



## *Pursuing Excellence for Every Child*

### Spring is in the Air....

What would spring be without Spring Fling at Hillandale? Fortunately, we don't have to answer that question! With the help of many hands, we once again celebrated spring memorably with a fabulous event! Many thanks to Jessica Blackwell for organizing the event, and Jeanne Dellinger for coordinating the Silent Auction.

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 Silent Auction Committee would like to recognize the businesses, individuals, and restaurants that made donations to the auction this year. We couldn't have done it without you! Through the

*continued on page 3*

### Thank you All!

Thanks to all the Hillandale parents and friends who have extended your energy, resources and well wishes our way. You play a major role in our success. We are truly blessed by you.

~Mrs. Sandi Bates, Principal

*Come Join the Fun and Games*

### Field Day Volunteers Needed

It's Spring and time to volunteer for Field Day on May 28 (rain date June 1). This is a fun-filled day for children and adults! Please volunteer to assist with the games and activities. This event is not possible without you! To volunteer, email Ms. Lord, [melissa.lord@dpsnc.net](mailto:melissa.lord@dpsnc.net), or send a note to your homeroom teacher.



*Kindergarten - 2nd volunteers arrive in gym at 9:15 a.m.  
3rd -5th volunteers arrive in gym at 12:15 p.m.*

### From Our PTA President

The year is winding down, but we still have plenty of excitement and fun ahead! Be sure to check the calendar and website for year-end activities and programs. Our final PTA General Meeting (May 18) recognized the *Stories, Poems and Sketches* contributors! This was a special event, and we appreciate all of Mrs. James' efforts to organize this publication and the celebration!

Thank you to ALL of the volunteers who have made this year successful. We are fortunate to have such talented and committed families at Hillandale: teachers, staff, students, parents, grandparents, and community volunteers. Hillandale is truly a wonderful community, and I have been honored to serve as your PTA President this year.

It does take a village – or a community – to provide the best for our children. During this difficult recession and budget crunch, volunteers will be even more crucial. Teachers and resources will be stretched, but the children and their education remains a priority for us all.

The PTA is dedicated to assisting every teacher and enhancing the educational experience for every student. Please take a look at our website ([www.hillandalepta.com](http://www.hillandalepta.com)) for a list of committee chairs and volunteer positions. The PTA offers opportunities throughout the year to hike, create, read, learn, laugh and spend time with the children. Again, it is volunteers like you that make Hillandale the exceptional school that it is. Please consider how you can be a part of your child's educational experience! Speak with me, or any PTA member, for more information. Recruit a friend. We need new volunteers and future leaders – just like you!

~Julie Reo, President 2009-10

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### Hillandale Summer Office Hours

Hillandale's summer office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The office is not open Fridays. If you need to be at the building at any other time, please call the school at 560-3924.

# BULLETIN BOARD

## New Children Register Now!

Please help us get the word out to register children for school next year. If you are already attending Hillandale, of course, you do not need to do anything. New children must enroll. Our staffing will weigh on the number of children enrolled. The earlier we have our children registered, the sooner we can prepare to meet their needs.

## SUMMER TIME!

Be sure to include visits to the library, letter writing, drawing, photography, scrap booking, crafts and daily family reading in your summer schedule. The more children use their skills, the more prepared they are to return to school in August! If you need more suggestions, email us at Hillandale, and we'll be happy to send some ideas your way.



Congratulations to all of our 5th Grade students! We wish you all the best as you move on to 6th Grade! We are proud of you!



## PTA Executive Committee 2010-2011\*

President: Shelley Turkington

Vice President: Linda Walters

Treasurer: Jeanne Dellinger

Secretary: Michelle Fox

*\*pending final vote at General Meeting*

**The Durham Association of Educators (DAE) has asked PTA members to march with them on Friday, May 21 at 4:00 p.m. from the Fuller Building downtown to the county courthouse. They are asking us to come out, bring our children, friends, and family as we tell the County Commissioners LOUD and CLEAR, NO MORE CUTS to DPS!**

## Special Media Center Dates

- May 21nd is the last checkout date for students.
- May 28th is the last Media class date
- May 28th ALL Student books are DUE back to the Media Center. (Please try and return books by this date as we are preparing for the Media Center carpet replacement.)

