



HICKORY BEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

IN THIS ISSUE

HB | PARENT NEWS BULLETIN

by Mrs. Shawn Jackson | Principal

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

It is unbelievable that [2016] is coming to a close already! Wow how time flies! As we near our winter holiday and reflect on all the activities and wonderful gifts at Hickory Bend. We want to wish you and your family a blessed holiday season. I'm grateful for a wonderful and amazing school where students can come to learn and grow daily. The gift of a wonderful and amazing staff & teachers who give many, many countless hours of their day to provide students a quality instructional experience that will guide towards success for life skills. The gift of extremely supportive parents who care and support the efforts of Hickory Bend. The gift of a heartfelt community who has partnered and volunteers who assist us as needed. Also, the gift of two dynamic office staff who share in leading our school on a path to academic success.

As parents, you play a tremendous role in developing and influencing your child's learning ability. During the "season of giving" one gift that children find most important is your time. It does not cost you a thing, no money and you can give of yourself and your time daily. Time spent with your children is far more valuable and important to your child than any present you could buy.

Keep your child's mind active during the Holiday Break. Reading is the single most important skill your child will use in their lifetime. Also practice writing with your child; printing and cursive writing are important fundamentals for life. Cursive writing is good motor skills, and writing long hand helps

students retain more information; not to mention we all need to know how to sign our names. As well, selecting appropriate books now can bring and maintain an interest in reading for years to come. Make sure you talk to your child, read to or with your child, visit libraries and/or museums, teach your child responsibility. Here are a few ideas for the holidays:

- **TAKE TIME TO READ TO YOUR CHILD OR LET THEM READ TO YOU:** This can be a time of sharing and relaxing together.
- **PLAY GAMES WITH YOUR CHILD:** This will let them know that they are important to you. Games like Uno, scrabble, candy lane, chutes and ladders, trouble, boggle — just to name a few.
- **BAKE WITH YOUR CHILD:** This has you working as a team; counting and measuring; baking Christmas cookies.
- **START A PROJECT OR ACTIVITY THAT YOU CAN DO TOGETHER:** Creating a scrapbook or photo album.
- **PRACTICE WRITING WITH YOUR CHILD:** Printing and Cursive writing is an important skill students need assistance practicing.
- **VOLUNTEERING:** Giving of your time at church or organizations. Donating toys, etc.

"The Hickory Bend staff wishes you and your family a happy, safe and relaxing Holiday Season!!"



SOCIAL WORK CORNER

Where did the year go? Christmas is fast approaching. This is a happy time of the year, but it can be stressful too. Here are a few tips for a less stressful and more joyful Christmas season...

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT

What happens when parents get involved in their children's education? Grades go up—and behavior improves, too. Whether it's reading together or attending a teacher conference...

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SOCIAL WORK CORNER

Where did the year go? Christmas is fast approaching. This is a happy time of the year, but it can be stressful too. Here are a few tips for a less stressful and more joyful Christmas season.

Remind yourself and your family what Christmas is all about. It is not just about "NEW" popular or even expensive gifts under the tree. What does Christmas mean to your family?

Christmas is a time to teach our children the importance of giving from the heart. The gift of giving and expecting nothing in return is the most satisfying reward and the best gift to receive.

Enjoy sharing some simple pleasures with your children this year by making handmade gifts for love ones and friends such as cookies, baked sweet breads and muffins wrapped in colorful plastic wrap. If you are crafty, you might create homemade mementos like decorative picture frames, cards or e-cards and ornaments are always treasured keep sakes.

It is not the trimmings and trappings that matter. It is the time we spend together, the

memories we make
with our families and friends that will
stand the test of time.

May this Christmas season bring you love,
peace, joy, countless smiles, and warm hugs
that will last the whole year long!

*Let Every Day Be Christmas
Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put
away
Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box
upon a shelf
The good you do for others, is good you do
yourself.*

Norman W. Brooks

Mrs. Kelly can be reached at (708) 758-4520.



BUS SAFETY RULES

"FIRST STUDENT BUS COMPANY"

- Stand on the same side of the street as the bus stop;
- Don't play around while waiting and stay on the sidewalk;
- Be alert to traffic;
- Always walk in front of, not behind the bus;
- Don't rush for the bus. Move toward the door only after the bus stops, the door opens and the driver gives the okay to board;

- Hold the handrail when getting on and off the bus;
- Never stand up or walk around while the bus is moving;
- Always obey the bus driver!



