

News . . .

October 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2



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International Auction Update

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Lake Hickory Country Club

6 p.m.

Saturday, November 1st

**Music by the band
20/20**

Machu Piccu

Activities Include:

Live Auction & Silent Auction
Heads or Tails Raffle Game
Internationally-themed Dinner
& Dancing

Acapulco/Cancun

Sponsors:

*Nick and Kim Frankel:
In honor of Natalie Frankel
John and Lena Eldridge:
In honor of Will and Hayden Eldridge
Dr. and Mrs. Sung Whan Chang:
In honor of Maggie, Max, and Molly Chang
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Del Campo
Dr. and Mrs. Peter Bradshaw
Mr. Davis Thompson:
In honor of Maggie, Max, and Molly Chang
Mr. and Mrs. H. Lawrence Thompson, IV
Christine Getty and Johnny DY:
In honor of Maya Dy
Dr. and Mrs. W. Martin Evans:
In honor of Tina Farr*

LHCC Membership

Lasik Surgery

Disneyland Trip

**Come dressed
in clothes
from your
favorite culture!**

Hickory Day School Needs:

Newsletter
Sponsored By



Hickory Day School needs the following items or assistance with the listed projects. If you are able to help out with either a donation or time, please let Sharon Whitener in the office know:

- ❖ Riding Lawnmower - the current lawn mower is no longer usable. We are unable to mow until we get a new machine.
- ❖ Help painting the exterior - there are still parts of the building that have not received a fresh coat of paint from the summer painting project.

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Holes Workshop

The book, *Holes*, by Louis Sachar is a popular book among the 5th-8th grade set. It has earned numerous awards, including the 1999 Newbery Medal. Set at a juvenile detention center in the desert, the book explores the issues of friendship, homelessness, and the juvenile justice system. The book's popularity spawned a 2003 movie starring Sigourney Weaver as well as a stage play which has seen productions all over the country. Our own Hickory Community Theatre recently staged a production of the play, a dress rehearsal of which many HDS students and their families attended.

Before attending the dress rehearsal, the 3rd-8th graders were led in workshops by the guest director of the HCT production, Patrick Elkins-Zeglarski who is also known as "Mr. Pez" because of his initials. The exercises in the workshop included activities designed to challenge both the left and right brain: "It helped the kids step away from their pre-conditioned notions," said Tina Farr, teacher of the POD (4th & 5th grades). "The kids really enjoyed it and they did a great job."

The main character of the story, Stanley Yelnats has a name that is a palindrome so, the students wrote their name backwards, too, and then read them out loud. They also sent sounds around in both directions as they stood in a circle and had to "pass" the sounds from person to person.

Some of the students sculpted each other's bodies into positions representing the characters from the book. They also chose roles of characters in photographs and acted out what happened before and after the photographs were taken. One of the main focuses of the workshop explored the different meanings that people can convey with body language.

"Working with Mr. Pez was fun. He helped me and the people in my class learn a lot about acting," said 4th grader Kasey Mull.

Reminders

- ❖ The school year calendar can be found on the HDS website.
- ❖ The school day starts at 8:00 a.m.
- ❖ Now that we are several weeks into the school year, parents can feel free to let their children walk to class by themselves after exiting the car in the drop-off line during the morning rush. Allowing our children to work towards independence and self-responsibility give them important life skills. If you have questions about this, please see your child's teacher.

1st & 2nd Grade News

The 1st and 2nd graders have been busy investigating the benefits of organic agriculture. As part of their inquisitive endeavor into the role of industrialized agriculture and its impact on personal health, the students have begun an experiment. Jillian Adair, Zane Harbison, Drew Pate, Maggie Chang, John-Barron Davidson, Anna McDonald, and Colleen Whitener have planted organic broccoli plants. One set of plants was planted in non-organic soil. The other set of plants was planted in an all organic soil. They will be collecting data regarding plant growth and production. The experiment will culminate with an all organic meal utilizing their broccoli.

Grandparents' Day

Grandparents arrived from Florida, Pennsylvania, Winston-Salem and our own fabulous Hickory to enjoy the annual celebration of Grandparents Day at Hickory Day School on Friday, October 3. Multiple generations of families, even some of four generations, enjoyed food and festivities linking the "Past, Present & Future."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity Hickory Day has provided to bring together four generations of our family," said Esther Leighow, great-grandmother of Brendan Harrison. "This entire school community has such a sense of family, something that is often lost in today's fast-paced society."