## Lost and Found

Before school ends, please check for items in the Lost and Found box located near the staff mailboxes in the office. Unclaimed items will be donated.



Tired of all that pollen on your car? Go to Bunkey's Car Wash on 15-501 to have your car cleaned and make money for Hillandale! Simply tell them you are from Hillandale and 10% of all car washes will be sent to the Hillandale PTA! There is no time limit and even the times you wash your car this summer will help raise money!

Join the Hillandale Listserv to learn about important Hillandale PTA and DPS events. Send a message to: [hillandalepta+susbscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:hillandalepta+susbscribe@googlegroups.com).



generosity of donors and shoppers alike, we continue to meet the needs of our school community without engaging in catalog sales. Thank you!

First, a huge thank you to Duke University and their basketball program! The signed basketball and poster made for our best raffle yet, raising almost \$1,500! Next, we'd like to thank our many contributors for their generous donations (any omissions are purely accidental)\*:

- Duke Athletics
- NC Zoo
- Posh Hair
- Target Optical
- Jan Perry Piano
- Annie Harrison Photography
- Raspberry Landscapes & Lawn Maintenance
- Starbucks
- Jewels by Park Lane
- Cookie Lee Jewelry
- Pasca Pottery
- Merle Norman
- seaturtle.org
- 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
- Mimi's Café
- Meelo's Restaurant
- Front Street Café
- Pomodoro Italian Kitchen
- Westside Animal Hospital
- Sweet Songs Studio featuring Kindermusik
- Jill Rhew, Stylist at Stage One Salon
- Jude Roman, Acupuncturist
- Mother Nature Mosaics by Jeannette Brossart

*\*this list does not include all the individual people, teachers or classroom basket donations. For a complete list, visit [www.hillandalepta.com](http://www.hillandalepta.com).*

And, of course, we want to thank the amazing Room Parents, families and staff who put together baskets for the Silent Auction, cooked for the bake sale, and who continue to donate their time and energy to making Hillandale such a wonderful place to learn and grow!

# All Around Hillandale

## Bluegrass Stomp!

Thank you to our PTA for funding the super-fun and informative performance “Bluegrass Stomp” by musician Charles Pettee. The performance encouraged students and teachers alike to clap along to the music made by a variety of instruments traditionally played in the South. Third through fifth graders learned about the origin of many instruments and how they were brought to America. Mr. Pettee’s songs also related to the Underground Railroad and different cultures around the world. Pre-kindergarten through second graders had a blast clapping and singing along with rhyming songs that were sometimes serious and sometimes silly. We had a great time! Thank you PTA!!!



## Elementary Battle of the Books

Congratulations to Hillandale’s Elementary Battle of the Books team. The team placed 3rd against nine other Durham Elementary Schools. Forestview Elementary won and Mangum placed 2nd.



At the competition, teammates were asked to identify information from the 12 books they read. Working together, the teammates decided on the title and the author. During the round against Mangum, it was perfect play from both teams for a tie score of 12 to 12. The only perfect round played at the competition. It was a wow moment!

## Letter Tiles Help Expand Word and Vocabulary

Many thanks to the Hillandale PTA for supporting the Special Project, “Multisensory Reading and Vocabulary Development.” First grade students will continue to enjoy using the magnetic letter tiles to expand their word and vocabulary knowledge. Students are highly engaged in using the letter tiles as they practice spelling words and discover many amazing words.

-Donna James, K-2 Academic Coach

## PTA Funds Assist First Grade

First graders and First grade teachers would like to thank the PTA. We have gone on two field trips since spring break with PTA’s help to lower the cost. First, we went to see a *Junie B. Jones* play at the Carolina Theater. It was just as fun as the books we read in class! Then we went to the Museum of Life and Science in May. We had lots of fun exploring the museum grounds and learning from the exhibits. Thank you so much for helping to make these trips more affordable!



