

THE PRICKLES POST

READY, SET, MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVENTURES: GEARING UP FOR THE NEXT BIG STEPS!

Makayla Ivers and Josie Felder

Middle school is a big step. Fifth grade students have to make sure that they are prepared and ready for it.

Middle school can be a lot of work and very stressful. Students have to make sure that they are very organized and that they can keep up with all of their work.

"Students will have a good amount of homework and they will also have a good amount of tests,"



explained eighth grade teacher, Mr. Len Corbo.

Marissa Crowell, Holly Grove Middle School's Instructional Facilitator and Testing Coordinator, explained, "I only think homework would be stressful if you don't do it and you let it pile up. You can expect homework to take between 20 to 30 minutes per class but you will not have homework assigned every night from every class."

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EQUATION EXPLORATIONS.... HGES' NEW MATH EXTENSION

Peyton Blake

Holly Grove Elementary has a new extension, Math! There are a few reasons for this extension.

This extension is taught by both Mrs. Kim Lesser who teaches K, 3, 4, and 5, and Mrs. Liz Hourihan who teaches grades 1 and 2. It is held in one of the outside trailers that all students can access.

Mrs. Kim Lesser, one of the math extension teachers, has been teaching for 19 years in all grade levels K-5.

She explains that Holly Grove Elementary School wants students to have more math time, so they thought this new extension was a great idea.

She also explains she has

goals for students and what she wants students to be able to accomplish by the end of the year.

Mrs. Lesser said she wants "students to be able to understand strategies to help visualize word problems and conceptual understanding; no tricks or procedures."

According to Second Grader Bianca Tozzi, "I like how we get to work as a team."

Ruby Blue said, "I like how we play fun games."

People use math in everyday life and many students enjoy the new extension and all that it has to offer. It's useful for students at Holly Grove, and it is true that math really does count!



First Grade students, Dylan May and Sophia Grandone, work collaboratively to solve math problems in the new extension.

YOUNG ARTISTS ON THE RISE: 3RD GRADERS EMBARK ON A COLORFUL ADVENTURE

Lilli Tozzi and Delali Mihluedo

On September 27 (Tracks 2 and 4) and October 11 (Tracks 1 and 3) the third graders went on a trip to North Carolina's Museum of Art. Third graders were studying the principles of art with art teacher Ms. Connie Bisesi, and this allowed them to have a further appreciation for what they were learning about.

According to Holly Grove's third grade teacher, Mrs Angela Haut, "I thought the art museum was great because it is a free place in our community that many of our students had not visited before."

Mrs. Haut enjoyed her time at the art museum because she loved all the unique types of art and said, "I did enjoy the experience because it was good to see different types of artwork and we got to spend time both indoors and outdoors!"

There was a metal tree sculpture outside that combined art with nature. It connected to what the students were learning in art class with Ms. Bisesi and some of the pieces connected to history and different people, places and times. The students went on a tour and had time to explore the gardens and other areas of the museum.

Third grade student and artist, Addy Spainhour, expressed, "The art museum was amazing because it was a very interesting experience. It was so cool to enjoy all the fun art pieces."



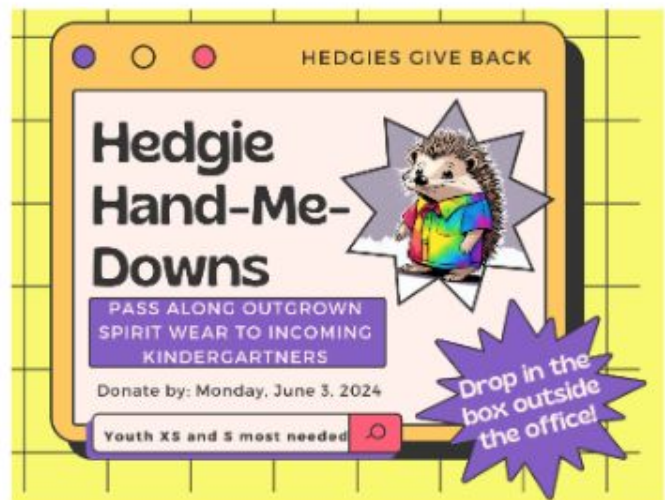
Third graders observe artwork at the museum.

