

The Hedgehog Herald

January 2, 2007

Dear Holly Grove Families,

Happy New Year! This is the time of the year when we begin to experience inclement weather days. Decisions regarding inclement weather are usually made when possible by 11:00 PM the night before or by 6:00 AM on all local news stations. Information regarding inclement weather will always be on the main line at 577-1700 as soon as I have it. You may call that line, but also listen to the news for changes regarding school delays or closings.

Thanks for your support of programs at Holly Grove. The turnout was awesome for our first performance. The Winter Informance on December 4th was very entertaining. We look forward to our next "Informance" after our PTA general meeting on January 11th where we will feature our Kindergarten, and first grade students. The PTA general meeting will begin at 6:45 with the 30 minute Informance following that meeting.

Our instructional day begins at 9:15AM; however we have as many as 20 cars in line at that time. Students arriving at 9:15 are tardy and will need an adult to walk in with them. Our staff will be on duty until 9:10AM because they will need get to their classrooms so they can begin their instructional day after announcements.

It is time to begin thinking about and planning for our slate of PTA officers for the 2007-2008 school year; therefore if you are interested in serving on our board, contact Cheree Brown, our PTA president at 291-0465. The board meets once a month for approximately an hour.

This month's character trait is self-discipline. It is defined as demonstrating hard work and commitment to purpose. Regulating yourself for improvement and restraining from inappropriate behaviors. Being in proper control of your words, actions, impulses, and desires. Choosing abstinence from premarital sex, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful substances and behaviors. Doing your best in all situations. This character trait provides an opportunity for us to remind children about their responsibility at school and their role in the learning process. Taking responsibility for completing one's assigned work and being in control and responsible for one's actions are important traits for students to possess.

Wake County's Goal set for 2008 is our commitment to academic excellence. It states that by 2008, 95 percent of all students will be on grade level or above grade level as measured by the State of North Carolina End-Of-Grade or End of Course tests and all student groups will demonstrate high growth. As we move towards achieving this goal, we must hold every child accountable, but we must provide avenues for students to get the additional support needed where necessary to make the progress needed. The Wake County promotion/intervention standards are based on the North Carolina Student Accountability Standards, which clearly states that students **must** meet grade level standards to be promoted to the next grade level. Continue to support your child at home. The curriculum information that is sent home each nine-week period and discussed in conferences provides you with information regarding your child's progress as well as grade level expectations.

Parents interested in pursuing a magnet school program will need to apply between the dates February 12-28, 2007 only. All fifth graders will automatically get an application. Applications will be available at the end of January.

We have several avenues for supplemental help for those students who are working at levels 1 and 2. For students in grades K-2, we have the Accelerated Learning Program II, which occurs during the regular school day. For students in grades 3-5, we have the Accelerated Learning Program, which is a pullout program that occurs during the school day. We also have a 30-minute period each day where students participate in "Team Time" either to enrich skills already learned or to work on areas that need to be strengthened. One

additional item you can purchase is the testlets for practice from the State Department of Instruction. They can be purchased for \$8.00 and will provide lots of practice for your child.

| Elementary Promotion Standards | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> A student is promoted when all grade level standards are met. <input type="checkbox"/> A student may be promoted with interventions when all standards have not met. <input type="checkbox"/> A student may be retained with required interventions when most of the grade level standards are not met. | |
| Minimal Grade Level Standards for Promotion | |
| Kindergarten | |
| ❖ Level III on Mathematics Profile on Reading and Writing Assessments | ❖ Emergent |
| ❖ Master 17 out of 19 Print Concepts and a running records at level 3-4 | |
| First Grade | |
| ❖ Level III on Mathematics Profile Developing on Reading and Writing Assessments | ❖ |
| ❖ Running Record level 15-16 | |
| Second Grade | |
| ❖ Level III on Mathematics Profile | |
| ❖ Running Record Level 23-24 | ❖ Early |
| Independent on Reading and Writing Assessments | |
| Third Grade | |
| ❖ Level III on Mathematics Profile Independent on Reading and Writing Assessments | ❖ |
| ❖ Level III or IV on End of Grade Test in Reading and Mathematics | |
| ❖ Running Record Level 31-32 | |
| Fourth Grade | |
| ❖ Level III on Mathematics Profile on Reading and Writing Assessments | ❖ Independent |
| ❖ Level III on End-Of-Grade Reading and Mathematics Tests | ❖ 2.5 or higher on Writing Assessment |
| Fifth Grade | |
| ❖ Level III on Mathematics Profile on Reading and Writing Assessments | ❖ Independent |
| ❖ Level III on End-of-Grade Tests for Reading and Mathematics | |
| ❖ 2.5 on NC Grade 4 Writing Test or show sufficient growth (evidence of improvement) | |
| Level I | Student does not exhibit sufficient mastery of on-grade level knowledge and skills on grade level |
| Level II | Student is inconsistent in demonstration of mastery of knowledge and skills on grade level |
| Level III | Student demonstrates mastery of grade level concepts |
| Level IV | Student consistently performs grade level requirements/expectations, and works independently on tasks that are at a higher level of difficulty, integrate personal experiences, and involve critical judgements. |

Refer to the back of your child's progress report for explanations of reading and writing levels.

Promotion is based upon many factors:

- daily work
- assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics
- attendance
- North Carolina End-Of-Grade Tests in grades 3-5
- taking the EOG more than one time for some children
- the final decision is the statutory authority of the principal

If your child is not meeting standards, you will be conferencing with your child's teacher and receiving information in late February from the Retention Committee.

If I can assist you in any way or address a concern you may have, don't hesitate to contact me to set up an appointment at 577-1707. Open

communication is a must if we are to continue to have a climate that is supported and bounded on the belief that all children can and succeed.

Sincerely,

Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal

January Dates to Remember:

- 1 Holiday
- 2 Report Cards go home for tracks 1,2, and 3
- 8 PTA Board Meeting 6:30PM
- 11 General PTA, and K/1 Informance 6:45PM
- 15 Holiday-No School
- 22 Report Cards go home for track 4
- 29 Advisory Board Meeting 5:30PM
- 30 Interims go home for Tracks 1 and 2
- 31 PTA Teacher Grant Proposals due