

The Hedgehog Herald

October, 2006

Dear Holly Grove Families,

With the approach of fall hopefully the warm weather is gone for a while! We are continuing to work towards those goals set by the district and ones we have set for ourselves.

After the first of October, all tracks will have tracked out at least once. Our students have followed the flags that are used to identify their new classrooms and no one seems to be confused by the moves. Thanks to Mrs. Priest again for putting symbols on each flag and hanging them above the classroom doors for us. They have been a wonderful welcome post and reminder for our students each time they track in.

We unveiled our mascot in early September. Hooray for the Holly Grove PURPLE AND ORANGE Hedgehogs. A huge thank you goes to Matthew Sens for the tremendous amount of time and work he put in to creating our logo and advertising our new mascot. We were also fortunate to have Mr. Sens, Town Manager Deans, Councilman Womble, Mrs. Kempin and Mrs. Greene in attendance at our ceremony. Our students were enjoyed the program. We are all especially proud to be Hedgehogs.

October's character trait of the month is Respect. Respect is considered showing high regard for authority, for other people, for self, for property, and for our country. We want children to have the understanding that all people have values as human beings. Respect is a hard concept for all of us to define. It is very subjective and interpreted by everyone differently. We are going to continue to talk about the character trait of Respect and encourage our children to understand and use respectful behavior. The staff will be giving examples of respectful behavior; for example, using quiet voices, not talking when in the hallways, and not interrupting when others are speaking.

During this month, we also will be observing a week of "Take Charge of your TV." According to a new study published in the Developmental Psychology Journal, both males and females have a greater chance of aggressive adult behavior when they watch a lot of violence on TV as children. I challenge you to turn your TV off during the week of October 16-20. Spend time talking with your children, playing with your children or reading with or silently as a family. I am often surprised at how much I learn from my own children when I make a conscious effort to spend time just doing nothing with them. Cherish these special times with your children—they really grow up so quickly.

Please reread your dress code. We have many children wearing flip flops to school. Although these shoes are comfortable and cool, they pose an issue of safety as we take children outside to play on the playground.

If you have not signed up to become a volunteer, please do so as soon as possible. It will be necessary for you to have clearance in order to volunteer in the school, on fieldtrips, participate in Lunch Bunch, etc. While this is an inconvenience for you, it is another step that Wake County is taking to assure that our children are safe. When you are cleared for volunteering, Mrs. Withrow will contact you by telephone and you can pick up your card at our receptionist desk. This card is to be worn when you volunteer at Holly Grove.

When you come for Lunch Bunch, please do not sit in the hallway leading to the high school by the cafeteria. Our part of the building stops at that point. You may also want to bring a towel, since our space is limited. It is exciting to see groups of children and parents all over the lobby reading. Thanks for coming to participate in our program, our children are the benefactors. Research shows that the more you read the better you read.

Reports cards will come home soon. Tracks 1 and 2 will go home on October 2nd. Track 3 on October 10th and Track 4 on October 23rd. If you have additional questions about our standards based report card, contact your child's teacher or you may talk to an administrator. Let me reiterate that a level 4 does not equate to an A. Threes are based on our standard course of study and are given to students on grade level and/or who may not have demonstrated mastery on 1 or 2 objectives. If your child demonstrates that he/she can apply the concepts at a higher, more in-depth level, he/she will earn a level 4. Earning a four one quarter doesn't guarantee 4s every quarter.

We are getting ready for our School Improvement Committee meetings. We must have parent representation on our committees. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees, let me know. I need approximately five people. We will meet periodically throughout the year to discuss items relating to school improvement. These volunteers must be voted on.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher and if needed me at 662-2275.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal

Upcoming dates –move these to the calendar/date column:

October

- 2 Report Cards for Tracks 1 & 2
- 9 PTA Board Meeting 6:30PM
- 10 Report Cards for Track 3
- 18-25 Book Fair
- 19 Book Fair/PJ/Story time 6:00PM-7:30PM Tracks 1 and 3
- 23 District 8 Advisory Meeting/Track 4 Report Cards
- 25 Book Fair/PJ/Story time 6PM-7:30 Tracks 2 and 4
- 31 Interims for Track 2