



Where Excellence Is Our Focus

From Our Principal

Dear Hillandale Families!

It is a very good year! Hillandale teachers and students are working hard to take advantage of every moment. We have a long list of objectives we want to meet. The teachers are working in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to design ways to meet the needs of all our children.

You can continue to support your child's progress in school by making sure there is a quiet time and place for nightly homework. If there is no homework assigned, make sure your child takes time to read and write every day. This is a great time of the year for children to spend time writing to family and friends with cards of greetings and celebration. Homemade

cards and letters are especially appreciated.

Please be in contact with your child's teacher to get a list of "things to do" during the upcoming winter break. There should be suggestions for great titles of books, letters to write, journals to keep, web sites to visit, photos to analyze, walks to take, and conversations to take place. Breaks from school are perfect times for parents to reinforce the learning that is happening at school.

Thank you all for your time, kind words and other gestures of support to me, the staff, and (most importantly) our children.

Happy Holidays!

~Sandi Bates, Principal



Hillandale Read-A-Thon Is Back!

Please mark your calendars now to participate in the Hillandale Read-A-Thon on Friday, January 23rd. More details to come in January. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Shelley Turkington (382-2894, sturkington@nc.rr.com).



Lost and Found



The Lost and Found box located in the office is overflowing. Please check the box for lost lunch boxes, coats, shirts, books and more!

All items not retrieved by December 19, will be donated. Thanks!



Year-End Donations

The best way to help support the Hillandale PTA's budget is through your TAX-DEDUCTIBLE contributions. One-hundred percent goes directly toward supporting our school.

If your employer offers a matching gift program, your donation is multiplied.

The PTA will provide a receipt upon request. Checks should be made out to "Hillandale PTA," with "donation" on the memo line, and sent to the attention of the PTA Treasurer. Envelopes can be mailed to the school or sent via your child's teacher. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

BULLETIN BOARD



A gift for you and a gift for your school.

Celebrate the holidays this year with extra savings from the Box Tops Marketplace! For a limited time, not only can you earn cash for your school with every Marketplace purchase, but you'll also find great deals & discounts for popular online stores such as Lands End, Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Barnes & Noble.

Just go to btfe.com/marketplace/hollydeals. With new deals updated throughout the holiday season, it's a gift for you and a gift for your school at the same time!

Mark Your Calendar

Dining for Dollars

Enjoy a fun meal out with your family and support the Hillandale PTA.

January 13 Pomodoro Italian Kitchen

February 17 Little Caesars

March 11 Chik-fil-A

Use Good Search and Earn Free Money to Support Our School!

- Goodsearch.com is a search engine that donates money to schools and charitable organizations. When you use goodsearch.com instead of other search engines, they will donate \$0.01 for every search. The first time you use it, you need to type Hillandale Elementary School in the organization space. After the first time, Hillandale will automatically pop up as your chosen organization. The more people use GoodSearch, the more money will be directed towards Hillandale. The sky is the limit!
- PLEASE use goodsearch.com as your first search engine choice.



For all the latest news and information visit:

www.hillandalepta.com

Congratulations to Ms. Katie Turner and Ms. Luann Beauman who recently earned their National Board Certification. Ms. Turner is a kindergarten teacher and Ms. Beauman teaches our children with exceptionalities. Accomplishing National Board Certification is a high distinction and includes an intensive year of compiling a professional portfolio, self-evaluation, peer review and examination.

7:00 PM February 10

General PTA Meeting

Come celebrate our PTA Reflections Participants!

Hillandale Offers Monthly ELS Parent Workshops

Hillandale Elementary School is excited about our monthly K-1 ESL Parent Workshops, which began on September 6 and will continue through April 7, 2009. Our last meeting was very successful in that we had representation from the following ethnicities: Hispanic, Indian (Malayalam) Vietnamese and Hungarian.

Light refreshment was served at 6:15 p.m. A total of 11 Families were in attendance. Topics addressed and presenters were:

- Concepts of Print – **Ms. Andrews**, Kindergarten, and
- Phonetic Writing - **Ms. Paradzinski**, First Grade.

ESL teachers present were Mrs. Lake and Mrs. Loewenthal. Interpreters were: Mercedes McCurley (Interpreter, DPS) and Parent Volunteer **Ms. Bertha Scull**. Childcare volunteers were: **Mrs. Tina Byrd** and **Krysta Byrd**.

The meeting is from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The venue

is room C7. Childcare is provided in room C8, and Parents of first grade students go to room C5 when the large group splits up for the lecture.

