

Gator Gazette



DECEMBER 2018 Mt. Horeb School PTO Newsletter

From the Principal.....

Dear Mt. Horeb Parents,

When the stars align, moods are in check, homework is complete, and time remains, the Cooks all get together for some quiet reading time before bed. As you can see, it isn't our first priority; however, it does make the list as often as it can. There are so many competing priorities, not to mention pure exhaustion! My kids aren't the most fluent readers, don't have the best comprehension, and quite honestly, don't truly love to read. Our hope is that these "eyes on text" moments create a spark and generate genuine interest in reading. When my kids pick up a book on their own and read quietly without being prompted, I'll let you know. You may first feel the earth shake.

Hopeful you'll hear my experience simply as one of many where we, the adults in the lives of our children, are trying to do what we can to help our kids come along as natural readers. That is, people who can make reading not just a tool for success and survival but more, a joy and a pleasure. Research strongly supports providing quiet and calm times throughout the day for early learners to have their eyes on age and developmentally appropriate text. Whether it is Jack and Jill or Harry Potter, the text should provide for comfortable reading, smooth recitation, and a sense of understanding of the plot and the characters. For reluctant readers, getting two copies of a book and having you both read it together can be wonderfully helpful. For one, you're modeling reading quietly; but also, you can truly gauge what your child is and is not comprehending and aid in filling in the holes. Reading comprehension is like any other skill, in order to achieve a greater ability to comprehend, more time practicing is what is required.

Hopeful this finds you all having enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Mr. Cook

A Note from the School Nurse.....

HEALTHY CHILDREN LEARN BETTER

Healthy New Year's Resolutions for Kids

(American Academy of Pediatrics)

- I will eat breakfast every day
- I will drink milk and water and limit soda and sugary drinks
- I will brush my teeth twice a day
- I will find a sport or activity I enjoy and do it 3 times a week
- I will wash my hands frequently during the day and before I eat
- I will apply sunscreen when I play outdoors
- I will always wear a helmet when bicycling or boarding
- I will wear my seatbelt every time I ride in a car
- I will be kind to others (including online/texting).
- I will make a new friend!

Shoe Lace Tying

Please encourage your child to tie their shoes when undone. I have seen a number of injuries related to untied shoe laces.

Although plenty of children shoes have Velcro closures, tying laces is still a big-kid accomplishment worth teaching. Many kids learn by age 6, though some aren't comfortable with it until they're closer to 8, says Julie Lumeng, M.D., a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. To help:

- 1. Watch for readiness.** If your child's pretty adept with scissors, can handle small buttons easily, and draws simple stick figures; he/she is probably ready for a lesson in laces.
- 2. Break it down.** Demonstrate the whole process once, then separate the steps for the child (the usual

way of tying is fine, even for beginners; if he/she struggles, you can instead teach the child to make two loops and then knot the loops). The child can practice each step until they are comfortable. Sometimes it's easier to learn with the shoe off the foot, or on a bigger shoe, like Dad's.

3. Keep practicing. Shoe tying is like riding a bike, not a skill that's hardwired once learned, like walking, says Dr. Lumeng.

4. Don't force it. If he/she has a hard time, put the laces aside for a month or so. If the child still struggles by age 8 and has difficulty with other fine motor skills, such as holding a pencil, talk to your pediatrician.

DONATION CAMPAIGN

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Donation Campaign. Every donation is very much appreciated and will be put to good use supporting the PTO programs throughout the school year. Be on the look out for a receipt for your donation and don't forget to indicate if your company offers matching gifts.

BOOK FAIR



The book fair was a great success. Thank you to all of the students, parents, and staff who supported it. The students and parents were able to come and browse the great selection of books!

We would like to thank all the members of the book fair committee, plus extra volunteers who helped

out over the three days of the fair and made sure everything ran smoothly. Thanks also to Ms. Burkhardt and all the teachers for helping kids choose books during the fair.

Miranda Chibwe and Paula Suarez

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 November 30th, December 14th, and January 4th.

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.

BAKING COMMITTEE



Thank you to Toni-Ann Feeney and all the contributors of baked goods for Career Night this year.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Box tops are a great way for us to raise money for various school activities. Box tops are collected throughout the school year, so continue to save them.

The current top 3 classes from the October collection are:

#1 - Mrs. Maag, 1st Grade

#2 - Mrs. Trump/Mrs. Gavin, 5th Grade

#3 - Ms. Andrews/Mr. Schwallie, 4th Grade

The next collection will take place Monday, February 11th. Keep Collecting!

If you have any further questions, please contact Heloisa Santos at santosheloisa1982@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 2018	CALENDAR
7	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE 10:00—11:00 AM PTO FAMILY INDOOR MOVIE NIGHT 6:00—8:00 PM
10	GR. K-3 MARKING PERIOD ENDS
12	PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE 1:00—2:00 PM
13	GR. 1 & 2 CONCERT 2:15—3:00 PM
14	ICE CREAM DAY
20	Gr. K—3 REPORT CARDS EMAILED GR. 5 INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT 2:00 PM
21	EARLY DISMISSAL @ 1:30 PM w/Lunch Period PRESCHOOL IS CLOSED

Superintendent's Corner

The Board of Education approved the 2019-2020 school calendar at its November 5, 2018 meeting. The calendar is available under "News" at www.warrentboe.org. The first day of school for students will be Tuesday, September 3, 2019 and the last day of school (if all snow days are used) will be Friday, June 19, 2020.

While we are thinking ahead, I am pleased to share that the Board of Education will be engaging the entire Warren Township community in a strategic planning process which will culminate in the adoption of Warren Township Schools Strategic Plan 2020. School districts undergo this process periodically to ensure that the direction of the district matches the educational values and desires of the community. Warren Township last completed this process during the 2012-2013 school year. Stay tuned for details about how you can get involved in this important work.

Next month, I will provide a detailed overview of the zero long-term debt referendum that will be going before the voters on January 22, 2019. Information about the critical capital improvements that will be made through this process - with no impact on the local taxpayer - can be found by visiting <https://www.warrentboe.org/referendum/>.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.