



*The Sky's the Limit!*

October 2009

# THE HORIZON HAWK

Apple Monthly Newsletter of Horizon Middle School PTA • Central Valley School District • Spokane Valley, Washington

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Oct. 5 PTA Meeting, 6:30pm, Library
- Oct. 14 Picture Retakes
- Oct. 16 HIGH-5 Corn Maze
- Oct. 20-23 Student-Led Conferences
- Oct. 30 Halloween Mixer  
2:45 - 5:00pm
- Nov. 10 Orchestra Concert, 7pm
- Nov. 13 "Reflections" Entries Due!
- Nov. 19 Band Concert, 7pm
- Dec. 1 Choir Concert, 7pm

## **PARENT ALERT!**

### ***You must Opt-In to receive the Horizon Newsletter!***

Just a reminder: Horizon's newsletter is published electronically, meaning that we send it out via email. It is also available for download on our website. If you would like to receive a paper copy please send a note to school, or email us and give us your information.

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

*Dear Parents,*

*We have a lot to be thankful for in our school district. Even with very real budget reductions being made, we are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and growing!*

*There are a few changes coming up that I want to highlight. You may have noticed a different style of math book and assignments coming home with students. We were fortunate to be able to adopt a new math curriculum that we believe will continue to improve our students' math achievement. We know that a 'book' is only a portion of the learning opportunity available to students—the primary factor is our wonderful teachers. Therefore, along with a new textbook, we continue to develop and refine our instructional skills.*

*Inside this newsletter you will be introduced to our new model for middle school conferences in the Central Valley School District. I believe this model responds to parents' needs to connect with teachers, and supports research that students need to be accountable for their learning. Please be patient with advisory teachers and students as we attempt our first round in October. I am excited to explore new ways to communicate student growth and connect schools with parents.*

*Nearly a year ago as we were preparing for budget reductions, Horizon Middle School committed to maintaining a highly effective learning environment through the utilization of our intangible assets. Sometimes there is too much focus on what costs money, when again, it is often those things that you can not put a price tag on that make the greatest difference for kids. Such as, quality people, relationships, focus on our mission, teaming with parents and community, and tradition. It is because of these variables that I believe our school is as strong as ever.*

*Welcome back! I look forward to serving you and your children during their most important developmental years. Middle School Matters!*

*Sincerely, Mr. Hardt*

**Horizon Middle School**  
*The Sky's the Limit!*

## HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL

3915 S. Pines Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

[www.cvsd.org/horizon](http://www.cvsd.org/horizon)

★ Office line 228-4940

★ Attendance line 228-4950

### PTA OFFICERS:

#### PRESIDENT

Kandee Sabo – 928-8311

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Erin Hill – 891-0556

#### TREASURER

Wendy Dingus – 924-8981

#### SECRETARY

Sophie Long – 921-0821



## 2009-2010 REFLECTIONS

*"Beauty is...."*

The National PTA believes that children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create and submit works of art in six areas; Dance Choreography, Film/Video, Literature, Musical composition, Photography and Visual Arts. Kick off will be October 2 and will run through November 6th. All entries are due to Horizon by the end of the school day November 13th. If you have any questions you can contact our Horizon Reflections Chairperson Kristen Bennett at 279-5266, or go to our website; [horizonmspta.com](http://horizonmspta.com), under Reflections. This is a wonderful program and we are hoping to have some entries go onto state and even the national level. Good luck!

## LETTER FROM YOUR PTA PRESIDENT

*Welcome back! Our PTA is looking forward to another great year at Horizon.*

One of our focuses this year is communication. With that in mind, we have a new web site and hope that you will visit it and take advantage of all the information we have to offer. Some of the things available on the website are the newsletter, coming events, links, information about fundraising and the PTA Reflections contest.

We are in need of a chairperson to do the purchasing and some volunteers to man our Snack Attack sales after school, Monday through Thursday. This is a short commitment, just 20 minutes a week. I usually sign someone up for the same day each week for the trimester. If you are interested, please contact Kandee Sabo, 999-7662.

At PTA, not only do we fundraise for our school, we are advocates for students and parents. We are hoping to increase and focus that advocacy this year and would like everyone to help us identify areas that are in need of attention. You can do this by attending one of our meetings or contacting us directly. As you know, a concern you have is often shared by many others. So let's communicate and benefit our school. Our next meeting is Oct. 5 at 6:30 in the Horizon Library.

We hope to see you at one of our meetings, if not please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or concerns.

*Sincerely, Kandee Sabo*

*Horizon Middle School PTA President 2009-2010*

### **Student Directory**

If you haven't already, get your students information in by Friday, Oct. 2 so they can be included in the PTA published Student Directory. These directories are invaluable when contacting fellow students and parents.

