

Gator Gazette



MT. HOREB SCHOOL PTO
NEWSLETTER NOV. 2018

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

News from our preschool!:

I should spend more time sharing stories of our preschool. As you may know, we are the only building in the district lucky enough to house a preschool for 3 and 4 year olds. Our impressive team of teachers and paras have the joy of working with 50 3 and 4 year olds on the many details of early child development. Here is an update from Amy Brunswick, our school Social Worker, who works very closely with preschool.

"Our preschool students began the new year by learning to ride the bus, meeting new friends and following their classroom routines. In October, they began to learn all about trees. This unit of study included exploring the outside world which allowed for scientific analysis, hands-on experiences, and taking note of the many kinds of trees. Our students are so excited to play in our new preschool friendly playground. It is providing a lot of fun for everyone!

Our parent group met for the first time this month and reviewed the book *Permission to Parent* with our school social worker, Ms. Brunswick.

Everyone is looking forward to dressing up in their costumes and participating in the school parade."

Innovation & Design Returns to Mt. Horeb School in November

Dr. Kline is once again bringing the Innovation & Design program to Mt. Horeb School beginning with the second marking period. The Innovation & Design program allows students to become engineers by designing, building, and testing their own products. "Children are natural engineers" declares Dr. Kline "they are so full of creativity and curiosity." Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will have Innovation & Design during the second marking period while students in grades K, 1, and 2 will have Innovation & Design in the third marking period. Welcome back, Dr. Kline.

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 2nd, 16th and 30th. 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 Melissa Schlow, Paula Suarez, Shannon Battiste 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!!



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 2nd thru Tuesday, November 6th. 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 2nd is the preview day, when all children can browse the books and make a wish list. Sale days are Monday and Tuesday, November 5th and 6th, 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 10th 2019 and close promptly on Jan 17th 2019. It is not possible to order food once the system has closed on January 17th.

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, Soccer and Lacrosse. 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 & Facebook Page

Don't forget to check out our website for upcoming events, pictures, etc. Our website and Facebook page 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! Request to join our private Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/456109638172442/>

Superintendent's Corner

As I look out my office window, I see leaves that have changed color and the first morning with frost covering the ground. As holiday preparations change from Halloween to Thanksgiving, our minds begin to consider those early morning phone calls about weather-related school delays and closings. 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 pupils or school employees.

A careful analysis of all relevant factors is completed in consultation with school, township, and regional resources. This process can begin days ahead of an anticipated storm but ultimately plays out in the very early morning hours with decisions made by 5:30am so that the communication plan can be put into action to ensure all families and staff receive word.

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, plans 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, 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 in advance for your understanding and cooperation. Let us now hope that all inclement weather falls on weekends and during school breaks!

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

NOV. 2018	CALENDAR
2	Ice Cream Day
4	Turn Clocks Back 1 hour
5,6,7	GR. K-5 EARLY DISMISSAL @ 1:30 pm w/Lunch Period
5	PRESCHOOL—REGULAR DAY SESSIONS on Monday
5,6	PTO Book Fair
6,7,8,9	PRESCHOOL is CLOSED– Tues. through Fri.
8,9	SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED—NJEA CONVENTION
14	Gr. 4 & 5 Marking Period 1 Ends Career Expo 6:00—7:30 PM
16	Ice Cream Day
21	GR. K-5 EARLY DISMISSAL @ 1:30 PM w/Lunch Period *** PRESCHOOL IS CLOSED-NO SESSIONS *** Gr. 4 & 5 MP 1 Report Cards Emailed
22,23	SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED
28	PTO General Meeting—9:30 AM
30	Ice Cream Day

PTO General Meeting

Mark your calendar! The PTO’s next general meeting is November 28th at 9:30am. Mr. Cook will be discussing PARRC scores and Dr. Mingle will be there to discuss the referendum and answer any questions. This will be the last general PTO meeting until after the New Year.

Future meetings:

- January 16th 9:30am
- March 13th 9:30am
- May 29th 9:30am - Thank You Breakfast and Final Meeting of the School Year