



THE TORNADO TIMES

Winter 2011

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thank you for your patience with the recent changes in the schedule, especially during exam time. I know it was not an ideal situation. It gave us 'food for thought' for future improvements.

I am excited about the second semester. First, we have several new faces on the faculty—they should bring a lot to the table. Hopefully, you met them at the PTA Open House Monday evening. Second, a few new classes have been added this semester. Included is Teen Leadership, a part of the Capturing Kids Hearts curriculum (ask your child; he/she knows all about it) that the district adopted for classroom management. The class is designed to help students build communication skills they can use to solve conflicts and manage peer pressure. Two other new classes include bringing back German in the Language Department and a new computer course allowing students to receive workplace certification in Word applications that is being piloted in the Business Department.

A new, more structured discipline continuum is being implemented. Discipline is a necessary part of school structure, and a team of teachers has put together a comprehensive plan that I think will provide more consistency, better communication and increased student responsibility. Details will be sent home soon.

I hope everyone has a great second semester. Please be a part of your child's life; get involved with the PTA and booster clubs, and let's all make HHS a better place to learn.

David P. Coyne
Principal

PTA Bylaws

North Carolina PTA approved new Uniform PTA Bylaws for local PTA's. At the PTA Open House meeting on January 31, the new proposed Bylaws were approved by the Hickory High School PTA. By adopting these Bylaws, the PTA never has to renew them again. To reference the New Bylaws, please go to www.ncpta.org to review them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spirit Auction Goal Met—Surprise Gift

The Spirit Auction raised \$6,317 to go toward curriculum-based books. Thank you to all who gave. A list of donors is posted on the PTA bulletin board located on the hall by the Guidance Counselors' offices. The curriculum committee decided to purchase as many new Algebra II books as possible with the money donated. 150 Algebra II textbooks and 5 teacher manuals were needed. With the money the Spirit Auction raised, 78 new Algebra II books and 4 teacher manuals were ordered. An advocate and supporter of the Hickory City Public Schools was aware of the state and local cutbacks to school funding and knew about the lack of funds to update curriculum based books. She was told of the Spirit Auction and how families and businesses had contributed \$6,317 toward the purchase of Algebra II books (last purchased in 2004 and the math department spent last spring researching the best Algebra II book for HHS students only to be told during the summer there were no funds to purchase the books). She asked how many additional books were needed. She was told 72 student books and 1 teacher's manual at a cost of \$5,882.74. She and her husband mailed HHS a check for \$5,882.74 to cover the costs of the books. The HHS PTA and Math Department were overjoyed with the kind donation. This Hickory couple, who would like to remain anonymous, has made an important contribution to educate the children in our community.

Lowes Foods Gift Cards a Success

Thank you to all who supported Hickory High School's first selling of Lowes Foods Give Back to Education Gift Cards. HHS met the goal to sell \$25,000 in gift cards, which netted \$2,500 to the HHS PTA. Tracey Bolick was in charge of the fall Lowes Foods Give Back to Education Gift Card campaign. Thank you Tracey! Lisa Hart is in charge of the spring Lowes Foods Give Back to Education Gift Card campaign. The Lowes Foods Gift Card order form for the spring campaign is included with this newsletter.

PTA Board Meetings Open to All and Leadership Positions Available

The HHS PTA Board meetings are open to everyone, and we welcome all to attend. The meetings are the third Thursday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. The meeting time was scheduled during the lunch hour to allow all parents to attend the meetings. Either Mr. Coyne or a representative of his attends the meetings.

PTA Officers and Board Members are needed for the next school year.

If you would like to get involved with the HHS PTA, please contact Neal Orgain at 244-9051 or nealorgain@aol.com. New faces with new ideas are always welcomed and appreciated. This is a great way to enhance your child's education at Hickory High School by becoming more aware and knowledgeable of HHS and its needs.

Neal Orgain
2010-11 PTA President

Parent Handbook Available

At the beginning of school, a HHS Parent Handbook was published to help inform parents of parent led volunteer organizations. They were given out at the PTA Open Houses in September 2010 and January 2011. If you did not get a Parent Handbook, then please see Mrs. Rockett in the office. The need for parent involvement and parent volunteers is great. There are so many ways you can give of your time, talent and treasure to benefit HHS students.

