

# The Hedgehog Herald

December, 2006

Dear Holly Grove Families,

Our first annual Holly Grove Hike was a huge success! Thanks to our many volunteers for your hard work in making this event the success that it was. Our students, staff, and families had a wonderful time walking around the track and socializing with friends and families. As we think about plans, for the upcoming year, if you have suggestions or ideas as to how we can improve our Hike, please let us know. Thanks to our sponsors who made it possible for every child to receive a t-shirt.

This month's character trait is kindness, which goes well with this time of the year. Kindness is defined as being considerate, courteous, helpful, and understanding of others. We want our children to show care, compassion, friendship, and generosity. Treating others as one would like to be treated is an important quality. Oftentimes, children need help in learning how to treat others as they would like to be treated. Kindness is an important trait that we value in our Holly Grove School Community.

As classroom events are planned, we have some very strict guidelines relating to the bringing of food from home. There is always a chance that a child can contract Escherichia coli (E. coli) from eating food that has been prepared from home, brought to school, and left out for a period of time; therefore, we are asking that you comply with the guidelines from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Foods of high risks are of animal origin (eggs, meat, milk, etc.). Foods that need to be kept warm or refrigerated (meat and cooked vegetable salads, milk, meat, etc.) carry the most risk. Under no circumstances should any of the following items be brought in from home: ground beef products (hamburgers, casseroles, dishes containing ground beef), venison in any form, unpasteurized milk or juices or products made with unpasteurized milk (such as butter, cheese or ice cream). These foods have traditionally been involved in E. coli outbreaks, and young children are particularly susceptible to the E. coli organism.

Foods that carry a lower risk and can be brought in from home are cookies, cakes with commercial frosting, fruit pies; breads not containing pieces of fruits or vegetables; and canned, bottled, and boxed drinks. Fresh fruits and vegetables should be washed thoroughly.

The weather continues to change from hot to cold and we are getting a number of items that are lost and found. Ms. Macon has set up a table near the cafeteria with lost and found items on it. Please encourage your child to look for his/her items as soon as they become missing. Responsibility is a trait we are working on with all children. Our goal for all children is for them to take care of themselves and their belongings. Thanks for your support.

We will have our Winter "Informance" on December 4th. We will have "informances" from Our Hedgehogs in Harmony, our second and third grades. Our Technology, Art, and PE Departments will all play a vital role in this event as well. You will get to see how we integrate in the various curriculum areas. We look forward to having you attend this event!

We also have a few other events planned. We want your child to participate in these activities with Mrs. Dickens; however he/she must return the permission forms in order to go on these non-school sponsored trips. They have worked hard and we want to include them as we go to the Mall to show off our gifts and talents! It is also important to get this information in, so that Ms. Dickens can plan for carpooling.

As a reminder, if you change the way your child will be going home, you must send in a note. No child's mode of transportation will be changed just by word of mouth from children. Transportation changes can and will be made from phone calls when necessary, but we ask that you limit calling and making changes. Make plans prior to the start of the day and inform your child's teacher in writing of any changes.

Our Kindergarten registration for siblings on tracks 1, 3, and 4 will be held from November 27-December 8<sup>th</sup>. Track 2 will be held from December 4<sup>th</sup> – December 15<sup>th</sup>. It is very important that you register your children early. It helps with planning and hiring for the next school year. If you have neighbors that you know will have a child in kindergarten next year, they can go ahead and register their child as well.

Enjoy your winter break! We will begin the new year on January 2, 2007. Don't forget to watch the TV and to listen to the radio for inclement weather reports. School closings are always listed first on the TV and radio. I will also have a message on the school's main line by 6:30 AM, in the event that there will be a delayed opening or closing of school.

May the holiday spirit be present in your lives.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wiladean R. Thomas,  
Principal

*While you're enjoying that break, try...A Word a Day*

*One way children learn new words is through everyday conversations. The more words they become familiar with, the easier it will be for them to learn to read.*

*Try starting conversations with your child during these and other convenient times:*

***In the car:*** *Talk about things you see, such as budding trees and flowers.; "Wow!" It seems like it was just yesterday that the trees were bare."*

***During mealtime:*** *Let your youngster help you prepare dinner. "Could you please hand me the colander?"*

***At Bedtime:*** *Ask about your child's day and tell about what happened during yours. "I had a difficult day at work because I was very busy. How was our day?"*

***--from Parents Makes the Difference***



**PTA Highlights/January Events:**

- PTA Board Meeting will be held Thursday night, December 11th at 6:30PM. Join us and get involved in our PTA. We have an excellent group of parents, under the leadership of Cheree Brown, who are doing wonderful things to promote a positive, successful school involvement through their many efforts.
- I am in need of volunteers to serve on our School Improvement Committees. Call us at 577-1700 if you can serve on a committee.
- Thanks to Janet Donovan for getting umbrellas for our staff on carpool duty.
- Kudos to the committee that worked on the Holly Grove Hike!

**January**

- 2 Second Quarter Report Cards for Tracks 1,2, and 3
- 8 PTA Board Meeting 6:30PM
- 11 General PTA Meeting
- 15 Holiday/No School
- 23 Track 4 Report Cards for Second Quarter
- 29 District 8 Advisory Meeting 5:30PM
- 30 Interims for Tracks 1 and 2

