

Houdini Hawks Tale

LITERACY EDITION

MARCH 10, 2011



Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

Martin Luther King, Jr.

TIFFANY FRERKS, PRINCIPAL
DONNA HODGES, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Visit www.aasd.k12.wi.us/houdini
for the REST of the newsletter!

Lovin' Literature - Any Way You Read it!

OUR MISSION:

At Houdini Elementary, in partnership with families and the community, we learn, we care and we inspire!

Media Matters

From the AASD Media Specialists

UPCOMING KEY DATES

- March 10 – 5:30-7:30 p.m. Summer School Registration
- March 11 – 5:30 p.m. Family Night Spaghetti Dinner & Movie
- March 14 – 4:00-6:15 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 15 – 4:00-6:15 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 16 – 8:30-3:00 3/4/5 yr old screenings – by appointment
- March 16 – Family Night at Texas Roadhouse 4:00- 8:00 p.m.
- March 17 – 4:00-6:15 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 18 – 11:27 Dismissal – No PM School**
- March 22 – 1:45 and 6:30 p.m. "Grand & Humble" 6th Gr. Performances
- March 24 – 1:45 and 6:30 p.m. "Fractured Fairy Tales" 6th Gr. Performances

March 25 – 11:27 Dismissal – No PM School

March 28-April 1 – Spring Break No School

April 4 – Classes Resume

Personally, I still LOVE books. That is, books in print. But our world is changing – fast! We tweet on Twitter, we text on cells and Skype on computers. The way kids learn is also changing. *It's a Book* is a newly published book by author and illustrator Lane Smith where he has a book seem as foreign to a character in the story as a rotary phone is to a kindergarten student. Smith says, "The fact is there will be a time, no doubt very soon, when most children will go straight to digital reading formats, rarely interacting with a paper book at all."

This makes me sad. What will become of libraries? What about bedtime stories?

There are a variety of ways to read stories digitally. Digital stories are available as an e-reader, an e-book, and as audiobooks like *PLAYAWAYS* just to name a few. Some of you may now be enjoying stories or literature on a *NOOK* or a *KINDLE* with applications for this available on iPhones. Or, kids may be reading DisneyDigiBooks on Twitter. Many of these digital

stories are available in a vast amount of places.

What is most important to kids is the relationship with books and reading. David Ezra Stein, author and illustrator of the 2011 Caldecott Honor book, *Interrupting Chicken*, states, "I'll never forget the experience of sitting in a beloved lap and having a whole world open before me: a world brought to life by the pictures and the grown-up's voice. That wonder is what I want to re-create in my own books."

Furthermore, Walt Disney says, "There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." So continue on your treasure hunt to libraries and discover the bounty in books. Keep loving literature no matter how you read it in our ever changing world of learning and technology. There will always be a love of books and a place for them in my heart.

By Carrie Cook
Library Media Specialist

Literacy Corner



Boys and Reading

Research shows that boys are falling behind girls when it comes to reading. This is leading to greater drop out rates for boys, less boys going to college, and lower rates of boys getting their college degrees compared to girls. While the reasons are not totally clear, some of the reasons seem to be biological and some seem to be sociological.

The good news is that research also shows that boys will read if they are given reading material and books that interest them! Below are recommended books at a variety of reading levels to grab boys' attention and to help get them interested in reading:

Mysterious Occurrences:

- **Running Wild*
- **Wings*
- **Sabotaged*
- **Scary Stories 3*

Books in a Series:

- **Sammy Keyes*
- **Eragon*
- **The Lost Years of Merlin*
- **The Problem Child*

Sports:

- **The Racecar Alphabet*
- **At Gleason's Gym*
- **Mike Lupica books*
- **Iceman*

Historical Figures:

- **Secrets of the Sphinx*
- **Storm Warning*
- **The Real Benedict Arnold*
- **The Sword Thief*

Action/Adventure:

- **Peter and the Secret of Rundoon*
- **Time Warp Trio Series*
- **Eragon*

Humor:

- **The Iron Ring*
- **Elliot's Park #3*
- **Even More Parts*
- **The Iron Ring*

Also, www.guysread.com is a web-based literacy website for boys designed by author Jon Scieszka. mission is to help boys become self-motivated, lifelong readers. There are also great lists of books | topic specifically designed for boys on this site. Check it out to get other great ideas for reading with boys!

Appleton Reading Specialists



Book Look Nook

Beginning Readers (grades K-2):

Don't be Afraid, Little Pip by Karma Wilson.

The theme of being afraid to try new things is developed through the story of a penguin that is afraid to swim. When Pip falls into the water his friend Merry helps him learn to "fly" in the water instead of the sky.

The Hair of Zoe Fleefenbacher Goes to

School by Laurie Halse Anderson. Zoe was born with a head of wild hair. Her hair had always been an asset until she went to first grade. Protecting a child's self-esteem by emphasizing her strengths is a lesson that teachers and students can learn from this book.

Young Readers (grades 3-4):

Babymouse #11: Dragonslayer by Jennifer L.

Holm and Matthew Holm. Babymouse, who would rather daydream about fighting dragons, finds herself on the Mathlete Team preparing to win back the famed Golden Slide Rule. As always, Babymouse will conquer her self-doubt and be victorious in this graphic novel.

Coretta Scott by Ntozake Shange. The life story of Coretta Scott King is featured in this beautifully written and illustrated picture book. Children enjoyed reading Shange's poetry about how an interest in civil rights brought two people together and changed the world.

Advanced Readers (grades 5-6):

Dragonbreath by Ursula Vernon. Danny the Dragon gets picked on by the local bully and gets into trouble with his teacher for not completing his homework. An underwater journey with his best friend Wendell helps Danny learn about life in the deepest part of the ocean.

Gifted: Out of Sight, Out of Mind by Marilyn

Kaye. Nine teenagers with nine different talents develop their gifts to change the world in an ordinary middle school that offers a not-so-ordinary gifted class. Amanda, Ms. Popularity, discovers that she is gifted and must decide where she fits in.

FORENSICS TEAM SUCCESSFUL AT STATE

The Houdini Forensics Team had a very successful day at State Competition on Saturday, February 26 in Little Chute. All five Houdini entries received first place blue ribbons in their events.

Solo Acting Entry included:

- Kate Bennett performing “There must be some sort of trick to this!” coached by Mrs. Malaney.

Play Acting Entries included:

- Dylan Schimelpfening, Joey Kiesau, and Jackson Eastman performing “The Junk Food King” coached by Mrs. Wolfgram.
- Danielle VanHeuklon, Brittany Kitzinger, Camryn Haak, and Sydney Klug performing “So You Think You have Problems” coached by Mr. Martin.
- Amanda Lord, Aubreigh Denil, and Wesley Breyer performing “The Backseat Pilot” coached by Ms. Hallin.
- Michaila Gerrits, Carley Katzman, and Carly VandenHeuvel performing “Bored to Death...Almost” coached by Mrs. Murray.

Thanks also go to Mrs. Karrels and Mrs. Wolfgram for being judges at the State Meet in Little Chute, along with Mr. Martin who supervised Houdini students at the event on Saturday.

Who will my child's teacher be next year?

We are approaching the time of year when staff will be getting together to decide placement for students next year. We want to give parents some information that may be helpful about how students are assigned for the following year.

Classes are designed to promote the most effective learning environment for ALL students. Teacher observations, test results, and student ability factors are taken into account. Grade level teachers give input about where to best place students in classrooms so there is a wide range of abilities in each classroom. Our special teachers (music, art, physical education, librarian, guidance counselor) also give input into the formation of classrooms because they see all of the students during the years that they attend Houdini. The number of boys and girls in a class and number of leaders and role models are also taken into account. Students whom we know do not function well together are separated as much as possible.

Teacher assignments are not made available until our Facts and Fees Days in August to facilitate balanced classes and teacher assignments. For example, if five girls leave a classroom and five new boys join the class during the course of the summer, changes would need to be made so that the class has gender balance.

It is important for parents to realize that there is no one single factor that determines student placement in classes for next year. **Listed below in random order are the criteria used to develop class lists:**

*Teacher judgment	*Peer relationships	*Current test scores	*Emotional maturity
*Student ability	*Boy/Girl ratio	*Age	*Special teachers' input
*Classroom numbers	*Teacher time needed	*Student achievement level	*Administrative input
*Parent input	*Physical development		

Parents know their children well and your input will help to make sure that the particular needs of your child are kept in mind while making placements. Parents share a variety of information with us.

Some parents inform us of neighborhood problems that we should try to avoid. Others give information about a particular academic area in which their child excels or about concerns that they have as parents; while other parents give us information about particular characteristics that a classroom teacher should have to work effectively with their child.

Based on experience from the past we have received requests from parents who want their child to have a specific teacher. For the most part, we do not consider these requests as having any more weight than the other criteria, **unless there is an educational reason for the request.**

All the criteria are important and should be viewed as interacting with each other. **At the beginning of April, staff will be formulating balanced class lists.** Once the balanced lists are established and teacher assignments distributed at Facts and Fees Day, changes are rarely made.

Submitting a request will give more information to make a better decision about the placement of your child for next year. However, there are circumstances where requests cannot be honored.

