



HEDGEHOG herald

News & updates from the PTA
of Holly Grove Elementary School
Volume 5, Issue 7 - Mar. 2011

www.hollygrovepta.net

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Hedgehog Herald is published for the families and community of HGES. Submissions and feedback welcome.

Editor: Jessica Stygles
HGESNewsletter@yahoo.com

Advertising: Amy Purvis
hgptacommunication@yahoo.com

Holly Grove Elementary School
1451 Avenet Ferry Road
Holly Springs, NC 27540
919.577.1700

www.hollygrovees.wcpss.net

Principal: Wiladean Thomas

Assistant Principals:
Michael Matthews
Carolyn Penny

Principal's Corner

Dear Holly Grove Families,

A Huge Thank You - Our staff and students would like to thank **Tracy Edick** for spearheading our recent Book Fair. We also had several parents that supported her efforts by volunteering their time for this event. Thanks to our community, as well, for supporting our book fair by purchasing books. The proceeds from the book fair will go to the Media Center this year to purchase new books.

HGES Parent Resource Library - The Community Committee at Holly Grove has recently created a Parent Resource Library in the Media Center. The library offers grade-level specific information binders as well as magazines and other related articles that will be updated periodically. The grade-level specific binders have information pertaining to curriculum objectives, standards-based grading policies and visuals, work samples, helpful websites, and classroom expectations. Please stop by to take a look at these informative materials.

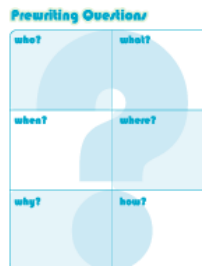
Hedgehogs in Harmony/Holly Grove Staff Chorus - At the recent Cultural Arts Day program, our Hedgehogs in Harmony and our Holly Grove Staff Chorus did an outstanding job. This project is the "brainchild" of our own music teacher, **Mrs. Claudia Dickens** and the high school's choral director, **Mr. Ted Willis**. We also had art on display from **Ms. Bisesi's** art classes. We have such talented students. If you missed it this year, this is an event that you will want to put on your calendar for next year.
Warm Weather - Please re-read our dress code with your child as the weather gets warmer. Short shorts are not allowed, nor are spaghetti straps without shirts.

AM Drop off and PM Pick Up - We continue to have a number of parents who bring their children in after the 9:15 bells rings. Children who miss out on the homeroom time take a full hour to catch up with what's going on in the classroom. Please lessen your child's anxiety about school by bringing him/her to school on time.

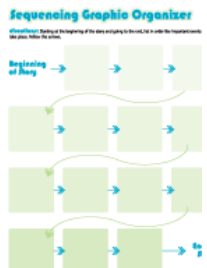
Also, children will not be checked out from the office after 3:30 as this is a disruption to the learning environment. We also have parents who are not coming to pick up their children until after 4:00. School dismisses at 3:45, and we finish with carpool by 4:00 or earlier.

Tools for Writing from SchoolFamily.com by Connie McCarthy - Children are great story tellers. It's wonderful to listen to their detail, expression, and language when they speak of important events in their lives. I often point out to my students that writing a good story is just like telling a good story. I want to share two easy ideas to help your child organize their thoughts, and help their stories flow. I also want to share links to graphic organizers to print and use with your child.

A **graphic organizer** is a simple chart that provides spaces for organizing thoughts. Using a graphic organizer when planning a story can be a very helpful tool for your child. An organizer that charts basic questions, such as "Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How" can help a struggling writer get started.



Children need to understand and use sequential words. Knowing and using words like "first," "next," "then," "after," and "last" helps your child keep their story on track. A **sequencing graphic organizer** will help your child write their story from beginning, to the middle, to the end. Often simple visual tools like these are just what your child needs to jump start their writing skills!



Sincerely,
Wiladean R. Thomas,
Principal

School Improvement Plan Update

The Holly Grove SIP Committees have been collaborating this school year to ensure that students, teachers, and parents work together to provide a safe and positive environment conducive to learning. Below is a brief summary of each committee's accomplishments.

Climate Committee:

- Healthy snack announcements advertised daily on classroom TV screens prior to morning announcements.
- Books related to health and fitness are located in the Media Center.
- School wide vegetable/flower garden will be growing again this spring!
- "Got Milk" nutritional program has been implemented and the number of students drinking white milk is continuing to increase by "leaps and bounds!"

Reading Committee:

- Books have been ordered to increase collection in leveled book room for each grade level.
- All certified staff have completed the Daily 5 professional development for literacy instruction

Community Committee:

- K-5 grade level Parent Resource Center binders located in the Media center.
- Each binder is divided into five different categories: General Information, Expectations, Objectives, Grading, and Writing Samples.

Writing Committee

- Implemented school-wide resource packet and staff development by Occupational therapist on the Shared drive. Resources were also shared during PLTs.

- Continued use of Thinking Maps graphic organizers within writers' workshop.
- Classroom walkthrough checklists to demonstrate the use of Words Their Way, Lucy Calkins, and Thinking Maps.

