



Where Excellence Is Our Focus

Dear Hillandale Families:

Thank you so much for the support you have given me throughout the school year. It has been a privilege to serve as your PTA president. I am ready to step down and pass the gavel on to Julie Reo. I am confident she will do a fabulous job! Please continue to offer her the support you have given me!

I want to remind everyone there are still open positions that need to be filled on next year's PTA Board. I cannot express enough how rewarding it is to be involved with the board. In addition to knowing the work I do benefits the school, my children stand taller just seeing Mom (and Dad too) helping out at school. They see by our actions that we truly and deeply value their education.

Plus, the Board is a fun group of people and a pleasure to work with! I could not have survived this year without the creativity, dedication and humor supplied by my fellow members of the board! Many thanks to each and every one of them!!

I am not going anywhere, just no longer in charge. So I look forward to seeing everyone at school and at future school-related events.

Sincerely,

Lynette Coyne, PTA President, 2008 – 2009

Hello Hillandale Families:

On Saturday, May 2 a good time was had by all at our Annual Spring Fling! It was a terrific day that wouldn't have been possible without your support and the tremendous efforts of many volunteers. From the Silent Auction, to the many vendors, to the blow-ups and all of the games, it was truly a special day and a great team effort that allowed us to raise much needed funds for the PTA. Thanks to all of the volunteers that made Spring Fling a great success!!

Cathy Moser, Spring Fling Chair



State and Local Budget Cuts May Mean Fewer DPS Teachers

Because of budget shortfalls, state and county lawmakers plans to cut more than 300 classroom positions from Durham County Schools next year (see addendum). These cuts will directly impact Hillandale Elementary School. Additionally, the lawmakers are cutting teacher pay and increasing the cost of their health benefits. This information has teachers, parents and students upset!



Former and current Hillandale students recently spoke to the DPS Board of Education at a public hearing regarding the budget. Their messages were followed by letters to the Board of Education and to the Herald Sun (students' speeches and letters can be accessed at the PTA website: www.hillandalepta.com). A few of the concerns addressed were:

From Priscilla Garrett, 6th Grade, Brogden Middle School: "I don't think it would be fair for DPS to cut teachers' jobs because I think it will decrease teaching quality on top of adding children to already crowded classes. That's unfair!"

From Shirley Garrett, 5th Grade, Hillandale Elementary School: "It affects the teachers because they might lose the job that they are getting money for and it affects the students because they might lose their teachers that were teaching them a quality education... With these cutbacks, can you promise me a quality education?"

From Isabel Coyne, 3rd Grade, Hillandale Elementary School: "We already have 26 children in my class, and it feels like it's overflowing. If there are more children in our classroom, the teachers will

BULLETIN BOARD

Save Capri Sun Pouches and Earn Money for Hillandale

Hillandale has signed up with Capri Sun to receive \$.02 per pouch collected. Please save all of your empty Capri Sun pouches; drop them off at the Hillandale Office, and we'll do the rest. Summer is a time when Capri Sun is purchased for outings, trips and days at the pool. Please don't throw those empty pouches away. We are trying to earn money without doing any sales. Thank you for your help and support!



Important Test Dates

June 1-5: EOG Retest for students who scored below a Level 3
 June 5: Fifth Grade EOG Science retest for students who scored below a Level 3



Earn easy, free money for Hillandale: use www.goodsearch.com for your next Internet search.

Special Media Center dates:

May 29th is the last Media class date.

May 29th ALL Student books are DUE.

If your child has lost or damaged books, please pay for them as soon as possible. After May 22nd, lost/damaged book fees will need to be cash or money order. Please make sure that your child's account is cleared with either the returned book(s) or payment. **Frozen treats will be given to the first classes with ALL BOOKS RETURNED.**

Register for Kindergarten NOW!

If you know anyone who is planning to have a kindergartener at Hillandale next year, please encourage them to get the paperwork done now. The more children who register early, the better we can plan for next year. Our budget can be impacted when folks wait until the last minute. The sooner the better....get the word out! Thanks!