Another third grader and artist, Mia Raymond, enjoyed her time at the art museum as well, and she also explained what kind of art she saw. "I love the little picnic tables and the big metal tree. I saw paintings and sculptures."

Mia continues to explain her favorite art piece and what activities they got to do. "It (the tree) was big and the color of the tree looked silver. We played some games where we had to guess the ancient numbers as well."

The Art Museum was a great opportunity for Hedgies to have a real life example of what they were studying in art class with Ms. Bisesi.

*"Art is an adventure into an unknown world which can be explored only by those willing to take risks."
-Mark Rothko*



CHECKMATE CHRONICLES: LAUNCHING OUR SCHOOL'S NEW, EXCITING CHESS CLUB

Abhay Penumadula

Chess club, a club where students play chess with their friends has just come to Holly Grove Elementary School this school year!

Mr. Jeff LaNasa, Assistant Principal and founder of the chess club, said that his main goal in starting chess club "is for students to sharpen their skills and to have a good time together. I thought, who else is passionate about chess club or wants to learn chess? So I wanted to make a club where people can come learn, play, sharpen their skills, and just have a good time together."

Mr. LaNasa stated that he loved chess club, but he hopes to improve it. He said that he could only open it to fifth grade for forty students, but hopes to open it to fourth grade as well in the future.

"I could only take 40 students, so I only took 5th graders. However, next year I'd like to open it up to where I can do 5th and 4th grade hopefully."



Mr. LaNasa and Mr. Blue with the newest Chess Club.

Mr. LaNasa feels that the chess club is going great, as do the students. He enjoys it and loves how the kids that go to chess club come together, play chess, and most importantly, have a great time.

Fifth grader Riley Newton said, "It's pretty neat because you're able to play chess with people you

don't know much about, and playing with them allows you to know them a little better."

Well, there you have it folks, a dive into the purpose of chess club. Mr. LaNasa started this club to bring people together and hopes to bring even more people together in the future.



Open House

Tracks 1-3 - July 18 - 5:00-7:30
Track 4 - August 8 - 5:00-7:30

Save the Date!
More information to come.



PAPER PONDERINGS; UNWRAPPING THE STORY OF PAPER USAGE AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR PLANET AT HGES

Zoe Hays

At Holly Grove Elementary School, most students don't pay very much attention to how much paper they use and simply do their schoolwork, but the rainforest is being destroyed with the amount of paper being used even as you read this.



According to "Deforestation" on Umich, "About 2,400 trees were destroyed in just one minute." Did you know that paper, coffee, lipstick, chewing gum, and even medicine comes from the rainforest? Think of what would happen if we wouldn't have those things anymore. Even here at Holly Grove, we have problems with paper usage.

Ms. Mary Anne Lang, Holly Grove Elementary's school secretary, stated, "We use way too much paper, and then there's people that waste copies; they'll make copies when they weren't supposed to make a copy of it,

or print something to the printer 10 times and they don't need to print it."

In the school there are two rooms with photocopiers, one upstairs and one downstairs. As of February of this school year, the downstairs copier made 127,511 copies, and the upstairs copiers made 612,686 copies. Together, the school has made 740,197 copies just a little over halfway through the school year! Think of how many trees had to be cut down for those copies.

Ms. Tammy Maas, a first grade teacher, thinks there are many ways we can conserve paper. "Sometimes laminating things helps, using a journal instead of individual sheets, and making things two sided. We have a lot of supplies available, but sometimes we have to supplement and make things that are more appropriate for individual classes, so we have to use paper to make that happen."

If we do more online assignments, we can use much

less paper and keep a lot more of the rainforest safe. People can do less worksheets on paper and make use of the laptops that were provided for students.

More and more of the rainforest is being destroyed, but if we jump into action and conserve our paper, we will be able to save it.



Copies found on a photocopy machine that were printed in excess.



Rising Kindergarten Popsicle Party

Save the Date: June 4th from 4:30-5pm

Rising Kinders will have an opportunity to meet other rising kinders at the HGES Playground.

