

The Hedgehog Herald

August 2009

Dear Parents,

Each new year affords us another opportunity to continue our quest towards creating academic excellence for all of our students. We have had a very smooth opening and our students have been wonderful. They have settled into their routines and are following our hedgehog expectations.

Our theme for the year is **“Make your mark...leave an impression.”** We are working to make ensure that what we say and do makes a positive impression. We want it to be one that will encourage our children to be the best they can be. I challenge you to join us in making a pledge to consciously make a difference in the lives of our students. Your pledge could be to volunteer, serve on a PTA committee, to join us for lunch bunch, join the PTA, or some other creative idea that you may come up with.

We are focusing on three areas this year; a refinement and continuation of the use of best practices that are researched based, open honest communication, and strengthening our professional learning teams in order to increase student achievement.

All WCPSS's schools are participating in early dismissal Wednesdays. We have a structured schedule that will allow us to utilize this time to support academics. Our calendar for the first quarter has been posted to our school's website. We began by refining our norms and we are currently in the process of creating smart goals. These goals are being created based on the data from our student's end of grade scores, running record information and other data that we collect on students' progress. We will set goals each quarter and evaluate them at the end of the quarter. If we meet our goal, we will create a new one for the next quarter, if not we will continue to strive to meet the goal.

It is important that you pick your children up at 2:45PM because we will meet as soon as our students are gone for the day. Late pickups will cause delays in our meeting times. If you are unable to pick up your child on time, we are offering an after school program that may be accessed on Wednesdays only. This program is \$30.25 per month, with at \$15 registration fee.

Our Open House will be held on July 21st. for tracks 1 and 2 and on August 18th for tracks 3 and 4. These sessions are designed for parents only. The purpose is to share pertinent information that will help you support your child at school and to learn about our expectations at Holly Grove. I encourage all parents to plan to attend these very important sessions.

We are seeking volunteers to participate on our School Improvement committees. We have five committees and would like to have a parent rep on each committee. If you are interested in serving on a committee, call us at 577-1714 to let Ms. Holley, our IRT know.

When visiting at Holly Grove, remember to use our computer to sign in. You must also sign up to volunteer each year. If you have not signed up as a volunteer and would like to volunteer at our school, you may do so in the Media Center at any time. It does take time to get approved, so get this done as quickly as possible.

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.

We look forward to another great year! If I can be of assistance to you feel free to call me at 577-1700 or email me at wrtthomas@wcpss.net.

Sincerely,

Wiladean R. Thomas

Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal