

THE HURRICANE

Volume 11, Issue 2

November 2011

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings all Hillandale Families!

We are off and running in this new school year. Our numbers are up to 642 with six classes of kindergarteners. I am delighted to report that all classes are filled with highly qualified, veteran teachers eager to be a part of the highly successful Hillandale Family.

New to our staff are:

Ms. Vermillera is our new second grade teacher. She is a highly qualified teacher and comes to us with years of experience in both special education and general education. She has quickly become a contributing member in our second grade team.

Ms. Kelly Pulley joined the ever growing kindergarten team in mid-October. She also has a wealth of experience and knowhow. Also

highly qualified, Ms. Pulley is putting forth many extra hours to help all her students transition smoothly to her classroom.

A name known to many of you, Ms. Kathy Fochler has rejoined the Hillandale team to provide our advanced k-2 students with enrichment opportunities. We are fortunate that she is able to continue to make an impact on our students and our school.

By this time, teachers have had an opportunity to assess each student. The grade levels have met to develop strategies for each child. Please be sure to keep in close contact with your child's progress and let us know when you have concerns or questions. The first quarter report cards went home on November 4th. I hope you have had a chance to review your

child's, sign it and return it to school.

As the Holiday Season approaches, I would like to personally extend to all of you a lovely, safe and grace-filled Thanksgiving and Winter Holiday. Thanksgiving is the perfect time to help your children understand the love that our family and friends bring to us. Please think of ways to include them in your family traditions, preparations and customs. Their active participation plants solid memories for a lifetime.

Thank you all for extending yourself to support your child and Hillandale. As always, please be sure to let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Sandi Bates, Principal

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Special points of interest:

- Tuesday, November 15: General PTA Meeting
- Wednesday-Friday, November 23-25: Thanksgiving Break
- Wednesday, November 30: PLC Early Release Day
- Wednesday, December 21: Winter break Begins

HAVE YOU HEARD FROM US LATELY?

If you checked the box on your PTA Information Form requesting to be added to our Hillandale PTA e-mail distribution list, you should have received a

Google Group invitation to join. There is a link in the e-mail that you must click on to accept. There are currently > 60 invitations outstanding. Click your

link and stay informed! If you need for another invitation to be sent your way, please contact Linda Walters at

[ljwaltersrph@gmail.com](mailto:ljalwaltersrph@gmail.com).

Econopolis

The third grade teachers are very excited to introduce Econopolis to you! Economics is a very important and complex concept for 3rd graders to understand. Our classes have been working for the past few weeks to gain a better understanding of economic principles.

During the **first phase** we have been learning about goods and services, money, banking, investing, trading/bartering, earning, savings, profit, and loss. Most of these discussions are related to children's literature that we have been reading during our literacy time. Our reading series is excellent and the entire first unit is dedicated to teaching economic principles.

The **second phase** has taken place simultaneously with the first phase. Students have been earning revenue by doing jobs in the classroom, helping

others, good behavior, turning in all homework and through other task in the classroom. Students have been working individually or with a partner to create a business proposal and plan to sell either a product or service. The



Services and Goods

learners are required to make a product or provide a service that can be sold.

The **third phase** will be our classroom stores: The Marketplace. Stores will be

open on November 21st from 12:00-1:30pm. Students will have the opportunity to sell their items to other 3rd grade classes and their parents.

Why we do this project...

We strongly believe in teaching concepts so that they are meaningful and interesting for the children. Children learn more and retain more information by actually doing, not just listening and memorizing. We always look forward to this unit.

We will need parent volunteers during this time. Contact your third grader's teacher to sign-up for The Marketplace.

THE MARKETPLACE
 Monday, November 21, 2011
 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

ART STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR



Thanks to the following students for sharing their artwork at this year's North Carolina State Fair, which was held October 13-23: Taylor Mangum, Rayka Fager, Andrey Balabin, Kirsten Peele, Jala Maga-

zine and Sierra Denson. Look for second graders colorful paper masks in the school hallways soon!

