

# *New Horizons Country Day Elementary News*

*Don't miss our  
Harvest Festival  
Friday, Oct. 27th  
5:00-7:00 PM  
Volunteer now!  
Contact Durga at  
durga8877@yahoo.com  
or 772-8969*

October 2006

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## DATELINE

Thursday	October 5	<i>Scholastic Book Orders Due!</i> <b>Multi-age Field Trip to Ruth Eckerd</b>
Monday	October 9	End of first marking period
Tuesday	October 10	<b>Elem. Field Trip to the FL Youth Orchestra</b>
Thursday	October 12	<i>Report Cards</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>October 14</i>	<i>Parent/Teacher Conference Day - No School Fun Day for NHCDS students for a fee of \$ 12.00 sign up in the office - space is limited!</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>October 16</i>	<i>Professional Ed. Day - No School Fun Day for NHCDS students for a fee of \$12.00</i>
Wednesday	October 18	<b>K/1 Field Trip to Firefighter's Museum</b>
Thursday	October 19	<b>PIZZA DAY</b> (Kdg-5) Roller Skating & Pizza (K-1) <b>Multi-age Field Trip to Firefighter's Museum</b>
Tuesday	October 24	<b>Speech &amp; Hearing Assessments</b>
Wednesday	October 25	<b>Elem. Field Trip to Dunedin Historical</b>
Friday	October 27	<b>HARVEST FESTIVAL - 5:00-7:00 PM</b> <b>Abbreviated Day - <u>we will close at 5:00</u></b>
<b>PM!</b>		
Sunday	October 29	Turn clocks b-a-c-k!
Monday	October 30	<b>Field Trip to Pumpkin Patch</b>
Tuesday	October 31	Pumpkin Activities



## How Do Children Learn?

As many parents watch their children grow it is important to remember that each child is an individual. Recognizing the different ways children learn helps you bring out the best in each child. Schools tend to focus on verbal/linguistic and logical/mathematical intelligences. It is important that adults who work with or spend time with children understand how knowledge is retained.

### We learn and retain:

- 10% of what we hear
- 15% of what we see
- 20% of what we both hear and see
- 40% of what we discuss with others
- 80% of what we experience directly or practice
- 90% of what we attempt to teach others



**No one should do for a child what he or she can do for themselves!**

*-C. Killarlain*

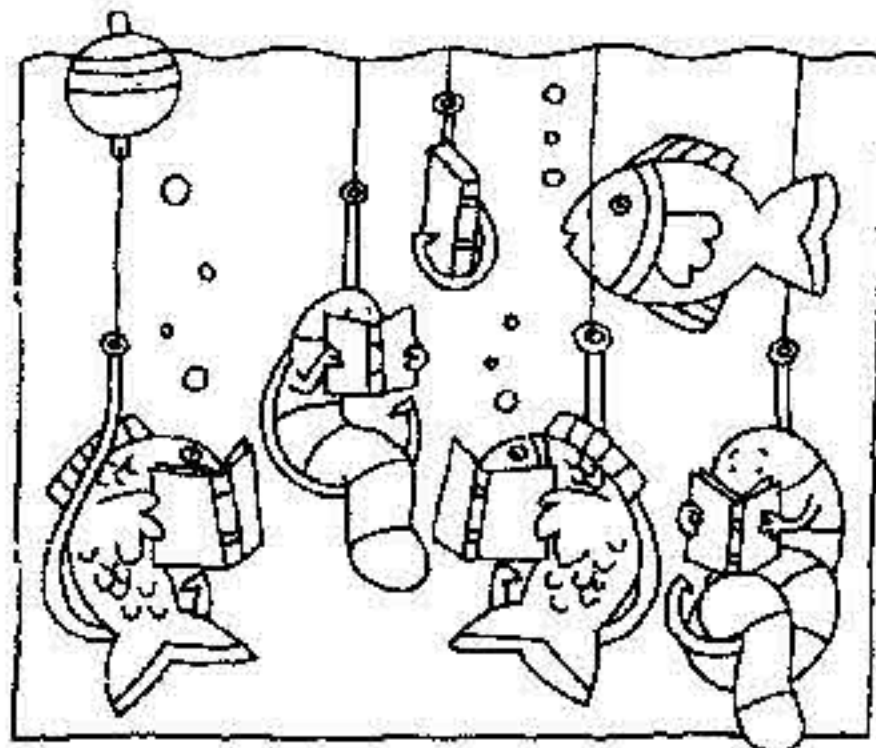
## PARENTS AS PARTNERS



### Being A Safe School!

We at New Horizons firmly believe that parents need to be part of their child's education in partnership with the school. In building this partnership we ask parents to respect the educational setting, our goals, guidelines and assist in the process as needed. **We ask that all parent volunteers sign in at Ms. Lauren's desk in the office before going to your child's classroom.** This allows us to track how and to what degree parents are volunteering. It also gives us information on your child's safety as to who is in the building.

