

The Hedgehog Herald

May 1, 2007

Dear Holly Grove Families,

Wow, our Sock Hop was awesome! This event epitomizes what I believe we should do as a school family. The interaction between and amongst our students, staff, and families members was great. A huge thank you goes out to all of our volunteers and to our board members who worked tirelessly to make this event the success it was. We raised over \$3000.00 that our PTA will use to support programs at Holly Grove.

To our outgoing PTA board and PTA President, Cheree Brown, I want to thank you for the impact you have had on our school and school community. Mrs. Brown willingly stepped forward to lead our PTA this year and has done an outstanding job with a small number of volunteers. Through your fundraising efforts and ongoing support, we have had the opportunity to enjoy many cultural arts programs, provide t-shirts for our 5th graders, award two teacher grants, support our field day event, provide lunch for our staff on Early Release Day, fund a tile wall that will be a permanent structure in our new building which will include art work from all of the students this year, sponsored food for shade events to raise money to go towards the purchase of shade structures and the list goes on and on. Although he was not a board member, a huge thank you goes to Mr. Matthews Sens who created our mascot and provided the resources to provide a monthly PTA newsletter for the first half of our school year. Thank you for never giving up. Your support of programs will allow us to continue to promote academic excellence for all students. Congratulations to our newly selected officers. I look forward to working with you.

We had over 75 new families join my staff, VP of Membership/Volunteers, Laurie Janus, Mark Simmons from the YMCA, and me for a "Chat with the Principal," last week. Information was shared with them regarding our school and school policies as well as information about our school-wide plan for student success and before and after school programs that are available in our school and in the community.

Last Wednesday, our Hedgehogs in Harmony, sang at Meymandi Hall. They were awesome! We were so proud of them. On Tuesday morning of this week, Mrs. Dickens will be celebrating with them with a breakfast and providing them with a gift from Zaytoun Orthodontist, sponsors of this event. I do appreciate Mrs. Dickens' desire to continue to showcase the talent of our students!

In two weeks, track 1 students will be taking the End of Grade Tests. Mr. Matthews and I will provide an encouragement ribbon to all students as a reminder that they have what it takes to do well and to let them know that we are all in this together. They have worked hard this year and the results should reflect that hard work. A free breakfast will be served on the three testing days to all third through fifth graders. Make sure your children

get a good night's rest the night before testing. The night before testing is also a good time to have a relaxing evening. Working hard by drilling only creates anxiety about the test. We have worked hard all year and know that that our students will apply what they have learned and do well.

Wake County is conducting it's first ever curriculum audit as a part of Dr. Burn's, system initiatives. Auditors will be in Wake County next week visiting in all of the schools. As part of the Comprehensive Curriculum Management Audit being conducted by Phi Delta Kappa, there is an opportunity for interviews with parents and members of the general public. These interviews will be 15 minutes in length and will be held on Wednesday, May 9th from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. There are two locations for these interviews, Carroll Middle School and the WCPSS training facility in Cary. Parents wishing to schedule a time to share their thoughts on our curriculum are encouraged to register beginning May 1st. We will conclude registration on May 4th. These interviews will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. Registrations can be made on-line at www.wcpss.net or by calling our customer service department 850-1600 during business hours. This is a unique, but important opportunity for you to have your voices heard and to make an impact.

We look forward to June 7th, when we will have our last Informance featuring our 4th and 5th Graders. They have been working hard on "The Music Man." We invite all of you to come out to support this event and our children.

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week. I know that you appreciate our teachers everyday/week, but consider sending a note to let them know how much you appreciate their hard work and dedication this year. Our PTA has provided lunch as a means of appreciating staff all year and we thank them for their efforts.

We have had a number of volunteers support many programs this year. Our staff would like to show our appreciation to you on May 22nd. We will be sponsoring a Volunteer Breakfast from 8:30 until 9:30AM in our Art Room. Information will be coming home soon.

Do you wonder how Wake County construction costs compare to other districts across the state and the country? Ever ask where the money goes for school facilities? If so, then join Wake Education Partnership for its second meeting in the Education Exchange series on Wednesday, May 9, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Holly Springs Cultural Center. (300 W. Ballentine Street in Holly Springs) This meeting, which is free and open to the public, will provide Wake County citizens an opportunity to learn more about school construction and how costs in Wake County compare to peer districts around the state and country. Rob Weaver, of the Citizens Facility Advisory Committee, and Mike Burriss, WCPSS Assistant Superintendent for Facilities, will share information and engage in conversation on these important topics with the audience. No registration is required to attend. For more information, please visit www.WakeEd.org. Please hold June 11th for our Ed Exchange meeting on school funding and financial accountability, which will take place at the Brier Creek Community Center.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal

PTA Highlights:

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED: Officers for the next school year, 2007-2008, were elected at the Sock-Hop on Friday night. They are: Laurie Janus, president; Brenda Priest, first vice-president; Candy Richards, secretary; Kathy Schafer, treasurer; Rebecca Hayes, vice-president of Communications; Janie Thomas, vice-president of Membership/Volunteers; and, Tracy Edick, vice-president of Programs/ Fundraising. We know our new Board will build on this success and do even more for our school.

CALLING ALL 4th AND 5th GRADE PARENTS: We are starting a tradition at HollyGrove and asking the 4th grade parents to host the reception for the 5th grade end of year ceremony. There will be a planning meeting for this event at 7:00 on Tuesday, May 10th at HGE. We need as many 4th grade parents as possible, but would also like to invite the 5th grade parents to help with plans this first year. If you need more information or would like to help or donate items, but cannot come to the meeting, please contact Janet Donovan at 567-1191 or jdonovan1@nc.rr.com.