After listening to Mrs. Robinson read aloud from *Home of the Brave* (Applegate, 2007) earlier this month, I was hooked and couldn’t wait to read it myself. It is the story of a boy named Kek who is a Sudanese refugee. After war destroys his home and family, he comes to Minneapolis (*in the winter*) to live with his aunt and cousin. It is a well-told story with vivid imagery created by the simple language of free verse.

This month’s theme—The Gift of Friendship—prompted me to mention the book in my message. I enjoyed many things about it, but the theme that resonated most deeply was the way characters helped others…and then accepted help for themselves. For example, Kek helps his cousin find a job (and connection to his deeper self) and then Kek’s school friend Hannah helps him navigate the mind-boggling shopping mall after he broke his aunt’s plates (he thought you could wash them in the washing machine). While we are confident in some things, each of us is still growing (I hope!) and needs help in many ways.

We are, of course, right in the midst of the gift-giving season. Time and again, the Horace Mann community shows its generosity by donating both goods and talent. It is this example and ethic that encourages our children to be the kind of people we want them to be. As we enjoy the holidays, let’s watch not only for opportunities to give, but also to receive. Sometimes, the joy the other person feels when helping is the greatest gift of all!

December 2016

Horace Mann Elementary School
1215 West Clifton Boulevard
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
(216) 529-4257
Attendance line (216) 529-4307
Merritt F. Waters, Ph.D., Principal
http://lakewoodcityschools.org/

Choir performs at Barton Center (14300 Detroit Ave.) for “Light Up Lakewood” 1:30 pm
13 PTA Holiday Gathering—Around the Corner—7:30 pm
16 Winter Program, 1:30 pm, Gym
19 Winter Break Begins

3 School reopens
9-13 Terra Nova testing, Gr. 2 & 5
10 PTA Meeting, 7 pm, Library
11 All Pro Dad breakfast, 7:45 am, Art Room
16 Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
20 Professional Day for Teachers—No School for students

Another special Veterans Day Assembly at Horace Mann
MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:
During these next few weeks leading up to the holidays, the talent and dedication of many of our students and musical directors will be on display through the various winter concerts and performances being held throughout the month. It’s a perfect time to bring the family to hear some outstanding music either for free or for a few dollars. You can find the schedule for all the winter concerts on the Performing Arts page of our website: http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org/Content/798

On another note, next month will mark the opening of the new academic wing at Lakewood High School. The community is invited to come view the new building on Robinwood Avenue on Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 6-8 pm. This is the first of the new LHS construction to be complete and we are excited to share it with everyone!

I will also be holding my second Superintendent Chat of the year on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 6 pm in the Roosevelt Learning Resource Center. I hope you can join me.

Finally, I wish every family happy and healthy holidays!

Jeffrey W. Patterson
Superintendent

Board of Education
Tom Einhouse, President
Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, Vice President
Emma Petrie Barcelona
Linda Beebe
Edward Favre
November was another great month at Horace Mann!

Parents, grandparents, and other veterans gathered once again for our annual Veterans Day assembly to recognize the tremendous contribution our veterans made to preserving our freedom. PTA members provided coffee and helped veterans who attended fill out forms used for individual recognition from Dr. Waters during the assembly. Students read thoughtful essays and poems to contribute. It was a wonderful celebration of our Veterans!

PTA does not have a December meeting but we've planned holiday gathering at Around the Corner on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm. Parents, teachers and staff are welcome! Appetizers and snacks will be provided, and we will have a cash bar. Wear an "ugly" holiday sweater and you might win a prize! We will also have an optional white elephant gift exchange, so bring a wrapped $10 to $15 gift if you would like to participate. To RSVP, visit http://signup.com/go/arg6ni.

While doing your holiday shopping this season, be sure to sign up for Amazon Smile and select PTA Ohio Congress Horace Mann Elementary PTA. You can also choose Horace Mann as your school on your Heinen's card. A portion of your purchases will benefit Horace Mann Elementary PTA.

The PTA Teacher/Staff Cookie Walk is Wednesday, December 14. So get your recipes ready and keep an eye out for a flyer with more information. Don't miss this opportunity to help our teachers and staff start the holiday break on a sweet note!

On December 16 at 1:30 pm in the gym, students will gather in the gym for Horace Mann's Winter Program. Parents, grandparents, and other family members are welcome to come enjoy the entertainment. Hope to see you there!