The lecture is from 6:45 -7:10 p.m. Thereafter, the children rejoin the parents for 15 minutes. The parents can then practice what they learned with their kids. Time is allowed for questions. The meeting comes to an end promptly at 7:30 p.m.

We hope that the numbers will grow steadily. Thanks to our Administrators Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Bailey who allowed us the opportunity to empower parents. Surely our students are on the road to academic achievement.

Ms. E. Lake, ESL Teacher
Hillandale Elementary School



Math Moments – December, 2008

Personal Financial Literacy



The season of giving is upon us and for many families, this year is not the year to be spending lots of money. In these times of multi-billion dollar bailouts and record home foreclosures, many of us are wondering how we will make ends meet. As a nation, we have seen the price of gasoline drop dramatically, in part, because we decided to conserve. Perhaps the current financial crisis will be the push we all need to get our personal finances in order.

This has to include our children. In past years, the holiday wish list was long and wrapped packages were plentiful. This year, things may look quite different. Our children need to know that it is okay to have wishes, and it is also okay to not receive everything our hearts desire. Prioritizing, budgeting, shopping wisely, and saving can all make a huge difference in what the holidays become both now and in the future.

Regardless of the holiday you celebrate, you might want to establish a new tradition with the days leading up to your holiday being a time to focus on others who are in need. Then on December 26, when the sales really take off, you have a great family outing and help your children see that 50 percent off merchandise enabled them to get two new sweaters instead of the one that they could have had if they had paid full price. Looking through the clearance racks can be another amazing way of stretching that dollar. A friend recently was able to purchase over \$1100 of gift clothing for just over \$300 by checking the clearance racks!

You also want to check out the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website. When you type in "Personal Financial Literacy," you'll find links to lots of information that can be adapted to begin the process of helping your child become wise managers of their finances. Also go to www.goodsearch.com, sign in for Hillandale Elementary and the search for personal finances for children. You'll be helping Hillandale and finding great material to use with your children. Have a meaningful holiday!

Media Minutes

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Please keep your Hillandale library books in your book bag over the holidays. Take them out to read and then return them to your book bag. That way, you'll be ready to return them to the Media Center and checkout new books when you return in January. It is really sad to see a child return after the holiday without their books, only to find that it was left behind at Grandma's, the airport, in a hotel room or thrown away in a cleaning frenzy. Please help us help your child have a tearless return.

Here's a New Year's Resolution: Library book care is a great way for children to practice responsibility. By learning to keep their library books in a safe place and to return them on time and in good condition, they are being trained to be responsible individuals. School library book care can prepare them for future responsibilities with deadlines, which might include late fees like public library books and later bills that need to be paid on time. Should one of the Media Center books become lost or damaged, please take care of it as soon as possible, so your child can benefit from the lesson in book care. It will really help them. I love to see entire classes of students able to checkout with no one having an overdue book. Each child happily picking out a special book or books that he/she is interested in reading is an exciting experience for both of us. Thank you for your support.

Many rounds of applause for helping out in the Media Center: **Michelle Heffley** has enthusiastically started labeling the Realistic Fiction books. We created our own labels, and she is locating and attaching them to the books. This is going to make it a lot easier for the students and teachers to quickly find realistic fiction books when they need them. Each week the 3rd grade has a different genre to study, and the 4th and 5th graders are also doing genre

studies. **Ann Emery** and **Wilma Stanley** came in and spent some time re-shelving library books. Anyone who has spare time, feel free to stop in and re-shelve books, or help with display and "bulletin board" ideas. We'd love to have you.

Media Classes: For most of the classes, we have been working on learning about the three major winter holidays: Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Las Posadas celebrations in Mexico has been added with some classes. We are comparing the holidays' similarities and differences. The upper

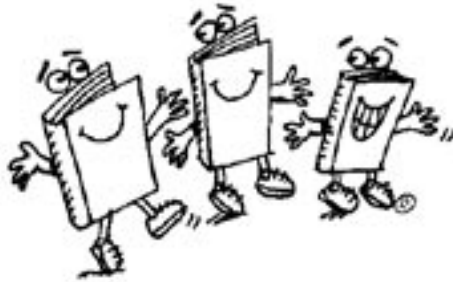
grades have also had a "round robin" experience in reading as many of the North Carolina Children's Book Award nominees as possible. (The school will be voting in March for the favorite book in the picture and junior categories, and I wanted them to be able to read as many as possible before the

books are scattered through the school having been checked out.)

