

# Hiteon Highlights

December 5, 2014

Hiteon Elementary School  
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**District Goal (2010-2015):** All students will show continuous progress toward their personal learning goals, developed in collaboration with teachers and parents, and will be prepared for post-secondary education and career success.

Dear Hiteon Families,

December brings news and notes in multiple areas! Please read on for a collection of information.

## Winter Sing-A-Long

Hiteon invites you to join us at our Winter Sing-A-Long on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We'll have two different Sing-A-Longs. Feel free to join us in the Gymnasium after checking in at the Main Office.

8:15 - 8:45 Kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, Black & Langen

8:55 - 9:25 1st, 2nd, 5th, Black & Langen

## Celebrating Hiteon Volunteers

Be sure to check out the OregonLive.com article featuring Hiteon volunteers! Way to go Hiteon!

[http://www.oregonlive.com/beaverton/index.ssf/2014/11/hiteon\\_elementary\\_spills\\_the\\_s.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/beaverton/index.ssf/2014/11/hiteon_elementary_spills_the_s.html)

## Jeremy Coker & Troy Winslow

We recently welcomed our Head Custodian Jeremy Coker back to work after paternity leave. We're glad to have you back Jeremy! Troy Winslow has been hired as our full-time evening Custodian. Please welcome Troy to our Hiteon Family when you see him.

## Helen Grealish

It's with mixed emotions we share that Helen has been offered the Principal's Secretary position at Scholl's Heights Elementary School. Although bittersweet for Hiteon, this is a great opportunity for Helen and the greater Scholl's Heights community. Helen has been Hiteon's matriarch and will be greatly missed. Helen embodies the essence of elementary school: Her warmth, comfort, and care inspires that in others. We've been fortunate to have her on the Hiteon Team. Please join me in congratulating Helen on this opportunity. Helen will join Scholl's Heights after Winter Break. In the meantime we'll be working to fill her VERY large shoes. Congratulations Helen!

## Upcoming Events

### December 2014

5th Newsletter  
9th Report Cards Go Home  
12th Popcorn Sales  
18th Passport Check Day  
19th Winter Parties  
Winter Sing-A-Long  
Newsletter

22nd-31st **Winter Break**  
**No Students**

### January 2015

1st-2nd **Winter Break**  
**No Student**  
9th Newsletter  
14th 9:00am PTC General Meeting  
19th **Holiday School Closed**  
23rd Popcorn Sales  
Newsletter  
26th **Staff Development**  
**No School**

### February 2015

6th Newsletter  
16th **Presidents Day**  
**School Closed**  
18th 6:30pm PTC General Meeting  
19-20 **Conferences No Students**  
26th Passport Check Day  
27th Popcorn Sales  
6:00pm Bingo Night

### March 2015

5th 9:00am Kindergarten  
Orientation  
8th Daylight Savings Time Begins  
12th 6:30pm Science Fair

## **Words from Helen...**

First let me say what an honor it has been to have worked here at Hiteon with such a dedicated, caring and hardworking parent community. I feel you are all part of my extended family and I will miss all of you.

I applied for the Principal's Secretary job at Scholl's Heights after much thought. It was the hardest decision I have ever had to make but I'm looking forward to this career opportunity! I'll certainly be bringing pieces of Hiteon along with me. December 19, 2014 will be my last day at Hiteon.

The last six+ years have been the best ever. This is such a fantastic place to work. Hopefully out of sight will not be out of mind.

Slán! (Gaelic for Goodbye)

Helen

## **Coffee with the Principal**

Please stop by and join Meghan in the Hiteon Cafeteria for a casual "Coffee with the Principal." The dates and times are listed below. Coffee and conversation will ensue!

January 9<sup>th</sup> 8:15 - 9:00 am

March 6<sup>th</sup> 8:15 - 9:00 am

May 1<sup>st</sup> 8:15 - 9:00 am

## **Hiteon Mission Statement**

Staff worked in collaboration with Jennifer Oordt, our Primary Years Programme Coordinator, to develop Hiteon's Mission Statement and we'd like to officially share it with our greater Hiteon Community.

