

The Hedgehog Herald

July 2007

Dear Holly Grove Families,

Welcome back! For many, it is a greeting extended to those who left a few short weeks ago as we ended our school year, to others it is an introduction and an invitation. To all, it constitutes a pledge of continued efforts to provide the best possible education for our students.

I believe that the reputation and success we have come to know and enjoy rest, in large measure, on parental concern and involvement. We seek to afford each student an education commensurate with his or her abilities and challenging to a degree that will prompt a love of learning. This is no easy task. We need your cooperation and understanding if this year is to provide a profitable and satisfying experience for your child. Our school, from the beginning, has stressed academic excellence...in this there is no compromise or change.

I take pride in our highly qualified and dedicated staff. Our staff welcomes your concerns and they view education as a partnership between home and school. The elementary years are important ones. It will be important for our students to embrace the challenge of becoming the best they can be by putting forth their best each day.

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. We **NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE!** As with anything new, it takes time. We have almost gotten the time down to 15 minutes. We ask that you follow the cones to eliminate the long lines on Avent Ferry Road. Continue to practice with your child to help him/her remember his/her number, display your name tag and be patient as we get your children out as quickly and safely as possible.

Students that are walkers should be the only ones that are walking in the afternoons. It places your child in a dangerous situation if he/she is told to walk with the walkers and he/she is not a walker. What would the child do if you were not there at the scheduled time?

It is very important that students not arrive at school prior to 8:45AM and that you pick your child up by 4:00PM. Students will not be allowed to enter the building until 8:45AM. We do not have staff to provide supervision during the times before school takes in in the morning and after it let out in the afternoon. We do have an onsite before and afterschool program that you may enroll your child in, should you need these services. Stop by the office to inquire about these programs.

Our fundraiser information was sent home last week. It is due back from track 3 on Friday, July 27th. We have asked each child to sell 3 tubs of cookies to help us meet our goal. Thanks in advance for your participation.

We have had two weeks of parents walking students to class. WE ask that you begin to refrain from walking your child to class. It is important that we promote independence in our students.

Our open houses are scheduled for August. Tracks 1 and 2 will be held on August 2nd and tracks 3 and 4 will be held on August 23rd. We look forward to sharing information with all of you about our process and procedures at Holly Grove.

A huge thank you goes out to our PTA for providing snacks during our first day in our building on July 3rd. We appreciate all that they do to support programs at Holly Grove!

-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.

In the next few weeks, 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 computer in our lobby 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.

Sincerely,

Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal