

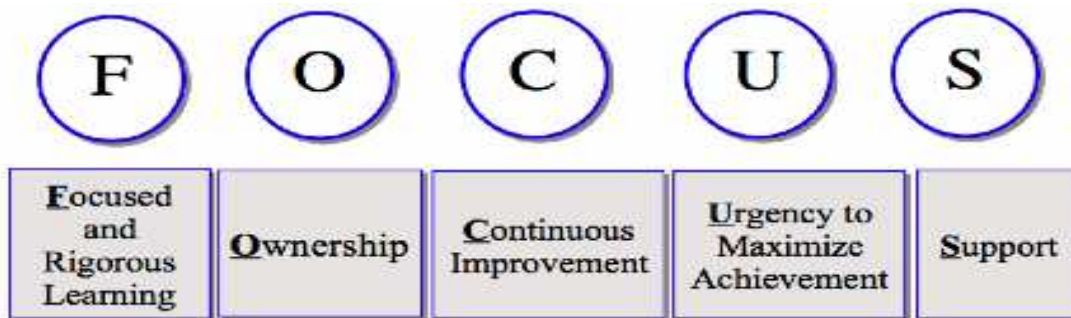
HILL-ROBERTS NEWS OCTOBER 2007



From the Principal's Desk

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our first newsletter of the 2007-2008 school year. Hill-Roberts is focused on accelerating our students' education. We are going to keep our momentum moving forward and do whatever it takes to ensure every student is making progress every day in every class. We have a collection of talented teachers who are dedicated to our students. Teachers are going to work together, use their strengths, raise our expectations and in turn raise our student achievement scores. I am very proud to be the principal of Hill-Roberts.

Our faculty and students will be asked to F.O.C.U.S EVERY day.



News from the Gymnasium

There is a whole lot of Fitness going on in Hill Roberts gym! There are actually two groups of fitness. They are Health Fitness and Skill Fitness. The skill related fitness items are factors which relate to the possibility of people becoming good athletes. Are people fast or do they have good hand-eye coordination? The health related components relate to how well the systems of your body operate. Are your heart and other muscles of the body in good shape? Are your arteries and lungs in good shape? The health related type of physical fitness is connected to your overall state of health.

In our physical education classes at Hill Roberts we actively engage in learning activities which enable the students to differentiate between the two groups of fitness and also to energetically participate in both types! The items which relate to our overall state of health (health related components) are cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility. The fitness factors which belong to the skill fitness group are agility, balance, hand-eye coordination, power, reaction time and speed. Total physical fitness is made up of these two types of fitness.

The third and fourth grade students started off their physical education classes this year with a game called Quadrant Fitness which addressed the above topic. The K, first and second grade students began with a favorite called "Bean Bag Cooperation" (ask your child about the "power pack" game). This is a game that focuses on balance (skill fitness) and helping others! Whether the students are playing games about the Human Body, Habitats, the Solar System or the water cycle in the gym, be assured that they are getting a total fitness program which involves physical activities that meet the children's needs in the areas of both health related fitness and sports skills.

Mrs. Cardillo

Upcoming October Events:

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
8 th	No School - Columbus Day
9 th 6:00 pm	Core Literacy Presentation
9 th 7:00pm	PTO meeting in the cafeteria
24 th 12:25pm	Early Dismissal 12:25 - Staff Professional Day
29 th 3:30pm	School Council meeting
29 th 5:30pm	Harvest Festival

Mr. Joseph is looking to compile a school e-mail list. If you are interested in receiving updates via e-mail, please send an e-mail to Mr. Joseph at mjoseph@attleboroschools.com expressing your interest. Please note if you have been receiving e-mails from Mr. Joseph through out the summer your name is automatically on the list.

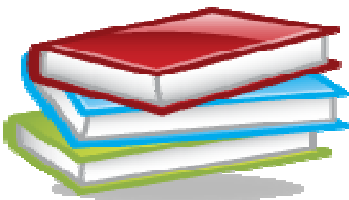


A special thanks to the PTO for sponsoring the back to school ice cream social, the roller skating event, and the wonderful raffle baskets at open house!



We would like to welcome our new staff to Hill-Roberts:

Mrs. Fraser-Perrotta - Kindergarten
 Ms. Stomburg - Kindergarten
 Mrs. Gordon- Kindergarten
 Ms. Dunn – First Grade
 Mrs. Bassler – Technology
 Mrs. White – Reading Coach
 Miss Calabro – Special Ed



Counselor's Corner

A warm Welcome Back to parents, teachers and students. With the start of the school year well under way, students are busy learning, and teachers are busy teaching a new reading curriculum. The beginning of the school year often presents new anxieties and worries for students, teachers and parents. While most children are excited to return to school, many experience back-to-school jitters.

Right now, your child may be saying things like:

- "I have no friends. I don't know anyone."
- "The work is too hard." "There is too much work."
- "I don't know this stuff."
- "I don't want to go to school. I want to stay home."
- "I don't know where my classroom is."

It is very typical for children to feel somewhat overwhelmed and anxious at the beginning of the school year. Validate your child's feelings and assure him/her that he/she will overcome these feelings by saying things like:

- "It seems like you're overwhelmed right now."
- "You're not the only one."
- "Lots of children feel scared or nervous in the beginning."
- "Once you get to know your teacher and learn the new routine, you'll feel more comfortable in school."

Children should be looking forward to a fun, safe, and successful school year. However, if you feel that your child's anxiety exceeds that of most children, please express your concerns with your child's teacher or contact the school adjustment counselor or school psychologist.

This year, in order to support students' social-emotional development, we will be implementing a new social skills curriculum, *Second Steps*, in the Full Day kindergarten class and for the first grade. It is our goal to extend the program to the older grades in subsequent years. While we will be piloting the program for the first few lessons, it is expected that teachers will implement the program throughout the year. For the *Second Steps* program to be optimally successful, parent involvement is important. There will be letters going home periodically to keep you updated about the program.

Best Wishes for a great school year,
 Janet Carfagna, School Psychologist
 Michelle Amorim, School Adjustment Counselor

Attend the Core Literacy Presentation on October 9th at 6:00pm in the Hill-Roberts Library – Presented by Cathy White

Concept Questions for all grades:

Kindergarten - All Together Now Concept Question: How do we live, work, and play together?	
Focus Questions	
Week 1	How do we go to school?
Week 2	How do people help each other?
Week 3	How do families cooperate?
Week 4	How do people in a community cooperate?
Week 5	How do people and animals work and play together?
Week 6	How do machines help people work together?

Grade 1 - Animals, Tame and Wild Concept Question: How are people and animals important to one another?	
Focus Questions	
Week 1	How do people take care of pets?
Week 2	How can people help animals?
Week 3	How can animals help people?
Week 4	What can we learn about animals by watching them?
Week 5	Which animals can we find in our neighborhood?
Week 6	How can we help animals around the world?

Grade 2 - Exploration Concept Question: What can we learn from exploring new places and things?	
Focus Questions	
Week 1	What might we discover in a new neighborhood?
Week 2	Why would anyone want to explore space?
Week 3	What can we discover by exploring?
Week 4	What can we learn by exploring the desert?
Week 5	When we are searching for answers, whom can we ask?

Grade 3 - Dollars and Sense Concept Question: When is money important, and when does it affect our lives?	
Focus Questions	
Week 1	When would hard work be the way to strike it rich?
Week 2	How would we get what we need without money?
Week 3	How can we use money wisely?
Week 4	How does money work?
Week 5	How do we learn the value of money?

Grade 4 – This land is your Land Concept Question: How do the diverse regions and peoples of the United States reflects greatness?	
Focus Questions	
Week 1	What experiences bring diverse peoples together?
Week 2	What did Lewis and Clark learn on their journey?
Week 3	What can we learn about the United States as we travel?
Week 4	What is unique about the landscape of the Southwest?
Week 5	How does Yosemite reflect the unique qualities of the West?