## The PTA Special Projects Fund Comes Through Again!

Mr. Reck’s 4th Grade AIG Language Arts students were able to use photography as a means to illustrate their writing because of the generosity of the PTA Special Projects Fund. This year, disposable cameras were purchased for those students who did not have access to a digital camera. The cost of developing these pictures was also reimbursed by the PTA. The students took pictures that were entered in the Hillandale PTA arts competition, as well as used their photographs to illustrate their writing as part of their final writing project book. Thanks to the PTA for again supporting the students in their road to academic success.

## Symphony Recognizes Mrs. Byers

Hillandale’s Music Specialist, Dena Byers, recently received the North Carolina Symphony Education Committee Jackson Parkhurst Award for Special Achievement. Mrs. Byers was recognized for serving as a role model in music education, instilling a love of music in children and inspiring students to reach high music standards. Congratulations!



## Hospitality Corner

Wow, can you believe the year is almost over? The Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon was great. We received several thank you notes from the staff. I would like to say thank you for the help and support from friends and parents. Also thank you to Pomodoro Italian Kitchen. Their food was fabulous, and they were very generous. The calendar sets aside one week for us to show appreciation to the teachers, which should include the staff as well. But they need our appreciation all year long. We are all going through tough times, especially now in the school system. Any help we can offer our school will go a long way and help our children. Thank you again for the assistance I have received throughout the year. Get ready for next year. Have a great summer.

~Mona Riggsbee, Hospitality Committee Chair

Congratulations to the door prize winners:

- A vase of fresh flowers (donated by Lynette Coyne from her garden): Ms. Leverett, Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Peck, Mrs. Keeton, Mrs. Clarke and Beth Sanderson.
- DVD's: Elaine McKoy (Avatar), Mrs. Ayers (It's Complicated) and Mrs. DeVito (Blind Side).



- Vera Bradley assortments: Mrs. Webster, Betty Harris, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Bates.
- Books: Mrs. Hess ("Have a Little Faith") and Mrs. Jarrell ("Committed")
- Home Spa Kits (hand and feet): Mrs. Mullin and Mrs. Beauman
- Musical Snow Globe: Mrs. Harward
- \$25 gift card to Pomodoro's: Mrs. Hale

## Hillandale Summer Reading Options

At Hillandale, we are offering two choices for tracked **Summer Reading Programs** this year.



- 1) Sign up at Hillandale that you are going to take part in the Durham County Public Library Summer Reading Program; participate at one of the Durham County Public Libraries, and return to Hillandale in August with your completed paperwork to receive an additional free book. (The Durham County Public Library will give two free books; one at the beginning and one at the end of the program.)
- 2) Sign up for the Hillandale "**Summer Bag of Reading Fun.**" Students will check out books from the Media Center on June 2-3 filling a Hillandale bag with 6-10 books to read over the summer. The read books can be dropped off at the school office during the summer or brought back to the school in August when the student returns. In August, the successful participants with books read and returned will be eligible for a free book as well.

### Our Volunteer Extraordinaire!

This year Jeannette Brossart was named Hillandale's "Volunteer Extraordinaire!" She was honored, along with our PTA President Julie Reo, at a dinner reception hosted by the Durham Council of PTAs. Jeannette has spent countless hours: linking grocery cards, counting BoxTops and soup labels, and coordinating Reflections for four years running! WOW!! Many thanks to Jeannette for all of her dedication to both encouraging and providing an opportunity for creativity among Hillandale students, and raising "free money" for our school!

For all the latest news and information visit:  
[www.hillandalepta.com](http://www.hillandalepta.com).

## Media Minutes

This year is quickly coming to an end. It has been a very busy one, but a very enjoyable one. 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.

