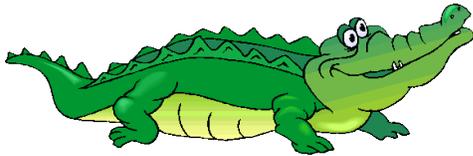


# Gator Gazette

February 2018  
Mt. Horeb School  
PTO Newsletter



## *From the Principal.....*

I wanted to share the positive PARCC information that was recently shared at our general PTO meeting. Having weathered a year where Mt. Horeb scores were below our own expectations, our teachers went to work to analyze, evaluate, and use the information provided by Pearson to help guide our daily instructional decisions. We found our strengths and maintained course in those areas. We uncovered our weaknesses and found alternate ways of teaching those specific topics. The result was a very positive bump in our PARCC results between the spring of 2016 and the spring of 2017.

Much like we didn't panic when we were below our own expectations, we are not going to celebrate when we more closely approach our expectations. Given the success of last year's process of analysis, we concluded that continuing in that manner could only help our children, their progress, and our overall success.

As noted in many meetings, no child can be reduced to or defined by one score or one assessment. PARCC scores are one of many metrics that schools can use to help determine how best to address the needs of a child. Focusing on forms of assessment also provides an authentic experience for children as, often in life, we must prepare for evaluation or assessment.

*Scott Cook*

## *A Note from the School Nurse.....*

The schools are taking preventative actions to stop the spread of germs. Students and staff are reminded of the following steps to protect their health:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue (or upper arm) 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.
- 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, helps keep from making others sick.

The custodial staff continues to routinely clean classrooms, handrails and doorknobs. Please encourage your child to wash hands frequently, and to bring a water bottle to school, rather than using the water fountains.

**February is Dental Health Month.** Here are some reminders to keep those pearly whites smiling through the winter months. Take care of your brush: replace brush every 3-4 months or sooner if bristles appear worn. Store your brush in an upright position where it can air-dry. Avoid spreading germs: replace your toothbrush after being sick and don't share toothbrushes. Also, wear a mouth guard for contact sports, drink more water, floss daily and visit your dentist twice a year.

## **Now is the time to build strong bones.....**

Children from ages 9-18 are in their important bone-building years. Unfortunately, less than 1 in 10 girls get the 1,300 mg. of calcium they need every day, and only 3 out of 10 boys get enough calcium. The recommendation for healthy bone development is to include 60 minutes of physical activity every day and 600 units of Vitamin D daily. 40-60% of bone mass is built during adolescence. Foods with calcium include low fat milk, soy and almond milk, yogurt, cheese, fortified cereals, puddings, spinach, bok choy, salmon, fortified bread, and almonds. Please encourage calcium rich foods and exercise every day.

*Doris Zanchelli, RN, CSN*

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

We are very excited to announce that the next session of On the Court Basketball began Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all the families who are participating!

## **AUTHOR'S DAY**

Author's day was a great success. Students got to meet Meghan McCarthy. Thank you Ms. Burkhardt and her committee for planning such a fun and educational day.

## **SPIRITWEAR**

The Mt. Horeb PTO is excited to announce that Gator hats and blankets are now available to purchase.



Download our order form here: <https://secure.myfooddays.com/cache/ImageData.aspx?id=mm-5a5bfla5881ac865df288c3e>

## **ICE CREAM DAY**

The next ice cream days will be held on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The cost of ice cream is \$1.00. Snack cards may also be used to pay for ice cream. Snack cards can be purchased for \$5.00 on ice cream day from our volunteers. If paying by check, please make it payable to "Mt. Horeb PTO."

## **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Continue to send in your box tops. They are a great way for our school to earn "free money."

## **DISPLAY CASE**

The PTO would like to thank everyone on this committee for continuing to WOW us with your displays.

## **PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

Parents Night Out was a success! Thanks to everyone who came out!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Family Fun Night – Bingo: More Information to come
- The Science Fair will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup>. **Volunteers still needed**, please reach out to Mrs. Piller if you are interested in helping!
- Teacher Appreciation Week will be held the week of May 7th. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Stacy Sackett at [delstay@aol.com](mailto:delstay@aol.com).

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS. WITHOUT YOU WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RUN THESE PROGRAMS WITH SUCH SUCCESS!**

## Superintendent's Corner

*"There's just something beautiful about walking in snow that nobody else has walked on. It makes you believe you're special."* - Carol Rika Brunt

While Ms. Brunt's words conjure images of the beauty of a new-fallen snow, they also remind us of the challenges of safely transporting over 1700 students and 350 staff members to and from the district's schools each day.

The superintendent has the responsibility to close schools, open them late or dismiss them early in hazardous weather or in other extraordinary circumstances which might endanger the health or safety of students or school employees.

A careful analysis of all relevant factors is completed in consultation with school, township, and regional resources when inclement weather is forecast. This process can begin days ahead of an anticipated storm but ultimately plays out in the very early morning hours with decisions made so that the communication plan can be put into action to ensure all families and staff receive word as early as possible.

Now is the time for families to review their plans for responding to these school closing events so that in the event that the phone call comes, they can be implemented quickly to ensure that children are supervised appropriately.

Messages about emergency school closings or delays will be communicated through all available channels - online media outlets, radio station 1450am, broadcast television stations 2, 7, and 12, the district's Facebook and Twitter accounts, [www.warrentboe.org](http://www.warrentboe.org), the district's telephone system, and through our school-to-home communication system, School Messenger.

Adjustments to the school calendar create challenges for everyone associated with the schools. Ultimately the decision to close or delay will be made based solely on whether it is in the best interest of students' and staff members' health and safety. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

| <b>FEBRUARY<br/>2018</b> | <b>C A L E N D A R</b>                     |
|--------------------------|--|
| 2                        | SCHOOL SPIRIT<br>ICE CREAM DAY             |
| 5                        | BD. OF ED. MTG AT MT. HOREB SCHOOL—7:00 PM |
| 7                        | DENTAL DAY—AM PRE K, KDG., GR. 1 & 2       |
| 8                        | GR. 4&5 REPORT CARDS EMAILED               |
| 15                       | <b>NO PRESCHOOL CLASSES</b>                |
| 16                       | <b>SCHOOLS CLOSED—WINTER RECESS</b>        |
| 19                       | <b>SCHOOLS CLOSED—PRESIDENT’S DAY</b>      |
| 20                       | FINGERPRINTING                             |
| 23                       | SCHOOL SPIRIT<br>ICE CREAM DAY             |
| 28                       | GR. 3 SNAP ASSEMBLY                        |
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