

# The Hedgehog Herald

April 2008

Dear Holly Grove Families,

We have had many “wow” moments in the lives of our school family recently. I am so proud of our talented students, dedicated staff, and committed parents. The most recent was our second grade’s performance in “Pieces of Gold.” This program showcased arts in our school and school system. It was a county-wide program that you must audition in order to get in. Our students’ did an outstanding job with their performance.

## Character Trait

This month’s character trait is good judgment. This trait is about how children handle and make wise choices. Students are encouraged to think through things and then act. STAR is an acronym that I read about in another program. STAR stands for Stop, Think, Act and Review. Take the time to discuss this with your children. Using good judgment is critical to holding a successful job and having positive relationships with others. Our staff is committed to encouraging children to think through conflicts and make good decisions.

## Visiting, dropping off students, checking students out after 3:30PM

A few reminders: Remember to get a visitor’s pass when you come in the building. Our staff has been instructed to ask all non-employees to return to the office for a pass. We do this to keep your child and us safe. I realize that many of you are familiar to us, but we must be consistent with our policies. Another area of concern is with our walkers and car pool parents who are dropping their children off in non-designated carpool areas. If you drop your child off or have him/her walk through the neighborhood that adjoins our campus then you are placing your child’s safety in jeopardy. Also you **must come through the carpool line**, rather than drop off your child at the end of the sidewalk in the mornings. Between 3:30PM and 3:50PM, all parents must wait outside to pick up their children. This includes parents that may be at school volunteering. Finally, please do not walk your child to class in the mornings. All of our students should be able to walk to class independently by now unless you need to assist them with carrying materials, etc.

## Conferencing

If you desire to conference with your child’s teacher, send a note so the teacher can set up a time to meet with you. It is important that we give you our attention during conferencing. This can not happen when you “drop” by and want to talk with a teacher who has a classroom full of students to teach and monitor. We cannot stop the instructional process to conference, but we want to be responsive to you so make an appointment when you have a need to conference with a teacher..

## Meet and Greet

Parents, we have decided as a staff that we will have our Meet and Greet **before the end of the school year**. This will give you the opportunity to have the entire week of the fourth of July out with your child. We may have a few teachers that will not be in attendance on the days that we have our meet and greet because they are coming to us from another state and have not completed their responsibilities there. You will have the opportunity to drop in on July 3 to see those teachers; however only those teachers will be available. We are going to try this for the 2008-2009 school year and will evaluate it to determine what will happen in future years. If you have concerns or questions, call me at 577-1700. These Meet and Greet sessions are for rising First

through Fifth graders. We have an orientation scheduled for incoming Kindergarteners on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-11:15AM or May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30PM-and will have their Meet and Greet during their week of staggered entry. You will receive additional information regarding these events.

#### Step Up Day

We are having a Step Up day on May 8<sup>th</sup> for tracks 1,2, and 4. Track 3 will have their time on June 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be a 45 minute period where your child will get an opportunity to visit in the next grade level class. The teacher he/she visits may or may not be his/her teacher for the next school year. We are providing this experience to give students a “peep” into the next grade level.

#### End of Grade Testing

As we continue to reach for the stars, this it is a critical time for instruction and making gains in reading and math. Please help your children keep focused as we work together as a team. End of Grade Testing will be held May 13-16<sup>th</sup> for track 1 and June 10-13<sup>th</sup> for tracks 2,3, and 4. This is important for all third through fifth grade students. The EOG tests are analytical tests that measure how much children have learned this school year in reading and math. We use these tests as one factor when we consider children for promotion or retention.

Brain Research has shown that eight glasses of water are necessary to make the most of your brain’s ability. Eating protein in the morning also helps children to be more alert and tuned in to what’s going on in the classroom. Make sure that your child gets a healthy breakfast that includes protein each morning.

When you are sitting down to read with your child, begin by looking at the cover and the pictures in the book and have your child make predictions about what they think the story will be about; during the reading stop periodically to ask questions that will help you understand whether he/she understands what the story is about and when your child finishes with the book ask questions about the story to ascertain their levels of understanding. You will be surprised what 20 minutes of reading each night will do to increase your child’s reading and to improve his/her interest in reading.

As for Math practice, there is a wonderful website, for those of you who have Internet at home. The address is <http://www.aplusmath.com/>. This site will provide your child with some good basic practice with math facts in a fun way. There are puzzles to do, flashcards practice on the computer, and worksheets that your can print for him/her to use for extra practice. The staff is working hard to support all children learning.

As always, thanks for the support you offer to our school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wiladean R. Thomas  
Principal