

Hoose Hawks – Family Newsletter



October 7, 2016

Good evening Hoose Hawk Families. We hope that you and your family have a great three day weekend!

Calendar Additions – Please add the events/dates below:

- Oct 10 – Columbus Day Holiday: No School
- Oct 16 – PTO Meeting: 6:00 pm in the IMC
- Oct 26 – Late Start Day: Students arrive 1 hour late: school begins @ 8:45
- Oct 28 – Hoose-n-anny (more information to come)
- Nov 11 – Veterans Day Assembly (more information to come)

Cold Weather, Prepare Your Student - As we get deeper into October, the weather will continue to get colder outside. Please be sure to have your child dress appropriately for the weather. Our students will be going outside for recess daily unless it rains, some learning activities, and celebrations such as Hoose-n-anny. Having a sweatshirt, coat, hat, and gloves available for your student as it gets colder will guarantee they will be prepared for the outdoor elements.

Hoose-n-Anny – The annual Hoose-n-anny is rapidly approaching. For those that may be new, and all others as well, Hoose-n-anny is our annual celebration for the Fall. On October 28th, our PTO and Hoose work together to celebrate the Fall season with games and fun. *At Hoose, our students wear cowboy attire for Hoose-n-anny. No Halloween costumes are worn to school.* Hoose-n-anny will be outside, so please be sure your child is dressed appropriately as the weather can be a bit colder. More information will come as we closer to the date, but please mark your calendars.

We need volunteers to make this event go. A signup genius will be sent out in the near future.

Hoose Fundraising Event – Mark your calendars: *Tuesday, October 11th form 4:00-8:00 pm*, at The DQ Grill & Chill on Veteran’s Parkway near the mall. Place your DQ receipt in the collection box near the registers or drive through, and a percentage of your purchase will go towards our school. Mrs. Astorina, who will be at the fundraiser from 5:00pm-8:00pm handing out small prizes to Hoose students who show up! Thank you for your support.

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Chess Club - For any parents who were not able to attend the parent meeting on October 4 but are still interested in having their child participate, you're not too late! Send an email to hoosechessclub@gmail.com to request the registration form.

Chess club will be meeting on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7 for beginner and intermediate players and from 6 to 7:15 for advanced players. The first meeting will be on October 18th and chess club will run until early March.

Pop tabs - We are still collecting pop tabs to help the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois. To date Hoose families and friends have donated over 200 pounds of pop tabs. Wow! Thank you for your donations!

Music Performances - Third, fourth and fifth grade classes will present their annual music programs on Monday, November 21st, in the auditorium of Normal Community High School.

3rd Grade "Stone Soup" 5:30 p.m.
4th Grade "We Haz Jazz" 6:30 p.m.
5th Grade "We Love America!" 7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars!

Students and Technology (Personal Devices) – Technology is much more accessible now more than ever. We have noticed students bringing more devices to school (phones, tablets, watches). We certainly understand that some students will need to bring these devices for purposes of communication with families after school. A couple things to keep in mind, and remind your student about:

- Devices should be kept in backpacks.
- Devices should be either turned off or muted/silenced while at school.
- Devices brought from home are the responsibility of the student.
- Devices may not be used at school unless directed by the teacher.
- Should a student use a device during school without teacher direction, the device may be placed with the teacher or the Main Office.

We want all of our students to access and use technology wisely and for the purposes of education while here at Hoose. We appreciate your help and support.

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Parent Packets – Parents, packets for a variety of things including PTO information, Volunteer forms, Art Masterpiece, and more went home a couple of weeks ago. Please take a look at these, complete what you would like to participate in, and send back to the Main Office at Hoose. Thank you,

Pick-up and Drop-off – Pick-up and drop-off of students can take place in two areas around Hoose. The Circle drive near the Main Office on the North end of the building and the large parking lot on the south end of the building are available for families.