Math Committee

- Teacher-led Math Enrichment activities were held on Feb. 11 (early release day.) Each session was 20 minutes with teacher and teacher assistants' participation. Some sessions offered were Singapore Math, Touch Math, AG Math Extensions, and Strategic Math Series.



TRACK OUT ACADEMY PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

You're invited to find out how you can help your child prepare for EOGs.

March 9, 2011 – 5:30-6:30 pm

March 11, 2011 – 9:30-10:30 am

HGES Rm # 2309

RSVP to: kking@wcpss.net

Sample Tests!



Dining for Technology is scheduled for **March 9th from 5-8 pm** at **Chick-fil-a in Holly Springs**. Please come out and show your support for your school. All profits will go towards document cameras for our classrooms.

Thank you to all that came out and supported January's Dining for Technology night at **All Aboard Pizzeria**. We raised \$341.82. Way to go Hedgehogs!!! Thank you, All Aboard, for your generosity and support!

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2010-11 PTA Meetings

Our next general PTA Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 27th at 6:30 pm. Please come out and learn how to get involved.

- May 17th - 6:30 pm
- June 21st - 6:30 pm



NO FRILLS NEWS

Congratulations to *Ms. Huber's 4th graders!* They are the winning class for the month of January, turning in 671 No Frills items! AWESOME! Not far behind were *Ms. Hale's* class with 648 items, *Ms. Bailey's* 2nd grade class with 343 items, and *Ms. Lacasse's* class with 255.

SCHOOL STORE:

The School Store will be open Tuesday, March 8th and Thursday, March 10th from 8:45-9:15 am. Parents, be sure to label your child's money...we don't want them to use their money intended for lunch.



A big THANK YOU to all our parents who were able to donate items to the Chocolate Day for our teachers. Your treats were so appreciated and enjoyed!

DATES TO REMEMBER



EARLY RELEASE DAYS (1:15 pm)

- March 4
- April 1
- Friday, March 4 - Jump Rope for Heart Money Due (Track 1)
- Wednesday, March 9 - Track Out Academy Parents' Night Out - 5:30-6:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 9 - Dining for Technology at Holly Springs Chick-fil-A 5-8 pm
- Friday, March 11 - Track Out Academy Parents' Night Out - 9:30-10:30 am
- Friday, March 11 - Jump Rope for Heart Money Due (Tracks 2/3/4)
- Thursday, March 17 - Full Body & Class Pictures (Tracks 2/4)
- Thursday, March 24 - ASU Steely Pan Band
- Tuesday, March 29 - Mini Musical First Grade (Tracks 2/4)





The PTA would like to THANK YOU all for your support of another successful book fair! With your help we raised \$3656.93 for the media center. This money will be used to put more books into our library. A special "thank you" to all our helping hand heroes who helped our students during the book fair.



March is MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH and we have lots going on! Ask your child what they are doing in music class.

Ms. Echols, Ms. Evans, and Ms. Jackson's first grade classes presented "A Year with Frog and Toad" Tuesday night, March 1 in the multipurpose room. The **Bejani family** from our school played their string instruments on the program also. Ms. Gifford, Ms. Lacasse, and Ms. Murray will present the same program Tuesday night, March 29. The Hedgehogs in Harmony and Faculty Chorus will sing that evening also.

Taylor Corrigan, Benjamin Edwards, Carter Favreau, Joshua Longoria, and Breanna Schnitzlein participated in All County Elementary Chorus Friday night and the concert was on Saturday, February 26. The event was conducted by **Andy Beck**, the composer who wrote most of the concert music. Our students represented our school well!

The Hedgehogs in Harmony will participate in the Raleigh Fine Arts Society Elementary Choral Festival Wednesday evening, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. in Meymandi Concert Hall in Raleigh. They should be in the main level lobby near the escalators at 5:30 p.m. They will wear their Hedgehogs in Harmony t-shirts and khaki slacks. They have a rehearsal in Meymandi Concert Hall, Monday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m. Parents are to meet in the main level lobby near the escalators no later than 4:15 p.m. They are welcome to stay for the rehearsal which will only last 10 minutes once our group gets on the stage.

The Appalachian State University Steely Pan Band will present a concert for us Thursday, March 24, 2:20-3:20 p.m. in the multipurpose room of Holly Grove MIDDLE School. Field trip permission slips will be going home in Tuesday fold-

ers and they must be signed and returned for your child to walk over to the middle school for the program. If you are Track 1, you are welcome to come to the concert and bring your child. This concert is funded primarily by the proceeds from the Barnes & Noble bookfair we had back in November and the PTA graciously provided some funding also. Thank you for your support!

Before they track out in March all students will have an opportunity to work in their music class on Groovy Music, a computer program that allows students to progress at a pace that works best for them. We are grateful for the laptop cart and for those who funded Mrs. Dickens' grant last year to purchase this program. Ask your child what they are learning!

*Claudia J. Dickens,
Music Specialist*



Staff Luncheon: April 1st at 1:30 p.m.

This year, we are going to have our Staff Appreciation Luncheon on the last early release day of the school year. This way all our staff can enjoy a nice hot lunch. Please help us out by donating a **MEXICAN-THEMED** dish for our luncheon.