You need not purchase a directory to be listed. Directories are free to PTA members or \$3 each for non-members.

### **Horizon Clothing**

Horizon students and parents can now order Horizon apparel. It is offered through E-Stores by ZOME. Lots of different items, with several logos and colors to choose from. Show your school spirit and support the ASB. You can find a link on our website at [www.horizonmspta.com](http://www.horizonmspta.com).

### **Did you know we recycle ink cartridges?**

We can earn funds for technology, classroom equipment and even cash through Funding Factory's fundraising-through-recycling program. Each year more than 350 million inkjet and laser cartridges are thrown away. In addition, 35 million cell phones are discarded. FundingFactory, is alleviating the volume of waste in landfills while providing a beneficial fundraiser for nonprofit organizations nationwide.

Send in your empty ink cartridges, ink jet and laser cartridges. The collection box is in the hall near the office. THANK YOU!

## From the Principal Assistant's Desk

My name is Ty Larsen and I will be the Principal Assistant for the 2009/2010 school year. I have taught here at Horizon for the past seven years and have now taken on a new responsibility. I am excited about the positive start to our year and look forward to helping our Horizon students experience success in school.

Many of the activities of Horizon's daily life come through my office. I will handle those activities with safety and learning in mind and a fair hand. My expectation for students is to walk through their middle school years with respect for themselves and others and an understanding to take responsibility for their actions. In teaching middle school students, I have gained a new perspective of the behaviors they exhibit. I enjoy working with our students each day and aiding them in making positive decisions.

There are a few items requiring emphasis as we move through this year. Dress code, cell phones, bullying and harassment, and disruption tend to be the hot topics. Keeping learning at the forefront and a safe environment will be my focus when encountering these issues. I value each of our students and seek to help them through the middle school years.

I am open at anytime to questions and concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 228-4944 or by email at [tlarsen@cvsd.org](mailto:tlarsen@cvsd.org).

## 6th Grade Math & Science

The sixth-grade math and science classes are off to a great start this year. We have welcomed our largest sixth-grade class in seven years to Horizon along with a new math and science teacher, Mr. Matt Hildahl. Mr. Hildahl comes to us from East Valley Middle School and Lewis and Clark High School and is proving to be a notable addition to our team. (See the "Meet The Teachers" article in this newsletter).

The math classes are embracing a new curriculum called Math Connects. This is a more traditional approach and is closely aligned with state standards. This curriculum offers support and challenges for learners at various levels and includes online support as well. The entire textbook can be found online and your child will soon be bringing home the access code to find all of this online. Your child can no longer claim that they left their book at school and can't do their homework, they can just look it up on the internet.

We are kicking off the year in science with a unit on Astronomy. Your child will be researching ancient calendars and how they were developed using the stars, sun and moon. They will also be learning about the formation of our solar system, the planets and the tools used to study our universe.

## 6th Grade Language Arts/Social Studies

The sixth grade teachers are excited to welcome our new students to Horizon. What a great group! They seem very excited about the year ahead. We are kicking off the year with an in-depth study of the Five Themes of Geography in Social Studies. This will help students better understand the geography of our world.

In Language Arts, our students were assessed in reading and writing. We will use this information to guide our instruction. We know that this year will be very successful and rewarding for your student. We look forward to working with them.

## HORIZON COLLECTS

### Box Tops for Education!

And why not? It's totally no cost to you and Horizon receives 10 cents per box top! Please send your Box Tops into the office and put them in the white Box Tops box near the window by the 6th grade lockers. If you have received any grocery store **Bonus Box Tops** (they print at the register), you can put those in the box too!

### Albertson's Cards

You must renew your "Community Partner" Link on your Albertson's Card every year. You can go to our website under Fundraising, and then to Albertson's CP Program to find a link to do that. Albertson's has been great to us. We want to take advantage of this opportunity, so be sure your card is up to date and you are directing your contribution to Horizon! This fundraising is takes a small effort and is no cost to you!

# Halloween

## Student Mixer

October 30th, 2:45 - 5:00 pm

Our first student mixer will be after school on Friday, October 30th. This is a time for students to come and hang out after school, enjoy music videos, snacks and to socialize. There will be a best costume contest — so dress up!!!

**Keep in mind all costumes must comply with school dress codes.** Parent Chaperones are needed so if you are interested please contact Kandee Sabo, 999-7662. This is a great way to be involved in your student's social life.