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES



GENERAL HINTS

Parent-teacher conferences are an excellent opportunity to find out how your child is adjusting to the new school year and to get to know his/her teachers.

Here are some general hints on how to have a successful conference:

- ❖ Ask your child if there is anything that he/she would like to discuss with the teacher.
- ❖ Write a list of everything that you want to talk about at the conference.
- ❖ Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.
- ❖ Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.
- ❖ Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
- ❖ Be open to suggestions from the teacher.
- ❖ Keep your emotions under control.
- ❖ Take notes about what has been discussed and share them with your child.
- ❖ Express appreciation for the conference.
- ❖ Do not stay beyond your allotted time.



HELPFUL QUESTIONS

In order to help your child, have a successful school year, you need to know what will be expected of them academically from now until June. You can find out by asking some questions. Take this list with you to your next parent-teacher conference. And don't forget to take notes.

- ❖ What skills and knowledge will my child be expected to master this year?
 - What will my child learn this year in key subjects; like math, science, history and English?
 - How do you inform students about academic standards that they are expected to meet?
 - What kind of projects and assignments have you planned that will help my child meet higher academic standards?
- ❖ How will my child be evaluated?
 - How are grades determined in your classroom?
- ❖ What can I do to stay more involved in my child's academic progress?
 - What can I do at home to complement what is happening in the classroom?
 - How can I know on a daily basis what homework has been assigned?
- ❖ How do you accommodate differences in learning?
 - What if my child is a slow learner and falls behind, or is a fast learner and is bored?



NOW TRENDING



HISPANIC HERITAGE "DAY OF THE DEAD"

During October and November, we finished up Hispanic Heritage month by celebrating El Día de los Muertos [DAY OF THE DEAD]. Day of the Dead is a holiday celebrated on November 1st and 2nd by Hispanic families to honor family members who have passed away. The ELL students made sugar skulls and tasted some "pan de muerto" (bread of the dead). Mrs. Guzman read a story about Day of the Dead to Mrs. Hines's class and the students learned about some of the traditions during the celebration. Mrs. Hines's class also was able to taste tamales and listen to the book, "Too Many Tamales".



2ND GRADE CONCERT

We want to [THANK!] Mrs. Westerfield for the wonderful concert that was performed on Thursday, November 17th in November. Great job students; we are [PROUD] of you! The concert was enjoyable and very successful with all of the support from our wonderful parents, friends and community members. Thanks again Mrs. Westerfield for all you do; we look forward to the next concert.



WINTER WEATHER IS HERE!!!

The Chicago windy cold weather is back; parents please remind your child that warm clothing is necessary when they come to school. We go out each day for recess weather permitting. It is a must to wear our coats, gloves, scarfs, hats, ear muffs, etc.

GET INVOLVED



CONGRATULATIONS ON RETIRING MRS. WHALEN



Our own Mrs. Barbarose Whalen is retiring from Brookwood School District 167 after 16 years. She has been at Hickory Bend for all 16 years; as a very dedicated librarian and employee.

She is very active participant in all of our events and activities; she is always willing to go the extra mile. Barbarose shelves many many books and does constant check-in check out with all our teachers. She is so much more than our librarian, she has so many duties, such as lunchroom supervisor, assistant to setting up the technical equipment for events, chairperson for our Bookfairs, etc. Barbarose stays late and always goes above and beyond the call of duty.

She has worked on the Bookfair committee, Field Day committee, Family Reading Night and Black History committees. Barbarose has been a very active member of the union-NEA. Mrs. Whalen works so hard and is always willing to help whenever needed. She always assists with setting up our sound system for assemblies.

She is kind, caring, helpful and gives of herself daily. She is also extremely active with her church and community.

Enjoy retirement and time with your family.

We will miss you!

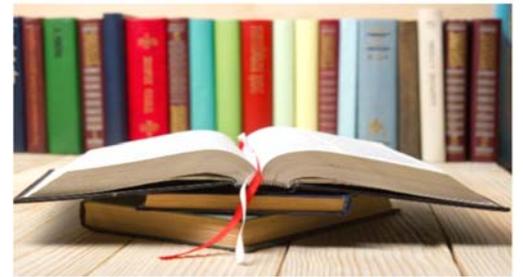
NOW TRENDING

Thank You!

