

The Hedgehog Herald

September, 2006

Dear Holly Grove Families,

Hooray, Hooray, our Media Center is open for business. The shelves are in and the books are on them waiting to be checked out! Mrs. Withrow and Mrs. Macon are excited and can't wait for our students to come in.

Thank you for your attendance at our Open House. Many teachers happily reported that most of their parents were present. We use the time at Open House to inform you about the curriculum and classroom processes and procedures. Utilize the curriculum maps that were distributed to assist you in working with your child on the same goals and objectives that we are working on at school. We also have these posted on the wall at the main entrance of our building. We look forward to greeting our Track 3&4 parents on August 31st. for their Open House. We will begin promptly at 6:00PM with our General PTA program. The PTA program will be followed by a 15 minute session on Standards Based Grading prior to dismissing everyone to the classroom for teacher presentations. Each teacher will give two presentations, so that you may visit with more than one teacher if you have children at two different grade levels.

Our character trait for this month is responsibility. **Responsibility** is defined as being dependable in carrying out obligations and duties....Showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct...Being accountable for your own actions...and Being committed to active involvement in your community. This is an excellent trait to stress with our students since they have many requirements and deadlines that they must meet in and out of school. You can help them be responsible by holding them accountable for their actions as well as their work (responsibilities). We want all children to grow up to be productive citizens. We will hold all students accountable at school for their work and their actions. Even though children sometimes resist our efforts to aid them in being responsible, they really do want and feel secure with they are held accountable for their actions and deeds.

Tracks 1 and 2 have had the opportunity to view our PowerPoint and select their favorite choice for a mascot and school colors. We will show the PowerPoint to students on tracks 3 and 4 on August 29th and then they will vote during that week. We will announce our school choice for a mascot and school colors on September 8th and 11th. We are all waiting anxiously anticipating what the mascot and school colors will be!

Thanks to our parents and students for making our first fundraiser a success! We are excited that we will be able to provide Cultural Arts Programs for our students this year. These programs help to expose our students to a variety of cultures. Thanks to Mrs. Greene and her committee for working to make this a successful fundraiser.

Plans are underway for the Holly Grove Hike. Again, we will be asking for you to help our students by making pledges for a certain number of laps or you can pledge a dollar amount that is not connected to the number of laps a child runs, but an pledge. We are also inviting our school

community to join us for this event. You will be receiving additional information from our PTA regarding the specifics for this fun, fitness, and family event.

Our Music Department is thriving. We have 34 students in our auditioned chorus. They have already begun to practice so they can perform for our school community. They will be involved in a number of different performances at various community sites including the mall and Meymandi Hall. We are working and hoping that we will have a group that will be invited to participate in Pieces of Gold this year as well as a group to go to the All State Chorus. These are opportunities that Mrs. Dickens provides outside of her regular school duties. She is committed to the Arts and works diligently to promote it.

Stop by to see our Art Displays. Ms. Bisesi has been busy putting up displays all over the building. We have some budding artists in our midst and we are proudly showing off their work.

High school students have been in and out of the high school for the past two weeks and I must admit that the high school administration and staff have done an excellent job of keeping them in their "area." I watched as one group was going through for orientation and the person leading the tour was very explicit about how far they could go. I think they are amazed at seeing little people in the same building with them. We will continue to monitor our students closely and the high school students when they start at the end of the month, but I don't foresee there being huge issues.

Again, I invite you to come eat lunch with your child. Volunteer registration is an ongoing process and you may come in to register before school or after school in our Media Center. Ms. Withrow is contacting our volunteers as the approval to volunteer come in.

As always, feel free to contact us, should you have questions and/or concerns. Our main number is 577-1700. We not only want you to contact us with your questions and concerns, but let our teachers and staff know what things are going well for your children. Everyone needs encouragement even the "big" people in our building.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas,
Principal