



The Tornado Times

Fall 2008

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Communication is at the heart of family-school relationships. Ongoing, two-way communication is associated with students' academic success, and it lays the foundation for many other forms of family involvement. However, family-school communication can be challenging for logistical, emotional, and cultural reasons.

The results of the 2007-08 parent survey indicate that parents believe communication is an area for improvement for Hickory High School. One focus for our school this year will be to improve communication between families and school. Internet technology represents an opportunity for increasing communication between families and Hickory High. *Announcements* and *Upcoming Events* regarding school functions, athletic events, and other activities will be posted on the HHS website daily to help keep you abreast of HHS happenings. You may visit our website at <http://www.hickoryschools.net/schools/Hickory/Default.aspx> to view these postings.

By clicking on the *Meet the Faculty* tab, you can access teacher web pages and E-mail addresses. Many teachers are currently using their web pages to post assignments, announcements, handouts, and other information on a daily basis. One of our initiatives during the 2008-09 school year is to focus on using technology as a tool for communication with students and parents.

Research shows that children do better in school when parents and teachers communicate on a regular basis. There are a number of ways that parents and teachers can communicate with one another, rather than relying on a scheduled parent-teacher conference. One way that you can help us to improve our communication process is to share with teachers the best way to contact you. Please share your E-mail address or the telephone number that you prefer for teacher contacts with your child's teachers.

Teachers welcome meeting their students' parents early in the school year. Making an effort to introduce yourself and meet with your child's teachers will help teachers better understand you, your child, and your support of his or her education. Teachers appreciate knowing that parents are concerned and interested in their child's progress, which helps open the lines of communication.

We have already sent the first progress reports home, but the dates for remaining progress reports this semester are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| October 9 | December 17 |
| November 3 (report cards) | January 16 |
| November 21 | |

If you do not receive a progress report on these dates, please contact your child's teacher. If you still have not received a progress report after contacting the teacher, please contact Marcia Hammond, assistant principal, who oversees parent communication.

We are continuously looking for ways to improve communication with our parents. Please feel free to contact us with suggestions about ways in which we can best communicate with you and your family. We look forward to working with you to ensure that every child has multiple opportunities for success at Hickory High School.

Sincerely,

Kim I. Mattox, Principal
mattoxki@hickoryschools.net

Hello Everyone!



This year has been so busy, it seems to be flying by. Students have been studying hard and playing hard (just look at the success of our many sports' teams)! PTA volunteers have been working hard, too. Grounds work days, our September Open House Dinner, a Teacher Breakfast, selling t-shirts/sweatshirts in the mall, working in the mail room and the dress code closet, volunteers have been very kind in sharing their talents and time with our school.

An especially fun time at our school recently was the Spirit Week Celebration, leading up to Homecoming night. Students seemed to enjoy the break from dress code for the daily dress themes. The Homecoming Court looked great on Friday night with all of their handsome escorts and dads. The football game was very exciting. And, wonderfully, there were many of you that chose to participate in our "Spirit Auction," grossing over \$11,000 this year. At a time when there is so much stress and unknown, students, parents, and faculty all came together for a great week of fun and activity.

As a PTA, we are an organization of parents and teachers, just by definition. If you have not had a chance to join our organization, please consider doing so. The more parents we have involved, the better and stronger we become. We welcome your participation in whatever capacity you are able to give. Believe me, if you have the time, we have a place for you!

Have a great fall season!

Bonnie Lomboy
PTA President

Pedestrian Safety Tips for Halloween

Provided by Catawba Valley Medical Center



For most children, Halloween traditionally means dressing up in inventive costumes to roam the neighborhood and collect bunches of candy. Ensuring that your children are familiar with pedestrian safety rules can help ensure an enjoyable, worry-free evening for everyone.

"Trick-or-treating is a fun activity for most families, but they should be aware of their safety while crossing streets and walking through neighborhoods," says Debbie Leger, RN, BSN, CCRN, community health and Safe Kids Catawba County coordinator for Catawba Valley Medical Center. "Most children will be out in the dusk or dark, so extra care should be taken to ensure their safety."

Following are recommended child pedestrian safety rules provided by the Safe Kids "Walk This Way" initiative. These tips are useful for Halloween and every other day of the year.

1. Cross the street at the corner or at a crosswalk if there is one, and obey all traffic signals.
2. Walk on a sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street, facing oncoming traffic.
3. Walk with an adult until you are at least 10 years old.
4. Only cross in front of a school bus when the driver says it is safe. Do not cross behind the bus or where the driver can't see you.
5. Hold an adult's hand when you cross the street. Look left, right and left again before you cross and keep looking both ways until you reach the other side.
6. If you walk when it is dark, wear light-colored clothing or clothing with reflective material so drivers can see you. A flashlight is also a good idea.
7. If a toy or pet goes out into the street, ask an adult for help getting it back.
8. When you are outside playing, play in a backyard or playground away from the street or parking lots.

HHS PTA Grounds

Thank you to St. Aloysius Boy Scout Troop 351, Beth Ansley, Bonnie Bishop, and Ellen Mitchell for your help on our Clean-Up Workday. Our grounds looked great for the new school year.

Hickory High School received a Landscape Beautification Award from the Hickory City Community Appearance Commission. Dr. Mattox was presented the award at the Council Meeting on October 7 by Mayor Wright. We are proud of our beautiful campus and appreciate everyone that has supported our many projects in improving HHS grounds.

Our next workday is Thursday, November 6, 10:00-12:00. Please come and join us. We need your help. Bring gloves and basic gardening tools.



Shop and Earn for HHS

Sign up for Harris Teeter's and Target's programs for education and earn the school some \$\$\$. Link your VIC card at checkout or at harristeeter.com to HHS code 1745. HT donates a % of purchases of Harris Teeter brand items to HHS. You can link your Target card by calling 800-316-6142 or at target.com/tcoe to HHS code 80191. Target donates 1% of total purchases to HHS.



Hospitality Committee

Our Hospitality Committee has provided a delicious breakfast for the teachers and staff as well as a special snack day. Next up: winter chili lunch. If you would be willing to whip up some of that famous chili with the secret ingredients for our winter luncheon, please contact Kim Turner at kturner108@aol.com. This treat for those who work so hard at HHS is greatly appreciated and well deserved!

Open House Dinner-Monday, February 2, 2009

The Hickory High Open House is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2009 for all parents and students to come and meet the staff & teachers for the new semester! Prior to the Open House Event, the PTA will be offering a dinner to warm us up on a cold February night! This will be our last PTA fundraiser dinner for the year so please come out and support your PTA! The dinners are also prepared for takeout! This is a great way to support your PTA and have dinner prior to the Open House!

You may purchase your tickets from a current PTA Board Member in December and January. We also plan to sell tickets in the office too!

If you have any questions about the dinner, please feel free to contact Jennifer Garlow (327-9550) or Deborah Oberle (322-7521)



Upcoming Events

- Nov 6PTA Grounds Workday
- Nov. 26-28..... Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 22-Jan 2Winter Break (Teachers back 1/2)
- Jan. 13 Finals begin
- Feb. 2.....Open House Dinner

Check <http://www.hickoryschools.net/schools/Hickory/default.aspx> for up to date event information as well as new modification to the dress code.