Thank you to everyone who attended our November PTA meeting. We were happy to have several new members join us! Mark your calendar for our next meeting on January 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Lakewood's H2O volunteer group will provide babysitters for the meeting to keep the kids busy. If you have not already sent in your PTA membership, please do! Your involvement and support help us continue to host fun, educational events as well as support the work of our teachers. Even if you can't make the PTA meetings, join. There are many ways to be involved!

Be sure to "Like" Horace Mann Elementary PTA on Facebook! You'll find a lot of great info and pictures of school events. You can also check out the Lakewood City Schools web site for more info, links to teacher blogs, and more!

If you have any questions, comments, or topics of discussion for the PTA, please email PTAHorace-MannElementary@gmail.com. We want to hear from you and we're always interested in new topics for discussion at our PTA meetings, on our Facebook page, or our Wednesday parent helper group.

Have a great Winter Break!
Nora Katzenberger, President
Winter Program – Friday, December 16, 2016

Please note our program format:

9:30am  Dress rehearsal - Student body attends this performance (Grades K-5)
1:00pm  Doors open
1:30pm  Program begins, families are invited to attend

Please enter and exit the Gym quickly and quietly, between grade performances.

Guidelines for Audiences

Lakewood Schools now provide Guidelines for Audiences. These guidelines are printed in all programs. We hope that this will make our events more audience friendly and that you will work with your children to practice how to be an audience. I look forward to seeing you at our holiday program.

Mr. Waryk

♦ Please enter or exit the auditorium between ensemble performances only. It is polite to wait at the back of the auditorium until an appropriate pause in the program.

♦ Children in the audience should be seated with a responsible adult. If the child with you becomes noisy or cries, please take the child from the auditorium at any time to soothe him or her.

♦ Your appreciation is shown not only by your applause after their performance, but also by your silence during their performance. Students have worked extremely hard to develop soft musical dynamics.

♦ A selection is finished when the conductor turns and faces the audience, or when the conductor drops arms completely. Please refrain from applause until that time.

♦ While applause at the end of a selection is appreciated, whistling and shouting are not.

♦ During a selection, solos should be applauded only if they are of a pop nature (jazz, swing, etc.).
Horace Mann welcomes Art teacher Mr. Vargas this quarter. Here we share art created by kindergarten, first and second grade students.

Take a look at self-portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso created by Kindergarten students.

First graders created these collages using drawing techniques with line, shape, and pattern.

These colorful optical illusions were created by second graders in Mr. Vargas’ art classes.
HORACE MANN BUILDING HOURS

Security for all staff and students at Horace Mann is very important to us; at the same time we want the building to be accessible for our families. After the school day is over, between 3:15 and 4:00 pm, students are permitted back in the building with the adult who is responsible for them to retrieve items such as coats, forgotten homework, etc. They should enter at the main office door and let office staff know why they have returned. After 4:00 pm, access is limited to the gym hallway for scheduled activities for students and parents who are part of those activities. With your cooperation, we can keep our building safe and secure at all times. Thank you!

BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATION ETIQUETTE

Recently, there have been questions about whether the classroom is an appropriate place for students to pass out party invitations. The Horace Mann handbook currently does not address this question. As a way to begin the discussion, please email Dr. Waters with your thoughts and ideas @ merritt.waters@lakewoodcityschools.org

Need Help over the Holidays??

Some local community resources....
- Lakewood Community Services Center serves the community by providing basic needs assistance and personalized resource and referral services. Listing of Community meals http://www.lcsclakewood.org/ -
- The United Way 2-1-1 "First Call For Help" Help Center provides free and confidential 24-hour access to a professional who will review your options for help, develop a plan and act as your advocate if you are faced with barriers to service.** Simply dial 2-1-1-
- Salvation Army, Cleveland West Park Corps

Services Offered: Community Recreation & Education Programs, Food & Nutrition
Telephone: ph. (216) 252-3593 | fax: (216) 252-3431
Email: JR.Fritsch@use.salvationarmy.org, http://www.SalvationArmyOhio.org/WestPark

- Mobile Crisis, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Emergency Hotline, 24 hrs/day. Call 216-623-6888
Drop Off
- Enter the parking lot from Webb Road.
- If you need to park your car or get out of your vehicle, stay in the left lane.
- If you are dropping off your child, stay in the right lane.
- Pull all the way forward to the spaces numbered 1 through 5.
- Once you reach a numbered space, stop your vehicle to let your child exit and proceed to their designated door.
- If you find your child needs assistance, pull ahead to a parking spot. Do not exit your vehicle while you are in line.
- After your child is safely out of your car, continue moving forward and exit the parking lot. During peak times, Webb Road is right-turn only.

