



*Where Excellence Is Our Focus*

## Hillandale Named a school of "High Growth," Meets ALL AYP Goals



Hillandale has something to celebrate this fall. Statewide reading tests were re-calibrated this year, which delayed the release of those scores until a few weeks ago. Whenever a test is recalibrated to a higher standard, test scores usually look worse for that year. Not so at Hillandale.

In light of the miscommunication from DPS to the Hillandale community earlier this fall, it is important that our community understand what Hillandale has accomplished. According to the DPS website ([www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net)), Hillandale is one of only THREE Durham elementary schools to meet ALL of its AYP goals under No Child Left Behind. This means that Hillandale "cleared the bar" for all of its subcategories of students, and has been named a school of "high growth." What is remarkable is that of these three schools, Hillandale is the most diverse, with 23 subcategories. No elementary school in Durham was able to meet its goals for more groups of students than Hillandale, as you can see at this link: <http://www.dpsnc.net/images/pdf/news-pdfs/110608/AYP-2008>.

Test scores only reveal part of the story of the overall quality of a school, but these results point to the hard work of Hillandale's teachers and students, and to the power of our diverse community to encourage all students to succeed.



Congratulations to Mrs. Sandi Bates, Hillandale's Principal, for receiving the Superintendent's Business Advisory Council's *School Leadership Excellence Award*. The ceremony honored principals and assistant principals of schools that performed well on DPS Scorecards, used for the first time this year. Scorecards employ a variety of indicators to measure a school's progress. The Business Advisory Council is comprised of more than 40 representatives from Durham's business community. Other principals who were recognized were Ari Cohen, Southwest Elementary; Drew Sawyer, Rogers-Herr Middle; and Richard Webber, Jordan High for Advanced Academics; Jeanne Bishop, E.K. Powe; and Elizabeth Shearer, Lakewood Elementary.

**A special thanks to our Hike for Hillandale sponsors. Our event would not have been a success without their support!**

- Walmart Foundation
- SEATURTLE.ORG
- Hillandale Sports Association
- 3 Ninjas Martial Arts Supplies And Sporting Goods
- [www.NCDreamMakers.com](http://www.NCDreamMakers.com)
- RE/MAX Winning Edge – Durham
- French Financial Firm, LLC
- Maximo Mukelabai, CPA, PC
- [Burdinep.myecon.net](http://Burdinep.myecon.net)
- Switch Creative Photography
- Duke Athletic Department

**PTA Reflections entries must be turned in by Friday, December 5 to Mrs. Devito. Please see the Reflections link on our Hillandale PTA website for all details and entry forms. We are planning our participation ceremony for the February General PTA meeting.**

# BULLETIN BOARD

## Sea of Learning Promotion

Looking for educational toys for the children in your life or for a good teacher gift for the holidays? If so, shop at A Sea of Learning Parent-Teacher store between November 15th - December 15th, mention that you are with Hillandale Elementary and you will be supporting our school in the process! Through A Sea of Learning's PTA Giveback Program, the store will donate 10% of all Hillandale purchases during this period to the PTA.

A Sea of Learning is located at 7001 Fayetteville Road in Durham, in the Renaissance Center near Southpoint Mall. For more information on the types of products that the store carries, go to [www.aseaoflearning.com](http://www.aseaoflearning.com).

## Mark Your Calendar

### Dining for Dollars



Enjoy a fun meal out with your family and support the Hillandale PTA. Additional dates to be announced!

December 3 - Chik-fil-A

February 17 Little Caesars

March 11 Chik-fil-A

## Notes from Your PTA Board

The PTA still needs a Financial Recording Secretary to: Assist the PTA Treasurer, including helping to receipt PTA income. Please contact Linda Walters at [Linda.Walters@durham.ppd.com](mailto:Linda.Walters@durham.ppd.com) for more information.

**7:00 PM February 10**

## General PTA Meeting

**Come celebrate our PTA Reflections Participants!**



**All Durham Public School Students  
will dismiss 2 hours early  
Wednesday, December 3**

Keep clipping those Box Tops and Campbell's Labels! Look for participating products while preparing for the holidays! We'll have our big turn-in contest in January, so save them up until then.

If you haven't linked your grocery card to Hillandale, it's not too late. Please check at the customer service desk of Food Lion, Harris Teeter, and Kroger for our school to receive free cash and school items.

## Hillandale PTA Membership

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.

We have 213 Hillandale PTA members. The Membership Committee recently held a contest to recognize the grade with the most members. Congratulations to the kindergarten grade level which won a Popsicle Party. Three cheers for our wonderful kindergarten parents!! It's great to see the new and returning families getting involved in the Hillandale 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.