Kindergarten - Main Dish
2nd Grade - Side
4th Grade - Desserts

1st Grade - Main Dish
3rd Grade - Side
5th Grade - Drinks



Please take a minute to fill out the form below and return to the PTA mailbox, so that we can be sure that we have enough food.

Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Grade: _____ Item being Donated: _____

If you have any questions please contact Tracy Edick at 741-3555 or hgptafundraising@yahoo.com.



Happenings in Our Professional Learning Team Meetings - Jan/Feb

Kindergarten - January 26

- Ladibug Document Camera Training (meet in Ms. Dell's classroom).
- Discuss K Literacy Feedback from survey (Literacy Department).

February 2

- Kid Talk (Tracks 2 & 4).
- Provide updates on students (Track 4) that were discussed prior to tracking out.
- Discuss afternoon kindergarten intervention group with Mrs. Holmes.

February 9

- Reorganize reader's workshop groups to reflect recent student growth and (Track 3) students.
- Estimate Words Their Way materials needed for the next school year. Mrs. Drake needs this information for ordering materials.
- Obtain grade level consensus on the reading levels of new books for classroom libraries. Bring Starfall book collection, if you have not already added it to your classroom library.

February 16

- Further discuss the organization of Reader's Workshop for the fourth quarter and next school year. What is working? What needs improvement? Pros and cons?
- Begin drafting the schedule of CAFÉ strategies for the fourth quarter.
- Discuss the guided reading information sent from Mrs. Drake and any ideas we would like to implement.

First Grade - January 26

- Kid Talk.

February 2

- Discuss Mrs. Drake's scaffolding article.
- Update PLT Calendar.

February 9

- Complete Writing Committee survey.
- Discuss writing program (Write from the Beginning).

February 16

- Complete EasiPEPs on needed students.

Second Grade - January 26

- Complete Literacy Feedback Survey for 2011.
- Create PEPs.

February 2

- Discuss PEPs.
- Work on ordering biographies.

February 9

- Look at Quick Quizzes for math goal-fixing standards.
- Discuss who/what for math groups in the morning.

February 16

- Look at Quick Quizzes for math goal-fixing standards.
- Discuss who/what for math groups in the morning.
- Review math committee update.
- Discuss EasiPEPs.

Third Grade - January 26

- Review leadership notes.

February 2

- Complete PEPs.

February 9

- Kid Talk.

February 16

- Introduce voice thread (bring laptops).

Fourth Grade - January 26

- Discuss team time planning and reading club.

February 2

- Discuss Benchmark testing guidelines.
- Score Content Writing Piece.
- Discuss Writing Committee questions.

February 9

- Discuss committee survey, intervention planning, benchmark assessments, and Read Across America.

February 16

- Check writing scoring (on program)/On Demand Writing.
- Review math committee information.
- Discuss Read Across America.
- Discuss team time.
- Kid Talk.

Fifth Grade - January 26

- Decide how to best utilize Study Island.

February 2

- Regroup the classes for team time.
- Discuss what group we will have for team time and focus.
- Discuss the SMART goal for this quarter.
- Kid Talk.

February 9

- Discuss student concerns/strategies:
 - Area(s) of concern?/ Data available?/Strategies using or used last year?/and Background information?

February 16

- Review book for PLT.
- Discuss Unique Learning System Workshop.
- Review different technology to assist with instruction.

Special Programs - January 26

- Discuss UDL website.
- Mrs. Batten will share ideas from Conscious Discipline Workshop.
- Discuss ideas that work.
- Discuss trouble issues.

February 2

- Discuss student transition from track out/IEP progress.
- Review February Unique Learning Site.
- Discuss ideas that are working/Book Ideas.
- Discuss trouble issues.
- Discuss questions/concerns about EasyIEP that have not been resolved.

February 9

- Discuss scheduling concerns with the growing number of children being acquired.
- Re-arrange schedule with Track (2) out and Track (3) returning.
- Kid Talk: evaluations/referrals update, schedule meetings for August, and discuss additional time to help new and kindergarten students during the day.
- Discuss additional concerns.

February 16

- Review book for PLT.
- Discuss Unique Learning System Workshop.
- Review different technology to assist with instruction.

Specialists - January 26

- Share information about other County PLTs and how they operate and Mrs. Thomas' position on our SMART Goal.
- Discuss where do we want to go as a team?
- Review Smart Goal and revise as deemed necessary in light of prior discussion: SMART Goal from last meeting. By the end of May: *we will have read and discussed Ron Clark's The Essential 55, *student engagement in instruction will increase from 75% to 90% as measured by teacher implementation of our PLT's top 10 essentials, *increase instructional time, and a larger percentage of students actively participating in the learning process.
- Review Ron Clark's movie.

February 2

- Discuss 3rd Quarter Calendar: Set chapters, facilitator, and recorder.
- Discuss The Essential 55 (Rules 1-5).

February 9

- Discuss The Essential 55 (Rules 6-10).
- Discuss changing the schedule for In-formance practices in late Feb/ early March.

February 16

- Review and discuss The Essential 55 (Rules 11-15).

Teacher Assistants - February 11 (monthly meeting)

- Mrs. Drake (Daily Five Presentation).