

Holly Grove Herald

October 2009

Dear Holly Grove Families,

Wow! The challenge of making a mark and leaving an impression has been made by our community at Holly Grove. Under the leadership of Kelly Busbice, our first Grounds Beautification day was a huge success. We had over 50 volunteers on Saturday morning, many of whom were our own Holly Grove children. Our grounds look much better. Thank you so much for volunteering your effort and making a mark at our school.

Safety Drill

We will conduct our two annual safety drills during the month of October. The purpose of these drills is to prepared staff and students by practicing those procedures we have in place in the event of an emergency. We will include the Holly Springs police and our own security department. If you have been at Holly Grove, you are aware that we have conducted these types of drills each year. We will prepare the children by informing them that this is a drill and will debrief afterwards as well.

Character Education

Ms. Ray-Nobles kicked off our character education program with a skit performed by the Holly Springs High School drama club. They really got our students excited about the importance of not bullying and practicing good character. Students will be able to redeem coupons at our school store when they earned them for displaying good character.

School Improvement Committee

I am still in need of at least two parents to serve on our school improvement committee. This committee meets about once a month for 30 minutes. We usually meet at 7:30AM on the third Tuesday. If you are interested in serving, contact Tyneka Holley at 577-1714 or tholley@wcpss.net. This committee works with the school to use data to determine areas that we need to work on and to come up with strategies and action steps for improving in the areas of need. If you can support our committee by reading our minutes and providing feedback, we will accept you as a member of the SIP.

Lunch Bunch

We are still having lunch bunch. Consider coming out to have lunch with your child and 2 other children and reading to them as they enjoy their meal. They love it when parents come to school to spend time with them.

Calypso Grant

Mrs. Knox-Ingle (technology teacher), Mrs. Faye Hooker and Mrs. Kris Grande (speech therapists) collaborated to write a grant, called the Be Heard Grant. We are one of three schools in the nation that was awarded the grant for \$37,500.00 to install amplification

equipment in thirty five classrooms. This equipment eliminates outside noises that is often distracting in the classroom. It has proved to be a factor in helping to improve student achievement. All classrooms except our fifth grade classrooms will be receiving this equipment this year. We are very excited about the equipment. The workers will begin installing it on October 5th. Kudos, to our staff members for their hard work that led to securing this grant.

Pre-EOGs

Our third grade students will not be taking the pre-eogs this year. The State Board of Education has decided to suspend the taking of this test for all third graders this year. We are using teacher input to determine which third graders may need services in our academy program.

PLTs

Our professional learning teams are going very well. The time that has been given on Wednesday afternoon has been very productive. We believe that this time will help us take a closer look at our data and use it to guide instruction for all students. We have created smart goals and determined by grade levels what students needed to work on. Thank you to all of our parents for picking your children up in a timely manner so we may begin and end on time for these meetings.

Thank you as always for helping to make Holly Grove the place to be! We have wonderfully behaved students, who are hardworking and focused on learning. We have a dedicated staff whose main goal is learning and teaching, while nurturing the social well-being of each child. We have a community who cares and is involved in our school. These are the necessary ingredients to a wonderful learning environment, which we experience each day at Holly Grove.

Sincerely,

Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal