

FROM THE HART NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008

If you have an incoming kindergarten child who is a sibling of a current River Bend Elementary School student, you may visit our office between 9:30-4:00 pm to register him/her for the 2008-2009 school year. Registration for all new kindergarten students who do not have a sibling at our school will begin on February 7, 2008 from 8:00-4:00 pm.

The character trait for January is Self-Discipline. Self-Discipline is defined as demonstrating hard work and commitment to purpose, regulating yourself for improvement and refraining from inappropriate behaviors, being in control of your words and actions and doing your best in all situations. Thank you for supporting your children as they work to model self-discipline.

The construction of our new school has finally begun and we are scheduled to move into our new school on or before December, 2008. Due to code regulations and safety issues, the public (including our staff members) will not be able to visit the construction site and walk around in the school as it is being built. Information updates will be made available through our monthly newsletter and are also available at <http://www.wcpss.net/facilities/directory.html>. Information about the community that our school will be a part of can be found at <http://5401north.com/>

The River Bend Elementary School PTA will recognize the track 1 and 2 winners of the annual Reflections contest at 6:00 pm. on Monday, January 14, 2007, in our school cafeteria. Winners in art will have their work on display and winners in literature will have the opportunity to read their selection to the audience.

The *Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)* will be administered to all 3rd grade students on tracks 1, 2 and 3 on January 8-10, 2008 and track 4 students on January 28-30, 2008. Please ensure that your children have a good night of sleep before each day of the test, a healthy breakfast each morning and that they arrive to school on-time each day. The *CogAT* measures students' learned reasoning abilities in the three areas most linked to academic success in school: Verbal, Quantitative and Nonverbal. The *CogAT* is designed to help educators make important student placement decisions, such as selecting students for Academically Gifted programs, and the Ability Profile Score can be used to expand the educational opportunities of all students.

As winter approaches, please be reminded that school days that are cancelled due to inclement weather will be made up on Saturdays. If a school day is cancelled, it will be rescheduled on the next Saturday. Should consecutive days be cancelled, those school days will be rescheduled on alternating Saturdays, beginning with the next one. Makeup days will not be scheduled on consecutive Saturdays. Decisions to cancel school are broadcasted through the local media and are published online at www.wcpss.net.

Students who are picked up and/or dropped off by parents in carpool or by daycare providers may not be dropped off prior to 8:45 am and must be picked up from school by 4:00 pm each day. If you are unable to wait until 8:45 AM to drop off your child or can not pick them up by 4:00 pm, your child may ride the school bus or you may enroll them in the before/after school program at River Bend Elementary, which is run by Raleigh Parks & Recreation. Parents who

have enrolled their children in a private daycare program should ensure that their drivers are aware that they may not drop off students before 8:45 am and must pick them up before 4:00 pm.

Please be reminded to monitor your child's lunch account to ensure that he/she always has lunch money available. Students are given a letter to take home when their balance is low. You may send lunch money to school or may enroll in the auto-pay program. Information about auto-pay services can be located at http://www.wcpss.net/child-nutrition/2005_lunch_money_options.html

As a reminder, please refrain from having flowers or other gifts delivered to your children at school. If items are delivered to the school, we will not accept the delivery of them. Delivering flowers and gifts to your child's classroom during the instructional day disrupts the learning of your child and others.

When your child is sick, we ask that you keep them home from school to help prevent the spread of their illness to other children and staff members. Children should be kept home when they have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100.6 or higher. Children should NOT be given Tylenol or Ibuprofen and sent to school as the child is likely to be highly contagious to others.
- Nausea, diarrhea or vomiting within 12 hours prior to the beginning of the school day
- Severe headache
- Red, watery eyes with yellow discharge
- Unexplained rash

If you are called to pick up a sick child from school, please come as quickly as possible. Thank you for your help in this very important matter. Please contact our school nurse, Ms. Kara Kelley should you have questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Jan 8-10 | CogAT Test – 3 rd Grade Students on Tracks 1, 2, 3 | 9:45 AM |
| Jan 14 | PTA Reflections Winner Recognition (Tracks 1 & 2) | 6:00 PM |
| Jan 21 | School Closed (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday) | |
| Jan 28-30 | CogAT Test – 3 rd Grade Students on Track 4 | 9:45 AM |