

August 2010

Dear Boght Hills Families:

I hope you are all enjoying a spectacular, adventure-filled summer. In case your child hasn't yet completed the summer reading project, there's still time! We have been busy getting everything ready for the 2010-11 school year. The custodial staff has worked hard all summer to ensure the building is safe, clean and ready for a new school year. Mrs. Burns and I have been busy organizing supplies and preparing for nearly 40 new entrants in grades 1-6, as well as over 40 new kindergarten students. The teachers have prepared a wonderful year of lessons and activities to celebrate learning and community building.

To let you know how quite a number of us have spent our summer vacation, here is a list of all the curriculum work, in addition to many teachers and support staff who taught in the summer program, our teachers have participated in:

- **Kindergarten Curriculum** - A core group of kindergarten teachers in conjunction with reading and first grade teacher representatives worked over the course of five half-days this summer to address numerous components of the kindergarten program. Work in which they were engaged included, but was not limited to, developing curricula objectives in reading, writing, math, science and social studies as well as revising the kindergarten report card and developing grading rubrics to be used in conjunction with it. The team did a marvelous job in a very short period of time. The work they accomplished will now be shared with all other kindergarten teachers during the first weeks of school. The next phase of the project will be to include the curricula in a map using the district software, Rubicon Atlas.
- **Science** - Fifth and sixth grade teachers began revising science units from their respective grade levels. Using the newly developed district vision for science education, teachers worked to create hands-on learning opportunities to develop a wide range of skills in their students. Several teachers involved in this project will be piloting these new units during the upcoming school year.
- **Report Card Revisions** – The elementary report card revision process was finalized with the development of grading rubrics. More information regarding these revisions will be shared by your building principal when school resumes in September.
- **Writing** – Teachers in grades, kindergarten through six, met for five half-days to further develop curriculum for writing instruction. The teachers are excited to share their work with their colleagues and teaching the units to their students.
- **Math** - Teachers from all grades, kindergarten through six, met for three half days to develop strategies to improve student math skills. Attention was focused on the areas of problem solving and computation. The teachers will share best practices with their colleagues for implementation in the upcoming school year.
- **Technology** - The objective for the summer 2010 technology integration workshop was to provide training, guidance and samples of best practices to support primary grade teachers to bring technology into the hands of students, both in classrooms and labs. The emphasis was on reading, writing and math, and teachers were introduced to some additional resources for science and social studies. Teachers developed lessons and strategies in each area. The workshop included time for teachers to research additional Internet resources, and to revise and refresh teacher web pages. As a result of the workshop, teachers have new resources, strategies and guidelines to continue to make the best use of technology with students.

The following information will help you and your child get off to a good start.

- School opens on Wednesday, **September 8**, for students in **grades 1-6**, with a full day of school. Our **kindergarten** students will start on Friday, **September 10** with a brief **orientation** on September 8 at 8:45 a.m. (for AM students) and 9:30 a.m. (for PM students). There is no school on Thursday, **September 9** in observance of a Jewish holy day.

- School begins at 8:05 a.m. **Please do not drop off students prior to 8:05 a.m., as there is no supervision for students prior to this time.** We also encourage your child to ride the bus to help them acclimate more quickly as well as alleviate traffic congestion.
- A bus assignment sheet with pick-up times will be forwarded under separate cover from the Transportation Department at the end of August. Please carefully review this information with your child. You should make sure that your child is at his/her designated spot for the approximate pick-up time. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the **Transportation Department directly at 785-9486.**
- Open house dates have been scheduled and are listed below:

Kindergarten, Grs. 2 & 5	Tuesday, September 21 6:30 PM
Grs. 1, 3, 4, & 6	Tuesday, September 28 6:30 PM

As always, Open House events are for adults only. We hope that this advanced notice of the Open House dates will allow enough time for planning childcare. I have also enclosed a list of other important calendar dates with regard to school vacations and parent/teacher conference days for your convenience.

- **REMINDER:** If you ordered a **School Toolbox** of supplies from our PTA, **pick ups** will take place on the **stage** in the cafeteria on Thursday, **August 19** between **8:30 and noon**. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Mrs. Deb Ricci at 783-3495. I know you join me in thanking her, in advance, for her hard work and dedication.

Boght Hills School and the North Colonie School District, in an effort to save money AND trees, has made the decision to “Go Green”. After the September issue of *Colt News*, all future publications will be available from the web site www.northcolonie.org. Those without Internet access may request hardcopies of newsletters and other handouts by calling the main office at 785-0222.

Families who registered for an account to the Parental Portal last spring are able to view their children’s attendance and report cards from Infinite Campus. Those who still need an account should call the school for more information. We are also instituting the School News Notifier (SNN), an **opt-in** email alert system. A memo with more information is enclosed with this mailing.

Enjoy what remains of the summer. We’re looking forward to seeing you soon to form, or continue, a great partnership in the education of your child(ren).

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kim Greiner
Principal

Enclosures