

# The Hedgehog Herald

July 15, 2006

Dear Parents,

By now you have received the most important word about how this school year has begun--the informal reports given to you by your son and/or daughter. The faculty and staff at Holly Grove Elementary hope those reports were positive. Our school year has gotten off to a great start with all of our students. We opened our doors last week to over 300 students on tracks one, two, and three.

I want to thank you for your patience on last Friday, as we received our CO at the last "hour." We had no way of anticipating that it would happen so late; which is why the Meet and Greet was not rescheduled. Tentatively our tracks one and two Open House is scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup>; however as we get closer to the date if the Gym is not completed it may be rescheduled to a later date so that we will have a space to hold our general meeting.

Our teachers are committed to providing a structured learning environment. We need your support by asking you to follow our procedures to protect our instructional day by not interrupting instruction between 9:15AM and 3:45PM. If you have questions and/or concerns, schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher and/or administration. Most students have adjusted to the routine of being back in school even though the year round concept is new for many of them.

We have two major focuses this year. We want to connect, collaborate, and commit to excellence for all students. From an academic standpoint our school-wide focus for the year will be to implement the Positive Behavior Support program, which focuses on creating and utilizing a school-wide discipline plan; and secondly, we want to create a Professional Learning Community where staff work together to collaborate on curriculum related topics.

We are offering an Early Arrival Program and an Afterschool Program. If your child needs to arrive to school prior to 8:45 or remain late in the afternoon, consider enrolling him/her in one of these programs because there is no one to supervise children before and after school hours. Safety does become an issue when children are left unsupervised. Call us at 577-1700 to find out how to enroll your child in one or both of these programs and to get information on cost. As per our handbook, students and parents are to wait until 8:45 to come in the building in the mornings. This time before school allows teachers to finish their last minute tasks prior to greeting students. After next week, we also ask that you allow your child(ren) to walk to class alone, this helps them to become independent and we are also here to assist them if needed.

Thank you to our wonderful PTA who provided snacks for us on July 7<sup>th</sup>. We do appreciate all you do. I would like to encourage all families to join our P.T.A. The cost to join is \$5.00 per adult or you can become a gold, bronze or silver member. Check our website to find out what each of the levels mean or contact Mrs. Janus for details.

We have a large number of students in carpool. Our goal is to move your children out to the cars as quickly and safely as possible. Remember to pick up a number if your child is a carpool rider. Our afternoon bells rings at 3:40 and we will begin dismissal as soon as the announcements are over. Thanks for adhering to our carpool guidelines so we can have a safe and orderly dismissal that gets you in and out with your child as quickly as possible. Please do not come in to check your child out after 3:30PM. We are busy getting ready for dismissal at that time.

Carpet was installed in our Media Center last week and we are hoping that our bookshelves will be in soon. Mrs. Withrow is having classes; however students are not able to check out books yet. Our playground equipment is being install and should be ready for use by the end of next week.

Kudos and thanks to Mrs. Janus and Mrs. Donovan who volunteered during carpool all week. We have a small staff and their support and assistance was appreciated.

Plan to come to Holly Grove to have lunch with your child. They enjoy having mom and dad visit at school and it gives you a "peep" into their day. Please remember to sign in when visiting or volunteering. We have a sign in log

in the office and badges that are necessary for safety. Thank you for the positive start and for following our procedures. Having a safe and orderly campus is very important for learning. We look forward to a strong team focused on success for all.

We are ready for you to sign up to volunteer. You can do this in the mornings prior to between 8:45 and 9:15 or in the afternoons after 3:45PM.

Parents Make the Difference suggests several things for families to do to help children have a successful year. They suggest that parents establish a bedtime schedule that encourages enough sleep. Children who are tired from a lack of sleep can't do their best in the classroom and often are impulsive and quick to anger. Another suggestion is to limit the time your child watches TV. Talking with your child every day about school shows your interest. Contact the school if you have questions or concerns. It is important to be informed about the expectations for conduct and achievement in the classroom. Children need a supportive home and we encourage you to be generous with hugs, smiles, and positive responses. That will be one of our goals as well.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call (577-1700) or email me at [wrthomas@wcpss.net](mailto:worthomas@wcpss.net). I will respond within 24-hours.

Sincerely,

Wiladean R. Thomas,  
Principal