## Subway School Rewards

When you make a purchase using a Subway card linked to your school, your school will earn a portion of every purchase you make. And just imagine if you got your friends and family to help out too — you'd be able to help our school even more! Just get onto our PTA website and go to Fundraising under Subway School Rewards. to register and link your Subway card.

# MUSIC

at Horizon Middle School

The year is off to a great start for the Music Department here at Horizon. We would like to welcome Mrs. Croskrey, our new Choir Director to our staff. The Music program consists of two Orchestra classes, three Choir classes and five Band classes. These provide every student with the opportunity to be successful in one of our music ensembles.

Music encourages Commitment. Success is not measured by what we start but by what we complete. In music classes, students are required to perform the entire composition from beginning to end, to complete a given task. The important qualities of tenacity and persistence establish habits for positive, productive living that are applicable to every situation.

## 1st Trimester Concert Dates:

Orchestra Concert	Nov. 10	7:00pm
Band Concert	Nov. 19	7:00pm
Choir Concert	Dec. 1	7:00pm



## LEADERSHIP

Leadership Class is off and running. This year's class is comprised of 23 fantastic and energetic students who have the school year off to a great start. Some of the early projects include; recognizing teachers by constructing signs for their rooms, painting spirit signs for support of the fall sports, celebrating Constitution Day, manufacturing identification name tags for the class, and organizing themselves for this school year. Spirit Week is HERE!

## 7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES AND LANGUAGE ARTS

We are once again studying Western Europe's medieval period from 800 CE to 1400 CE. Seventh graders reviewed the themes of geography and read about the land, peninsulas, rivers, mountains and resources found in Europe. They even learned how the ocean streams impact the climate.

They have begun to read "Crispin" by Avi. It is a story about a young serf who has lost his mother and the protection of the Lord Furnival. In fact, he must run for his very life! The book is full of suspense and is used for teaching literary skills such as "plot" and character analysis. It is also rich with historically accurate details which help to reveal medieval lifestyles and the social conditions of feudalism.

Students will practice research, using multiple sources, and find the detail needed to answer essential questions. They will also learn how to accurately cite sources and create bibliographies.

### *Medieval Feast*

The PTA and volunteer parents will host a Medieval Feast for both morning and afternoon 7th grade social studies students. It will be November 20th and the kids are already talking about it. We have awesome parent support in this community! If you are interested in helping, contact Kandee Sabo, our PTA President. Students and adults wear costumes to the feast. In the next several days, your student will be assigned a research specialty group and will then know what kind of costume they will need to prepare. Please don't spend a lot of money. Have fun finding things around the house and create a costume. Details will be given in class.

Another exciting way parents, students and teachers come together to help kids learn, will take place October 1. Eighth grader, Thomas Ballard and his dad, Chris, will bring technology to our classrooms. They will demonstrate the complexities of a feudal society through an interactive video game. Thomas and his dad presented and taught this last year and it was amazing how it helped 7th graders learn and remember. We are looking forward to this team of teachers!

Seventh graders are reviewing character analysis and active reading strategies. They will use the Jane Schaeffer methods to write a "response to literature" paragraph while deeply analyzing the thoughts and feelings of literary characters. They have been learning to create two-column notes in order to answer "big idea" essential questions. Of course, academic vocabulary is being taught during instruction. Each student is required to have an A.R. library book in every 7th grade class. Any time there is a spare moment, after a test or activity; all 7th grade teachers expect students to automatically read their book. Two books are required as a minimum each trimester. Students must have a book within their assessed reading range and take an A.R. quiz after the book is completed. So far, this group of 7th graders seems to LOVE reading! A.R. reading and quizzes are part of the Language Arts grade.

*If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher.*

- Ms. Kielbon                      228-4993              kkielbon@cvsd.org
- Ms. Moffit                        228-4968              smoffit@cvsd.org
- Mrs. Filanoski                    228-4994              sfilanoski@cvsd.org

Stay up to date with Horizon's PTA website ⇨ [www.horizonmspta.com](http://www.horizonmspta.com) ⇨

## 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

The new school year is off to a legendary start here at Horizon and the eighth grade students are already knee-deep in thrilling and educational assignments and projects. We've been studying the geography and geology of Washington State, and have done several assignments that have challenged students to think about the area of the world they live in. Thus far, there has been lively discussion, excellent achievement on assessed work, and an astounding sense of enthusiasm to learn every day.

