



Highcroft Drive Elementary School
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The Paw Printx

October 14, 2009

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DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

The Wake County Public School System serves over 18,690 students with some type of disability. The disabilities can impact any area of human modality, including cognitive, behavioral, social, communication, physical and/or a combination of more than one area. Although there are numerous disabilities, the more common disabilities in the school setting are learning disability, mentally handicapped, speech/language and autism. The latter topic is one of focus for this year's state awareness month.

Autism Spectrum Disorder falls along a continuum from bright, high functioning individuals to children with rather severe impairments. Although there are some similar traits shared among individuals with autism, each individual is unique from one another, just like the rest of the population differs from one another.

In general, students with autism may have diminished communication and social skills. These individuals are often quite literal in their language and cognitive processing. Often, it takes longer for them to process language so the individual may not respond quickly or at all to another person. At times, the individual with autism can become highly focused on one thought or object and find it difficult to proceed to anything else until some resolution has been obtained.

Other individuals with autism are highly sensitive to various sensory stimuli, such as lights, sounds or tactile stimuli. Given their communication challenges, the child with autism may engage in various behaviors to reduce anxiety and feel comfortable, such as, rapid movement of a body part, distressed vocalization, etc.

Interventions include a variety of techniques that can be implemented in a regular education or separate classroom, depending on the severity of the child's autism. Special and regular education teachers become trained in methods to assist individuals with autism. Many of these students like predictable structure, both at home and at school. Sudden changes in plans can be upsetting and are best handled with a warning of the change to come.

As professional educators at Highcroft, we value the contributions of all students, knowing that we can all learn from one another. If you are interested in learning more, visit the media center for the display of appropriate reading material.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 16 Student Council Meeting, 8:15 a.m. (Rm. 509)
- Oct. 16 PTA Fall Carnival, 5:00 - 7:30
- Oct. 21 **Early Release - 1:15 p.m.**
- Oct. 21 Doggie Depot, Grades K - 2, (8:45 - 9:00)
- Oct. 28 Doggie Depot, Grades 3-5



HDE PTA NEWS

October 14, 2009- <http://highcroftes.wcpss.net>

Free Seasonal Flu Shots Available To K-12 Students. Wake County is partnering with public, private and charter schools across the County to provide **free seasonal** flu shots to all school-age children in Kindergarten through grade 12, beginning Tuesday, October 13, 2009. The vaccines will be offered at 21 clinic sites throughout the County. Students may attend any clinic offered, regardless of the school they attend or where they live. A parent or guardian must accompany all students receiving the vaccine, regardless of age. Only injectable vaccine - a flu shot - will be available. Seasonal flu vaccine clinics for students will be offered from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. **For more information on this free service provided by Wake County, please visit www.wcpss.net and click on the link on the home page. A complete location and date listing is on the website for your information.**

Unleash your child's artistic talents & encourage them to participate in this year's Reflections Program. The theme for this year is, "Beauty is....." Entries are due by **November 13**. Look for more information on the HDE PTA website. Mrs. Dahm has applications available for interested students. If you have any questions please contact Jenny Cini @ TCINI@nc.rr.com or Danielle Labrozzi @ deelabrozzi@bellsouth.net.

The Carnival is Here!!!! The HDE Fall Carnival is the Friday, October 16 from 5:00-7:30pm. (Rain date Oct. 17). **Remember your chairs, blankets, camera and socks for the bounce houses! We will have a couple of photo opportunities you won't want to miss.** Enjoy carnival games, bounce houses, popcorn, music, DJ, magician, cheerleaders, pizza, hair painting, and even a fortune teller! We look forward to seeing you there!! The Carnival Committee still needs **donations of gently used children's books for the Fall Carnival.** Collection bins will be located in the school lobby until October 15. Thanks!
WE NEED YOU! It takes a village to produce our wonderful HDE Fall Carnival. If you have not signed up through your room parent and have 30 minutes to volunteer at the carnival, please contact Shannon Carlson @ shannonpta@nc.rr.com Thanks!

Blaze a Trail to a Good Book! The HDE book fair will run from Nov. 2-6 for Tracks 2 & 4, & Nov. 9-13 for Tracks 1 & 3. Please join us for a hike around the library trails on **Family Night** at the Book Fair on **Nov. 5**. You can send in money with your student on his/ her purchase day or send money in advance. The advance form came home in last week's Wed. folder & is located on the PTA website. See you around the campfire.

Donate \$1 for Books at the HDE Scholastic Book Fair. Proceeds will be split between the HDE Media Center & NC State Parks. Please place your name in the tent & send in your \$1 donation in an envelope marked **\$1 for Books**. Tents will hang in the main hallway outside the media center. Thank you!