Congratulations go to Andrew Bostic, now a fourth grader at Hillandale, seen here holding a coiled yarn basket that he created in art classes as a third grader at Hillandale. His mom entered it into this year's NC State Fair

and he won fourth place!



READY, SET, SPELL!!

Plans are underway for the 2012 Hillandale Spelling Bee. Children in grades 3-5 have received their spelling bee list words, so they can begin preparing now for this competition!

The top three finishers in each classroom will go on to compete in the

school spelling bee. The school winner will go on to participate in a spelling bee at Duke University, and have a chance to move on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. Stay tuned for e x a c t

spelling bee dates!

"You know that feeling where everything feels right? Where you don't have to worry about tomorrow or yesterday, where you feel safe and know you're doing the best you can? There's a word for that, it's called love. L-O-V-E." "Akeelah and the Bee"



MATH MOMENTS – NOVEMBER, 2011

Did you get to go the Hillandale Book Fair that was recently held? If you did, you saw “high finance” in action. Children and parents were working through the issues of how much could be spent, what could be bought, and will you have enough money after the tax was factored into the final amount? The Book Fair is always a great opportunity to work on money issues, and in this day and time figuring out how to spend your money is critical.

One question that you might want to ask yourself is whether or not your child was able to spend money that he/she had earned or saved. Many of us grew up hearing the adage – MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES – and we knew that the word “No” was soon to follow. In addition, many of us grew up knowing that the money we had earned or saved could be used to buy the things that we needed or wanted. This was part of our economic education. Here then are some thoughts on how to encourage/support your child on the road to good economic practice:



1) Make a list of jobs that your child is capable of doing. Discuss with your child how much each job will pay when it is completed. Get relatives and friends involved as well.



2) Establish guidelines for how the money earned is to be used. For example, as children get older, a portion of the money that is earned goes to help buy clothes or school items. Often, the agreed upon deal is that a designated amount of money will be spent on a certain shirt and if the child wants the shirt with the special logo on the chest, he/she will pay the difference.



3) Require that a portion of the money earned goes into savings and a second portion goes into a fund for giving to causes that matter to you and your family. Many religious traditions use the concept of the tithe – or 10%. So for every dollar earned, 10 cents goes into a savings account/piggy

bank and 10 cents goes to a worthy cause.

4) Gifts of money still need to have guidelines. These guidelines may be as simple as half of the money can be spent any way that the child desires and the other half goes into savings.

5) Long range saving should be encouraged. Having spending money for that vacation or buying presents for Grandma is part of instilling in children not just the value of money, but also the joy of delayed gratification!

Book Corner Recommendation:

The Big Buck Adventure by Shelley Gill and Deborah Tobola, illustrated by Grace Lin, is the adventure of a young girl who just received a dollar for her allowance. The options for how to spend the money are plentiful and everyone wants to assist this child with her decision. Her final decision shows that she is becoming savvy with her money – and your child can become “money smart” as well.

IT'S TIME FOR REFLECTIONS!

Reflections is a National PTA-sponsored program which celebrates and encourages creativity in our children. All students should have received a letter home regarding this program in mid-October.

Your child may participate in one of six categories: visual art, literary art, photography, music composition, dance choreography, and film/video production. There are rules and requirements for each category. Information on this, along with entry and consent forms are

available from Kristi Wescott (kawescott@gmail.com), at the front office in school, and on the PTA website (www.hillandalepta.com).

Entries are due by Friday, November 18th. This year's theme, “Diversity Means...” should inspire your child's entry. All entries will be recognized at the Hillandale Elementary level at the January General PTA meeting, and the winning entries will move on to the district competition.

Please encourage your child's artistic spirit and support them in submitting an entry! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kristi Wescott, Reflections Chair, at kawescott@gmail.com.



