

Gator Gazette

From the Principal, Mr. Cook.....

Dear Mt. Horeb Families,

At times, as parents, my wife and I feel as though we aren't entirely certain of what goes on in our children's classrooms. We most certainly have great faith that up-to-date practices are being employed, their needs are being met, and that they are making progress. I don't know how your conversations go with your children, but when asked about the highlights of the day, we sometimes get recess and dismissal. Other times we'll hear about guided reading, a certain problem in math, who sat with whom at lunch, or how hard the test was.

In that vein, I thought I would give you a glimpse of one of many techniques being employed in the classrooms here at Mt. Horeb. In the education world, teaching students in small groups is generally considered a best practice. Why? Small groups allow for the teacher to more effectively meet the individual needs of the children. In addition, when a teacher is working with a small group, this affords the other children time for quiet reading, an activity that helps hone a skill, or time to work with a partner. Newer to the education scene is a technique developed by sisters Gail Boushey and Joan Moser called the Daily Five. This technique is used during our balanced literacy block by some of our teachers and is a structured framework for supporting high student engagement, meaningful reading and writing, authentic reading and writing, and a majority of time during the block spent reading. Typically the teacher will begin with a mini-lesson on a specific idea or skill where the number of minutes normally matches the average age of the students. Once large group instruction is over, the kids move into centers or stations. Within each station is an objective and a meaningful activity. One station is always time with the teacher. This structure has proven to be quite successful in supporting our children's learning in more than just the elements of reading and writing, but more, learning to take responsibility, problem-solving, working together, and developing good stamina for reading and focusing. Typically the five in Daily Five are stations titled read to self, work on writing, read to someone, listen to reading and word work. Again, not all teachers are employing this technique, but almost all work within similar structures when thinking about how best to deliver instruction. Also, the needs and abilities of each classroom are different. Ask your children about the Daily Five; you might get a heartier answer than, 'recess was awesome'!

January 2018 Mt. Horeb School PTO Newsletter



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.*

Attention 5th grade parents/guardians:

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. As soon as your child receives these vaccines, please send MD documentation to the Health Office. If your child receives the vaccines after June 3rd please send the appropriate documentation to the Middle School Nurse.

5-A-Day Fruit and Vegetable Program:

On Tuesday, January 30th the PTO will generously provide a variety of fruits and vegetables during all the lunch periods. The students will be able to sample these foods as part of our **5-A-Day Fruit and Vegetable promotion**. January will highlight the Red and Green group of fruits and vegetables. We hope to do this again in late spring with different color themes. You can support your child's efforts to increase his/her fruit/vegetable consumption in many ways:

- Keep a variety of ready to eat fruits and vegetables available.
- Include a fruit for snack time in class, and fruit/vegetable at lunch.
- Top breakfast foods with fruit (pancakes, cereal, yogurt).
- Include the children in choosing and preparing fruits/vegetables.
- Keep frozen vegetables as a quick addition to any meal.
- Seek out a farmer's market and take your child.
- Be a role model! If your child sees you eating fruits/vegetables, he/she will be more likely to eat them.

Please encourage your child to participate in our 5-A-Day Program. If you have any questions, please call me. Thank you for helping your child eat healthier!

Doris Zanchelli RN, CSN

CULTURAL ARTS

We had a great turn out for our private showing of the movie Wonder. The story shared a wonderful message for adults and children. Thank you to those who attended.

This was also a great opportunity for children to see the movie before the assembly with myFace. Students gathered on December 13th to hear from Dina Zuckerberg, director of family programs of myFace.

ICE CREAM DAYS

Ice cream can be purchased for \$1.00. Mark your calendars for the next Ice cream days, which will be held on January 5th and January 19th.

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.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please continue to save your box tops and send them into school. This is a great way for us to raise money

for various school activities. Box tops are collected throughout the school year.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Be on the look out for registration for after school clubs.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Parent's Night Out: Friday, February 2nd. Tickets can be purchased using link on PTO webpage: https://mthorebpto.org/Page.aspx?_=Mt-Horeb-Parents-Night-Out

Family Bingo: More information to follow

General PTO Meeting: Tuesday, January 9th at 2:00 p.m.

Author's Day: Tuesday, January 23rd. Meghan McCarthy is our featured author this year. Books signed by the author will be available to purchase. Order forms have already been sent home.

COMMUNITY THINGS TO KNOW

WBSI - 2018 SPRING RECREATIONAL BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

All Boys (Pre K – 9th grade) & All Girls (Pre K – 8th grade) are welcome to join!

Register at: www.warrenbaseballsoftball.com

Registration is open through February 28th!

Early Bird Discount Available*

SIMPLY LAX - GIRLS LACROSSE CLINIC

Girls Lacrosse for beginners, newbies, and those who just want to try it out!

To introduce and teach the great game of Lacrosse in the Warren/Watchung Hills area and neighboring towns for girls 2nd through 9th grade. Focusing on the fundamental skills, we are committed to teaching lacrosse, sportsmanship, and teamwork while having a good time!

More information can be found here:

https://mthorebpto.org/Page.aspx?_=Mt-Horeb-Community-Things-to-Know

*If link is not clickable, copy and paste it into the address bar

We would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Very Happy New Year!

JANUARY 2018	CALENDAR
1	SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED
5	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY ICE CREAM DAY
12	NO <u>PRESCHOOL</u>
15	SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED—MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
19	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY ICE CREAM DAY
23	AUTHOR’S DAY
24	COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT <u>AT BOARD OF ED-9:30 AM</u> PTO MEETING—2:00 PM
29	KINDERGARTEN VISIT FROM JENKINSONS

Superintendent’s Corner

This holiday season, students and staff across the district brought the district’s motto of “Shining Brighter Every Day” to life through selfless acts of giving.

The following examples are just a few of the many ways in which members of the Warren Township School District community have made a difference in the lives of others recently:

Angelo L. Tomaso - Students participated in canned food drives to contribute to holiday meals of those less fortunate.

Central - Students, staff and the PTO collected coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for children and adults.

Mt. Horeb - The Gators Give Back Club collected, sorted, and donated more than 17 boxes of pet food, treats, and blankets to St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center.

Woodland - Fifth grade students created holiday cards for a critically-ill 11-year-old New Jersey boy in need of some holiday well-wishes.

Warren Middle School - The Buddy-to-Buddy Club stuffed holiday stockings with treats to share with others.

As we prepare for the coming of a new year, I am inspired by our students and staff and hope that these small examples inspire others as well. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.