

Greenbrier Elementary School

Jonathan Pike
Principal

5116 Riverwood Parkway
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(706) 650-6060
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Judith A. Bonadio
Assistant Principal

Dear K,1, or 2 Parents:

Currently our school is researching the possibility of "looping" for next school year. We would like for you to complete the attached survey to help us with our research and planning. To help you with this survey, we are providing the following information.

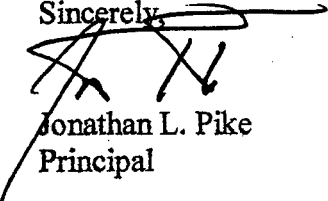
What is Looping? Looping is where a class of students stays with their particular teacher as they move to the next grade. For example, students in Mrs. Jones' first grade would go into second grade with Mrs. Jones. This would result in those students staying with the same teacher, the same paraprofessional and the same room.

What are the benefits of Looping? Research has shown significant benefits from looping. The relationship between teacher and parent continues and builds. Students are more comfortable at the beginning of the year, which helps get instruction under way sooner. Considerable time is saved since the teacher already knows the students, knows their strengths and weaknesses, and knows exactly where they left off the previous year. Furthermore, research studies have shown that looping can result in less tardiness, absences, and retentions.

Do I have to participate in Looping? If your child's class is ultimately selected to loop for next year, you will be afforded an opportunity to discuss any concerns with the school's administration and, if unresolved, allowed to request an alternative placement for your child.

Please feel free to call my office at any time to discuss this or any other issue with me.

Sincerely,


Jonathan L. Pike
Principal



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Parent's Name _____
Present Grade Level _____

Child's Name _____

Directions: *The statements below describe perceptions of looping. Please indicate the extent to which each statement describes your opinion by placing the appropriate numeral in the blank.*

1- strongly disagree 2-disagree 3- agree 4-strongngly agree

1. ___ Looping may create a stronger relationship between the teacher and myself.
2. ___ Looping may create a stronger relationship between the teacher and my child.
3. ___ Looping may strengthen my child's confidence in school.
4. ___ My child's grades may improve because of looping.
5. ___ Looping may strengthen my child's relationships with his classmates.
6. ___ The teacher will have a better knowledge of my child's strength and weaknesses due to looping
7. ___ My child will become overly attached to his teacher.
8. ___ Children need fresh experiences each year.
9. ___ Looping may cause behavior problems.

Additional Comments:



Parent Looping Survey Results

Survey Item	Not Decided or Unclear	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Looping may create a stronger relationship between the teacher and myself.	1	4	11	97	80
2. Looping may create a stronger relationship between the teacher and my child.	1	5	5	72	107
3. Looping may strengthen my child's confidence in school.	4	7	26	98	57
4. My child's grades may improve because of looping.	13	9	32	92	48
5. Looping may strengthen my child's relationships with his classmates.	3	6	13	103	65
6. The teacher will have a better knowledge of my child's strength and weaknesses due to looping.	1	3	8	60	120
7. My child will become overly attached to his teacher.	4	20	111	39	21
8. Children need fresh experiences each year.	7	4	52	95	33
9. Looping may cause behavior problems.	10	57	98	25	5

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Friday Focus

January 30, 2004

I don't know about snow days. Even with a day without students, this seems to have been one very long week. I guess Monday's excitement, coupled with days without power and freezing temperatures have made for a week to remember.

I thought not having students on Tuesday would give me a chance to catch up. NOT! If you think there is a lot on your agenda, please feel comfortable to believe the same is true for mine. As we are working on the budget, we are preparing for a new procedure for completing contracts on line, preparing for additional classes, making preparations for Spring activities, finishing the evaluation schedule, making plans for looping, etc. etc. I could go on and on but that would yield a three page Friday Focus.

Speaking of contracts, I have validated all requests for reappointment and have recommended all those who requested such. I look forward to having this team together next year as we continue our important work of building the best school in Columbia County. I will begin issuing contracts on February 11, contingent on BOE approval. These will be done electronically as we have begun doing evaluations. Information will be distributed to you with directions regarding this procedure.

What about looping? I am pleased to say that it looks like a good possibility that we will be able to pilot looping here at GBE. However, with the addition of two new classes and the real possibility for more, there is more work to do in planning than you may think. I will do my best to grant internal requests for reassignment if they are in the best interest of the school. Furthermore, room assignments and a comprehensive plan for grade placement are the priority issue at this time. Please stand by for further information.

We also must finish our work with our school improvement plan. I would like to thank Mrs. Ely for her leadership in moving this process forward. Keep in mind that our work with SIP this year is to help us have a better and a more "user friendly" plan for next year.

Don't fret too much over your budget at this time. Continue working on your prioritization. But, I will be meeting with all department heads Tuesday, to give some relief regarding the process and the format for submission. You will be submitting by department. Thanks.

The weatherman says more freezing rain and/or sleet for Sunday morning. I worry because these weathermen are about as accurate as a catapult throwing a cow (Monty Python). Which means either perfect weather or a blizzard. Go figure! Have a great weekend. J.P.

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL TEACHERS
FROM: JON PIKE
SUBJECT: TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS
DATE: 2/2/04
CC: FILE

I am getting to the final stages to prepare a master template of teaching assignments. This template will include plans for looping, transfers, and new positions.

In order to accommodate any voluntary transfers, I need your feedback regarding any possible reassignments. I would like every classroom teacher to complete this form and return it to me by Wednesday, February 4, 2004. If you have not requested reappointment or have requested a transfer to another school, you need not complete this.

First, please indicate your certification. Then, please rank order your preferences for teaching assignments with #1. as your first choice and so on. Even if you wish to stay in your current assignment, list that as your first choice but still list a second and third choice.

Name: MANCINI
Certification: P-8 T-6

1st Choice: EIP
2nd Choice: 2
3rd Choice: K

Thanks.

Teacher Assignments

Pike, Jonathan		Bonadio, Judy	
Alley, Janice	Sp.Ed.	Horne, Ronnie	K
Baumgartner, Andy	K	Johnson, Amy	Guidance
Bessman, Lisa ✓	2	King, Kelli	Sp.Ed.
Bock, Mary	5	Klapthor, Pat	✓ 2
Booker, Andrea	Resign	Landrum, Melinda	2
Bromer, Billie	Pre-K HK	Macky, Violet	✓ 1
Brown, Jayne	1	Mamatey, Charlotte	- 2
Bowling, Sonja	5	Mancusi, Sandra	EIP
Butler, Jeannie	Music	Marshall, Marie	3
Clanton, Stephanie	3	Montgomery, Kelly	1
Coleman, Jill	4	Moreno, Tara	3
Cothran, Regina	4	Murphy, Deanne	K
Davis, Bonnie	3	Parrish, Beth	Sp.Ed.
Doss, Barbara	1	Peita, Becky	Sp.Ed
Dudley, Traci ✓	4	Perry, Renee	Pre-K
Duncan, Lisa	K	Pounds, Jennifer	K
Elsy, Kim ✓	5	Reeves, Lara	4
Ely, Joanne ✓	1	Shuff, Paula	Media
Ethridge, Cathy	Sp.Ed.	Smith, Donna	EIP
Fox, Ginny	Speech	Vaught, Rebecca	P.E.
Gamblin, Cheryl	3	Vitacco, Kathy	1
Gaston, Robin	P.E.	Wilkins, Julie	2
Gertler, Barbara	Guidance	Williams, Elisa	4
Hockert, Teresa	2	Wesley, Margaret	Art

Bessman/Ely
 Klapthor/Macky
 Elsey/Dudley