OUR 5TH ANNUAL HIKE FOR HILLANDALE WAS ...

AWESOME!!

Our 5th annual Hike for Hillandale took place on Friday, October 7th and it was a gorgeous day for it! All of the students, teachers, and parents who participated had a fabulous time! With Wool E. Bull cheering everyone on, the children had a lot of fun hiking through the woods, following the spray painted squiggly arrows around the ball field, and running through the new obstacle course that was set up right before the finish line. It was truly wonderful to see the children's excitement and smiles! And we are so fortunate at Hillandale to have such an amazing resource as the nature trail right in our own backyard.

A great big thank you to Mr. Doug Shank, who set up and ran the obstacle course, for sharing his time and equipment with us! Thanks also to all the parent volunteers who assisted at the event and to Mona Riggsbee, Michelle Jackson, Jeanne Dellinger and Linda Walters for counting the donations as they came in.

We applaud each and every student who hiked and made a contribution to the fundraiser, no matter what the amount! Every student received an embossed Hike for Hillandale rubber wristband at the end of the hike that they can wear proudly to show their participation!

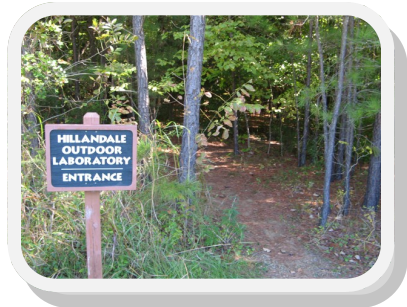
Thank you to each student and family who worked to gather donations for the hike. With a 27% participation rate, we have raised just over \$8500. For their efforts, any student who raised \$50 or more earned a Hike for Hillandale t-shirt, and anyone who raised \$75 or more also earned a jump rope.

Hike prizes were announced at our general PTA meeting on October 18th. Every student who brought in a donation of any amount had a chance to win a prize.

Our grand prize winners were Evan Byers (\$259 donation), Evan Hexter (\$205 donation) and tied for third place, Caleb and Jacob Bowers (\$170 donation each). All those students who raised \$100 or more have been invited to a 2-hour bowling party at AMF Lanes in Durham. All other donors were entered into prize drawings based on their donation amount (four categories reflecting \$25 increments from \$.01 – 99.99). Eleven prizes were awarded through these drawings! As a grade level, kindergarten brought in the most donations (based on calculated class averages) and will be receiving a Pop Party of their choice – either popsicles or popcorn! And the single classroom with the most donations was Mrs. Jarrell's class, bringing in over \$800! A pizza party is in their future! We also awarded two teacher prizes. Mrs. Jones won the prize in the drawing for any teacher who had ten or more of their students bring in donations. And Mrs. Barber won a prize for donating to each of her students! To see the complete list of winners and prizes, you can visit our website at www.hillandalepta.com.

The purpose of our Hike is not only to raise funds for the school but also to promote active lifestyles and healthy living in our families! While the school's nature trail is used for this event as well as throughout the year to supplement

classroom learning, it is also open to families to come and enjoy any time! Consider bringing your family out some weekend to experience this incredible place!



With sincere gratitude,

**Jennifer Strobel,
Hike for Hillandale
Fall Fundraising Chair**



TO EVERY STUDENT

In every school, to every student there's a special teacher.

To every teacher, to every student there's a special bond.

To every bond to every moment there's a special time that we'll think back and say to ourselves,

"That teacher really cared!"

If you know that teacher cares, your life will brighten up.

Cause now you know that if you fall, that same special teacher will come and help you up.

Gloria Celiant



A special thank you to our Hike for Hillandale Sponsors, whose generous donations helped to offset the cost of this event:

- ◆ Seaturtle.org
- ◆ Wells Fargo Advisors
- ◆ Hillandale Sports Association (HAS)
- ◆ Triangle United Soccer

BOOK CHARACTER REWARD



Congratulations to Mrs. Keeton, 2nd grade teacher, who won \$20 in Book Fair Bucks for the "Teachers dress as their favorite book characters" Contest at our Fall Book Fair. She was dressed as Cruella de Vil from Disney's One Hundred and One Dalmatians.

