

November/December Newsletter

Time. It flies by. I can hardly believe that fall has arrived and we are one quarter of the way through this school year. Where did all of that time go? How did we use it? As we move into the busiest time of the year, please consider how you and your family will spend your time over the next few months. Here are a few suggestions to consider.

Take time to focus on being healthy. We've heard and read so much information about the flu for this season that we are all working hard to stay healthy. This means eating the right foods, getting plenty of rest, exercising, and following good hygiene by washing hands frequently and covering coughs and sneezes. Take the time to teach your children about being healthy and, most importantly, set the example for them.

Take time to establish and maintain school routines. Some of you have already set specific expectations for children to complete homework and projects. You may have established a time and place for this to happen. You may have rules about watching TV, playing video games, or playing outside before or after school work is completed. Children really do like routines and want you to provide this structure for them. Good habits that you can build now will help them as school work becomes more demanding or time consuming.

Take time to come to conferences. Parent conferences are scheduled for Friday, November 6th and Monday, November 9th at Holly Hall Elementary. Schedules should have already arrived at your home. Please take this opportunity to be an active partner in education with your child's teacher(s). If you can't attend a conference at the scheduled time, please make alternate arrangements with your child's teacher. Showing your support and being involved shows your child how much you value their education.

Take time to read together. If I could encourage you to do one thing that might have the greatest impact on your child's success, it would be to read together with your child. Remember that you are your child's first and most important teacher.

Take time to celebrate and build traditions. Do you remember some of the traditions you and your family celebrated each year when you were a child? How many of those traditions have you passed on to your children? Have you created any new traditions in your family? Children need a sense of heritage and an understanding of how they connect with their family history. Take time to revive some traditions or have some fun creating new ones together as a family.

Take time to spend time together. Fall and winter can be hurried and rushed. Try to slow down the pace and consider what is truly important for you and your child. Spending quality time together is one of the most precious gifts you can give your child.