Programming representing the past included the 3-5th grade recorder ensemble playing Handel's "Rockin' Shoe B-A-B Blues," transitional kindergarten through second grade students singing "Blue Suede Shoes," and 6th-8th graders playing the Shaker tune, "Simple Gifts" on chimes. For the present day, 6th-8th graders played "School Days" on chimes, while the TK-5 graders sang various songs including "The Best Time of Your Life." Looking towards the future, the 6th-8th graders again played the chimes while the 3rd-5th graders did a dance called "Techno Popcorn Dance" which was choreographed by Sonya Briggs, Creative Movement Instructor. All students ended the entertainment by singing "We Are the People of the 21st Century." All musical numbers were taught and organized by Debbie Christian, Music Instructor.

In addition to the entertainment, students in Tina Farr's combination 4th and 5th grade class presented projects which included family tree charts, self-portraits, family scrapbooks and heirlooms, photos and textiles such as quilts and linens all displayed in suitcases. These suitcase projects were a culminating project in the students unit of inquiry about genealogy and heritage.

Following the presentations and entertainment, lunch was served to the multi-generational families in attendance. Visits to the children's classrooms and the Scholastic Book Fair were also popular activities of the day. Everyone enjoyed a great day, which was summed up by Joan Colavecchio, "At Hickory Day School we find such a wonderful, caring, and dedicated group of families that celebrate learning and our cultural diversity."

Parents' Association Update

The Parents' Association extends heartfelt thanks for a successful Book Fair to Sharon Whitener & Leslie Davidson who ran the Fair for us. Additional thanks goes to the parents & faculty who volunteered to help as well as those who made purchases. In addition to faculty wish lists being fulfilled, there is also a \$1,083 voucher for Mrs. Dollar to spend on books for the school.

Grandparents' day was delightful. Kudos to Mrs. Christian, Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Dollar, all of the HDS Faculty for an excellent program, as well as to the parent volunteers who provided a delicious lunch.

At the most recent HDSPA meeting the following was discussed:

- ❖ Dr. Michael Jazzar (an educational consultant who has been working with our development committee here at HDS) was on campus recently to teach both parents and teachers how to use our new promotional DVD, how to write grants, and how to continue to develop our strategic plan. Please contact Mrs. Dollar if you would like to participate in grant writing or serve as an ambassador for HDS.
- ❖ Work continues on bringing a local soccer league to HDS.
- ❖ Stephanie Bertrand has received a \$10,000 grant from her father's company, Roll-Tech, and Corning to bring about immediate improvements to our energy expenses. Improvements include replacing light bulbs and changing to programmable thermostats
- ❖ Our Turkey Bowl, which is a game of flag football played between faculty/parents and students, is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Nov. 15. Please contact Elizabeth Beadle if you are interested in playing or would like to have your younger children be cheerleaders.
- ❖ Friday, Nov. 21 is to be our day of thanks and fall festival. Please note that this is a new date from the previously announced one. Please stay posted for additional information.
- ❖ Our holiday production of *Scrooge* is set for Friday, Dec. 12. There are to be two performances at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the Hickory Art Center located at 243 3rd Ave NE, Hickory.
- ❖ Some parents are interested in implementing a school uniform policy. There is discussion about offering some choices so that older students do not feel stifled.
- ❖ Food on campus for the students as an alternative to a packed lunch every day continues to be under discussion. The cost of having an outside service seems to be more money than parents would like to spend. The idea of stocking our own kitchen/pantry area was again discussed. A certified food preparer is to be contacted as well. More information is to follow.
- ❖ Lowes Foods gift cards are now available—check your e-mail.
- ❖ Huge thanks to our extremely dedicated painters—Mirtha Bertrand and Jennifer Deal.
- ❖ The 75 folding chairs that were used for our Grandparents' Day celebration were purchased for \$8 a chair. If you are able to help by contributing towards the purchase of these chairs, please contact Kate Adair.

Staff Profile

Nisreen Petiwala teaches 1st grade in the morning and then adds 2nd grade in the afternoon for the Programme of Inquiry. Having taught in the Middle East, Spain, in her native India, and at other schools in North Carolina, she joins Hickory Day School in her ninth year of teaching.

Ms. Petiwala loves the creativity involved in teaching, including exploring new and different teaching techniques. She loves the openness of children in the lower grades as she can find ways of getting them to engage in an activity, even if they are not interested at first. She feels that students are ready to absorb what a teacher brings to them, so she tries to teach in a multi-cultural environment to help students understand that, "something different is not necessarily weird." Specifically, she likes to include cooking in her teaching. Recently she and Senior Rojas cooked tortilla-style breads from three different cultures—Columbia, India and Mexico—for her class.



Box Tops for Education — Please help the school earn some money by cutting out and saving your box tops. There will be a deadline announced soon for turning them in. You can also help the school earn 5 points by registering at <http://www.boxtops4education.com>.