

Gator Gazette



NOVEMBER 2017 Mt. Horeb School PTO Newsletter

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

Dear Mt. Horeb Families,

While I am not normally in the business of promoting corporations, I do want to highlight a particular video that is near and dear to my heart and might also be to yours. While I have to admit that I have enjoyed the occasional Whopper in my time, my purpose in highlighting this brilliant marketing/PSA video produced by Burger King is more to get at the concept of upstanding. After watching the video, I found myself wondering what I would have done? What would our children do? I could feel the need for supreme bravery and confidence in order to truly be the upstander that we are teaching our children to be. What would you do? Have you been in that situation? I would urge you to view the video and have a conversation with your family about it. It is worthy of discussion.

What is wonderful is that I received this link from one of our very own parents. While perhaps the Mt. Horeb community doesn't agree on everything, one thing is for certain; when it comes to children, we share similar values and ideas about how we should teach them. I am hopeful that WE are teaching our children to be courageous upstanders even when doing so isn't the popular or easy thing to do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnKPEsbTo9s&feature=youtu.be>

A Note from the School Nurse.....

As we approach the cold weather months, typically there are more school absences related to colds, coughs, and flu-like symptoms. Please determine whether your child is well enough to attend school, before sending him or her off in the morning. Children who come to school feeling ill, having been told to go to the nurse if they continue to feel sick will, almost always, be in the nurse's office shortly after arrival. Please plan your day accordingly. Also, remind your child to wear a jacket and hat to school as the children do go outside on most days, weather permitting.

The single best way to protect against seasonal flu and its potential severe complications in children is to get a seasonal influenza vaccine each year. Children at highest risk for seasonal flu complications are those with asthma, heart disease, diabetes and any condition causing immunosuppression. Many local pharmacies are offering the vaccine, as well as your private physician.

Go to <http://vaccinefinder.org> to find pharmacies administering the vaccine.

Flu-like symptoms include fever >100, chills, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue and headache. Students and staff are reminded of the following steps to protect their health:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. According to the CDC, handwashing can prevent 1 in 3 diarrhea-related sicknesses and 1 in 5 respiratory infections, such as a cold or flu.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with a flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. Staying away from others as much as possible while you are sick, avoids spreading the illness to others.

Thank you.

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

Ice Cream Day

The next ice cream days will be held on November 3rd and 17th. You can use your snack cards or cash! Ice Cream is \$1.00. 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.

Halloween Trunk or Treat

A big thank you to Shannon Battiste, Alina Bergners and their committee for organizing another successful Trunk or Treat Halloween Party. Everyone enjoyed the games, music, pizza and lots of candy! The decorated trunks looked amazing. A spooktacular time was had by all!! This year we have added a Quiet Creep for our little ones or those sensitive to sound and light. The Quiet Creep will take place from 6:30-6:45 PM.



Display Case

Once again the display case committee has outdone themselves...great job Sushama Sekhar and Mia Downing!

Book Fair

This year's book fair will be held on Friday, November 3rd thru Tuesday, November 7th. Students and parents are cordially invited to preview the books available at the book fair. Come and see the wonderful range of titles, from fiction to non-fiction, all age ranges from preschool to 5th grade. Friday, November 3rd is the preview day, when all children can browse the books and make a wish list. Sale days are Monday and Tuesday, November 6th and 7th, when each class will have a scheduled time for purchasing their books. Parents are welcome to come in at any time during the fair to make purchases. Don't forget our teachers will be writing wish lists, too, so you can donate books to your children's classrooms.

The book fair is a great way to get kids interested in books, and to raise money for the School Library. We would like to thank Darby Finkelstein and her committee for organizing this event. See you there!

Food Days

We have completed our first cycle of Food Days. A special thank you to all of our Food Day Managers who worked hard to coordinate their orders with our many vendors and ensure their volunteers were at school and ready to go! Thank you to the many volunteers who come every day to make sure the children receive their lunch and have what they need! Your efforts are much appreciated!

*Please note ordering for the third cycle of Food Days will open on Jan. 11th 2018 and close promptly on Jan. 18th 2018. **It is not possible to order food once the system has closed on January 18th.***

After-School Programs

We would like to thank all of the families who are participating in our after school programs. The kids are really enjoying On the Court, Girls on the Run and Gotta Dance. Participation in these programs is another way for our PTO to raise funds for events such as International Day, Field Day, Authors Day and many more!!!

Mt. Horeb PTO Website

Don't forget to check out our website for upcoming events, pictures, etc. Our new website will serve as an added communication hub filled with new information and dedicated pages for many of Mt. Horeb PTO events and programs.

Get online now to be connected to the latest volunteer opportunities, staff appreciation events and other helpful links. Head on over at www.mthorebpto.org and check it out!

PTO General Meeting

Mark your calendar! The PTO's next general meeting is November 15th at 9:15 am.

NOVEMBER 2017	CALENDAR
1	PICTURE RETAKES—9:00 AM
3	ICE CREAM DAY BOOK FAIR PREVIEW
6,7,8	EARLY DISMISSAL AT 1:30 PM w/Lunch Period—K-5
6 & 7	BOOK FAIR
9 & 10	SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED
14	GR. 4 & 5 MARKING PERIOD ENDS
15	PTO GENERAL MEETING 9:15 A.M.
17	ICE CREAM DAY SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY
22	EARLY DISMISSAL AT 1:30 PM w/Lunch Period—K-5 GR. 4 & 5 REPORT CARDS EMAILED
23	SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED

Superintendent's Corner

Under the direction of Somerset County Prosecutor Michael H. Robertson, all school districts have shifted to a common process and language for emergency management. While the changes were minor to our day-to-day practices, this shift brings all schools and police departments in Somerset County into one common system so first responders can apply one set of norms and routines to all schools and districts in the event they are called upon in an emergency.

The district's Security Compliance Manager Ron Berry and Communications Coordinator Mary Ann McGann put together a brief video demonstrating the new procedures. You can access it on the district website at <http://www.warrentboe.org/schools/district/features/standard-response-protocol/>. The video may assist you in understanding the drills that your children experience on a regular basis and the terminology being used at school.

Thank you for your continued support of the district's efforts to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.