Using **GOODSEARCH** as your Internet search engine earns money for our school! This Yahoo-powered search engine donates funds to Hillandale Elementary with every search, and our school has earned \$144 with this program over the past few years. For more information on GoodSearch, GoodShop.com and the GoodSearch toolbar, go to <http://www.goodsearch.com>.



Join us on
December 8th
3600 North Duke Street
Durham, NC 27705

Look for future family nights with....

- Pomodoro January 24, 2012
- El Rincon February 3, 2012
- Pomodoro March 22, 2012
- Hog Heaven April 24, 2012
- El Rincon May 5, 2012

Funds will be donated on behalf of all Hillandale supporters!

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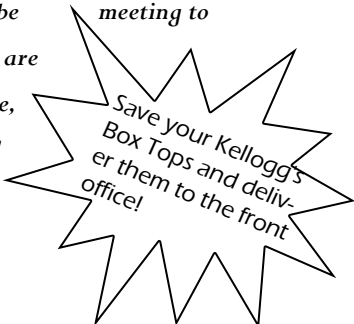
Gloria Bailey, Assistant Principal
Gloria.Bailey@dpsnc.net

A School of Distinction!

Visit us at ...
<http://hillandalepta.com>

FUNDRAISING MEETING—NOVEMBER 29TH

The Hillandale PTA is so much more than fundraising, but without raising funds, we cannot accomplish our goals in supporting our children and our school. On Tuesday, November 29th at 7:00pm, we will be meeting to discuss our fundraising future and some options that we are considering. If you are interested in helping to fundraise, or just want to know what is in the works, please join us! November 29th, 7:00pm — Hillandale Media Center



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a Leadership Role? We are in need of a PTA Vice President! Come on board now to learn the ropes, and prepare to lead the organization next year! For more information, please contact Linda Walters at ljwaltersrph@gmail.com.

Reading Buddies: Help a child develop

and improve his/her reading skills! Contact Lynette Coyne, lynette@seaturtle.com.

Update our Marquee! The PTA is looking for someone to change the marquee announcements! If you are looking for a way to volunteer a few hours a month on your own schedule, this job is

for you! For more information, please contact Linda Walters at ljwaltersrph@gmail.com.

Spelling Bee: H-E-L-P is needed with this year's school-wide Spelling Bee for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Please contact Kim Bowers, brbowers@earthlink.net, to get involved!

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

It's never too early to start thinking about year-end donations and a great way to support the Hillandale PTA's budget is through your **tax-deductible** contribution. One-hundred percent of your donation goes directly toward supporting our school. If your employer offers a matching gift program, your

donation will be multiplied. Checks should be made to "Hillandale PTA," with "donation" on the memo line, and sent to the attention of the PTA Treasurer, Jeanne Dellinger.

Thanks for your support!

Ways Everyone Can Help...

Please link or relink your grocery card to Hillandale! We currently have 82 families linked to Harris Teeter, 87 families supporting Hillandale through Food Lion purchases, and many others linked to Kroger through their Plus/Rewards card. Thanks to all who have already helped with this free, easy way to earn money for our school. For more details, go to www.hillandalepta.com and click on the "Ways to help" link, ask your grocery's customer service desk, or contact Linda Alling (theallings@yahoo.com; phone 382-9021).

This parent newsletter, "The Hurricane" is printed monthly by the Hillandale Elementary PTA. Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions and news items are welcome and should be placed in the Newsletter Mailbox (located in the school main office), or emailed to the editor, Queisha Lewis via Tonya.Arrington@dpsnc.net. Printed at Grapevine Printing, Durham, NC.