If there are any special learning needs or specific information you would like considered when placing your child/children, please share your thoughts NO LATER THAN MARCH 18th, at 4:00 PM by writing a letter to me. The envelope should be addressed to Mrs. Frerks. Envelopes received after 4:00 on March 18th, 2011 will not be accepted.

If you have any questions or concerns about placement for next year, please give me a call at (920) 832-4608 or stop and visit.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Frerks

Houdini Heat Basketball Battle

Friday, April 15th
West High School

Houdini HEAT parent group will host a tailgate party outside the gym doors, beginning at 5:00. They will be selling hotdogs, hamburgers, and other food items.

Time:	Schedule
5:00 PM	Tailgate Party – Hosted by Houdini HEAT parent group. Outside the gym doors, selling hotdogs, hamburgers, ect.
6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors open for event • Cost: \$2.00 per person or \$10.00 per family • Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle Begins • Concession Stand will be open – pizza, popcorn, chips, candy, and drinks • Meet Many Mascots
6:45 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Anthem sung by 5th grade Houdini Chorus and Mrs. DePasse • Players and Teams Announced • Basketball Game Begins (5 minute quarters)
After 1 st Quarter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mascots play a basketball game • Chuck a ball contest
Half Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bucket Raffle Closes • 50/50 raffle announced • Houdini School Song performed by Houdini 5th grade chorus • Surprise competition for kids
After 3 rd Quarter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent Auction will close the end of the 3rd quarter • Bucket Raffle Winner will be announced <p>**New this year, bounce house and balloon animals!</p>

Children should be supervised at all times.



March 2011
3-5 Year Old Developmental Screenings

The Appleton Area School District encourages ALL families to schedule a FREE developmental screening for children ages 3 to 5 who are not enrolled in kindergarten AND who reside within the Appleton Area School District.

Think about the developmental screening as “The Other Check-up”.

We are interested in screening ALL children.

Parents and Guardians do not need to have any concerns.

We love to see typically developing children!



The developmental screening looks at all areas of child development including:

How your child talks
How your child listens
How your child thinks
How your child moves
How your child uses his/her hands

In addition, parents and guardians are provided with information about a variety of FREE community resources to help children continue to grow and learn.

Where:

Highlands Elementary School, 2037 N. Elinor St.
Badger Elementary School, 501 S. Bluemound Dr.
McKinley Elementary School, 1125 E. Taft St.
Edison Elementary School, 412 N. Meade St.
Appleton Public Library, 225 N. Oneida St.
Houdini Elementary School, 2305 W. Capitol Dr.
Jefferson Elementary School, 1000 S. Mason St.
Horizons Elementary School, 2101 Schaefer Circle
Family Resource Center, 1165 Appleton Rd.

When:

Friday, March 4: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Monday, March 7: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Wednesday, March 9: 12:00pm - 4:00pm
Friday, March 11: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Monday, March 14: 3:00pm - 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 16: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Friday, March 18: 9:00am - 11:00am
Monday, March 21: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Tuesday, March 22: 9:00am - 4:00pm

To Schedule An Appointment
Please call Connie Krueger at 997-1399, extension 2112

April / May 2011

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Where:

Huntley Elementary School, 2224 N. Ullman St.

Montessori Adventure School, 350 W. Capitol Dr.

Edison Elementary School, 412 N. Meade St.

Appleton Public Library, 225 N. Oneida St.

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Montessori Adventure School, 350 W. Capitol Dr.

Berry Elementary School, 3601 S. Telulah Dr.

Montessori Adventure School, 350 W. Capitol Dr.

Franklin Elementary School, 2212 N. Jarchow St.

Montessori Adventure School, 350 W. Capitol Dr.

Appleton Public Library, 225 N. Oneida St.

When:

Monday, April 4: 9:00am - 2:00pm

Wednesday, April 6: 12:00pm - 2:30pm

Friday, April 8: 9:00am - 2:00pm

Saturday, April 9: 9:30am - 3:30pm

Monday, April 11: 3:00pm - 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 13: 12:00pm - 2:30pm

Friday, April 15: 9:00am - 2:00pm

Monday, April 18: 12:00pm - 3:30pm

Wednesday, April 20: 9:00am - 2:00pm

Wednesday, May 4: 12:00pm - 2:30pm

Monday, May 9: 2:30pm - 6:30pm

To Schedule An Appointment

Please call Connie Krueger at 997-1399, extension 2112

Houdini Theatre Club
Performance of



March 22, 2011

1:30 p.m. ~ Grades 4, 5, 6

6:30 p.m. ~ Public Performance

Houdini Theatre Club
Presents:



March 24, 2011

1:30 p.m. ~ Grades K,1,2,3

6:30 p.m. ~ Public Performance