Keep clipping those Box Tops and Campbell's Labels! Look for participating products while shopping.

Please remember in the fall you will need to relink your grocery cards to Food Lion, Harris Teeter, and Kroger for our school to receive free cash and school items through these store programs.



Thank You 2008 - 2009 PTA Executive Committee

- Lynette Coyne, President
lynette@seaturtle.org
- Linda Garrett, Vice President
deedeeburd@msn.com
- Linda Walters, Treasurer
linda.walters@durham.ppdi.com
- Julie Reo, President-Elect
jreo@nc.rr.com

A Silent Auction Thank you!

Thank you to all the Hillandale families, friends, neighbors, teachers and staff who came out to make this year's Spring Fling and Silent Auction an amazing success! The sounds of children squealing with delight



and singing in beautiful harmony could be heard in the auction room above the murmurs of people jokingly working to out bid each other. With over 325

items available to bid on, there was something for everyone, including the kids. Even in these tough economic times, businesses and individuals were happy to donate things to support our children, our future! While we do not have any final numbers yet, we know we did very well. We were successful in raising money necessary to support our children and our teachers.

The Silent Auction would not have been possible without the tireless volunteers who solicited donations, made baskets, set-up, monitored the auction, collected payments, and cleaned-up, along with many other tasks! The Grade Parents who helped select themes for baskets, gathered the necessary items and put them together were also indispensable to the success of the auction.

We are very lucky to have such great support from our families and the Hillandale staff!

-Meg Yarborough

Spring Fling Silent Auction Chair

In Memory:

The beautiful American Girl Handmade outfits were given by Mr. Chris Westerfeldt, on behalf of his son, Ben Westerfeldt, 5th grade. These beautiful outfits were donated in loving memory of Mrs. Lisa Westerfeldt, who passed away last summer. The Westerfeld Family has had close ties to Hillandale with their three children attending Hillandale during their entire elementary years.

We are continually reminded of Mrs. Westerfeldt's unfaltering commitment, dedication and volunteerism to the children at Hillandale. She tirelessly extended her helping hands and thoughtful donations to each and every school and classroom event.

These articles were priceless, made uniquely with tried, true, loving and capable hands.

Special Thanks to our Business Donors! Please support these business locations in your future purchases.*

Mark Jacobson Toyota
Kurtz & Blum, P.L.L.C
Barnes & Noble
Sloan's Book Store
Regulator Book Store
Marsh Heating and Air
Wilson's Lawn and Garden
Blockbuster
Learning Express
seaturtle.org
Staples
Merchant's Tire & Auto Center
Bunkey's of Durham – T.C. Anderson's Total Car Appearance Center
Hillandale Athletic Association, Inc
Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Team
Wet 'n Wild
North Carolina Museum of Life and Science
Marbles Kids Museum
Carolina Ballet
North Carolina Museum of Art
Durham Bulls
Croasdaile Country Club, Inc.
Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club
The Carolina Inn
Carolina Ale House
Mimi's Café
Honey Baked Ham
Brueggers Bagels
Meelo's Restaurant
Subway (Chapel Hill)
P.F. Chang's China Bristo
Front Street Café
Broad Street Café
Pomodoro's Italian Restaurant
Red Robin
Carver Street Animal Hospital
Westside Animal Hospital
Millennium Sports Club
Amanda Lee, Massage Therapist
Jill Rhew, Stylist at Stage One Salon
Cynthia, Stylist & Orlando, Nail Technician at Stage One Salon
Laurie LaBean, Massage Therapist from Duke Faculty Club
Jude Roman, Acupuncturist
Creative Memories Consultant – Cheryle Tackas
Woman Craft
Mother Nature Mosaics by Jeannette Brossart
Jewels of a Princess by Gerri Odum

*this list does not include all the individual people, teachers or classroom baskets! We believe those are just as important!

