

News from the President

It's hard to believe that Spring is almost here! And since Daylight Savings Time has been moved ahead 3 weeks, it's time to Spring Forward this weekend.

The Father/Daughter Dance was a great success, over 70% of our girls attended. I would like to thank the Family Focus Committee and everyone who volunteered for all of their hard work. The Mother Son Event is next. This year the boys and their moms will vote on the event. Ballots should go home next week.

A big thank you goes to the Kindergarten Parents for their overwhelming generosity at our first Staff Breakfast on February 20! The teachers had a wonderful selection of items! First grade parents, please help us provide the staff breakfast on Wednesday, March 19th. Information to sign-up will go home shortly.

Nominating forms should also go home in the next week or so for the 2008-2009 PTA Officers. The open PTA Committee Chairperson and Lead Volunteer positions will also be listed. Please read over the form and see if there is a position that is right for you.

How can we improve our PTA? If you have an idea you would like to share, please send it to me at HCEPTA@aol.com.



Sincerely,
Lorna Dore

Highland Creek Elementary
PTA Newsletter
www.hcepta.org HCEPTA@aol.com

PTA Calendar

March

- 4PTA Executive Board Meeting (5:30pm)
-PTA General Membership Meeting (6:30pm)
- 19.....Teacher Breakfast (Hosted by 1st Grade)
- 24-25.....NO SCHOOL (Spring Holiday/Teacher Workday)
- 28.....March Birthday Cake

April

- 1PTA Executive Board Meeting (10:30am)
- 2 - 4Spring Classroom Parties
- 7-11.....NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)
- 15.....Report Cards
- 16.....Teacher Breakfast (Hosted by 2nd & 3rd Grade)
- 25.....April Birthday Cake
- 28.....Family Night at Book Fair
- 28 - 5/2..Buy One Get One Free Spring Book Fair

Lost & Found

Items will be donated to charity tomorrow, March 7th.

This is your last chance to claim missing items!

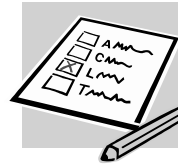
The PTA checks Lost & Found items for names. Please mark your students' items in an obvious place with a minimum of their last name. We cannot track down students by their initials. Thanks!

Upcoming Events and News



The 5th Grade Celebration Committee is looking for a business to "sponsor" a gift for our 5th grade students - we would like to get each child an autograph as part of their moving up ceremony. If you own a business, or know someone who does, and would be interested in sponsoring this, either in part or in whole, please email Vicki Taylor at march2127@aol.com.

Mother Son Event

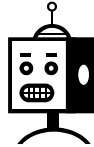


The Family Focus Committee would like to ask for your VOTE this year to see what you would like to do for your "Special Night". Please look for a ballot in the Thursday folders on 3/13.

Remember, if you don't vote, you don't have a voice.

CAMP INVENTION RETURNS

Camp Invention returns to Highland Creek Elementary again this summer. The program will run Monday, June 23rd - Friday June 27th from 9:00-3:30. The Camp Invention program is the premier educational outreach program of Invent Now Kids, a subsidiary of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.



Register your child online at www.campinvention.org. Various discount offers are available through this online registration. Mae Rice, one of our kindergarten teachers, will be the director again this year. Contact her at m.rice@cms.k12.nc.us if you have any questions.

Father Daughter Dance Photographs



If you pre-ordered or purchased a package the night of the dance, you should receive your portrait packages no later than March 21st. Pictures will be delivered to your daughter's class for them to bring home.

If you had your picture taken but chose not to purchase a package that night, you may view your photos at www.bellaphotoonline.com, use the password "Daughters". **The photos will be online until March 13th.**

The candid photos taken during the dance will be posted online as well.

Once you enter the password, there will be four categories from which to choose. Portraits for Dance One, portraits for Dance Two, Candid photos for Dance One, and Candid photos for Dance Two.

You will have until March 13th to order any additional portraits or candid photos from Bella Photography.

Online orders will be handled by Bella Photography and not the PTA, thus online orders will incur shipping charges as they will be shipped directly to the purchaser and will NOT be sent to the school.



Spirit Store

The HCE Spirit Store is open on Friday mornings from 8:45-9:15am in the Parent Center.

The following HCE logo items are available:

Pencils: \$.25	Dog Tags: \$2.00
Color Changing Cups: \$2.00	Hackysacks: \$2.00
Blue Bracelets: \$3.00	Flex Flyers: \$3.50
Car Magnets: \$5.00	Umbrellas: \$10.00
Nylon Sports Bags: \$5.00	Tote Bags: \$15.00



Did you know that our teachers and staff meet at school every Wednesday at 7:45 for meetings and trainings? The PTA would like to treat them to a parent-provided breakfast the 3rd Wednesday of every month. In January, the kindergarten parents provided breakfast. The schedule for the rest of the year is:

March 19 - 1st grade ♦ April 16 - 2nd & 3rd grade ♦ May 21 - 4th & 5th grade

School News

The Principal's Corner by Dr. Ann Nivens

We have an amazing staff dedicated to providing an outstanding education for all of our students. It is truly a pleasure to work with this wonderful group of professionals.

Recently, our staff voted on Highland Creek Elementary's *Teacher of the Year and Teacher Assistant of the Year*. Congratulations to Mrs. Marcy Sanders, a fabulous fourth grade teacher who was named our *Teacher of the Year*. Mrs. Sanders is an enthusiastic, caring teacher who has the ability to inspire and motivate her students. She provides excellent lessons and activities to meet their diverse needs. Also, congratulations to Mrs. Pat Geary, our *Teacher Assistant of the Year*. Mrs. Geary serves our children as she provides technology instruction, as well as reading remediation and assistance in third grade classrooms. Her dedication is remarkable.

