

Hawthorn Happenings

Parent Newsletter



Sandy Hemaya, Principal

Sasha Kalis, Assist. Principal

Dear Hawthorn Families,

Now that we are into the month of February, we will soon begin organizing classes for the 2017-18 school year. Our teachers put a lot of work into this process to try to get a class make-up that will be successful for all students. I thought I would take a moment to explain our process for doing this so everyone would be informed.

For students going into 1st through 4th grade, the current grade level teachers meet together to divide students by the following criteria:

- 1) Equal numbers of boys and girls in each class.
- 2) Equal numbers of high, average, and low academic achievement in each class.
- 3) Equal numbers of students in Bridges in each class.
- 4) Equal number of students in special education in each class.
- 5) Equal number of students in ESL in each class.

Once this is finished, they then look at each class to see if the personalities of the students would be conducive to a positive learning environment. Adjustments are made as needed. These lists are then provided to Mrs. Kalis and I, and we then decide which teacher will be assigned to which class.

This information is not shared with the teachers until they return in August, because of various reasons, which include; students moving in or out, class numbers increasing or decreasing and having to increase or decrease a section, or other information acquired which would result in movement of students from class to class.

Hawthorn does not take specific teacher requests, however we do have a sheet where parents can list characteristics of a teacher they feel would be best for their students. You can pick this form up from the office and it is due back by March 16th. Please remember, do not put a specific teacher name on this form, or it will be discarded. Thank you in advance for following our procedure.

Due to all the work put into dividing classes, no changes will be made after these lists are finalized. I am confident every teacher at Hawthorn is highly certified and capable of providing a challenging and successful school experience for our students.

For our 5th grade students going into 6th grade, we also have a process. An Assistant Principal from Plaza will come to Hawthorn to meet with our 5th grade teachers to gather information about our students in an effort to help them have a successful transition and year at Plaza. The Assistant Principal at Plaza then works to put students on the "team" they feel will be the best fit. There is also an organized night in the Spring for students and parents to go to Plaza for their first look at our 6th Grade Center.

If you have any questions about these procedures, please feel free to give me a call at 816-359-5713.

Your Partner in Education,

Sandy Hemaya
Principal, Hawthorn Elementary

February is National School Counselor Month

I want to take this time to thank Mrs. Bianca Mayfield-Miller, our school counselor for all that she does at Hawthorn on a daily basis. Along with providing lessons to our classes, she also meets with students to offer support to them and forms positive relationships with our parents as well. Mrs. Miller has one of the “magnetic” personalities and a knack for making people feel comfortable when they are around her! Thank you Mrs. Mayfield-Miller for all you do at Hawthorn! You are appreciated everyday!

February Early Release Day

Our February Early Release Day will be on Thursday, February 9th. Students will be dismissed at 1:30 pm and our teachers will spend the afternoon learning about conferring during Writer’s Workshop time.

February Mercury Gymnastics Night

Friday, February 10th will be our PTA sponsored Mercury Gymnastics Night at Mercury Gymnastics on Ambassador Drive. This event runs from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm and the cost is \$7.00 per student. Students can be dropped off beginning at 6:15 pm and there will be a concession stand.

Valentine’s Day Parties

Our Valentine’s Day Parties will be held on Tuesday, February 14th from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Each grade level has sent out their plan for the party and any items they need to be donated. If you did not receive this communication, please call or email your child’s teacher.

Bringing Valentine’s to share with others is optional, however if your child does bring Valentine’s to share, please make sure they bring one for every student in the class.

All parents are welcome to attend this party and volunteer to help if you would like.

Presidents’ Day

Park Hill will not have school on Monday, February 20th in honor of Presidents’ Day. Enjoy your day off with your children!

Hawthorn ELL Night

Hawthorn will host an ELL Night on Thursday, February 23rd from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. This will be a time when our ELL families will come together to celebrate their various cultures. All Hawthorn families are invited to this event.

1st Grade Musical

Our 1st Grade students will be performing their musical on Tuesday, February 28th at 6:30 pm in our “gymnasium”. All parents are welcome to come watch our students show-off their musical talents.

Save the Date—Spring Showcase

Mark your calendars for Hawthorn’s Annual Spring Showcase!

This event will be held on Thursday, March 30th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

This is a wonderful, family event where our students have the chance to “showcase” all their learning so far this year.

Our students work very hard to prepare for this evening and we hope everyone can make it.

We will also have a book fair for our families to attend and a special treat for everyone to enjoy.

More information will be coming as this event approaches.

Hawthorn Heros

As part of our Continuous Improvement Classrooms, each month the students at Hawthorn focus on a CORE VALUE and have a class meeting to come up with ways to show this core value at Hawthorn and in our community. We hope by focusing on a core value each month, we will teach students good habits and behaviors and help to create a positive school culture. At the end of the month their teacher chooses the student or students who displayed the core value the most throughout the month.

The month of January we focused on "Being in Control of Yourself."

The following were recognized as Hawthorn Heroes in January.

Lynnae Warfield	Dearthson Weilbacher	Safiya Ouddali	Natalie Pendleton
Ella Parmalee	Michael Lerch	Julianna Gonzalez	Kiara Noket
Stella Quick	Jinto Fong	Mackenzie Forsyth	Nathan Spade
Juliani Dilipy	Ari Lang	Anna Salisbury	Lily Martin
Leah Boyer	Mackenzie McCullough	Daniel Meehan	Elise Bolyard
Vivian Fischer	Molly Ronk	Kate Pak	Madison Grooms
Nikola Javor	Dawit Jagema	Ethan Ayars	Sophia Smith
Ana Tercero	Macara Vibar	Quaid Muyaba	Moana Glasper
Cooper Snow	Ethan Zheng	Suzy Meehan	Emma Davis
Macie Davidson	Nicole Deakins	Grace Moore	Dale VanVleck
Michael Assefa	Gabby Timmer	Quinten Kistner	Braedon Nichols
Thomas Miller	Katilynn Hansen	Evan Crim	Skylar Scamman
Melovia Mauricio	Jayde Morningstar	Carson Celeste	Kyann Hare
Kendall Newton	Arella Sweet	Cooper Wilsox	

Each teacher will have a small celebration in their classroom to recognize their

Hawthorn Heroes

The students will be told why they were chosen as the Hawthorn Hero.

They will be given a special *Husky Buck* worth \$5.00.

They will also be given a window sticker decal stating they are the **Hawthorn Hero**.

Our hope is that every student can work hard this year and earn the chance to be a Hawthorn Hero sometime during the school year.

If you have any questions on how your child's teacher chooses the Hawthorn Hero in their room, please feel free to give them a call.

