

Horizon PTO



January 2020

THANK YOU!

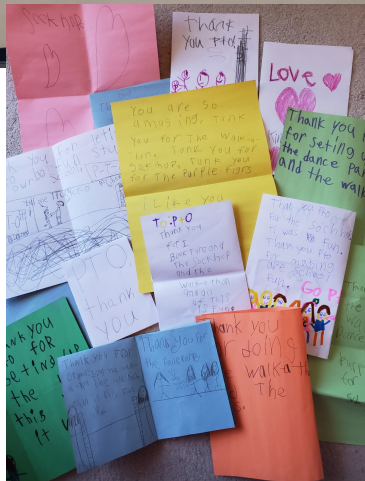
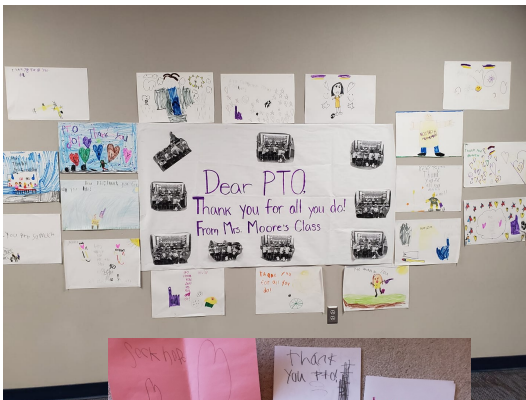
First off, I'd like to thank everyone for stepping up to make Horizon a better place for staff and students. PTO had approximately 8,362 volunteer opportunities this fall (or so it seemed) and almost all of those spots were filled! We were able to do SO MUCH this fall (see the rest of this newsletter for a recap of most, but not all) and it was truly appreciated by the staff and students at Horizon. I can't thank you all enough for helping out during an incredibly busy time. Your efforts have certainly been noticed and appreciated.
~Christie Steinbock, PTO President



7TH ANNUAL WALKATHON

This year's walkathon happened in October. We raised over \$16,000 for our school! This is a fun event that makes a BIG impact on our school. Items we have funded already this year:

- Character Counts shirts for all staff (they look pretty sharp this year!)
- New microwave for staff lounge to replace one that broke
- Horizon Reads Program
- Author visit from Eric Litwin, happening in January (author of the Pete the Cat books!!)
- Supplies for playground paint
- New soccer nets!
- School supplies for students who wouldn't otherwise have any
- Summer Reading Splash program
- Conference meal for teachers and staff working a very LONG day
- Vacuum for Special Education to aid teaching life skills to students
- Supplies for maintaining the school's gardens
- And so much more!





SUMMER PLAYGROUND PAINTING

You may have noticed some fresh color on the playground blacktop. Silver Cord volunteers added a fresh coat of paint to the US map this summer. We are so thankful for their help on this project.

Mrs. Roquet, her family, and a few of the teachers also painted a few new games on the playground. Wallace let Mrs. Cornwell borrow their playground stencils to make this easier! Thank you to all involved in making the playground even more fun!

SOCK HOP

Over 200 Horizon students attended the Sock Hop this year. Dojos returned to host a game, we had pumpkin bowling, a costume contest, and guess the candy corn. Cotton Candy Kids also returned and donated over \$150 for supplies for Nurse Keri! Families also gave many donations of school supplies and supplies for Nurse Keri (Kleenex, Clorox Wipes, etc.) A special thanks to our Silver Cord volunteers and to the Kohl's Cares program that once again provided Kohl's volunteers to work at the concession stand. Those volunteers know how to setup and cleanup in a flash! Finally, we were able to keep the event free due to the generous donations of snacks and beverages from Fareway Foods of Johnston.



BOX TOPS

Congratulations to Mrs. Moe-Stewart's 5th grade class! Their class won the box top collection contest and enjoyed a class popcorn party! They collected 348 box tops. This fall, Horizon raised \$425 that the PTO can use to fund special projects and field trips for Horizon teachers and students!

However, Box Tops collections are way down this fall because they are changing to a digital format. We need your help! Please download the Box Tops for Education app on your smart phone and scan your grocery and shopping receipts within two weeks of purchase so that all of the new electronic box tops will be added to Horizon's total!