- *Circle Drive* – For AM drop-off, please be sure to proceed slowly through the circle drive for the safety of all of our students and staff. Once you have entered the circle drive, please pull up to the curb (do not drop off in the drive lane) and have your child exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side.
- *Circle Drive* – For PM pick-up, the circle drive will be open for parents to pick up their student(s) at 2:15. We do have a few specialized transports that pick up and depart between 1:55-2:15. **Please wait until 2:15 to pull into the circle drive** so we can get our buses in and out of the drive as quickly as possible. Once you have entered the circle drive, please pull up to the curb (do not pick up in the drive lane) and have your child enter the vehicle on the sidewalk side.
- *South Parking Lot* – The south parking lot is available for pick-up and drop-off at all times before and after school. Our large transport buses do drop-off and pick-up in the driveway nearest the building on the south end of the building near the flagpole. Please park your vehicle in the middle of the parking lot near the basketball hoops.

Snacks – Parents, please remember to send a snack with your child each day. Also, keep the snacks smaller, meaning 1 or 2 things that are quick and manageable for kids to eat while learning. Healthy snacks are encouraged. Students will have opportunities to refuel during their learning day.

Bussing – Please continue to check Skyward for changes in bus routes. These changes may occur as routes are refined throughout the year. We will continue to communicate with families of any changes, late buses, or updates as soon as we are aware of any shared with us.

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Standards Based Grading – Unit 5 has begun the process of transitioning to Standards Based Grading in the elementary grade levels. Teachers and administrators have been engaged in study and research around Standards Based Grading and many teachers have begun to shift their assessment practices to align with this type of grading and reporting. In the 2016-2017 school year, teachers will begin to report some grades in the Standards Based Grading format. Full implementation will take place in the 2017-2018 school year.

Below is a link to the District webpage focused on Standards Based Grading. Here, you will find the Companion Documents for each grade level which list the skills being assessed and the descriptors of the levels of performance, a supporting document called Understanding the SBG Scale, and more. Please click on the link to learn more...

<http://www.unit5.org/Page/12636>

Instruction: Workshop – Many of our families have experienced and learned about the Reading, Writing, and Math Workshop instructional methods used in our classrooms. For those that may be new to Hoose, or first time school-age parents, below is a link that will help provide some information related to workshop within Unit 5.

<http://www.unit5.org/domain/49>

Birthday Treats and Snacks (Board Policy) – Recently, Unit 5 is taking more steps moving towards wellness. With that in mind, the Board of Education has established a new policy:

Birthday Treats Policy - Unit 5 believes that birthdays are special for children. As a school district, in order to promote a healthy school environment, birthday recognitions cannot include food items. The decision will be left up to each school as to how they would like to recognize a student's birthday, but it cannot include food items.

Board Policy 6.5

Nutrition Guidelines for Foods Available During the School Day

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Students will be offered and schools will promote nutritious food and beverage choices consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans published jointly by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture (USDA). In addition, in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity, the Superintendent or designee shall restrict the sale or distribution of foods as defined by the USDA, in the food service areas during meal periods and comply with all ISBE rules.

This policy covers all of the food that is offered during the day, not just during lunch. The intent of the policy change is to limit the instances of food being given to students during the school day which is not regulated by the health guidelines our district follows and/or is out of the control of parents/guardians. This means that if a snack time is offered during the day, students should bring in their own healthy snacks as opposed to having students bring in a snack that is shared by all.

Other News:

Box Tops for Education – Hoose does collect Box Tops for Education. If you have Box Tops to send in, please send them in with your student.

PTO Facebook - Colene Hoose PTO has a Facebook page! Please follow the link below and like our page. It is a great way to be better plugged in. The Facebook page has photos and updates on events, classroom needs as well as other opportunities to help out. The PTO will continue to evolve the site to maximize the usefulness to all the parents. Please feel free to add feedback on how we can better communicate with you by emailing us at colenehoosepto@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/colenehoosepto>

PTO Meeting – The next Hoose PTO meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16th starting at 6:00 pm in the IMC.

Late Start Dates – Our next late start date is approaching. Please mark the following date on your calendars: Wednesday, October 26th. On late start days, school starts one hour later at **8:45 am**.

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