Pick Up
- Enter the parking lot from Webb Road.
- Our pre-school friends leave earlier than 3:05pm, so we have reserved the pick-up lane between the main office and the gym for those cars. Parents who pick up K-5 students should line up in the right-hand lane and wait BEHIND the light pole near the office door, keeping their place in line as it moves forward after pre-school dismissal. Please do not go around cars to fill in a gap unless you are invited to do so by Horace Mann staff.
- If you need to park your car or get out of your vehicle, stay in the left lane.
- If you are picking up your child, stay in the right lane.
- Pull all the way forward to the spaces numbered 1 through 5.
- Once you reach a numbered space, stop and wait for your child to enter your vehicle.
- If you find your child needs assistance with seat belts, pull ahead to a parking spot. Do not exit your vehicle while you are in line.
- When your child is safely secured in your vehicle, continue moving forward and exit the parking lot. During peak times, Webb road is right-turn only.

Tips and Suggestions
- **Stay in your car while in line.** Getting out of your car slows down the line and is unsafe. Stay in your car to keep the line moving.
- **Put down the cellphone.** No talking, texting, emailing, etc. It might seem like the perfect time to catch up on a few things, but you may not notice that the line is moving. Plus, it is not safe -- if your attention is elsewhere, you won’t notice a child in the road.
- **Stay in your lane.** You might be in a hurry, or annoyed that the person in front of you is on their phone and hasn’t noticed that the line has moved forward. Stay in your lane anyway. Getting out of your lane is unsafe for you and your child.
- **Save your hellos and goodbyes for home.** Give your child a big hug and kiss before you head to school or when you get home. Then you can give a quick “Have a great day!” or “Hi honey!” and not hold up the line. And if your child is having a tough time, find a parking space. It’ll be less stressful for you and your child.
- **Bring your patience and a sense of humor.** Drop off/pick up lines can be stressful, especially if you are running late for work or had one of “those mornings” that included forgotten homework or lost shoes. Just remember that we are all part of a community and we need to help each other out. Someone else might be having a tough time, too -- a little bit of patience and a smile can go a long way!
Upcoming Activities

Young Rembrandts
Elementary Drawing Classes

The Young Rembrandts is for elementary-age curriculum for ages 6-12 is designed to teach basic to advanced drawing skills, art techniques and vocabulary. We believe that drawing is the bedrock skill required for future artistic success. We provide all materials and teach new lessons each week in a positive and nurturing environment, which brings out the best in each child. You'll see increased art abilities, learning skills, self-confidence and self-esteem. Class Min8/Max20.

Classes are offered at the following buildings:
- Horace Mann
- Roosevelt
- Grant
- Harrison
- Hayes
- Lincoln
- Emerson

Next round of classes begin in January - DON'T DELAY. Space is limited

Tiny Turners - Beginning Gymnastics (Ages 7 - 12)
Instructors Diane and Margo Massad - BEGINNING Gymnastics classes are geared toward children that are new to gymnastics. Students at this level practice on age-appropriate equipment each class as they learn gymnastics skills in a safe, progressive, non-competitive environment. Our recreational gymnastics classes are a fun way for children to learn gymnastics while gaining confidence, coordination, flexibility, and strength. Strict age requirement to be maintained. Class Min 5/Max 10.

Cost depends on class length Horace Mann School Gym
Saturdays: Thurs & Sat Thursdays in the evening
Saturdays in the morning

Tumble Bugs - Preschool Gymnastics (Ages 4 - 6)
Instructors Diane and Margo Massad - Tumble Bugs preschool gymnastics classes are taught developmentally appropriate gymnastics skills with the direct aim of enhancing social skills, gross motor skills, reading readiness, and coordination. Class begins with a fun warm up of aerobics, stretches, body positions, and listening skills. Our preschool program is a spectacualr way for your child to learn basic locomotive movements and gymnastics while building healthy self-esteem. Strict age requirement to be maintained.