Hiteon provides an environment in which all learners can reach their full potential by supporting the development of students who care, take risks, and are passionate for learning. We strive to enhance personal, community, and global identities while developing a foundation for learners to be open-minded inquirers. All Hiteon community members make positive societal contributions, which support and encourage understanding and respect for others.

## **Hiteon's Behavior Learning Center Classrooms**

Prior to Thanksgiving Break Jennifer Black and Ashley Langen, our Primary and Secondary Behavior Learning Center Teachers, visited all Kindergarten through Fifth Grade Classrooms to talk with students about the individualized needs of our students at Hiteon. Students were given an opportunity to inquire about our Specialized Program. Their classroom visits led to rich conversation about the similarities and differences in all students. Please be sure to ask your student about this experience!

I'd like to share additional information with our greater Hiteon Community about our Specialized Program. Please see the attachment for information about our Behavior Learning Center Classrooms.

With Warm Regards,  
Meghan Warren

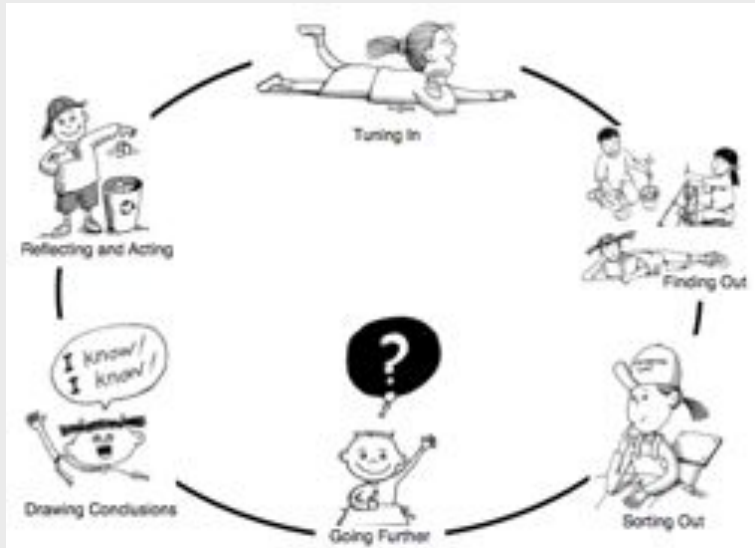
# Inquiry

By Jennifer Oordt

Primary Years Programme Coordinator

Inquiry seems to be the new "buzz" word. We keep hearing it and know it has something to do with being an inquirer and questioning, but how are Hiteon students being taught to inquire or instructed with an inquiry approach? What is an inquiry approach?

Depending on the topic and the students, a teacher can structure any unit of study from an inquiry stance. Rather than informing the student of the learning target, the teacher will gather information on what the student already knows about a topic, then help the students "tune in" with a captivating hook where student ask questions. The students follow their own questions, with the guidance of the teacher and **uncover** or **discover** the answers rather than a teacher "covering" the material. The student questions are valued and help drive the inquiry. Of course, our standards and key concepts give guidance and direction, but the genuine interest of the child is what engages them and ultimately leads to new understanding.



Second grade is currently in the midst of their **Where We Are in Place and Time** unit. Their central idea is, "Our stories are important to remember." The children have three lines of inquiry.

- 1) Personal narrative writing.
- 2) Community changes from past to present.
- 3) Hiteon changes from past to present.

In the photo, second grade students were examining an image of the original Hiteon School. Rather than informing the students, "This is the original Hiteon School", and helping them notice the belfry or the student clothing, the teacher encouraged them to write what they wondered about the photo. The authentic questions the students generated were genuinely what they wondered,

"What is the thing on top of the school?"

"Where are all the children?"

"Does this building still stand someplace?"

The teacher "tuned the students in" to Hiteon. Now the students are dying to know more about it!

The key concept of "**change**" helps guide the teacher with questions like "Why did it change?" and "What caused the changes?". Our standards, of course, guide the teacher as well: a community changes over time.

