

# Hedgehog Herald

December, 2008

Dear Holly Grove Families,

This is such a wonderful time of year as the season of giving is upon us. I would like to thank our Holly Grove families for your generous giving of gently used coats for our coat drive. We collected over 50 coats to give to families in need.

Kudos and thanks to Mrs. Tracy Edick and her committee for another successful Family Fun Day. Although the day began with rain, it turned out to be a beautiful day that was filled with fun for everyone.

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 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. This character trait blends well with the Wishing Star Program. Kindness is an important trait that we value in our Rand Road School Community.

We have received our End of Grade Test scores back in reading. Our scores dropped from 90% to 71%; however that does not mean that our students are not learning to at the rate that they learned before. As I stated in a previous newsletter, when test are re-normed is is common to have a drop in scores. .

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. Food 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.

Our Winter Performance on will be held on December featuring 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on tracks and on December featuring 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on tracks , We will begin promptly at 6:30PM. This is a time share showcase our talented students.

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.

Enjoy your winter break! We will begin the New Year on January 2, 2006. 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