Also, we have an *Outstanding First Year Teacher*. Congratulations to Mr. Chris Locke! Mr. Locke has done a great job this year as a fifth grade teacher. He provides wonderful lessons and activities for his students, and makes learning meaningful and relevant.

Again, it is a pleasure to work with such a great staff. We have delightful, intelligent and enthusiastic students, and we have a dedicated, caring staff. We also have supportive, involved parents who care deeply about their children's education. What a wonderful combination for ensuring the success of our children! Thank you for all you do, as together, we make Highland Creek Elementary "A Great Place for Learning!"



The Family Focus Committee would like to thank all of the HCE girls and their escorts for setting sail on the S.S. Enchantment this past Saturday night. The turnout was fantastic and we hope everyone had a great time!

We have so many volunteers to thank from everyone who helped with the planning to the decorating and to those who served the night of the dance. We couldn't have done it without ALL of you! The support was overwhelming and allowed us to implement the theme for the dance and made it even better than we could have imagined. We'd like to say an extra special "THANK YOU!" to the individuals and companies listed below who donated products or helped considerably in providing a service for this event.

Alisia Sprague - For working on Lei Halos at home and ran last minute errands on Sat.

Consuelo Souders - Donated (2) helium tanks

Dee Eckhardt - Loaned a large electric urn for coffee

Elaine Baxter - For working on the dance favors at home

Eshe Glover - Theme inspiration and donation of decorations

Felicia Morings - A key member of the Food & Refreshments Committee

Helen Borbor - Coordinated the beautiful stars on all of the centerpieces

Holly Sims - Coordinated all of the ribbons & ribbon tying for

the Lei Halos

Jacquie Fennell - Designed and printed the boarding passes and for handling volunteer coordination the night of the dance

Jill Long - Food & Refreshment Coordinator

Karen Holcombe - Donated the wonderful lighted palm tree to the PTA

Kerrie Boys - Donated all of the special willow branches for the centerpieces

Kerri Larsen - Loaned (2) buffet tables & a key member of the Decorations Committee

Maddy Ortiz - For spending your entire Friday on the stage helping Jacquie, Lisa & Karen

Mike Lee - Built the mural framework

Sarah Cannon - Built all of the gorgeous palm trees and donated sand for all of the centerpieces

Sara White - A key member of the Decorations Committee

Shamange Rice - A key member of the Food & Refreshments Committee

Stacey Wilson - Designed the Captain's Guest Book on the (2) bulletin boards that the girls & their escorts signed that night - beautiful!

Victoria Rudiman - Volunteer Coordinator

A special thank you to all of the people who made the dance possible by helping make palm leaves, stuffing invitations, tying Lei Halo ribbons and etc. We couldn't have done it without **each** and **everyone** of **YOU!**

HCE PTA News



Congratulations to the winners of the February drawing -- Ryan Sabo (K, Ms. Rice) and Nathan Grover (1st, Ms. Perry). Our next drawing will be on Thursday, March 6th. There are only four more chances to win so keep your donations coming. Please make sure your child's name, grade and teacher's name is on the donation so they can be entered into the drawing.

I gave several challenges last month and you met them like only true Hurricanes can!!!



In the last two months alone we collected 5,085 box tops for the February submission deadline. That is an additional \$508.50 for this year! We also had a shipment of 2 large printer cartridges, 49 small printer cartridges and 6 cell phones go to the Green School Project. Way to go.



The Harris Teeter links are rolling in. My email inbox is filled with responses and my desk is covered with yellow paper all with names and numbers ready to be linked to the Together in Education program. Thank you for your overwhelming response. Now you can go and put your VIC cards to good use. From March 1st until March 31st Harris Teeter will donate 1% of the purchase dollars for every customer who is linked and uses their VIC card to purchase any Frozen Food department item. There is no limit to what we can earn.



The Food Lion and Box Tops deal for the month of March is buy any 10 participating General Mills products (Pillsbury Grands, Biscuits Grands, Sweet Rolls Grands, Crescent Dinner Rolls, Ready to Bake Cookies, Create N Bake Cookies, Sweet Rolls, Brownie Mix, Pancakes, Toaster Strudel Pastries, Dunkables French Toast Sticks, Yoplait Go-GURT Fizzix, Trix Multipack Yogurt, Go-GURT, Go-GURT Smoothie) in one shopping trip using your MVP and receive 10 Bonus Box Tops instantly at check-out.



My challenge for the month of March is Tyson labels. We need to have at least 100 labels before I can submit them for payment and I need your help. This could be a win-win thing in that Tyson food products are usually found in the frozen foods section and that works out perfectly with the promotion that Harris Teeter is running!!

GO! SHOP! WIN!

PTA Teacher of the Month



Congratulations to Ms. Wassweiler (Teacher Assistant) for being named the January PTA Teacher of the Month for her support of PTA programs:

We appreciate all of the staff support we receive!

The Family Focus Committee would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations and discounts to the Father / Daughter Dance!

Bella Photography

(www.bellaphotoonline.com)

Bi-Lo Foods – Donated 25 lbs. strawberries

B.J.'s Wholesale Club – Donated (4) cases of bottled water, white foam bowls and napkins

Bloom – Donated a \$25 gift card.

Do a Little Floral – Donated (2) floral arrangements and provided the wrist corsages.

Harris Teeter – Donated a \$30 gift card

Hawthorne's Pizza – Donated (6) gallons of sweet tea

Lowe's Foods – Donated 20 lbs. strawberries

Maui Wowi – Discounted coffee

Subway – Discounted sub sandwiches

Thank you for your support!

We Appreciate Our Community Sponsors

The UPS Store, Concord Mills Location - Discounted Copying
PostNet, Prosperity Church Rd. Location - Discounted Copying
CMC-University Hospital - Health Room Medical Supplies