All Around Hillandale

Second Grade

All second graders attended a Durham Bulls baseball game Wednesday, April 29th. This day game was a designated "Education Day," highlighting schools who attended. In the spirit of true baseball fans, our



students enjoyed a hotdog lunch and a great game of baseball. Even though the Bulls didn't



win, fun was had by all! What a great way to celebrate our school year and support our local baseball team!
~Julie Keeton, Second Grade Teacher & Team Leader

Third Grade

Mrs. Bryan recently submitted a project proposal to DonorsChoose.org requesting funding to purchase class sets (25 copies) of three novels: *Danny, the Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl, *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder, and *Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume. The project was fully funded, providing \$610 worth of new books. The books will be shared by all 3rd grade classes, offering a good variety of genres and reading levels for our students.

DonorsChoose.org is a simple way to provide students with needed resources. At this web site, teachers submit project proposals for materials or experiences their students need to learn. These ideas become classroom reality when concerned individuals, called Citizen Philanthropists, choose projects to fund. If you are interested in becoming a Citizen Philanthropist, you can search projects on DonorsChoose.org that are specifically for Hillandale. The process for making donations is very simple and secure. If there are no projects for Hillandale currently active, check back often. Many teachers at Hillandale will be using this resource in the near future!

~Luann Bryan, 3rd grade teacher

ESL Parent Meetings

Our ESL Parent Meetings for the 2008-2009 school year have come to a close. School representatives imparted helpful information to parents on topics

focused in the classroom. This helped the parents to better assist their children with their homework. They were also



encouraged to

read with their children on a daily basis. Parents and children really benefitted from this.

Our principal, Mrs. Bates, encouraged parents to continue with the program in the next school year. Thanks to you Mrs. Bates. Thanks teachers for the wonderful work you did. We thank all the parents who participated, especially Ms. Monica Morales, Ms. Angela Ortiz, Ms. Vilma Rodriguez, Ms. Lorena Martinez, Ms. Nora Jimenez, Mr. Binh Phan and Mr. Kevin Doan. Also thank you to our volunteers, Krysta Byrd, Berta Scull and Mercedes McCurley. Thanks to all who worked to make this program a success!

~Liz Lake, ESL teacher

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students participated in *Elementary Battle of the Books*, a competition in which students read 12 books and compete against other teams from across the county. The team members for Hillandale were Elena Storelli, Te'Azsa Dash, Dalijah Daley, Jonathan Chacko, Maryori Giron, Jack Brigman, Jacob Freeman, Joshua Pott, Tofunmi Olaley, John Haase, and Steve Alanis. Congratulations for their hard work, sportsmanship, team spirit and the many hours of reading and practice.

~Lynda Summerlin, AIG Facilitator



Congratulations to all of our 5th Graders. Best of luck as you move on to Middle School. We are proud of you!

Hillandale Students Make a Great Showing at Special Olympics

Hillandale students showed their Hurricane Pride when they competed in the Special Olympics last month on the Campus of Durham Academy. Daivanta Cates, Christian Corley, Rock Fuller, Treon Gagum, Aysha Guy, Shakel Hannah-Curry, Du Juan Jones, Jovonte Jones, Tatiana Jones, Elliot Kuehn, Shannon Lawrence, Derek Lindsay, William Martinez, April Massey-Stringfield,



Mikayla Meadows, Tariq Muhammad, Delquanta Robinson, Anthony Sanches Lopez, Noah Shakur, Jhon Stewart, Graham Waters, Lawson



Waters, Shakiera Williams and Miana Wise spent the day competing in a variety of athletic events. Each child returned to school donning ribbons of blue, red, yellow and white. Congratulations students. You make us all proud.

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have to spend even more time working on things like keeping us from talking, so there will be even less time for teaching!"

From Hillandale parent and PTA President Lynette Coyne: "One concern is the increased student/teacher ratios.... While hounding our teachers and children with excessive testing and insisting that they show improvement, we're making the singular cut that research shows will have a negative effect. Tennessee's Project STAR (Student/Teacher Achievement Ratio) clearly demonstrated that fewer students per teacher significantly improved academic achievement. Rates of student misconduct, crime, and vandalism are significantly lower in schools with lower student/teacher ratios....

