



Dear Homestead hills Families,

As we settle into the heart of fall, I'm reminded of how fortunate I am to serve as the principal of this incredible school community. Each day, I see the care our staff shows for students, the energy and curiosity our children bring to learning, and the support you provide at home. I'm both humbled and proud to work alongside you.

October brings many opportunities to connect as a school family:

•**Parent-Teacher Conferences – October 8 & 9** Conferences are an important chance to reflect on your child's growth and set goals together. Please use the SignUpGenius link your child's teacher has shared to schedule a time.

•**Family Halloween Evening – October 24** We're excited to welcome families for a fun evening of costumes, games, and community. We hope you'll join us!

Thank you for the many ways you support our students and school. Your partnership makes all the difference, and I'm grateful for the chance to work together in helping every child thrive.

Steve Graetz

Principal, Homestead Hills Elementary

## OCTOBER CALENDAR

10/2 Picture Day  
10/8 Parent-Teacher Conferences Early Dismissal @ 11:50am  
10/9 Parent-Teacher Early Dismissal @ 11:50am  
10/10 No School  
10/24 Early Dismissal @ 11:50am

**Teachers will keep you informed of classroom dates and activities.**

## NURSE NEWS: Beyond the Band-Aid

Nurse Gray has helped create an Allergy Aware space within Homestead Hills. Some students have learned how to be a PAL (Protect A Life) in the event of an allergy exposure. They learned what an allergy is, how reactions may differ among each person, how to help if they notice a friend who appears ill, and what they can do to prevent incidental exposure, including hand and face washing after eating identified food allergens. To learn more, visit [foodallergy.org](http://foodallergy.org).

Our School Wellness Program hosts a Community Advisory Council. We are meeting October 15th and seeking PARENTS who want to be involved. We meet twice per year, and virtual attendance is an option. If this interests you, please reach out to Danielle Gray ([dgray@bldhd.org](mailto:dgray@bldhd.org)) or Kathryn Flannery ([kflannery@bldhd.org](mailto:kflannery@bldhd.org)).

We are seeing an influx of illness now that we are back in session and a few weeks in. Please note that if your child has a fever, is vomiting or having diarrhea, they should remain out of school and not return until 24hrs free of these symptoms without medication.

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of germs!

### Fun Fact:

Laughter can increase pain tolerance and improve immune function, making it beneficial for overall health.



## From the Office:

Between 3:30 and 4:00, it is difficult to accommodate early pickups unless a student has a scheduled appointment. Unscheduled pickups create disruptions to the routine and place added strain on staff. We prefer to focus our attention to a safe dismissal for our students. Please help us by limiting early pickups for appointments or urgent needs.

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday October 8th

School Dismisses at 11:50 am

Thursday October 9th

School Dismisses at 11:50 am

NO School Friday, October 10th

HOMESTEAD HILLS ELEMENTARY

# Howliday Market

**NOV 8TH**  **9AM-3PM**

UNIQUE HANDCRAFTED GOODS  
HOLIDAY TREATS & BEVERAGES  
FAMILY FUN

BOOTH SPACE AVAILABLE  
EMAIL  
[HUSKYHELPERSPTO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HUSKYHELPERSPTO@GMAIL.COM)  
FOR MORE DETAILS

As part of our ongoing effort to strengthen communication and improve our school, I'm once again inviting you to share your thoughts through our brief, anonymous family survey. This opportunity to share your constructive feedback will help us understand what's working well and where we can grow.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by **Friday, October 10**: [Homestead Hills Fall 2025 Family Engagement Survey](#)

Your perspective is valued and your support of our continued growth as a school community is much appreciated. If you already participated last week when this survey was initially

THE BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL SCHOOLS DISTRICT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX AGE, OR DISABILITY IN ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. THE FOLLOWING PERSON HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES: MRS. AMIEE ERFORTH, SUPERINTENDENT, 9300 HOMESTEAD RD., BENZONIA, MI 49616 – (231)882-9653



9/15/2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Hand Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) (known as Coxsackievirus) is impacting kids in our school. Here is some information from the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department on this common viral infection in children.

How long before my child shows symptoms?

3-6 days after exposure

What are the symptoms?

Raised rash, particularly on palms, soles and area surrounding mouth. Progresses to blisters, then scabs. Also causes sores inside mouth, making swallowing painful.

How does my child get exposed?

Direct contact with an infected person's respiratory secretions; may be found in feces (poop) for up to one month after symptoms resolve. Because this disease may be contracted through contact with feces, good handwashing is a must!

How long can my child be contagious?

Virus is found in the stool while sores are present and for about a month after they disappear. Oral secretions are infectious while sores are present.

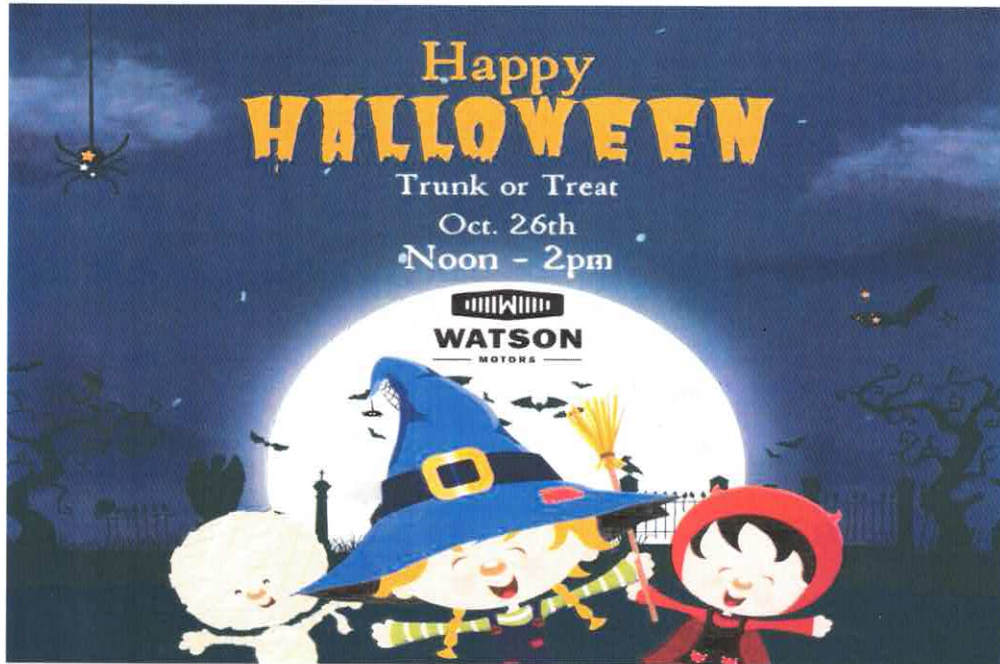
How can I control the spread of HFMD?

Reinforce good hand hygiene. Exclusion is recommended if the child has blisters in their mouth and drool, or has weeping lesions on their hands, or are too ill to participate.

Other

Wash and disinfect/sanitize surfaces (counter tops, handles, doorknobs) multiple times per day, discard articles soiled with nose, throat, or fecal discharge. **Give careful attention to hand washing after touching nose, mouth, bathroom use, and before eating.**

If you are concerned that your child has this condition, please see your family doctor so that a diagnosis can be made, and treatment can be given. Children with HFMD will be excluded from school until lesions are free of discharge, and student is well enough to participate. The school nurse can be contacted at 419-671-8756 to assist you if you have any questions or concerns.



#🎃👻 Get Ready for Watson's Benzie Trunk or Treat! 🍬🎃

Bring the kids out for a spooktacular afternoon of fun, candy, and Halloween cheer at Watson's Benzie!  
📅 On October 26th from noon to 2pm, we're turning our lot into a Halloween wonderland, and we want YOU to join us!

👻 What's in store?

Trunks FULL of candy to fill those treat bags 🍬🍬

Delicious popcorn to munch on

Spooky music to set the Halloween mood

And... a chance to win a FREE oil change! 🏆 The best-decorated trunk will take home the prize!

This is the perfect opportunity for a safe, fun, and family-friendly way to celebrate Halloween early. So bring the little ghouls, goblins, and superheroes and make sure their candy bags are ready for action!



Want to hand out candy from your trunk?

We'd love to have you join in the fun! Just email Darrel at [darrel@watsonbenzie.com](mailto:darrel@watsonbenzie.com) to get your spot. Trunk setup begins at 11am on the day of the event, so bring your creativity and let's make this Halloween unforgettable! 🎃

See you at Watson's Benzie on October 26th! 🍬👻 #TrunkOrTreat #WatsonsBenzie HalloweenFun



**October 31**

**5-8 PM**

# **HALLOWEEN**

**Trunk or Treat  
&  
Open House**



**\*\*\*\*New Location\*\*\*\***

**2717 Benzie Hwy**

**Benzonia Fire Department**

**Trunk or Treat**

**&**

**Open House**

**October 31 5-8 PM**

**Free Hot Dogs, Drinks and Chips**

For questions, please contact Fire Chief Steve Adams at 882-4411 ext. 16 or email: [benzonfire@gmail.com](mailto:benzonfire@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Benzonia Volunteer Firefighters Association  
Bring the kids out to enjoy some fun, candy and tour the Fire Trucks and new station. You are welcome to bring your Trunk and share your candy as well. Please RSVP to [benzonfire@gmail.com](mailto:benzonfire@gmail.com) if you will be providing a Trunk for the event