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 to read and spend time reading with them. They have expanded their summer activities. Reading 15 minutes a day is one of the best ways to improve and keep from losing reading skills developed during the school year. Reading also encourages the student to create pictures and experiences in his mind to link new experiences and ideas. Please review Hillandale Summer Reading options on page 5. I hope that you choose one. Happy Reading!

~Ms. Stanley-Gibby

### Lost or Damaged Books

If your child has lost or damaged books, please pay for them as soon as possible. After May 21st, 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.

### Birthday Bookday Giveaways

At our final May 6th Birthday Bookday Giveaway for the year, 128 new books were picked out by students. We celebrated the May and June birthdays, the kids who missed coming down during their months and those who recently joined our school. Joyful students picked out a book to keep and add to their personal collection. Enjoy your book and Happy Reading!

### Summer Reading Fun Kickoffs

May 10th: author-illustrator Eric Velasquez presented to the 3-5 graders. Illustrations by Eric Velasquez can be seen at [www.EricVelasquez.com](http://www.EricVelasquez.com). The Durham County Public Library sponsored his visit, spoke of their summer reading program and encouraged students to apply for public library cards.

June 2nd: author-storyteller Donna Washington is returning to Hillandale. She will tell stories to the Pre-Kindergarten-2nd Grades from 1:15-2:00 p.m. and the 3-5 Grades from 2:25-3:00 p.m. in the Gym. Her presentations are sponsored by Book Fair profits. The Durham County Library will also speak. To hear stories told by Donna Washington you can go to Zinger Tales at: [http://www.plcmc.org/bookhive/zingertales/zingertales.asp#Donna Washington](http://www.plcmc.org/bookhive/zingertales/zingertales.asp#Donna%20Washington).

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## Science Day was a "HOOT"

In March, Hillandale students looked, talked, and experimented like the real scientists that they are! We started with live Birds of Prey with Gail Abrams from the Piedmont Wildlife Center! We were lucky to be one of the first groups to see this outstanding, live animal presentation!



Kindergarteners dressed up like scientists, thanks to an amazing parent from Glaxo-Smith-Kline, met dogs from the Animal Shelter, and met Marvelous Mammals from the NC Museum of Natural Science thanks to a generous grant from WalMart! We had loads of fun and learned a lot!

First graders performed an all new set of experiments involving the physics of motion thanks to one of our scientist parents, Dr. Tim Turkington and his amazing crew of grad students! From paper airplanes to centrifugal force, we bounced, lifted, flew and spun our way to being better scientists!

Second graders made goopy ooblec and yummy

ice cream as we experimented with changes in matter. We always love science that we get to eat!

Third graders learned about CPR, grew their own germs, compared the lungs of a smoker and a non-smoker, and even learned about how DNA makes each of us unique! Many thanks to our parents, family members and their colleagues who came to share their scientific expertise with our children!

Fourth graders performed experiments created last year by Hillandale parent Dr. Tim Turkington. He once again brought a team of enthusiastic medical physics students from Duke to lead the way as we explored magnets and electricity!

Fifth graders were environmental scientists! We tried different water treatment devices and gained an appreciation for how hard some children work to provide drinking water for their families (we carried 2-4 gallons of water the length of the hallway, which is harder than it looks!). We learned how to protect our local watershed and were introduced to some of the underwater residents of the Eno. We also learned about alternative fuel sources. Many thanks to Hillandale parent Dr. Glenn Walters for organizing these activities, and thanks to his colleagues at UNC and the Eno River Association for helping!

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## Yes! I want to be a part of the Hillandale Family!

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I would like to commit to helping the staff and children at Hillandale. Count on me to help in some way next year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Area/s of interest (see options below): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I like to assist \_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to chair a position \_\_\_\_\_

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**Fundraising:** Hike for Hillandale, Spring Fling, Silent Auction, Bookfair, Dining for Dollars, grocery store links, Boxtops for Education/Campbell soup labels.

**Enrichment and Fun:** Spring Fling, Reflections, Reading Night, Science Day, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation party, Special Projects, Nature trail/gardens.