The Big 6 problem solving strategy worked pretty well with 4th and 5th graders creating Thanksgiving menus and the necessary grocery lists to prepare a meal for six people with \$30 to spend. They used grocery ads to select their items and calculated subtotals and grand totals. Several groups also learned why the grocery list needs to be divided by store; to save time and gas. All in all, I think they had a good time, and now they'll be able to help you create grocery lists.

CHARGE!

In January, when we get back from winter holidays break, the sign-up for CHARGE! will go out. The CHARGE! 4/5th grade group will be reading *Each Little Bird That Sings* by Deborah Wiles. The CHARGE! 2/3rd grade group will be reading *A Fine Start: Meg's Prairie Diary* by Kate McMullan. The discussion groups will meet in mid-February.
~Mrs. Norma Stanley-Gibby



End the Year on a Good Note -- Join the PTA

As our children and teachers move forward with their accomplishments, we show our children we support their efforts by advocating for and participating in their education. The Parent Teacher Association is one of our ways to show we stand right beside our children and teachers. By becoming a member of the Hillandale PTA, you are also a member of the National and State PTA.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the PTA, it's not too late, just complete the section below and send it in with your child. The fee is \$5 per member.

Your names/name

E-mail address

Phone Number

Child/children's names

Teacher/Grade

Amount enclosed

Number of members

Thanks to all of you who help support our children and teachers!



DPS Newsletters Keep Parents Informed

Durham Public Schools produces a variety of online newsletters to keep the public informed. Parents and community members

may subscribe to any or all of these. You may subscribe to receive any or all of these services by registering online at: www.dpsnc.net/news/Newsletters/newsletter-sign-up.

Parent EdLink

Features on school activities, in-depth articles concerning district initiatives and highlights of upcoming events of interest to parents all are included.

Emergency Parental Notification

Learn about school delays or closings due to weather

or other emergencies via email with the DPS Emergency Weather Alert. Morning, noon or night--this alert is among the fastest ways to get this news.

Community EdLink

Highlights some of the many ways that DPS partners support our schools. Updates on key DPS initiatives, invitations to education events, and articles on ways to be more involved are featured.

Key Communicators

Signing up for the Key Communicator email network is a great new way to keep up-to-date on all that is happening in DPS. Key Communicators will be among the first to hear about school news.

Hillandale Staff Present at National Conference

Sandi Bates and mentor Beverly Jarrell were among a team of five Durham Public Schools educators to present at the 40th Annual National Conference for staff developers and new teacher induction professionals in early December.

The team shared strategies to help other educators from around the country form effective relationships among colleagues. The session focused on creating strong classrooms that encourage students to progress at their highest level.

Other DPS team members were Fred Williams, Andrew Sioberg and Emmett Tilley.

Box Tops: The Box Tops Marketplace allows you to earn cash for your school when you shop online. Start at the Box Tops Marketplace at boxtops4education.com. Click on the link to any one of the more than 70 favorite online stores; you'll be automatically sent to that store's web site. Shop and check out as you normally would and a portion of your qualifying purchase is donated to Hillandale.



Winter Contest: While doing your in-store holiday shopping, please look for Boxtops brands and Campbell's brands for their coupons and UPCs. Save them up, and send them in to your student's classroom in January marked with their teacher's name for our winter contest! Thanks for your participation in these valuable programs. They help provide much needed supplies for our school and classrooms.

Hillandale Elementary School
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Sandi Bates - Principal
Gloria Bailey - Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

- December 22-31 Winter Holiday
- January 1..... New Year's Day Holiday
- January 2 Student Vacation Day (snow make-up day)
- January 6 PTA Board meeting
- January 13..... Pomodoro Italian Kitchen Dining For Dollars
- January 16..... End of second nine-week grading period
- January 19..... Martin Luther King Holiday
- January 20..... Student Vacation Day
- January 23 Read-a-thon
- February 3..... PTA Board meeting
- February 10..... General PTA meeting
- February 11 PLC Early Release Day
- February 16..... Student Vacation Day (snow make-up day)
- February 17 Little Caesar's Dining for Dollars
- March 3..... PTA Board Meeting
- March 10 General PTA Meeting
- March 18 PLC Early Release Day
- March 26..... End of third nine-week grading period
- March 27..... Student Vacation Day

2008 - 2009 PTA Executive Committee

- **Lynette Coyne, President**
lynette@seaturtle.org
- **Linda Garrett, Vice President**
deedeeburd@msn.com
- **Mollie Tompkins, Secretary**
mollie.tompkins@duke.edu
- **Linda Walters, Treasurer**
linda.walters@durham.ppdi.com
- **Julie Reo, President-Elect**
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