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Your names/name

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E-mail address

Phone Number

---

Child/children's names

Teacher/Grade

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Amount enclosed

Number of members

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

## Hospitality Corner

Thanks to everyone who participated in the early release lunches for the staff in October and November. The staff was very appreciative. You just don't know how much the staff at Hillandale enjoy the treats we occasionally provide unless you are there. Just as a heads-up, we will also be taking care of more early release dates. They are February 11th (Valentine's Day snacks), March 18th (muffins of all kinds), and April 22nd (possibly pizza). Put these dates on your calendar.

Also coming up soon, believe it or not, we have our annual holiday lunch for the staff. Be thinking of some good recipes or good take out for a TBD date in December.

A reminder from the Hospitality Committee: if anyone has anything we can offer as a prize drawing each month, I would be extremely appreciative. Gift cards, tickets to any sport event, gas cards, grocery cards, flowers, etc.....just to name a few. Just send them in marked PTA Hospitality drawings. I know we are going to have a great time and a great year. Bless you all!!



~Mona Riggsbee  
Hospitality Committee Chair

# All Around Hillandale

## Counselors' Corner



Your counselors are busy! Ms. Clarke (grades 3-5) and Ms. Leverett (grades K-2) are in the process of meeting with students in small groups and individually. They also are going into the classrooms to teach skills.

Ms. Clarke has been in the classroom discussing Self Concept (3rd), Respect (4th) and Unique Qualities (5th). She is meeting with small groups concerning Self Concept (3rd), Family Changes (4th) Grief and Loss (5th) and School Success Skills (3, 4 & 5).

Ms. Leverett has been working on the concept of Feelings and the character trait of Responsibility in classrooms. She is also starting small groups concerning study skills and friendship for grades K, 1 and 2.

Parents, if you have any questions or concerns, or would like to ask that your child be included in a small group or seen individually, you can call or email us.

-Ms. Eleanore Clarke  
eleanore.clarke@dpsnc.net  
560-3924 x24672

-Ms. Sarah Leverett  
sarah.leverett@dpsnc.net  
560-3924 x24236

## Art Room News



We've recently had some Hillandale art on display throughout our state that I'd like to share with you all:

In October, the following third grade students' artwork was on display at the N.C. State Fair:

**Regan Anderson, Tyler Carpenter, Isabel Coyne, Kayla Deramus, Takiyah Harris, and Jason Zhang.**

Artwork created last year by **Kaleya Stocks, Peter Streilein, Mark Vincent, Yuki Yeung, and Steven Zhang** is now on display at the Durham Public Schools Administrative Buildings for the entire school year.

And, finally, artwork by **Amirah Bourara** and **Ryan Vandevander** was chosen to be on display and offered for sale at the Charlotte 2008 American Orff-Schulwerk Conference in November.

Look out for more great artist news to come! There are more opportunities to share our students' artistic talent with the community as the school year progresses.

Thank you to all the families who have donated egg cartons, bags, and tissues to the art room. We appreciate it!!!

~\_Mrs. Alana DeVito

*Math Moments – November, 2008*

## Some Suggestions for Gifts that Challenge the Mind

It's that time of year where we are all looking for special gifts for special people. iPods are so last year – right! – that there is room for many other items. To find some novel ideas, you may want to go online or call the 800 number to request a catalog from Mindware – brainy toys for kids of all ages. ([www.mindwareonline.com](http://www.mindwareonline.com) or (1-800-999-0398) This company has great items that will challenge your thinking and provide literally hours of fun and a few minutes of frustration!!!

Squzzles (square puzzles) come in boxes of three 9-piece puzzles. The pieces when placed together will form a 3 by 3 square. Each piece has half of a picture or design that must be matched with the other half. Watch what happens when you fit eight of the nine pieces together and discover that the ninth piece won't fit!!! This will challenge adults, as well as children ages 6 and up. Perhaps a Squzzle contest could be started while waiting for the feast to come.

*Make 7* is based on the popular game *Connect 4* with a twist. Each of the playing tiles has a 1, 2, or 3 printed on it. The object of the game is to get a total of exactly 7 points in a row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. The tiles with 3 on them can only be played in specially marked spaces, so the challenge is greater than at first appearances.

For that budding architect, there are many building sets. Science kits that range from chemistry to physics to astronomy to anatomy are also highlighted. Of course, there also plenty of math games and activities that will be great fun for the entire family. Parents' Choice Award winning items, Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Award Winners, and other unique items are featured on this site. You'll even find great materials for the classroom that you may want to share with your child's teacher.

Check out this unique purveyor of great materials!

## Media Minutes

Thank you for your Book Fair participation. The theme was “Book Fair Safari...Hunting for a Good Book.” I hope you had some fun and added good books to your personal and classroom libraries. We had lots of prize winners, and I was able to get 82 new books for the library with 57 of them being hardbacks. We also have \$2,000 in cash to spend updating the sports collection and favorite author titles. It was an amazing feat to have such a turnout in the current economy.

I'd like to give a special thank you to the wonderful Book Fair volunteers. We had 27 volunteers in 112 different slots. You are what make the Book Fair possible. Please join me in thanking our volunteers: Michelle Jackson, Ebony Sneed, Idell Mandese, Bertha Scull, Debbie Mandese, Shelley Turkington, Mona Riggsbee, Jennifer Egan, Delores Byrd, Leila Quinton, Elizabeth Younts, Lynette Coyne, Michelle Heffley, Tania Winnie, Kristen Brigman, Julie Reo, Janis Murray, Julie Haase, Terry Riggsbee, Phyllis Perry, Nancy Sung, Victoria Yap, Andrea Everts, Cathy Moser, Donna Crutchfield, Linda Walters, Chakila Merrick, Christina Fiarrouwa, Tanya Barrett, and Diane Puckett. EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOUs to Mona Riggsbee, Debbie Mandese and Idell Mandese who practically lived at the Book Fair for the week. Mona Riggsbee was the lynchpin coming in everyday to work the scanning devices and solve the problems that the rest of us had with them. She also took care of the online sign-ups and scheduling of the volunteers. Thank you all for making Hillandale a great place to be.

The winner of the “Teachers Dress as Your Favorite Book Character Contest” was 2nd grade teacher Mrs. Keeton. She dressed as The Wicked Witch of the West from The Wizard of Oz. Dressed in black, and her face covered in green paint, she really looked the part. Mrs. Keeton won \$20 in Book Fair bucks.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! In getting ready for your holiday events, keep in mind while we would love for each child to spend some time reading. We also want them to return from the holidays happy and at ease. One way to do this is to keep your library books in your book bag, except for the times when you are actively reading them. Once you quit reading the books, return them to the book bag for safe keeping. If you do this, when it's time to return to school after Thanksgiving, your book(s) will return with you.



With the end of the first quarter, the Media Center tallied the numbers of students returning their book(s) on time and in good condition with fewer than three overdue times in the first quarter. In 1st and 2nd grades, those students are now able to check out two books at a time, and in 3-5 grades those students are able to check out three books at a time. Out of 526 possible students, 436 of the students showed that they were ready for more responsibility. Mrs. Keeton's and Mrs. Peck's 2nd grade classes had 100 percent of the students moving up to have an additional book to check out. Way to go students! Many of the kindergartner's are showing that they know how to take care of books, turn the pages correctly and to return their books each week. In fact, on two different days, Mrs. Creecy's class had 100 percent return their books. It is immensely gratifying to see the entire class checkout. Thank you parents for encouraging your child(ren) to enjoy and to take care of books.

**Media Classes:** We have been working on The North Carolina Children's Book Awards. I was able to get many second copies of the books and they will be available for the students to check out.

Kindergartners have finished checking out from all of the different areas of the Easy Section. They are now able to check out any of the books with “E” on the top row. They have seen samples of various trees and have learned a little about them, as well as telling the difference between a fiction story book and a non-fiction book. First Graders heard Goldiesocks and the Three Libearians and learned about the 5-finger rule for finding a just right book. The 2nd grades have been identifying the title, plot, characters, setting, authors, illustrators, and call numbers and playing a game called 4-Square to win books, pencils, or bookmarks, and in conjunction with their Colonial life and Thanksgiving studies, they have been learning about quilts and how they are made. The 3rd graders have focused on dictionary skills. The 4th graders have practiced locating information in the Almanac and have been playing Alamania a Jeopardy-type game, while looking up information and are in the process of using the Big 6th Problem solving method to plan a Thanksgiving dinner. The 5th grades have listened to Changes for Kit by Valerie Trip, which takes place in 1934 during the Great Depression, and thinking about persuasive writing. They also are beginning to work on the Big 6 Thanksgiving dinner project.

-Mrs. Norma Stanley-Gibby



**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 [btf.com/marketplace/hollydeals](http://btf.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!

**Upcoming Events**

- November 26-28 .... Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 3..... PLC Early Release
- December 3..... Chick-fil-A Dining for Dollars
- December 5..... PTA Reflections Deadline
- 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 16..... End of second nine-week grading period
- January 23 ..... Read-a-thon (tentative date)
- February 3..... PTA Board meeting
- February 10..... General PTA meeting
- February 17 ..... Little Caesar's Dining for Dollars
- March 3 ..... PTA Board Meeting
- March 10 ..... General PTA Meeting

**2008 - 2009 PTA  
Executive Committee!!**

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

For all the latest news and information visit:

[www.hillandalepta.com](http://www.hillandalepta.com)

DPS has joined Facebook!. Become a fan and visit the DPS Facebook Site. Click on the link at [www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net).

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Sandi Bates - Principal  
Gloria Bailey - Assistant Principal