A special thanks to our volunteers who cut, counted and sorted the box tops: Lindsay Wierson, Julie Kosman, Michelle Bryngleson, Julie Tutaj, Emily Crain, Leslie Mentele, Sabina Dzafic, Pam Shroyer, Jessica McGinnis, Tiffany DeBoef, Christie Steinbock, and Jen Briles.



BOOK DRIVE

The 2019 Book Drive was a huge success. Students collected 1622 gently used books and purchased \$478 worth of new books at the book fair to benefit Horizon's reading support students and teachers. The books will not only provide additional resources to students in the reading support program, but will also help build home libraries for Horizon families in need. The 5th graders will receive a popcorn party for collecting a whopping 575 books! Way to go! Thank you to all the families who donated books!



Teacherlists.com

Each teacher at Horizon has an online wish list. Below are the directions for accessing their lists if you are interested in providing items they need for their classrooms. Thank you to everyone who have already donated!

1. Go to teacherlists.com
2. Click on "Find a List"
3. Enter our zip code, 50131
4. Choose Horizon Elementary
5. Find and click on your teacher's wish list

SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

Creating school supply kits to have on hand was a new PTO initiative for the 2019-20 school year. PTO provided 45 kits to begin the school year. With the use of Walkathon proceeds, generous donations from Horizon Families and help from the Johnston Partnership, providing school supply kits and stocking the supply closet will be an ongoing PTO project. Our goal is to make sure every student at Horizon has the supplies he/she needs in order to be successful. Supply kits are available through the main office.

PTO PAMPERS TEACHERS

During Parent/Teacher conferences, PTO sponsored a meal for all the teachers. The week of conferences is long and busy, and we are so grateful to our volunteers who help with this meaningful and much-appreciated event. Teachers enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches, chips, desserts and drinks. Thank you to everyone who donated an item(s) to help make the meals complete! Special thank you to Ms. Abby from the Horizon Nutrition Department for making the pork. Thank you to Jill & Sienna Boom for helping set up and a big thank you to Jeremy Schwanebeck and Greg Copeland for hosting the meal in your art rooms! We appreciate this group effort to show our support to our hard working teachers.

DON'T FORGET!

Amazon Smile: Shopping on Amazon? Make sure to go to AmazonSmile.com (smile.amazon.com/ch/42-1523051). Select Horizon Elementary Parent Teacher Organization Inc. as your charity of choice and Horizon receives a percentage of all your Amazon purchases!



HEARING TESTS VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the people who helped walk students to and from their hearing screenings. We were able to get all students tested in less than three days...that's awesome! Keri Meyer, our school nurse and the hearing screeners appreciate your help! Thank you so much for making this a smooth and efficient process!!



SUMMER READING SPLASH

The kids always love the Summer Reading Splash celebration held at the beginning of the school year. Students who read during the summer received a freezy pop. Those who read over 500 minutes received a new book and students who read over 1,000 minutes got to toss water balloons at Principal Cornwell or a teacher. It was COLD when we started the day but that didn't stop the fun. We had over 150 students toss water balloons this year! There were many wet teachers and many more smiles.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The ice cream social was held during Meet the Teacher in August. Once again, our Silver Cord volunteers showed up to serve families ice cream sundaes while families caught up with friends.

BOOK FAIR

THANK YOU to everyone who gave generously of your time to pitch in with setting up, decorating, cashiering, stapling, counting out flyers, and for supporting our book fair. We couldn't have done it without you!

We collected \$957.06 in change during our All For Books Coin Challenge! This money went directly to your child's teacher to use at the Book Fair. PTO also matched 50% of what was raised and purchased new books for Horizon's Reading Specialists. Mrs. Whitney's class brought in the most money and won the STEM kits by bringing in over \$102 in coins!

Because of your service and everyone's generous donations and purchases, we raised \$1,268.36 in cash for the Horizon Media Center, \$2,200 in Scholastic Dollars to fund gift certificates for teachers, students and volunteers, and donate \$479 in NEW books to Horizon's Reading Specialists. That's a total of \$3,947.36 raised to support literacy at Horizon!

It was a fun and busy week... we can't wait to do it again in February. ☺