When signing up with your child's teacher to volunteer, remember that you must first fill out our field trip background screening form. We do need your assistance and help! We are not putting on a show.



## SIGNING YOUR CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL



When picking up your child before regular dismissal time during the school day, we again ask that you **stop by the office to sign out your child.** This allows us record of who has officially left school. Often students are picked up by one parent who forgets to notify the other. This is a safeguard put in place to protect your child.

### Emergency Procedures

**Always upon arriving at New Horizons begin your journey in the school office.** There will be times that we will lock our classroom doors when occasions arise in the area to protect your children from outside intruders.

In the case of a building evacuation, we will evacuate from our buildings to the far end of our back parking lot. Once the proper officials arrive on our premises, we will follow their instructions on re-entry to our buildings or further evacuation from our premises.



## We need you!



### Harvest Festival 2006

*(an event organized and run  
by our New Horizons  
parents)*

#### Activities to include:

Animal dig  
Feely box  
Obstacle Course  
50/50 Raffle  
Magic Show  
Fun Jumpers  
Harvest Picture Opportunities  
Crafts  
Games  
Cup-Cake Walk  
Hot dogs, ice cream, italian ice,  
& popcorn!

*To volunteer contact  
Durga at 772-8969 or  
durga8877@yahoo.com*

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

New Horizons has a sharpened focus on what is truly meaningful in your children's educational experience, particularly as we head into the excitement and commercial hype of the upcoming holiday season. Instead of dressing up in costumes, eating prepared refreshments, and forfeiting the structure of our day, we believe your children will gain much more by extending normal classroom routines and activities to include each holiday's symbols and

traditions.

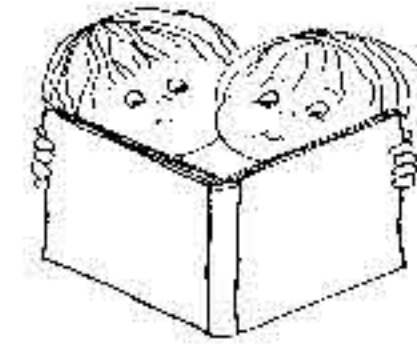
We believe these student-centered activities will be loads of fun without losing sight of our educational goals.



## Five Purposes of Education!

1. *Provide career opportunities*
2. *To teach how to think*
3. *To provide optional views of the world*
4. *To transmit civilization*
5. *To provide an ethical and moral standard*

*Author unknown*

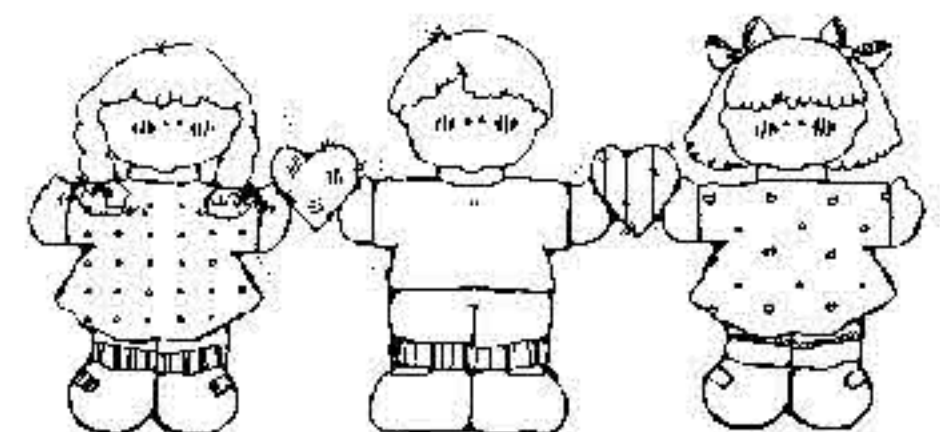


*Please read to your  
child each day!*

**The more you read,  
the more you know.  
The more you know,  
the smarter you grow.  
The smarter you grow,  
the stronger your voice,  
when speaking your mind  
or making your choice.**

*“The single most  
important  
activity for building the  
knowledge required for  
eventual success in  
reading is reading  
aloud to children.”*

*Jim Trelease  
Becoming a Nation of Readers*



# Calling All Volunteers!



**Pizza and Skating:** Parent assistance on Pizza Day helps get the children served quickly. Please sign in at the office on Pizza Day.

