



**Letter Home to Families for
Trouble According to Humphrey
by Betty G. Birney (2007)**

Dear Hyer Parents/Guardians:

This month our school along with all other Highland Park elementary schools will be embarking on a special project, an all-school book club called **One School, One Book™**. Every family will receive a copy of the same book – Betty G. Birney's *Trouble According to Humphrey* – and will be asked to read it together at home over the next few weeks. I am personally asking you to make the time so that your family can participate in this special activity.

Reading aloud at home is valuable because it better prepares your child to be an effective reader, and it is also a fun, worthwhile family activity. With the **One School, One Book™** program, we aim to build a Community of Readers at our school. Everyone – students, parents, teachers, even administrative staff will all be following along together.

The oldest child in each family will receive a copy of *Trouble According to Humphrey* on January 6th after we introduce the program and the book over announcements. Along with the book, you will receive a bookmark with a reading schedule so that you can keep up at home. Generally, you will be asked to read about 15 minutes each night.

In school, your child will be invited to answer daily trivia questions to encourage and reward attentive listening. You will soon find that your child will take pride in knowing and anticipating the details of the story. You will want to make sure your family keeps up so that your child will be able to participate in any class discussions that may occur. Throughout the month, everyone will be talking about *Trouble According to Humphrey*!

One School, One Book™ is a novel program in that children of all grade levels will all be listening to their parents read the same book. Strange or daring as that may seem, it actually makes sound educational sense. Reading professionals recommend reading material out loud that is beyond a child's own reading level. We also believe that you can and should continue reading chapter books with your older children, even when they are able to read by themselves. We have selected a title that can be followed and understood and enjoyed by younger students, but will still captivate and stimulate older children.

I know that you'll enjoy this special reading time with your children. I hope to talk with both you and your student sometime this month about Humphrey the hamster and how "a friend in need is a friend indeed." When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about. With your help, we can build a Community of Readers at our school.

Debbie Burt
Principal
Hyer Elementary

**One School
One Book™**