

The Hedgehog Herald

November 2006

Dear Holly Grove Families,

We are looking forward to and planning for the first Holly Grove Hike. Our students, staff, and school community will enjoy an evening filled with fun, fitness and fundraising. I want to thank Mrs. Cheree Brown, for taking on yet "one more thing," to support our school and to provide for our students. Her energy, drive, determination and support is appreciated!

Report cards for the first grading period have been sent home. It is important that you read them carefully for information regarding your child's academic progress. We are also in the process of having our first parent conferences. If you did not make it to your conference, call your child's teacher and arrange a conference. It is extremely important that you hear about your child's progress and academic status.

Our teachers are required to complete mathematics, reading, and writing profiles at all grade levels. Children are observed and tested on a variety of skills within each area and results are shared with you during parent conferences. Work samples also provide examples to show the progress your child is making.

We have several opportunities for assisting children who might need additional support to reach grade level expectations. We offer an academy program that focuses on the skills necessary to meet promotion standards for students who qualify in grades three through five. In addition to this program, we have a literacy program for our K-2 students during the regular school day, four days each week.

Our staff is committed to helping all children to achieve success and to meet promotion standards. We want to develop the strongest possible partnership for success, which can only occur if we all work together to support our children. Thank you for your support as we work towards encouraging children to own their learning. It is critical that we develop children who can solve problems, think critically, and apply information to a product.

We have a number of parents that are not displaying carpool numbers. **Any parent not displaying the number will need to park and come inside to show ID to pick up your child.** We can not risk the chance of someone that has not been authorized to pick up your child. This will be an inconvenience to you, but a protection for your child and our school.

Children's Book Week is fast approaching! With a national focus on literacy, this is a wonderful opportunity to read to and with your child, regardless of his or her age. Research shows that children who are read to on a regular basis consistently do better than their counterparts in academic/cognitive areas of performance. Hearing our language through books markedly increases their oral and written communication skills.

When you sit down to read, this is a great opportunity to enhance your child's reading comprehension. As you read together, keep the following in mind:

Before Reading:

- Have your child make a prediction based on the title and cover
- Have your child make a personal connection to the story

During Reading:

- Periodically stop and ask your child some questions
- Have your child check or change his or her predictions

After Reading:

- Ask your child to retell the story to you
- Discuss the characters and how they may have changed throughout the story.
- Discuss what the theme or lesson of the story may have been.

Let your child catch you reading! Children whose parents model reading for pleasure are apt to also love reading!

“The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.” (Becoming a Nation of Readers)

Please continue to support our mission at Holly Grove to have a 100% literacy rate..... Leaving No Child Behind!
Thanks for all you do on a daily basis to support us!

As we approach the holiday season, Thanksgiving is upon us. This is a time when we pause to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Enjoy your families during the holiday break!!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal

PTA Highlights/December Events:

- Hats off to Cheree Brown who has almost single handedly taken on the Holly Grove Hike! We need volunteers to support this event!!!
- Thanks to Janet Donovan for serving on the District 8 Advisory Council. Janet will be another link to our board representative, Ron Marigotta, and Assistant Superintendent, Lloyd Gardner. This council meets six times a year.
- I am still in need of parents to serve on our five school improvement committees. If you are interested, call me at 577-1700.
- A BIG thank you to Laurie Janus for assisting with our Book Fair.
- Thanks to Brenda Priest for attending the PTA Great Expectations Conference in October.