**Harvest Festival:** We will officially close school at 5:00 PM and begin our annual Harvest Festival. We need workers the night of the festival to work one half hour and hour shifts at activities or help with clean-up/set-up.

*When parents and teachers collaborate on behalf of children, they create windows of light for the generations that follow.*

## Mark your calendars!

*Fun Days scheduled when we are closed at \$12.00 a day.*

*Friday, October 13th  
Monday, October 16th*

*For Before/After Care public school students:*

*Thursday, October 12th Early Release Day  
Friday, October 13th*

## Kindergarten/First Grade Explorers



by

**Mrs. Kathy Pollak**

It was so nice to see and hear the happy buzz of sharing at our Open House. I enjoyed touching base with so many families. I appreciate those who were able to sign up to help serve pizza or chaperone one of our field trips. If any new trips develop I will let you know so that you can see if you wish to join us.

The month of October will be an especially busy time. Our **Plants, Seeds and Butterfly** unit starts with parts of a plant. We will study different types of plants. We've already talked about fruits and vegetables but not what part they play in the growth of the plant. Since flowers are an important part of plant life, the life cycle of a butterfly fits in perfectly in this study.

A math tie to our butterfly study will be learning about symmetry. We will also work with the concepts of greater than, less than and equal to; estimating and comparing groups of objects; beginning telling time experiences; and more graphing (interpreting, gathering and reporting data). Students will work on identifying numbers through 99; counting to 100 by 1's, 2's, 3's, 5's, and 10's.

Our Language studies will include recognition and functions of punctuation marks (question marks,

periods, commas and quotation marks). We will continue working with rhyming words. Retelling stories and writing the start of a story are other skills that will be visited.

The first grading period ends October 9<sup>th</sup>, and report cards will be sent home October 12<sup>th</sup>. Throughout this month there will be occasion for assessment of various skills pertaining to the subject areas of Math and Language. These assessments are used to measure the student's progress during the year.

I look forward to sharing your child's progress with you on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at our *soon to be scheduled* parent conferences.



## Happy Birthday!

Jordan Albino  
Ashley Martin  
Dimitri Tyner  
Jacob McQuain  
Hannah Swauger

## Multi-Age Investigators



by  
**Ms. Christine Voliva**

*"Do you know the human head weighs eight pounds?" ~ Jerry Maguire (1996)*

We learned many interesting facts about the human body this month. Now that your child knows what dust actually is (80% dead human skin!), for example, he/she may be less likely to help with that particular chore. Ask your student to tell you what happens to the pizza you're having for dinner after it's eaten; we focused on the digestive system throughout our studies.

Our field trip to St. Petersburg All Children's Hospital was a huge success. Students sang and swayed to the musical "What's So Good About Feeling Bad?" Afterwards, the cast (brain, heart, nerves, skin, etc.) took time to speak with the crowd. New Horizons students were not shy when complimenting the actors on a job well done.

*"Did you know bees [and dogs] can smell fear?" ~ Jerry Maguire (1996)*

Next month, we will turn our attention away from humans to insects, butterflies, and spiders. We also look forward to a little bit of vegetable gardening, along with a study of plants and flowers.

Reading continues to be a highlight of each day in our classroom. Students worked on their first shared Reader's Theater experience this month. They are also doing a fantastic job with their Running Records each week. Fridays I am pleased with faster times and more fluent reading. Keep up the reading (and rereading) at home!

We read an array of children's literature (both fiction and non-fiction) in September. I read aloud two of my favorite patriotic picture books in honor of September 11<sup>th</sup> – The Man Who Walked Between the Towers and Fireboat: The True Story of the John J. Harvey. These books sparked a thoughtful heartfelt conversation about the events of 2001.

We also enjoyed the chapter book Judy Moody, M.D.: The Doctor is In! by Megan McDonald. When her third grade class studies the human body, the zany and imaginative Judy Moody dives into the topic with humor and enthusiasm. We laughed aloud together during EVERY chapter!

In math, students have begun weekly Mad Minutes. They approach the challenge (of completing 50-100 math problems in five minutes) with determination. Fractions, money, time, graphing, probability, and comparisons were just a few of the skills and concepts studied in September. We continue to incorporate new games and activities that make practicing math more fun!

Thank you to all parents who attended the Open House. The students were thrilled to have the opportunity to share our classroom and their morning routine with you. Once again, I always appreciate hearing from you. I look forward to meeting with you individually for a Parent-Teacher conference later this month. Until then, be in touch!

## Red Ribbon Awards



During the past two months the following students earned red ribbons for random acts of kindness:

Daria Tabota and Rilee Beltramea helped clean some items they did not play with, without being asked.

Jacob McQuain held the door for others voluntarily.

Brandon Roles helped others without being asked, bringing a smile to a friend in need. Jeremy Choi volunteered to help out around the classroom. Zachary Feit patiently helped a classmate read and learn a new concept. Desiree Gill worked with a fellow student with her writing.

## *Student of the Month Awards*

*Give these folks a round of applause!!!*



*August*

*K/1 Daria Tabota*

*2/5 Alex Casano*



*September*

*K/1 Jacob McQuain*

*2/5 Zachary Feit*

## *New Horizons Family Advertising!*

*Independence Mortgage Group*

Marc Ballard

Broker/Owner

2430 Estancia Blvd. , Suite 202

Clearwater, FL 33761

727-724-3800 x228

Direct: 727-580-7872

[mballard@contactimg.com](mailto:mballard@contactimg.com)

## Homework Without Tears

How and why is homework given? Homework consists of creative extensions of topics taught, practice of concepts addressed during the classroom day, and thoughtful applications of subject areas covered. Homework should only require a child to donate a small portion of a day of their personal time toward completing their weekly homework assignments. We are aware that some students have not grown in their study habits to allow them to do homework independently. Of course the time it takes your child will depend on their level of ability, level of responsibility, as well as parental reinforcement that homework is meaningful and that school work comes first.

New Horizons gives homework because **research** tells us that:

- \* doing homework directly affects a child's achievement.
- \* students who consistently do homework perform better academically than those who do not do homework.
- \* by doing homework students can improve their academic achievement in all subject areas.
- \* homework teaches responsibility as well as independent study skills and habits.
- \* homework is the key link between school and home so parents are informed about what their child is learning.

- \* homework assists in the development of self-directed learners who embrace lifelong learning as their goal.
- \* parents are informed about what their child is learning.

New Horizons over the years has become well recognized amongst the teaching community as a school that represents quality. As we take our students from our preschool where "play is a child's work," we embrace an active learning environment to develop active, motivated and self-directed learners who are prepared for the middle and high school educational programs that are available in the community. Homework beginning in Sixth Grade is given consistently to take anywhere from two to three hours nightly in all the middle school programs in which we have been in contact with. In order to gradually prepare students for expectations to come, New Horizons assigns homework that should take no more than 15-20 minutes nightly for First Graders, 20-35 minutes nightly for Second Graders, 25- 40 minutes for Third Graders, 35-50 minutes for Fourth Graders and 40-60 minutes for Fifth Graders. Fifth Graders not only receive weekly assignments but also daily assignments to prepare for Sixth Grade.



**If your child is having problems with homework or it is taking your child longer than it should to do the assigned homework, we suggest these tips:**

1. Make homework your child's responsibility.
2. Prepare a proper study area for doing homework.
3. Schedule homework into a part of each day as you do other activities.
4. Avoid doing your child's homework for them.
5. Avoid nagging!
6. Begin lengthy projects by preparing a schedule, don't wait until the last minute.
7. Avoid undermining your child's teacher with negative comments.
8. Be supportive and praise your child's efforts.
9. When there are questions about assignments, empower your child to ask the teacher him/herself.
10. Provide your child with the needed reference materials to successfully complete homework assignments.

Your support of our program is important for your child to be a successful learner.



**I hear and I forget  
I see and  
I remember,  
I do and  
I understand.**

- Chinese proverb

### Use it or lose it! Your Brain!



Exercise does the body good!



September Students of the Month

August Students of the Month