The **written curriculum**, or plan, the teachers have in place is for students to learn more about the school and surrounding community. They will learn about the Hite family on whose land the original school stood and the changes to Hiteon over time. The students will get to write interview questions to a speaker or two who have truly known our school for a long time, as well as connect meaning to the bell and old sign in our foyer.

The **taught curriculum**, or what actually happens after the students start asking questions, may take the class in some very interesting places. Some students may do their very own "mini inquiry" on belfries! Some may be fascinated by the clothing people wore long ago and spend time reading books or looking at old photos. Some may require you drive around the neighborhood a bit more and locate some interesting new locations. Inquiring minds truly want to know!

The **assessed curriculum** is what the teachers choose to have the students show they understand the central idea: **Our stories are important to remember**. The teachers have already determined their summative assessment, or final piece of student evidence that show the student understanding, and they have some formative assessment determined that inform their instruction along the way so all student will be successful in the inquiry.

The inquiry approach looks different with every theme, subject and teacher, but it always starts with genuine questions and honors the students' interest. Are the children learning? Ask them

## **What's Going on in Music December 2014**

This month of December is full of lots of activities for the students. The fourth grade students are getting some "hands on" experience on the clarinet and the fifth grade students are beginning their puppet unit with stories, writing, composing and puppet making that will take them in to February.

The second and first grade students are busy studying seasonal songs, using instruments, games and dances. The third grade students are learning new notes on the recorder.

The after school choir will be going to Canfield Place, a retirement home, to perform for the residents. The holiday assembly will be on Friday, December 19, in the gym with the choir performing their holiday program and inviting the students to sing a long with them on their last medley. Parents are cordially invited to attend. The assemblies will be at the following times:

The Choir, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, a.m. & Full Day Kindergarten  
The fourth grade choir students will be highlighted in the performance.

The Choir, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, 1<sup>st</sup> grade  
The fifth grade choir students will be highlighted in the performance.

## **P.E. News**

### **Mrs. Hamilton & Ms. Strong**

The Hiteon bowling alley will soon be open! We are excited to be starting our bowling unit very soon. We will be practicing different bowling skills, etiquette, and give students a variety of challenges. Our lessons will also incorporate fitness activities and some throwing and catching activities for warm-up.

Prior to winter break, students will be receiving their "Winter Break 60" calendars. We are encouraging students to be physically active for 60 minutes or more every day or almost every day during the break. They love it when you are active with them, so get the family involved!

## Language & Culture

It has been another fun-filled month of learning! This month, students focused on the geography of China. Students were exposed to a brief overview of China's landscape and were introduced to a few of its unique animals.

Our geography focus for primary grades compared a 3-D globe to a 2-D map. Students explored the seven continents through song. Students were challenged to locate the United States and China in all formats.

Upper grades used a map of China to extend their geography skills. Students focused on understanding what the questions were asking and what resources they needed prior to finding the answers. Tools used included the compass, scale and key.

To extend our understanding, students watched a segment of the BBC documentary, Wild China. During the documentary, students actively took notes. Note taking skills were modeled and discussed throughout the lesson. Primary grades focused on pictures and labels, while upper grades received support to write facts and questions. After watching, students created summary statements based on their note taking. Upper grades will extend this assignment by typing their summary statement during their Technology special.

Please look for a detailed summary of our fall trimester's learning in your child's report card envelope next week.

Mrs. Strub

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Collaboration with Language has been very successful. Here are some of the things we will be working on in technology to go along with language.

\* Geography games

\* Chinese name - Students will create their own Chinese name. This will extend into January.

Upper grades will extend an assignment that they have been working on by typing their summary statement during their Technology special. Encourage your kids to visit all the student resources we have online, at the district website.

Dawn Hosea

## Library News By:Sue Paldino

Hiteon families:

Please check out all the events taking place at the Beaverton/Murray Hill Library. Loads of fun things to do! (Including Battle of the Books practice battles!)

<http://beavertonlibrary.org/calendar.aspx?CID=24,27,23,28,&view=list>

<http://beavertonlibrary.org/index.aspx?NID=174>