, Cathy Cooper, Julie Hoffman, and Robin Snyder. You all helped make it a successful night!

CULTURAL ARTS

A special thank you to Lori Weiss & Gina Huang for their efforts to bring The Brain Show to the Mt Horeb students. It was a fantastic show and the children loved it. What a great program to kick off the school year!

BAKING COMMITTEE,

Thank you for all the great food you provided for Back-to-School Night! Everyone loved the yummy treats. Your efforts and support are very much appreciated.

Helene Grunstein
Julie Hoffman
Nicky Toor

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Thank you to Nancy Phillips for organizing a wonderful luncheon for our teachers the first week of school. The food was delicious and the teachers and staff really enjoyed!

HOMEROOM PARENT LUNCHEON

Thank you to Bonnie Lavoie for setting up a beautiful lunch for our teachers and Homeroom Parents so they could enjoy and plan the year's activities for our students. Great work!

KINDERGARTEN & NEW PARENT COFFEE

Thank you for arranging a lovely coffee hour for our Kindergarten & New Student families. You provided a warm welcome to everyone! Your hard work was appreciated!
Nicole Kolb

A Note from the School Nurse.....

As the new school year begins, I would like to review some guidelines when determining whether to keep your child home. Please keep your child home if he/she has a fever of 100 or greater. Children may return when fever free without the need for Tylenol and Advil. In addition, if the child has a continuous cough and runny nose (yellow or green nasal discharge), please keep him/her home. Also, if your child has had vomiting or several episodes of diarrhea in the last 24 hours, keeping your child home will help keep a healthier school environment.

If your child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease that requires antibiotics, the child may return after being on antibiotics for 24 hours and fever free. PLEASE notify the health office so that notices can be sent out to the classroom.

When calling in an absence or lateness, PLEASE DO NOT email the teacher, instead call the absence line and leave a message by 9:15 a.m. Homework requests can be made at the Main Office.

Please do not send in medication through your child's backpack. A parent needs to bring it to the health office. All medications whether prescription or over the counter require MD orders and parent signature. Medication forms can be downloaded on the district website (www.warrentboe.org).

Thank you and I look forward to caring for your children this year.

Doris Zanchelli R.N., C.S.N

BOARD CORNER

21st Century Learning

Today's students need to know how to manage vast amounts of information they can now find in seconds on the Internet. Additionally, they will need to know in the future how to collaborate to solve local and global problems. Our district will focus on how to provide instruction in our classrooms in a way that fosters the 21st-century skills of collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving, presentation, and communication. New ideas, programs, and instructional strategies are being implemented in our schools. These include:

- Pre-engineering program in grades 3-8
- Assistive technology for our special education students in grades K-8
- Use of iPads, interactive white boards, and document cameras
- 21st-Century "Fluencies" initiative for all staff

For more information on these new programs, go to <http://www.warrentboe.org>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Community members are invited to attend a 21st Century Skills Presentation
Lee Crockett, Internationally-Known Speaker
OCTOBER 10, 2011, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Warren Middle School

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR BOARD MEETINGS....

October 11	NJ-ASK Presentation
October 17	Annual Special Education Presentation
November 14	Warren Middle School Presentation
November 28	Mt. Horeb Presentation
December 12	Woodland Presentation
January 10	Initial Budget Deliberations
January 24	ALT Presentation
February 13	Continued Budget Deliberations
February 28	Central School Presentation
March 13	TBD
March 27	Budget Hearing
April 10	BOE Self-Evaluation
May 1	Reorganization Meeting

Opportunities to talk with the Superintendent...

Superintendent's Coffees will be held at the Bd. of Ed. Office on the following dates:

Tuesday, October 4th at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 15th at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11th at 1:30 p.m.



OCTOBER 2011	MT. HOREB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR
3	FOOD DAYS BEGIN
4	SCHOOL PICTURES
4	SUPERINTENDENT'S COFFEE 9:30 AM BD. OF ED. OFFICE
10	SCHOOLS CLOSED — STAFF DEVELOPMENT
11	BD. OF ED MTG—BOARD OFFICE—7:00 PM
17	BD. OF ED. MTG. —BOARD OFFICE—7:00 PM
19	WAGNER FARM ARBORETUM BRITE NITES
20	PTO MTG.—9:30 AM
28	HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION—6:30 PM
31	HALLOWEEN PARADE 1:30 pm.

A Message from the School Counselor
Dr. Kelly Stankiewicz

During the month of October, we will be focusing on respect and making good choices. October 3rd through the 7th is the “Week of Respect.” This week students will be examining ways they can show respect towards families, peers, school and their community. Students will participate in class discussions and activities centered on each daily theme. In recognition of School Violence Awareness Week and National Red Ribbon Week, we will be focusing on a “Week of Making Good Choices” October 17th through 21st . Our aim is to encourage a positive school climate through activities to be held this week.