

# The Hedgehog Herald

December, 2007

Dear Holly Grove Families,

We are in the midst of the holiday season! It is a season of remembering and giving to those less fortunate than we are. At Holly Grove, we had been very fortunate to have 32 families sponsored by the YMCA and police department. They were generous last year and have reached out to us again this year. If you know of families who may be in need for support during this holiday season, please let us know.

## December Character Trait

This month's character trait is kindness. 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 you would like to be treated is an important quality. Often times children need help in learning how to treat others as they would like to be treated. We have had a few situations with bullying, so please take time to talk with your children about treating others as they would want to be treated. Bullies are people who don't feel good about themselves, so they take pleasure in making others feel bad—this is not what we want for any child, so any form of bullying will be taken very seriously at Holly Grove.

## Guidelines for bringing food to school

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 in 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. High risks are foods 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 homes...ground beef products (hamburgers, casseroles or ground beef containing dishes), venison in any form, unpasteurized milk or juices or products made with unpasteurized milk (such as butter, cheese or ice cream) as these foods have traditionally been involved in E. coli outbreaks and young children are particularly susceptible to this 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 fruit or vegetables, and canned, bottled and boxed drinks. Fresh fruits and vegetables should be washed thoroughly.

## Upcoming Informances

Our winter “Informances” will be held on December 6 for tracks 1 and 2 and December 13 for tracks 3 and 4. These performances will showcase our second and third graders. Come out to support our programs. Each grade level will be showcased at some time during our school year. Mrs. Dickens has worked very hard to prepare our students.

Congratulations are in store!

We have two teachers who earned the distinction of “National Board Certified,” this past school year. This process involves a year long period of reflections, completing a project and taking an assessment. It is a really big deal for us, our school system and the nation. North Carolina has the largest number of national board certified teachers in the nation. The teachers that earned it this year are Amber Bailey and Claudia Dickens. They join the ranks of several others at Holly Grove that are already nationally board certified. We have several teachers going through this process this year. I continue to encourage our teachers to complete this process for their own self-growth.

Congratulations to Jenna Brodgen and Allison Gross for being selected to participate in the NC All State Chorus in Winston Salem on November 11-12. This is quite an honor. It speaks well to the talent that we have at Holly Grove. Again Mrs. Dickens is to be commended for her constant push to have our students reach to the highest of heights.

We recently selected our Teacher and Teacher Assistants of the Year. This year that honor goes to Mrs. Claudia Dickens and Mrs. Swart. We know that they will do well as they compete in WCPSS for the system honors. Congratulations and best wishes to both of them!

#### School Improvement Plan

Thanks to Ms. Priest, Ms. Connors, and Ms. Lindley for volunteering to serve on our school improvement committees. These members must be voted in. If you have objections to them serving on our committees, please email [aoneil@wcpss](mailto:aoneil@wcpss) with your information.

#### Transportation

As a reminder, if you change your child’s way of going home, you must send in a note. No child’s mode of transportation will be changed just by word of mouth. 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.

#### Procedures for Snacks/seating/Lunch Bunch

We have changed procedures for getting snacks in our cafeteria. Children may only purchase one snack per day and must get that snack when they go through the line the first time as they will not be allowed to go back through the lunch line. Low balance letters are being sent home on Tuesdays and Thursday; hopefully to eliminate the number of children who find themselves without lunch money in the middle of the week. We are also going to begin having students have assigned seats to help with the noise level in some of our upper grade level classes. This will not be a “forever” thing, but it will be on

a short term basis until we see improvement. Lunch Bunch groups should eat on the side of the building where the cafeteria is located. Lots of food is being left in different parts of the building and this is becoming a problem.

#### Intent Forms

Intent forms for application students will be sent home on Monday, December 1st for students on tracks 2,3, and 4. Track 1 forms will be sent home in January when they return from track out. Application students are those students who have applied to attend Holly Grove. Base students do not receive intent forms and do not have to apply to continue to be enrollment at Holly Grove.

#### Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will be held on December 15th for tracks 2,3, and 4; however any student that is based at Holly Grove may register their Kindergartener beginning December 15th. A later date will be set up for track 1 to coincide with the intent forms that will go home in January.

Enjoy your winter break! We will begin the New Year on January 3, 2008. Don't forget to watch the TV and 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 A.M. in the event that there will be a delayed opening or closing of school.

Season Greetings!

Mrs. Wiladean R. Thomas,  
Principal