

# Holland Hill Update

Molly Farrell, Principal

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Edition 1, Volume 2

## Happy Fall!

Dear Holland Hill Families,

Fall is finally here!

After some real heat in late September which *really* made us excited about the central air in our “new” building, we are finally into some comfortable weather for learning.

Halloween is around the corner! If you haven't heard yet, we are going back to the old parade route here at Holland Hill. At 1:30 on 10/31, we will proceed out of the front door, turn left to go down to the end of Jeniford and then back! Some classes may have parties in their rooms after the parade as well. Please remember that children's costumes **may not include MASKS, WEAPONS, or FACE PAINT, or be violent or scary** for our younger students.

Kindergarten will also be part of the main parade at 1:30! This will be fun!

One of the things that all schools in Fairfield (Pre-K through 12) is working on this year is our process for

providing intervention to students when needed (SRBI/EIP). There is more on this important process in this newsletter, and I will also be presenting about it during the November 2nd PTA meeting. Please join us there for more information!

As always, my goal is to build transparency between school and home so that you can trust that what is happening for your child is the absolute best that we can give them. You will be able to meet with your child's teacher for a **Parent-Teacher Conference** in the next few weeks. This is a crucial time for the sharing of information between teachers and parents. Feel free to stop in to see me when you are in the building for your conference.

Warmly,

Molly Farrell

## Upcoming Events

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| 10/13               | Town Meeting/School Spirit Day                    |
| 10/17               | Early Dismissal 12:55 (Prof. Dev't)               |
| 10/19, 10/25, 10/27 | Early Dismissal 12:55 (Conferences)               |
| 10/27               | Howl-O-Ween Dance 6:30                            |
| 10/30               | Grade 5 To Opera                                  |
| 10/31               | Halloween Parade 1:30; Kindergarten too!          |
| 11/2                | PTA 7pm   |
| 11/7                | No School<br>*Fifth Grade Bake Sale for Election! |
| 11/9                | Veterans Day 9:00                                 |
| 11/9                | HH Building Meeting for Neighbors & Parents 7:00  |
| 11/17               | International Night 6:30                          |

## Staff News

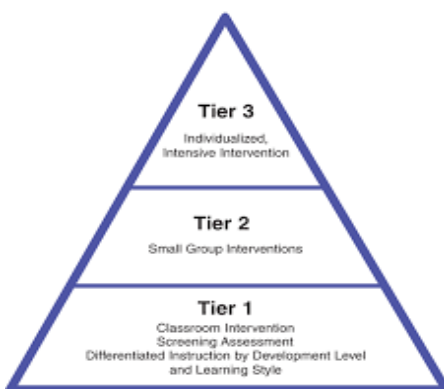
We are so happy to welcome two new staff members! We welcome Nicole Hovan to our team of Special Educators. She comes to us from Darien and Trumbull. Also, Skylar Paulik is our new building substitute! Welcome to both Mrs. Hovan & Miss Paulik!

## Response to Intervention~ Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners

Despite our best efforts as educators to provide differentiated, multi-sensory and individualized learning for all students, it is inevitable that many students will require extra help and/or specialized instruction at times in their educational careers. Back in 1975, **IDEA** (*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*) was passed to legislate more appropriately for the needs of ALL students. In 2004, we experienced the reauthorization of IDEA, and **RTI** (*Response to Intervention*) was born. This is simply a tiered instructional system which school districts follow in order to assure that students have been instructed sufficiently in the general education classroom and curriculum before being referred and/or identified for Special Education.

We address these instructional needs through **SRBI** (*Scientifically Research Based Interventions*) in all three Tiers of Intervention, and students in Tier 2 & Tier 3 are officially monitored in a process we call **EIP**, or *Early Intervention Process*. The tiers

look approximately like this, with Tier 2 and Tier 3 instruction primarily being delivered by **someone other than the classroom teacher**.



Within the system, all students are administered Universal Screenings (i.e. STAR testing) at least 3 times per year so that all students are measured against the same assessment. We use these results to review where each child is in relation to his or her peers in Fairfield and nationally. However, the universal screens are only one assessment we use to identify a child's instructional needs. Once students are flagged by STAR and other assessments, or by teacher or parent concerns, we begin to look through the SRBI lens to see what other more targeted

instruction might be necessary. After a period of 6-8 weeks, we revisit the child's progress and decide whether they need to move up to EIP, or Tier 2. From there, these periodic meetings will continue to take place so that we can monitor each child's progress. After each meeting, we can decide to intensify the intervention by moving up to a new tier, or we can decide to decrease the intervention and go down to a less intense Tier. This is a fluid process with a lot of teacher-to-teacher communication, and frequent parent communication as well!

For more information on SRBI and EIP, please plan to attend the PTA meeting on 11/2 at 7pm when I will be presenting about this and other new initiatives at Holland Hill! Hope to see you there!