## 8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Thrilled once again by the prospect of writing essays, perfecting grammatical structure, improving comprehension and critical thinking skills, and reading novels, students in the eighth grade classes here at Horizon have embraced a new school year and have had a passion for learning rekindled after having taken a brief mental hiatus during the summer months. Bright-eyed and bushy tailed, students have clamored to class for spellbinding lessons involving parts of speech and reading strategies, and have been mesmerized by tales of mastering the writing process and weaving concrete details and commentary together in a way that brings together a perfect balance of texture, beauty, and harmony with nature. As the school year progresses, we will continue our collective endeavor to improve in all areas of language arts and to build upon the skills that will result in excellent written communication.

### *8th Grade Service Learning Opportunities*

8th grade students have some great opportunities to complete their Service Learning requirements, this fall:

- Valleyfest Parade
- Valleyfest at Mirabeau Park
- Ponderosa Child Care-PTSA mtgs.
- Horizon Middle School Chain Gang (football team)

\*PLEASE NOTE-These are just a few that we have been able to offer, thus far. There are a lot of great ways to help serve our community-you can contact your local nursing/retirement homes, shelters, charities, schools, etc. Volunteers make a difference!

## HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM AND HIV/AIDS CURRICULUM

See the schedule below to preview the Human Growth and Development curriculum and HIV/AIDS curriculum taught to your student. Parents have the choice to opt their children out of receiving this curriculum.

## HORIZON FALL SPORTS LINE-UP!!

Fall sports are under way! Our participation numbers look good in spite of a few changes made this summer. Please come out and support your Horizon athletes!

### *Fall Coaching Staff-*

#### **CROSS COUNTRY**

Mr. Aunan and Mr. Dunn

#### **8TH GRADE SOFTBALL**

Mr. Sorensen, Mrs. Crooks

#### **GIRL'S SOFTBALL**

Mr. Crowley and Mr. Collins

#### **MIDDLEWEIGHT FOOTBALL**

Mr. Smith, Mr. Hilfiker

#### **LIGHTWEIGHT FOOTBALL**

Mr. Knudson, Mr. Kuipers  
and Mr. Cantrell (volunteer extraordinaire)

## **PAPERWORK, PAPERWORK, PAPERWORK...**

Just a reminder that there have been a few changes to the paperwork that must be handed in to participate in 7th and 8th grade athletics. ALL students participating must turn in a current PHYSICAL and the new CONCUSSION form BEFORE they can practice. This year, parents must also fill out an ELIGIBILITY form, for EVERY SPORT. All paperwork should come with the student at the same time, as well as their ASB FEE (if not already paid), and SPORTS FEE. They can turn this packet in, all at once, to Mrs. Steele in the office. *Thanks for your support and cooperation!*

## DATES OF PARENT PREVIEWS FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

### MIDDLE LEVEL AND HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS

Tuesday	November 17	North Pines MS Library	7:00-8:30pm
Thursday	November 19	Evergreen MS Cafeteria	7:00-8:30pm

### ELEMENTARY PARENTS

Tuesday	November 3	University Elem. Gymnasium	7:00-8:30pm
Thursday	November 5	Progress Gymnasium	7:00-8:30pm

## PREPARING FOR H1N1 FLU IN OUR SCHOOLS

Central Valley is preparing for an active influenza season with cases of H1N1 flu (formerly called 'swine' flu) and seasonal flu expected over the coming weeks and months. As a school district, we are working closely with local public health officials and are reviewing and adjusting our pandemic influenza plan for H1N1 flu. In our schools, we are actively reminding our students to stay healthy by washing their hands often and covering their coughs and sneezes with a sleeve or tissue. Our school employees are alert for students with any flu-like symptoms and are acting quickly to send ill students home. Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, tiredness or extreme exhaustion.

As a parent, you can help by reinforcing proper hygiene techniques with your children to help prevent the spread of viruses. Most importantly, please keep your sick child at home until completely well and report your student's flu-like symptoms to our school office. Your patience is appreciated as we work to follow public health guidelines by sending sick children home and asking questions about your child's specific symptoms to better track cases of influenza in our community. Our district's website ([www.cvsd.org](http://www.cvsd.org)) will be updated with important parent information as the flu season progresses. Thank you for your understanding and support as we work together to keep our students and schools healthy!



**MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!**

## MEET OUR NEW HORIZON TEACHERS!

### *Matt Hildahl*

My name is Matt Hildahl and I'm excited to be teaching math and science at Horizon Middle School. This is my 16th year teaching and my first in the Central Valley School District. I spent the first part of my teaching career at East Valley Middle School where I taught math, science, gifted education, TV news, yearbook and news writing. I also coached baseball, softball, volleyball and basketball. My wife MaryBeth is a 5th grade teacher at Whitman Elementary and I have two daughters, Emma, 12 and Elle, 9.

I have been a Spokaneite most of my life and grew up around a family of teachers. I love teaching for a living because every day is different and brings a new challenge. It's also a career in which I can make a huge impact on society.

