

# HORIZON PTO NEWSLETTER

**OCTOBER 2014** 

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The PTO mission is to provide all students at Horizon the opportunity to excel in academics and in life by providing committed volunteers and supplemental funding for supplies and programs that will enhance the learning environment at Horizon Elementary

#### THE TEACHER SAID WHAT?

The PTO has invited a different grade level teacher team to each monthly PTO meeting. Come hear what they are doing this year. Curious about what may happen next year in your child's class? Come hear about the goings on in the next grade. The schedule is:

Oct First Grade Feb Second Grade

Nov Kindergarten Mar MLP

Dec Fourth Grade Apr Sixth Grade

Jan Third Grade May Fifth Grade

OCT PTO MEETING

THURS 10/16/14

6:30PM

HORIZON LEARNING



#### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

What if you could help your child enjoy school more, get better grades, and reduce behavior problems at the same time? Reams of research show that regardless of parents' income and educational background, involvement in their education helps kids do better in & out of school. Parent involvement can be as simple as helping with math homework, reading a book together, and going to parent-teacher conferences.

Teachers prepare for conferences — so should you. Talk to your child before and ask how they are doing in class and what is going on during recess and lunch. Do they have complaints? Do they really enjoy a subject? Does what they say make sense?! Conferences are opportunities to understand expectations, resolve issues, and plan for the future.

# **Tips**

- Do not wait for a conference if there is an issue.
- Ask the most important questions first. 15 or 20 minutes is not much time.
- If you need an interpreter, please ask; do not have your child interpret for you.
- If your child has an IEP, re-read it.

## Questions

- 1. Is my child performing where they need to be? Is my child performing at grade level?
- 2. In what areas does my child need improvement? What do you think my child is particularly good at? What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- 3. Is my child doing their best?
- 4. What can we do to provide that extra help? Or extra challenge?
- 5. What should my child learn this year?
- 6. What do these assessment results really mean?
- 7. How do you evaluate the students? What does a 4 mean, a 3 etc?
- 8. How is my child doing socially? How is my child's class behavior?
- 9. Is my child organized?
- 10. Have you read the IEP? Are changes needed?



#### **PTO Membership**

PTO Membership forms were sent home last week. For \$3 you are eligible to vote for PTO allocations (must have also attended 3 meetings) made in November & April PLUS you receive a student directory (only available to PTO Members). Your \$3 donation also supports the PTO!



## **Spiritwear DELIVERY NOTICE**

Your spirit wear order has not been forgotten. We received news from our supplier that all orders are currently backed up. They have had distribution issues that are being resolved.

All orders are expected to arrive in mid-October. Sorry for the delay and any inconvenience. When our orders have arrived, we will get them out to you as soon as

> possible. Thank you for your patience.

#### U-46 BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Enrollment & Facilities Committee of the CAC is currently working with District Administration to recommend boundary changes to the Superintendent and Board of Education. Boundary changes would take effect in two years (2016/17 School Year). Schools in U-46 are both overcrowded and underutilized. Per last years E&F report, Horizon, Teft, Eastview, Bartlett and Streamwood % utilized are: Horizon 52.08%, Teft 70.85%, Eastview 64.64%, Bartlett High 90.5%, and Streamwood 80.4% The numbers are projected to increase slightly over the next 5 years, except the middle schools which decline slightly. There are a number of elementary schools in the area that have low utilization: Sycamore Trails (64%), Hawk Hollow(60%), Spring Trail(57%), Wayne(55%), Centennial(54%), Horizon, and Prairieview(48%). Horizon has a parent on the E&F committee.

The next general Citizen's Advisory Council meeting is Thursday, October 10th at 7:00 at Elgin High School. All are welcome. The topic is: District Curriculum Update.

Thank you volunteers & families for making the 2nd Annual Harvest Fest a great success!

- •275 pumpkins decorated
- •200 hot dogs eaten

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- •100 photo booth pictures taken
- •over 400 wristbands sold
- •21 staff decorated pumpkins raffled, including a bicycle!



### **BOOK FAIR**

#### Did you enjoy the Scholastic Book Fair the PTO just sponsored?

Our committee chairperson, Jim Dimas is in his last year as a parent at 🔅 Horizon. We are looking for parents to learn about this fun event. Running this event is not difficult - but does take a little time both at  $\stackrel{\frown}{\Rightarrow}$  home (setting up book fair dates with our Scholastic Rep) and setting 

★ Talk to your friends and see if this is something you can do together. Interested? Contact the PTO at Horizonpto@yahoo.com and we will set up training.

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## HORIZON CASH **RAFFLE**

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Once again the PTO will be holding monthly cash raffles. Look for a flyer to come home this month. All proceeds for the raffle support PTO programs and events.