BOOK FAIR POSTERS

For the Book Fair this year, the whole school made posters in ECaD to display for the family nights. Each student picked a word that is special to them or represented themselves.

They created "Word Art" using Google Slides and had a lot of fun doing it. While Kindergarten made physical posters that we can't share, here are the 1st through 5th grade posters for you to enjoy. See if you can find yours! – Mr. Blue



SCAN ME

READY, SET, MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVENTURES CONT'D

Continued from page 1

You have a lot more adults to help you in middle school. There's a lot more freedom in middle school but you have to be ready for the responsibility of those freedoms," advised Mrs. Crowell.

Mr. Corbo explained he believes the biggest difference is "the amount of work you're going to receive and you need to develop study habits to prepare yourself. You have to learn to adapt to the new setting and know how to work independently, honing in on your skills to become an independent student and critical thinker."

In addition to becoming an independent learner, there are many other things students can do to be ready for all that is expected in middle school.

Ms. Crowell suggests that students "ensure that they are taking advantage of all of their academic opportunities in elementary school. They (students) should start making sure that they're reading on their own for pleasure, making sure that they are practicing math skills to stay sharp with fractions and things like that, and just be prepared for it to be different and to know that different can be good. You need to make

sure that you are studying hard and you are on task. You need to make sure that they conquer skills you learned in elementary school."

Students need skills to get better and improve. Holly Grove Elementary Counselor, Ms. Megan Grigoletti states, "There's a lot of differences in middle school; so you're bouncing between at least 6 classes typically and it's keeping track of all your things and just making sure you're staying on top of your work."

Homework also differs in middle school. Instead of having one class students will have multiple classes, including 4 core and 2 elective classes. There are things like K-9 which allow students to do any extra work that they have, but there is no recess.

However, some more freedoms and opportunities come with going into middle school.

Mrs. Crowell summed it up best when she stated, "My best advice is to take advantage of all the help that teachers will offer you to stay on top of your assignments in your grades, but also enjoy yourself and make new friends while you're there."



LUNCH-BOX TALK: KIDS DISH OUT THE SCOOP on CAFETERIA DELIGHTS

Caris Dux and Ava Echeveria

If you eat school lunch this article is for you! Ready to read all you need to know about school lunch? You will be left feeling great about your lunch. The lunch ladies are very pleased to make the food for all kids.



Cafeteria food line is ready for students to enjoy their lunch.

This is our principal, Mr. Cline's, ratings. "How I rate the school lunch, hmmm...probably a 15/20," says Mr. Cline. He also says his favorite lunch meal item is Old School Pizza. His favorite snack item from lunch is Cool Ranch Doritos. He also says he would bring back home made food.

School lunch is a very important thing that every kid needs because it gives kids energy to learn and stay focused. Some people may think it's silly to have lunch as your favorite part of the day, but it is very important that you eat enough or you will not get the education you need. Lunch is also a time to socialize.

Interested to know what some HGES students thought about school lunch?

Here are some questions that were asked to four Hedgies, Delail, Siya, Lily, and Juanna.

The first question was, "Do you like school lunch?" Three Hedgies said: "No." The fourth one said, "It depends on what they are serving."

Second, "Why do you like it or not like it?" One answer was: "It doesn't taste great." Some say, "It used to be really good, but now it's not how it was." Hedgie students also said they liked the Pizza, Ice Cream, and Chips.

When it comes to school lunch, it seems that both the principal and Hedgies really enjoy the pizza. Snack foods like chips are also a favorite lunch item. Of course, students love lunch because they have time to talk with friends, and ice cream is always very popular with Hedgies.

After visiting with Mr. Cline and some Hedgie students, it's safe to say people have many opinions about school lunch. No matter what your opinion, lunch is always on our minds.

LEARNING A LITTLE



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LESS RECESS...WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Sawyer Zockoll and William Holford

Elementary school students historically love recess, so why the change?

Last year nearing the end of the school year Mr. Benjamin Cline was made principal of Holly Grove Elementary School and during his first year, he made some big changes; one of the biggest is less recess for all students at Holly Grove. This change caused a lot of strong and mixed emotions, but there are reasons for the change.