Neal Orgain
PTA President

Winter Sports Safety

Provided by Catawba Valley Medical Center

Winter is here, and possible cold temperatures, snow showers, and outdoor activities are in the mix! What are you doing to stay safe this winter?

"The most common injuries in the winter involve collisions with objects and automobiles," says Debbie Leger, Coordinator, Safe Kids Catawba County and Educator for CVMC's The Health First Center at Valley Hills Mall. "Winter sledding, skiing, and snowboarding at fast, uncontrollable speeds lead to these types of injuries."

It is also important to avoid dehydration in the winter months. "Signs of dehydration include thirst, dry mouth, headache, muscle cramping, irritability, fatigue, weakness or dizziness," says Leger.

While it is important to dress for the weather conditions, parents should also monitor how long their children are outside. "It is always good to go outside every day to get fresh air as long as your kids are dressed appropriately and the conditions are not extreme," Leger says. "They shouldn't stay outside too long if it is windy and if it is sunny outside, it is a good idea to wear sunscreen." Leger suggests the following tips to help reduce injury this winter:

- Always wear a helmet! There are different helmets for different activities, such as skiing and snowboarding, snowmobiling, ice skating, and sledding.
It is important for parents to wear helmets too; children learn by example.
- Bundle up and enjoy the outdoors—items such as hats, gloves, boots, and winter coats are essential. It also helps to wear several layers and close-fitting clothes. Be sure to stay dry and change clothes if they become wet.
- Stay hydrated. Make sure you drink plenty of fluids before and after playing outside.

School Health News

A friendly reminder that if your child has a medical condition that could possibly effect them or need medication (for example inhalers or epipens) here at school please contact the school nurse.

Even though your child is in high school, you still need to check with your child's doctor to ensure that your child is up to date on vaccinations. Some of the vaccines that your child could possibly be missing include the meningitis, Tdap, and HPV vaccines. Call your child's doctor for further information.

We are quickly approaching cold/flu season and to protect the family from getting the flu it is important to get vaccinated. You may contact your primary physician for more information regarding the flu vaccine. Also, Catawba County Public Health will be conducting several flu clinics around the area during the months of October and November, for a listing of places, dates, and times you may contact public health at www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth/protectflu or 828-695-5800.

HHS PTA Grounds

HHS Grounds Committee is having a clean up day on Saturday February 5th from 9 am till 1 pm. Please bring gloves, drinking water and a snack. If you have any questions, please contact Yvette Balatow at 310-8903 or balatow@charter.net

Upcoming Events

February 5 PTA Grounds Day
February 14-18 Prom Tickets on sale during Lunch
April 2 Jr./Sr. Prom, 8pm to Midnight
Lake Hickory Country Club
Apr 25-29 Spring Break

Reflections Contest

This past fall semester, several Hickory High students submitted artwork for the Reflections contest. The judging and a reception were held at the Hickory Art Museum during the weekend of January 9th for the participants and their families that represent the various Hickory City Schools. The following Hickory High students placed in the senior division: **Visual Art:** Sophia Garlinghouse - 1st place; Morgan Greene-2nd place; Seul Bin Han-3rd place; Michelle Martinez-Honorable Mention. **Literature:** Saleha Bhatti-1st place. **Photography:** Lillian Huckabee-1st place; Lillian Huckabee-2nd place; Haley Huckabee-3rd place.

Twenty-four winning works of art from the various Hickory City Schools were sent to Raleigh to compete at the regional level. Winners from this level will go on to compete at the state level. Congratulations to the above winners and to all of the Hickory High students who shared their artistic talent by entering this yearly contest!

Harris Teeter Education Contest

Harris Teeter is calling all Together in Education schools to participate in the "My Harris Teeter" Jingle contest! **What's in it for our school? The chance to win \$10,000, \$2,500 or \$1,000!** Gather a group or class of students and show off your musical talent. Start now so your marching band, choral groups, jazz ensemble, etc. can all be included. For official contest rules, visit http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/jingle_contest_2011.aspx. You may also view the winner and runner-up entries from the 2010 contest in this section of the website.

So what are you waiting for? Start recording your video NOW! The deadline for this contest is 11:59 PM, ET Tuesday, April 19, 2011. Contest started on January 19, 2011. Any questions regarding the My Jingle Contest can be sent to TIE@harristeeter.com.