**Support:** website, newsletter, directory, outreach to bilingual families, Room parent program, Hospitality.

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Please return this form to your teacher. Teachers, please leave in PTA slot. The PTA will contact all volunteers by the start of next school year. Thanks, in advance, for your support!!

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### *Math Moments*

## **Keeping Up the Skills**

Many teachers will tell you that the first weeks of any new school year are spent reviewing material that should be remembered from the previous year, but is not. Does there really have to be the loss of skills?

The answer is often dependent on what happens at home during the summer months. If the child is offered an opportunity to reinforce the specific skills that he or she worked so hard to master, the likelihood of these skills still being accessible at the start of the school year is much greater. This does not have to happen with workbooks and time at the kitchen table. Casual conversations, trips to the grocery store, vacations, dinners out and driving to the pool can all be times to keep up those skills.

For the upper grade students, multiplication facts are the number one item that needs to be reinforced. You've seen it stated before in this column that middle school math teachers' number one complaint about their students is that the students do not know their multiplication facts. Random mental math questions

can quickly review these. There are many games that can be played to also review the multiplication facts. Check with your child's teacher for some recommendations.

For the lower grade students, you want to speak with your child's teacher to see what addition and subtraction information should be reviewed. Once again, there are wonderful games that you can get from your child's teacher that can be played over the summer to keep the skills high.

Geometry scavenger hunts such as playing "I spy with my little eye something that is square (round, parallel, perpendicular, octagonal, etc.)" Allowing your child to pay for an item with cash and then counting back the change is a vital part of their mathematical knowledge. Setting up a schedule for the day with time notations can be a fun opportunity and when this schedule goes to the grandparents as a "Day in the Life of \_\_\_\_\_" letter, everyone is pleased.

Be creative. You know your child best. Taking some time this summer to review the basics can have your child at the head of her or his class next school year. Math Riddle from last month – What did the zero say to the eight? Nice belt!



## Upcoming Events

May 31.....	Memorial Day Vacation
June 4.....	3rd Grade Patriotic Program
June 7.....	3rd Grade Spelling Bee
June 8 .....	5th Grade Award Presentation
June 9.....	5th Grade Celebration
June 9.....	3rd Grade Math Bowl
June 10.....	5th Grade Graduation
June 10.....	Last Day of School
August 25 .....	First Day of School for Students
September 6 .....	Labor Day
September 8.....	PLC Early Dismissal

welcome

Join the Durham Public Schools Board of Education

For a  
Community Welcome Reception

Dr. Eric J. Becoats, Superintendent

Wednesday, June 2, 2010  
4:00 until 6:00 pm

DPS Staff Development Center  
2107 Hillandale Road, Durham

RSVP online at [www.dpsnc.net/BecoatsRSVP](http://www.dpsnc.net/BecoatsRSVP) by May 31, 2010

## Mandarin Chinese at Brogden Middle School?

Did you realize Mandarin Chinese is the language spoken by more people than any language on earth? Do you want your child to gain an important skill in our increasingly global society? Brogden Middle School will begin piloting a Mandarin Chinese course for a few incoming 6th graders in 2011. Up to six students will be selected to participate in the online course offered through the North Carolina Virtual Public Schools ([www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org)). If you are interested, your child must maintain a B+ average in all coursework in 6th grade, must have a teacher recommendation and no behavior issues, be capable of independent work and have parental support. It is possible the program will expand in future years. For more information, contact Mrs. Trapp, Brogden Middle School Principal. For questions about the course, contact Nancy Sung ([nssung@earthlink.net](mailto:nssung@earthlink.net)).

Special thanks to Kristen Brigman, Suzy Moore and Lynette Coyne for their help with newsletter production this year.

### Thank You to our 2009 - 2010 PTA Executive Committee

- **Julie Reo, President**  
[jreo@nc.rr.com](mailto:jreo@nc.rr.com)
- **Shelley Turkington, Vice President**  
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