MRS. ANDERSON-WARD ...

We want to give a special shout out to our guest teacher, Mrs. Anderson-Ward. She has once again given her time, talent and wisdom to our students from October through December. Mrs. Anderson-Ward you will always be a part of the Hickory Bend family; words cannot tell you how grateful we are to you for stepping in and stepping up to the challenge of working with our first grade students

We truly appreciate all that you have done here at Hickory Bend and will sincerely miss each of you **[THANKS AGAIN!]**



ROTARY CLUB DONATES DICTIONARIES

[THANK YOU!] to the Homewood Rotary Club for providing every third grade students at Hickory Bend their very own personal dictionary. This is the 7th year they have come to our school and personally hand delivered dictionaries to each third grade students. The group distributed the dictionaries to provide knowledge and information on how to find words and definitions.



CURRICULUM NIGHT

Curriculum Night is an annual event to showcase different programs, activities and projects that enrich our students throughout the district. Students also performed in front of family, friends and community members to showcase the choir, gospel, band and dance.

GET INVOLVED

IMPORTANT! VOLUNTEERING PARENTS



[PLEASE] be advised that the procedures for the district are that volunteers must undergo a state and federal background check through district office via Jan Machnikowski.

[FINGERPRINTING PROCESS TAKES PLACE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.]

This includes parents accompanying students on field trips, sporting events. As well, as copiers, daily volunteers, Real Men Read, Parent Room Assistance, Community Readers, Kids Hope Volunteers, etc.

IT'S FLU SEASON AGAIN!!!



It's that time of year again, the dreaded flu season! Parents I ask that you remember to please keep your child at home if he/she is sick. We want to be proactive and ensure that we do not expose well students to contagious germs. If your child is experiencing some or all of the flu symptoms listed below we ask that you, please consider if he/she is well enough to attend school:

FEVER & CHILLS | HEADACHE | COUGHING & SORE THROAT | FEELING WEAK | LOSS OF APPETITE | MUSCLE ACHES

If your child has the flu, please do not send him/her to school for 24 hours after he/she is free from fever without medication. Please reinforce to your child the importance of good hygiene by covering the mouth when sneezing or coughing, proper disposal of nasal secretions, and frequent hand washing.

MAKE READING A PART OF EVERYDAY!

SHARE CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR CHILD OVER MEAL TIMES AND OTHER TIMES YOU ARE TOGETHER: Children learn words more easily when they hear them spoken often.

READ TOGETHER EVERY DAY: Spend time talking about stories, pictures, and words.

BE YOUR CHILD'S BEST ADVOCATE: Keep informed about your child's progress in reading and ask the teacher about ways you can help.

BE A READER AND A WRITER: Children learn habits from the people around them.

VISIT THE LIBRARY OFTEN: Story times, computers, homework help, and other exciting activities await the entire family.

CLASSROOM PARTIES



Parents at Hickory Bend we only have three classroom parties for the year; they are as follows:

- Fall Party** **November 22nd, 2016**
- Winter Party** **December 21st, 2016**
- Valentine's Day Party** **February 14th, 2017**

[STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO PAY \$5.00 PER STUDENT, FOR THE THREE PARTIES.]

If you have not already sent the money for this year, please do so as soon as possible. Parents below is a list of class sizes so that you are aware for birthday cupcakes and party treats:

- Kdg:** Angell – 13 | Szotek – 15 | Lucas - 15
- 1st:** Wagner – 15 | Gajewski – 19 | Baugher - 19
- 2nd:** Hines – 21 | Morgan – 19 | Torres - 18
- 3rd:** Baker – 18 | Skinner – 22 | Newman - 20
- 4th:** Brandt – 23 | Crowel – 20 | Binning - 23

NOW TRENDING



Change Of Information

Parents/Guardians are required to notify the school immediately of any changes in name, address, home, work or emergency telephone numbers; a change in the emergency contact person, changes in guardianship, etc. Any information that might be pertinent to school records or contacting parent/guardian in case of an emergency. Also, please make sure that we have all correct information.



AT HICKORY BEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WE EXPECT OUR STUDENTS TO...

- BE SAFE
- BE RESPECTFUL
- BE RESPONSIBLE

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