In the meantime, DPS spends far too much time, money and effort on needless testing. Benchmark tests are not state mandated, they take up a substantial amount of the budget, and they take time away from actual teaching. As a parent, I believe that keeping teachers in the classroom is far more important and far more likely to lead us to academic success. If we're looking for an area to cut, benchmarks should be at the top of the list. Currently the budget shows cuts in textbooks, student remediation, staff development, and technology, but no cuts in the overzealous amount of testing. Let's rearrange our priorities!"

A message from the DPS Office of Public Affairs states: "These are extraordinary times, but we are committed to maintaining core instructional programs with minimal impact on schools and students."

That statement does not reflect the reality of this proposed budget. These cuts will have a huge impact on schools and students. Tough choices are indeed required. But we must fight for the best interest of the children because, in the long run, their education is in our best interest.

Addendum:

The total anticipated 2009-10 budget reduction to date, when taking into consideration required state and local budget cuts is \$17.8 million. The required reduction in state and local funding will result in the reduction of at least 377 positions.

The recommended breakdown would be: 40 central services support positions, \$2 million, 98 instructional staff positions, \$4.9 million, 128 positions due to increase in student/teacher ratios, \$6.5 million, 81 teacher assistant positions, \$2.2 million. Redirecting 30 positions to federal stimulus funding, \$1.5 million. Reduction of staff development and supplies, \$0.7 million.

Additional reductions include:

- \$1 million in state funding for student remediation
- \$823,000 in state funding for textbooks
- \$450,000 in both state and local funding for staff development
- \$345,000 in state funding for technology

First Grade Annual Fairy Tale Ball



Join the Fun and Games

Annual Field Day May 29

Field Day is scheduled for May 29 with a rain make-up for June 1 if there are plenty of volunteers who can commit to helping. We need parent volunteers to teach the game stations like tug-a-war, sack races, etc.. This is an exciting and fun day for all Hillandale students. Please wear your shorts, tennis-shoes, and bring a water bottle and help make this day possible for the children.



If you have not signed up yet, please contact Ms. Lord at 560-3924 or at melissa.lord@dpsnc.net. Mark your calendar for these dates/times. Thanks for all your help. Please come join the fun and games.

May 29 (K-2) Volunteers arrive in gym by 9:15 a.m. (In case of poor weather call the school the morning of the event to confirm a cancellation.) **(Grade 3-5) Volunteers** arrive in gym by 12:00 p.m.

June 1 (Rain make-up) Same time.

Wonderful Time Had by All for Teacher Appreciation Week

Another great end to another great year! Thanks to everyone for all of the help and desserts and drinks that were contributed for the Teacher Appreciation Week Luncheon. Everything was beautiful. A special thank you to Pomodoro's for catering the luncheon. I have heard nothing but praise about all of the food. All the staff was very appreciative for the generosity we, as parents, showed. I would like to thank those who donated the door prizes and the winners were: Luann Beauman, Beth Strayhorn, Eleanore Clark, Debbie Farmer, Betty Harris, Rhonda Lucas, Alyssa Sommers, Terri Ayers, Debbie Wilson, Crystal Houpe, Rebecca Smith, Amy Rafalow, Sheila Hill, Jessica Peck, Pat Capel, Brian Meadows and Sharon Tencer. Congratulations to everyone. We are looking forward to the next wonderful year at Hillandale Elementary.



~Mona Riggsbee, Hospitality Committee Chair

The 2009 – 2010 Hillandale PTA Board NEEDS YOU!!!

One of the many reasons that Hillandale is such a fabulous school is that we have such a strong PTA. However, the PTA depends on people like you to keep it running. The whole school benefits when parents pitch in. Plus, your child will have the distinct pride of knowing that his or her parent is a Very Important Person in the school!

2009-2010 Executive Committee

President: Julie Reo

VP: Available!!