Mr. Cline explained, "When we are looking at the master schedule we have to get so much time in a day of instructional time and how our building is set up with only having one playground for everyone we had to really look at a way that we can kind of maneuver the schedule with transition times because it takes you guys (kids) a good 5 to 10 minutes to get outside. So we're looking at how we could add time to the schedule. Then the county also says

that on days that you have PE, we don't have to have recess on those days but we wanted to have recess every day, so we kind of improvised in a way and so that is why we did that."

Some students do not agree with this new and improved recess schedule. However, some agree with the schedule and then there are those students who do not care about this.

Fifth grader, Abhay Penumadula, said, "I don't agree with shorter recess because we didn't really do anything to lose 5 minutes. I think we deserve more time because we have 7 hours of school every day so we should at least get 30 minutes but shortening it just makes it more unfair."

Students and teachers attempt to problem solve to create more recess space. Mrs. Erin Russell, the ECS teacher at Holly Grove, said,

"We could get more space for recess if we fence in the land next to the art room near Avent Ferry Road. More outdoor spaces equals more opportunities for recess."

This continues to be a debated topic, but for now, kids at Holly Grove will continue to have 25 minutes of recess daily.



HGES Green Playground

THE PRICKLES POST

Holly Grove Elementary School

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The opinions represent the opinions of the writers, not The Prickles Post nor Holly Grove Elementary.



Teacher Spotlight

MR. BLUE'S COMPUTER AWESOMENESS

Juana Gazzo and Siya Handa

Did you know Holly Grove Elementary has a graphic designer on staff? The amazing Mr. Chad Blue is the ECaD (Enrichment Curriculum and Design) teacher as well as a graphic designer.

His computer journey started in high school and then he went to NC state for graphic design.

All the hedgies in this school have lessons with Mr. Blue, from kindergarten to 5th grade.

Examples of lessons that Mr. Blue teaches in ECaD are in 5th grade kids choose a sport with their whole class and then they choose a sports team and logo, make a uniform, a field, and create a website.

Mr. Blue also teaches about computer safety and has some

advice for the students to help with computer health. According to Mr. Blue, you should "shut down your computers every night".

He said "many people think just closing your computers is turning it off but you actually have to hit the shutdown button, that way you can get updates and then the computer can rest a little bit. Computers, just like people, need to sleep."

Mr. Blue has not always taught at Holly Grove and has not always taught in the US. He has taught in South Korea which gives him international experience.

In addition, Mr. Blue does not just enjoy computers, but also likes playing games on his Xbox.



ECaD teacher Mr. Chad Blue

Mr. Blue provides many opportunities for students to engage in technology and it would not be the same without him!

MS. CHRISLER TEACHES WITH HEART AND SPARKLE

Krishna Malik and Sarah Misra

Kristina Chrisler, a fourth grade teacher has been teaching at Holly Grove Elementary for nearly two years, and she has put students in awe of how brilliant she teaches!

Although she has only been at Holly Grove for a relatively short time, she has some strong beliefs that she encourages students to embrace throughout their learning experience.

"My class picks a quote for the week and it was 'Spread love everywhere you go, let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.' I really like that quote because it's so important for our class family to uplift each other and spread kindness," explained Ms. Chrisler.

Ms. Chrisler has many goals for her students throughout this school year, and she'll make this school year for her students a



Fourth grade teacher Ms. Chrisler

fantastic year!

Ms. Chrisler loves coming to school everyday and she wants her "Students to

become lifelong learners and make the world a better place!

Many of Ms. Chrisler's favorite things are to have quality time with her family, by watching nice and exciting movies, she likes going on nature walks, shopping for items, and swimming in the pool.

As far as teaching, Ms. Chrisler has favorites as well. "Usually teaching English is my favorite subject but this year I am really enjoying teaching Math."

According to student Brilynn Pennington, "Ms. Chrisler values having a growth mindset and always says, 'Mistakes help us improve.'"

Ms. Chrisler's final words of advice... "Have a growth mindset, believe in yourself, work hard, never give up and most importantly be kind."