



North Ridge Elementary Principal's Newsletter

October 2009

Thanks to everyone for remembering our early dismissal WEDNESDAYS- you have been so great and this has allowed all teachers to quickly get engaged in their PLT's.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TEAMS (PLT's): Team-based collaboration is essential to continuous improvement at North Ridge Elementary! PLTs are "Professional Learning Teams" who regularly collaborate toward continued improvement in meeting the needs of all students. The staff at North Ridge meet in specified teams every Wednesday afternoon. The work is centered around shared knowledge and expectations for student learning. Teams identify goals for learning and monitor each student's progress using evidence from research-based tools. After student needs have been identified, teachers discuss best teaching practices and processes for implementing these practices. Implementation includes providing additional time and support in response to students experiencing difficulty or needing enrichment. Continuous progress monitoring benefits each student's individual needs. Our school's mission statement reflects our commitment to collaboratively provide a quality education in a child centered environment that empowers all students to become successful, life-long learners in the 21st century.

INTERIM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: As most of you know, our former assistant principal, Lisa Burke decided to go back to the classroom and teach fourth grade at another WCPSS elementary school. I am currently reviewing resumes and starting the interview process to hire an assistant principal to fill this vacancy. I don't expect to have anyone hired until January 2010 and therefore will have an interim assistant principal join our staff on October 22, 2009. The interim is a retired WCPSS principal that will assist me with teacher observations, discipline, bus transportation, etc. Unfortunately, I can't disclose the interim's name until it has been approved by the Wake County Board of Education on October 21, 2009.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT: All quality schools have one thing in common . . . significant family involvement. We want to form a partnership with our families. Teachers perform better when they have support and advice from families. Children do better in school when they perceive what they are doing is important. Please call or meet with your teachers often. Discuss what is happening in the classroom, and investigate ways to reinforce learning at home. I encourage your participation at North Ridge Elementary. Having a quality school without parents working hand-in-hand with the staff is impossible. You can find many ways to participate at North Ridge this year. A good place to begin is by joining the PTA. If you have not joined, I encourage you to do so. We are aiming for 100% membership of parents and staff. Please take a few minutes to read the information that is sent home, and do get involved . . . your involvement makes a difference!

AUTOMATED MESSAGE SERVICE: Wake County Public School System uses a service that automatically notifies parents when a student is absent. If your student is tardy you still may receive an absence message depending on what time your child arrived at school. As always, you will still need to write a note to your child's teacher when they return to school after an absence.

SCHOOL HOURS: Our school hours are 9:05 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays are considered Early Dismissal days. Students will be dismissed at 2:45 p.m. on Early Dismissal Wednesdays. Except for the Early Arrival Program, we ask that students not arrive on campus until 8:45 a.m. We have no way of supervising students before this time. A good time for dropping off students is between 8:45 a.m. and 8:55 a.m. This allows students a chance to prepare for the day's activities or to participate in our walking program on the school track (grades 1-5).

ATTENDANCE: This year, we will focus on prompt and continuous attendance at school. Tardies and early checkouts have a very negative impact on a student's education. We ask that parents do everything possible to respect our hours of 9:05 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. If you do need to pick up your child early for an appointment, we are asking that students be picked up by 3:30 p.m. This will ensure a much smoother dismissal.

NORTH RIDGE LOST AND FOUND: Our Lost and Found is overflowing. All found items are brought to the Lost and Found location which is on the stage in the cafeteria. Please encourage your children to check this area for items they may have lost or left at school. Coats and jackets are the most common items that are lost, and a child's name on the tag assists in getting the garment to it's rightful owner. At the end of the quarter, all items not claimed will be donated to a non profit organization.

DISMISSAL: A big thank you to all the parents who are following the dismissal procedures at North Ridge Elementary! We are asking that you continue to follow the procedures put in place as the weather continues to get colder. Parents are asked to utilize the car pool line when picking their children up from school. If you do have to pick your child up for a doctor's appointment, etc., please refrain from parking along the curb in the parking lot and blocking in other vehicles. Please **DO NOT** park along Harps Mill Road or on Staghorn Lane. We also ask that drivers continue to refrain from talking on cell phones while in the car pool line. We appreciate your help and support with this issue while ensuring North Ridge Elementary to be a safe and fun place to be.

PARENT / GUARDIAN REMINDERS:

- Our school instructional day begins at **9:05 am and ends at 3:45 pm** on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. **The day ends at 2:45 pm on Wednesday.**
- Parents / guardians should bring students to the office to sign in when they are tardy.
- Students must have a note when they are going home a different way other than normal.
- Anyone picking up a child should be on the student's locator card.
- The office will be asking for I.D. when a child is being picked up.
- Refrain from talking on cell phones while in the carpool line and in the front office.
- For **afternoon carpool** please have your designated number hanging from your rearview mirror until after your child is loaded into your vehicle.
- **Carpool students should be picked up each afternoon by 4:00 pm.**

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, Oct. 21	Early Release at 1:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 21	School Picture Make Up day
Thursday, Oct. 29	End of First Quarter
Friday, Oct. 30	Teacher Workday- NO School for Students
Thursday, Nov. 5	Report Cards sent home for Grades 2-5
Thursday, Nov. 19	First Grade Musical and PTA meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 25	Teacher Workday – NO School for Students
November 26- 27	NO School Thanksgiving Holiday