

# The Hedgehog Herald

September, 2007

Dear Parents,

Many of our students have already been in school over five weeks! They are thriving in our learning community. I am so proud of the progress that I get to witness each day. Thank you for supporting learning at Holly Grove by following up and assisting your child(ren) with his/her school work. It is equally as important to assist us in helping your child manage his/her behavior. All of our classrooms have created matrixes for what we expect in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria and bathrooms. Ask your child about these expectations.

## **Carpool**

Thank you to our carpool drivers who have supported our requests to move in and out based on the procedures given at the beginning of the school year. Keeping our children safe is extremely important to us. If you need to check out your child early, please come in the building prior to 3:30PM; otherwise, your child's name will be added to our list and he/she will be called when we make afternoon announcements. Emergencies do occur, and when that is the case, we will work with you. Children checked out daily prior to 3:30 are losing approximately 30 minutes of instruction daily, 2.5 hours each week, 10 hours each month and 90 hours a year. When you look at the time your child is missing due to being checked out early, for a full year that accounts for over 10 days of instruction. All parents are asked to wait outside between 3:30 and 3:50.

## **Volunteering**

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 to work with children, to go on fieldtrips, to allow your children to invite a friend to eat lunch with you, etc. While this is an inconvenience for you, it is another step that Wake County is taking to assure that our children are safe. Name tags have been made for all of our approved volunteers and you may pick them up in the office.

## **Report Cards**

First quarter reports cards will be sent home during the month of September. Let me reiterate that a level 4 does not equate to an A. Level 3s are based on the North Carolina 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 4 one quarter doesn't guarantee 4s every quarter. Reports cards will go home on September 7th for track 1 and September 28th for tracks 2, 3, and 4. Kindergarten and first grade students will not receive a report card for the first grading period. A progress report or an interim report will be sent home or given to you during first quarter's parent conference instead.

## **School Improvement Teams**

We have five school improvement committees and are in need of some parent volunteers to serve on these committees. This is a rewrite year for us, so we will be reviewing our current plan and making revisions as necessary. Our revisions will not be extensive since our plan was just written last year.

## **Back to School Celebration Luncheon**

Thanks to Scoop Green, Chamber Director and Chamber of Commerce and area businesses for sponsoring a celebration to the start of school luncheon for our staff on Thursday, August 16th. Several area businesses were present and provided door prizes to our staff. The support provided to our school by the Holly Springs community is appreciated.

## **Academy**

Our Academy program began last month for students in grades 3-5. Mrs. King has communicated with parents of students that were recommended to attend the program. This is a program that will help students strengthen those skills that they may have had difficulty with. Students are invited to attend one week during their track out. It is important that you allow your child to attend these sessions as this is one of our interventions for students that may later be referred to our retention committee. The program is a full day program and students will be working on reading, writing, and math skills.

## **Media Center**

The Media Center's furniture is in! The books are on the shelves and we are ready for our students to begin checking out books. Reading is so important. Research shows that the more you read the better you read.

## **Physical Education**

You may have heard that our PE teacher, Mr. Guenther left Holly Grove to accept a position in another school district. I have interviewed and recommended a highly qualified candidate that will provide the strong PE program that your students have been receiving.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher and if needed me at 577-1700

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Wiladean R. Thomas,  
Principal