

The Hedgehog Herald

March 2008

Dear Parents,

March brings about changes in the weather and reminders of testing that will take place over the next few months. Our track 1, 3 and 4 fourth grade students took the state writing test on March 4th. Track 2 will take their writing assessment later in the month. We have worked hard to prepare them and know that they did/will do their very best.

Congratulations

I am proud to announce that Mrs. Claudia Dickens, our music teacher has been named one of Wake County's 20 semi-finalists for teacher of the year. This has been a "banner" year for her with all of the accolades that she has received. She described her experiences this year as "humbling." We are proud of her accomplishments and love that our students are the benefactors of her expertise and dedication. No matter what the outcome, she reigns as our Teacher of the Year!

Potential Retention Letters

Letters were mailed on February 29th to all parents of students that were not currently meeting grade level expectations. These letters are simply informing you that we will continue to work with your child and we solicit your help as well to work towards helping him/her meet grade level standards by the end of the school year. Promotion standards set by the State of North Carolina and Wake County Public Schools state that a child must meet grade level standards in order to advance to the next grade level. There are exceptions in that the final decision rests with our Retention Committee and me. We will use the information provided by teachers, testing information, Individual Education Plans, and other pertinent information to make a determination, **but not until May/June.**

Positive Behavior Support

We will be discussing and reinforcing our "Quiet Hall" rule again. It is important that we have a safe and orderly climate; therefore we are asking students and adults to cooperate by observing the rules as well by using whisper voices while in the halls. Students follow our actions, rather than listen to our words. We have several students who are consistently not following rules and while suspension is used as a last resort, your child may be suspended if the behaviors continue to persist. We want to work as partners with you and your child; therefore we are also asking you to revisit our handbook with your child.

Thank You

A huge thank you to Mrs. Bozzano and the PTA for sponsoring our Early Release lunches! We have enjoyed them and appreciate the support you provide prior to our staff development sessions on these days.

School Improvement Plan

Our school improvement plan is complete. We are scheduled to submit it on or before March 14th. Thank you to Mrs. Priest, Mrs. Connor, and Mrs. Lindley, parent members of our team, who willingly provided their input and support. A copy of our plan will be available if you have interest in reading it. We focused on the academic areas of reading, math, and writing, healthy students in healthy schools, and Community and business support. Our plan is succinct, yet includes key components for the areas mentioned to help support student achievement and student well-being and community involvement and support.

Kindergarteners for 2008-2009

If you are a current parent of an incoming kindergartener, I urge you to register your child as soon as possible. We have registered over 130 kindergarteners already. Early registration provides me with the information I need to plan appropriately for our staff for the next year. It is my goal to hire the best, most qualified staff; however without the necessary information until late in the year, that task becomes increasingly difficult. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

PTA Reflections Contest

Congratulations to all of our students that submitted reflection projects! We had 24 entries go to the state level for the PTA Reflections program. Emma Fry's work will be going to the regional level to compete with other winners from around our state. We are proud of her and the others that submitted work. This is a huge undertaking to get these entries judged and ready. I want to commend and thank Mrs. Sara Kempin for her diligence in working with the State PTA to assure that our students' work was submitted properly! It wasn't an easy task.

Human Growth and Development

Our fifth grade classes are studying the Human Growth and Development unit this month. This almost always leads to inappropriate conversations during the early stages of the unit. Students are told that the information shared is confidential; and if they violate this or are not mature enough to handle the information, they will be asked to sit out during certain sessions.

Lunch Bunch

Come in for lunch bunch. Our students enjoy having you read to them while they eat. This is also an opportunity for you to visit with your children's friends.

Dictionaries

All third grade students received a dictionary from the Optimist Club. Our PTA contributed \$1.00 towards each of the dictionaries and the Optimist Club paid the rest. These dictionaries are theirs to keep. Each year the third graders will be given a dictionary.

Thank you for your continued support of programs, processes, and procedures at Holly Grove. If I can be of assistance to you, don't hesitate to call me at 577-1700.

Sincerely,

Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal