

September 2009

Dear Holly Grove Families,

Reporting on student progress

We are close to the end of our first quarter in all tracks. I encourage you to conference with your child's teacher if you have not done so already. WE want to start early working as a team to ensure that all of our students are making progress and that we are working in tandem to make sure that happens. You will receive interim reports, report cards and have at least two conferences with your child's teacher.

Grounds Beautification Day

We are preparing for our first grounds beautification day scheduled for September 19th, from 8AM-10AM. Ms. Busbice has spent many hours planning and working to get businesses involved as well as recruiting volunteers and determining what projects would be completed first. I want to thank her for her hard work and diligence. She has a number of landscaping companies that will be contributing on this day.

Skateboarding

We have a number of students that are skateboarding on the sidewalks after hours. If you know of children who may be on our campus, let them know this is not permitted.

Walkers

Several students are going with walkers who do not live at Autumn Park. Please do not put your child at risk by having him/her walk with the walkers.

PLT and Early Release Update

Our Wednesday PLTs are going very well. We have had the opportunity to create smart goals and begin charting students' progress. The time spent on these Wednesdays meeting times have beneficial so that our staff can plan together to support student achievement. Our next Early Release (1:15 Dismissal) will be held on September 2nd. The staff development focus for this meeting is technology. Our staff will participate in two different sessions. They will be able to choose from the following lists: Using Document camera, Voice thread, creating newsletters, creating a Classroom Website, and using Blackboard.

Character Building

The topic for the month from Firm, Fair, and Consistent is "Teach respect by daily example." You want your child to show respect or you, his teachers, people in general—not to mention respect for rules and belongings. Teaching respect is a big job. But thankfully, research shows a specific method for use.

Children learn respect when they are treated with respect, so make these simple efforts a daily habit:

- ✓ Communicate with respect. Listen attentively to your child. Don't interrupt. Make sure you understand what he is saying. Make sure you understand what he is saying. Focus on the positive.
- ✓ Practice solving problems calmly. Use "I statements" ("I feel ignored when you don't answer me") instead of hurtful accusations ("You always ignore me").
- ✓ Take responsibility. When you make an agreement with your child, stick to it—and expect him to do the same. If something goes wrong, the person responsible should make amends and learn from the experience.
- ✓ Care for belongings. Cleaning up is a way of showing respect for things around the house. Talk about this with your child. What if no one pitched in? What steps, such as organizing toys, could make the job easier?
- ✓ Be encouraging. Support your child's interests and strengths. Talk about values, including those your family has passed down for generations. What does your child value? How can he show this? Strong character should be a source of pride.

Enjoy your Labor Day break on September 7th and have a wonderful month.

Sincerely,

Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal