



Holmsley Elementary

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Christina Cole
Principal

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We are thrilled that school is back in session and we are looking forward to teaching your children! We have been busy this summer preparing for the arrival of all our students. Some of you may have noticed that the inside of our building has been painted. The cafeteria, gymnasium and music room have a brand new look. The window frames and door frames have also been repainted.

In addition to painting and summer cleaning, the administrative team has been planning and studying research-based strategies in order to determine the most effective way to help our students achieve success. The teachers have also been at school planning, reviewing and discussing the effective strategies that will assist them in teaching the curriculum so optimal learning takes place. I would also like to share with you that Holmsley has been rated an Exemplary School by the Texas Education Agency. We will be working diligently in order to maintain our rating for this school year by demonstrating our school motto, "Whatever It Takes". We are acutely aware that achieving this high rating was a team effort. We will appreciate your continued support in order to provide your child with a quality education.

As many of you are aware, our school district is facing challenging financial times due to inadequate funding from the state. This past June, our school board voted for a reduction in force in order to balance the budget which necessitates a 14.2 million dollar decrease in our budget. In addition to staffing positions being reduced, teachers are no longer compensated for required professional development. The district has also had to eliminate transportation for students that live within a two-mile radius of schools. I urge you to contact our representatives at the state level to request their assistance in order to resolve an inadequate funding system for Texas schools, but especially our school district. If you do not speak up as parents in the community and demand action, we will face more devastating budget cuts for the 2010-2011 school year. I have listed Texas Senator Dan Patrick's address below in hope that you will write him.

This school year our theme will be "Catch the Energy and Release Your Potential". The theme is derived from the FISH philosophy used by many successful corporations, as well as private and public business/organizations. The philosophy incorporates four basic elements that we will implement as a school. The elements are Choose Your Attitude, Play, Make Their Day, and Be Present. We will work throughout the year to find new and creative ways to implement the philosophy into our school.

As your principal, I want you to know that you are always welcome in our school. When visiting for any reason, you must bring a valid Texas Driver's License or Photo ID. For security reasons, we scan all IDs through our V-soft system. If you are interested in volunteering, please give us a call. We are always looking for volunteers!

Please take a moment to look through the packet of information that your child brought home today. You will find information about school procedures as well as a "Helpful Hint" page that you can place on your refrigerator so that school information is always on hand. Please pay special attention to the Get Information letter attached that informs you how to get the latest information about school events and how to obtain the school newsletter, The Howler. This information can also be accessed on-line at our school webpage. Go to www.cfid.net, select Campuses, Holmsley.

I am looking forward to another fantastic school year! Thank you for sharing your precious children with us.

With warm regards,
Christina Cole
Principal

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