It's somewhat ironic that I ended up at Horizon because I was on a committee as a 7th grader at Evergreen Jr. High in the early 80's. We had the job of choosing the mascot, school colors, etc. for Horizon, which was in the process of being built. I ended up moving back to the south hill and did not attend Horizon then, but I now roam the halls of Horizon as a teacher.

I spent my first four years of college at W.S.U. where I spent some time as a math education major and ended up with a degree in communications with an emphasis in broadcasting and journalism. After an internship at the FOX network in Tacoma, I realized I would rather use my communication skills in teaching than on TV. I enrolled in the M.I.T. program at Whitworth and graduated in 1994. I have been teaching ever since and couldn't imagine doing anything else.

### *Melanie Croskrey*

My name is Melanie Croskrey. I am the new choir teacher at Horizon Middle School! This is my third year teaching choir in CVSD. My prior two years have been at Bowdish, where I am currently teaching in the afternoons. Spokane Valley is not new to me; as I grew up in CVSD and went to many of the same schools as our students. I spent my K-12 years attending Chester Elementary, Horizon Middle School (Jr. High back then!) and University High School. Staying local, I also attended Eastern Washington University and got my 5 year degree in Music Education with emphasis in the Vocal Arts. I've since been married, bought a home and added two Chihuahuas to our family.

It is great to be back at Horizon and I can't wait to make great music with our students!

### *Kelsey Starzman*

Hello, my name is Kelsey Starzman. I am a new Special Services Teacher at Horizon Middle School and also new to CVSD. This will be my third year of teaching in Special Services. The last two years I was at Tonasket School District in a high school setting.

Growing up I lived in Spokane and Wilbur, and then went to Eastern Washington University and graduated in 2003. Over the summer I moved back to Spokane and bought a home. The majority of my spare time is spent boating and camping on Lake Roosevelt with friends and family.

I am excited to be here at Horizon Middle School and I am looking forward to the school year!

## THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION...

[www.cvsd.org/horizon](http://www.cvsd.org/horizon)  
[www.horizonmspta.com](http://www.horizonmspta.com)

★ Office line 228-4940

★ Attendance line 228-4950

Please let us know if and why your child is absent and when you expect them to return to school. Thank you!

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## CENTRAL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT LED-CONFERENCES

This year, all of the middle schools in the Central Valley School District will be hosting student led-conferences in October and February. At the end of the school year in June, each school will host a "celebration of learning" culminating activity.

The purpose of student-led conferences is to provide students the opportunity to formally evaluate their academic performance and take ownership for their learning. It also offers an avenue for the student, parent, and teacher, to meet in an educational setting.

*Student led-conferences provide students the opportunity to take ownership of their learning by:*

- Understanding and articulating assessment results in all key subject areas.
- Setting, monitoring, and adjusting personal goals for their own improvement.

During the conference, students will present their personal goals and action plans. Participating in the conference will give students the opportunity to learn more about themselves and direct their own learning with assistance from parents and teachers.

*What to expect during your child's conference:*

- Introduction of everyone at the conference
- With teacher assistance as needed, the students will present and interpret assessment data.
- Two to three goals and corresponding action plans presented by your child.
- Together, you and your child will agree on one of these goals to focus on. Additionally, if you wish, you may write a goal and an action plan.
- An opportunity to meet with your child's teachers.

Student-led conferences will be held during the week of October 20-23, 2009. Conferences will again be held during the week of February 17-19. At this time, students will assess their progress and share that information with their parents. In June, each school will host a celebration of learning event.

*We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you and share in your child's academic success!*



### HELP NEEDED FOR SNACK ATTACK !!

We are in need of a chairperson to do the purchasing and some volunteers to man our Snack Attack sales after school, Monday through Thursday. This is a short commitment, just 20 minutes a week. Volunteers typically sign up for the same day each week for the trimester. If you are interested, please contact Kande Sabo at 999-7662.

Get  
ready  
for the

# Halloween Student Mixer!

sponsored by horizon pTa

FRIDAY,  
October 30th  
2:45 – 5:00 pm

Come to...  
hang out after school  
enjoy music videos  
munch on snacks  
and most importantly,  
to socialize...

**BEST**  
**costume contest!!**

*Keep in mind all costumes must  
comply with school dress codes.*

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***Inside this issue of:***



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THE LIMIT!***

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- **Halloween Mixer! Oct. 30**
- **PTA NEWS**
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- **News from Athletic Department**
- **Meet our New Teachers!**



**HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

3915 S. Pines Rd.

Spokane Valley, WA 99206