Secretary: Meg Yarbrough

Treasurer: Linda Walters

It's time to start planning for the 2009 – 2010 school year. We will soon ask for volunteers to join our many committees, but we need to begin by having people in place ready to lead. No special skills are required, just the willingness to lend a hand! Each year these committees are led by busy folks, just like you! If you're nervous about taking something on, grab a friend and fill a position together! Also know that there are plenty of experienced folks on hand to give you support and guidance.

Positions that need to be filled are listed below. Please feel free to contact me (lynette@seaturtle.org) if you would like more details.

Thanks for your support,

Lynette Coyne, PTA President

I can help keep Hillandale great!! I would like to fill the following position (please check any that apply):

- Vice President
- A co-Chair for the Hike for Hillandale (we already have one)
- Financial Recording Secretary (assists the treasurer)
- Spring Fling Chair
- Gradeparents Chair
- Gardens Chair
- Nature Trail Co-Chair
- Marquee Changer
- Spiritwear Chair
- Special Projects co-chair
- Site-based committee representative / liaison to PTA

Other, please describe _____

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Media Minutes

This year is quickly coming to an end. It has been a very busy one, but a very enjoyable one for me. There has definitely been a lot of growth and maturing happening this year. We are striving for capable and independent life-long learners who are considerate and responsible as well. There are a lot of kids at Hillandale who have achieved this.

As the students in 5th grade graduate, it is also a rather bittersweet year for me. This is the year the kids I started with in Kindergarten graduate. I am proud to see their accomplishments, but I will miss them as they go on to middle school. I hope that all of the students at Hillandale have good memories of their time here and that each has found something special that encourages them to seek more information, knowledge and experience.

With the approaching end of the school year, I'd like to encourage you to take your children to the Durham County Public Library over the summer to get books and to spend time reading with them. Reading 15 minutes a day is one of the best ways to improve and keep from losing reading skills developed during the school year. Happy Reading!
-Ms. Stanley-Gibby

Media Classes:

Kindergarten created class books on "How do you take care of a dog?" using the Super 3 research strategy. Learning about author Jonathan London's Froggy character was even more fun after singing "Five Little Speckled Frogs" and jumping in the pond as we sang. We learned about four stages of the "Life Cycle of a Ladybug" and two ways to think about it. We practiced retelling "The Three Little Pigs" with puppets. Then read the Three Billy Goats Gruff, retold the story with a goat marionette, and the kids performed a play version.

1st grade were introduced to finding books using Destiny's visual search strategy. Classes researched "What does a Panda need to survive?" using the Super 3 strategy and created a class book. We created Venn diagrams about fish and frogs, and studied the life cycles of a butterfly. They will close out the year with fairy tale retellings, using masks and Reader's Theatre read-alouds.

2nd grade classes were introduced to Lois Lowry and

Upcoming Events

May 25	Memorial Day Holiday
May 26	Chorus performance
May 26-29.....	EOG Make-up
May 29	Field Day
June 2.....	PTA Board Meeting
June 10.....	Last Day of School (2 hours early)
August 20.....	Hillandale Open House
August 25	First Day of School

her character, Gooney Bird Greene, a second grader who tells absolutely true stories and loves to be in the middle of everything. Sound familiar? There are several books in her series, and it might encourage your child to create "absolutely true" stories too. We did research using the Super 3 strategy focusing on using indexes, creating a bibliography and the reason for it, and animal classification. Following that, we did a unit on the life cycle of a frog.



3rd grade classes have been using the Super 3 strategy to research animals. They focused on using note cards, bibliographies and the reasons for them, including classification and survival skill, as well as other information, working with others, and writing and presenting haiku poems. We evaluated the poems and some had insightful comments on how they did.

4th grade spent a lot of time experiencing last year's Caldecott award winner, Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. We read all 530 pages. The illustrations, an integral part, REALLY MADE the book. Having written various types of poetry in our poetry unit, the students read their poems or poems from a book, and the class determine the type of poem.

5th grade learned more about the Dewey Decimal system. They participated in a "Reader's Theatre" production of "I.M. Honest vs Cheatum A. Lot" about plagiarism and copyright violations. The classes are using the Big 6 strategy to research their US States and create brochures to encourage others to visit their states.