Cost Depends on class length Horace Mann School Gym
Thurs & Sat Thursdays in the evening
Saturdays in the morning

Start Smart Sports with Joe Julian

Start Smart Programs created by the National Alliance for Youth Sports, help kids ages 3-6 get ready for sports and succeed in life. It is a step-by-step approach that builds confidence and self-esteem, and makes sports fun. All programs involve child and parent participation and are designed as developmentally appropriate 4-week introductory programs. Baseball, Basketball, Football, Golf, Soccer and Sports Development classes offered. Call the Recreation Department or visit us on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.

Next Series Starts January 2017!

Aquatics

SWIM WITH SANTA!
Sunday, December 11, 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Santa will be stopping by the LHS Pool to get pictures with all of the good boys and girls before his big ride. Pre-registration $5
Registration at the door: $7

Children six and under must be accompanied by a swimming adult. Children ages 7 and 8 must have a responsible adult in the facility.

Winter Break Lifeguard Training
Tuesday, December 27th - Friday, December 30th
9:00am - 3:00pm
Resident: $185.00/Non-Res: $190.00
Class is offered at the LHS Pool.
Call today for details!

Pool Party!
Plan your child's next birthday party at the LHS Pool! There is an area for cake, ice cream, presents and use of the pool! For information, or to reserve a date, call Matt Demaline, Aquatic Manager at 216-529-4081 or matt.demaline@lakewoodcityschools.org.

For more information & registration details: www.lakewoodrecreation.com or 216-529-4081.
Athletics

All participants must have a birth certificate and current physical on file at the time of registration and for the duration of the season.

**TOT & 6U T-BALL**
Resident $60/NR $80
Tot T-Ball - 4 years old (Age as of May 1st)
Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays
T-Ball - 5 & 6 year olds (Age as of May 1st)
Mondays/Wednesdays/Saturdays

Teams play 1-2 games per week starting in June. Games played at Cove, Edwards and Emerson Fields. Not all rainouts will be rescheduled; however, if the last game of the season is rained out or cancelled, every effort will be made to reschedule it.

**MINORS, MAJORS & EXCEL (Age as of May 1)**
- Minors (10U = 9-10 year olds) - Mondays/Wednesdays/Saturdays
- Majors (12U = 11-12 year olds) - Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays
- Excel (13-15 year olds) - Monday - Saturdays

Cost $80 per resident/$100 per non-resident. Teams play 1 to 2 games per week starting the last full week of May. Minors/Majors games played at Lakewood Park’s Lakefront and Old Stone House Fields. Excel games played at Fox & LHS Fields. Games officiated by certified umpires from Suburban Umpire Association.

**ROOKIE BASEBALL**
Resident $65/NR $85
Ages 7 - 8 (Age as of May 1st)
Weeknights Mondays-Thursdays and Saturdays

Teams will play 1 to 2 games per week starting in June. Games played at Cove and Emerson Fields. Not all rainouts will be rescheduled; however, if the last game of the season is rained out or cancelled, every effort will be made to reschedule it. The first 3 weeks of the season will include a group practice hosted by the Lakewood High School Varsity Coaches.

**Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunities**
Looking to sponsor or advertise to get your business promoted throughout the community? The Lakewood Recreation Department has opportunities available for businesses to advertise in our booklet, signage at the LHS Stadium and sponsor teams, camps and classes!

Call our office today for more information - 216-529-4081

**Volunteer Coaches Needed**
The Recreation Department relies on volunteer coaches to coordinate each team. Coaches are required to complete a Volunteer Application, background check & concussion training. Please indicate interest to coach at the time of registration or call the Rec Department.

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION**
Register prior to March 1st and receive $10 off each registration!

---

**Girls Slow Pitch Softball**
- 9-10 year Division (Age as of May 1)
- 11-12 year Division (Age as of May 1)
- Weeknights Mondays-Thursdays and Saturdays

Cost $50 per resident/$60 per non-resident. Teams play 1 to 2 games per week starting the first week of June. Games played at Harding Middle School Field. Games officiated by certified umpires.

**Spring Track & Field**
Is a fun way to stay in shape and keep up your running workouts over the spring in First Federal Lakewood Stadium. Practices are during the week with meets taking place on Saturdays.

More information will follow!

Girls On The Run - check to see if your school offers this amazing program geared to girls grades 3rd - 5th. This program is instrumental in teaching girls the importance of self-esteem, physical activity, healthy eating and responsibility. learn . dream . live . run