



Boyertown Elementary School

A Monthly Publication For Parents

Greg Miller, Principal

December 2009

The BES Review

During the month of November, teachers and parents had the opportunity to meet and discuss students' successes and progress throughout the first third of the school year. Child Safety Net cards were also provided to parents, compliments of our school photo company, LifeTouch. A special thank you to everyone for helping to make the conferences a success.

Our very best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season.

Highly Qualified Staff

The No Child Left Behind requirements require all teachers and Title I instructional aides to be "highly qualified" according to guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. We are proud to say that all of the teachers and Title I aides in the Boyertown Area School District meet these criteria. If you have any questions regarding the educational background and certifications of your child's teacher, please contact the teacher or principal and we will gladly share this information with you.



Orchestra News

To all Junior Orchestra Members:

Wednesday, December 9th is our first orchestra rehearsal. Students should report **no later** than 7:15am in the BES gym. Parents may drop students off at the side doors where the larger parking lot is. Students will need their stands, books and folders, and of course, their instrument. After rehearsal students will be bused back to their home schools. Please be sure to mark your calendars as this first rehearsal is an essential one for their orchestra career. Thanks so much!



Music News

The annual BES holiday concert will be held on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 PM in the school multi-purpose room. This year's theme is "The Stars of Winter" and will feature the 5th and 6th grade Chorus and BES Show Choir. Come out and enjoy the sounds of the season!



Giving Tree

BES is having its annual “Giving Tree” located in the lobby. Students may bring in hats, scarves, gloves, or mittens for the tree. The items will be donated to the Salvation Army to be given to families in need. Students may begin to bring the items to school on December 7th and may do so until December 23rd.

Lost and Found

Our piles of “found” items continue to grow. Please have your child look for lost items in our “Lost and Found” chest. Also, please feel free to look through the items when you visit our school.



Pop A TAB

Boyertown Elementary has been participating in a district wide project of collecting six million soda can tabs. Our collection barrel in the lobby is filling quickly. Help BES fill the barrel to the top! **Tolerance, Acceptance, Belonging** is a No Place For Hate project being conducted by Junior High West. Why six million? That is the number of Jewish people who were killed during the Holocaust. All tabs collected will be donated to Ronald McDonald House. Our collection barrel was decorated by Junior High students and is located in the lobby. Please have your child turn in the tabs to their teacher or in the main office.



Cold Weather Guidelines

When the wind chill factor is 0 degrees or below, we keep the children inside and they have “indoor recess”. When the wind chill is between 0 and 20 degrees, the students have a shortened “outdoor recess”. Please be sure to dress your child accordingly and to put their names in their hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and coats. Even when the wind chill factor is above 20 degrees, outdoor recess is also dependent on snow, ice, and wet conditions on the playground. Thank you for your cooperation.

Hazardous Conditions Developing During the Day

When weather conditions warrant doing so, a decision to close schools will be made as soon as possible. Junior high school students will be dismissed, followed by the senior high school students. Then elementary school students will be dismissed as soon as the buses arrive.

In some instances, the school district may reverse this procedure by allowing the elementary students to be dismissed first. In either case, a radio announcement will detail the plan as well as an announcement through the ConnectEd system.

Afternoon kindergarten classes will not meet on days when schools are dismissed on the above schedule.

If school is closed, all school and community activities are canceled.

Hazardous Conditions Developing During the Night

Heavy snowfall or other serious weather conditions may make it necessary to close schools, delay openings or dismiss early. In such cases, the following radio stations will broadcast the information:

Boyertown	WBYN-FM (107.5)
Pottstown	WPAZ (1370)
Reading	WEEU (830)
Reading	WRAW (1340)
Reading	WIOV (1240)
Reading	WIOV-FM (105.1)
Stroudsburg	WSBG-FM (93.5)
Allentown TV	WAEB-AM (790)
	WAEB-FM (104)
	WCTO-FM (96)
	WLEV-FM (100.7)
	WODE-FM (99.9)
	WWYY-FM (107.1)
	WFMZ-TV Channel 69
Philadelphia	KYW (1060) District #893
Philadelphia	WPVI Channel 6
Philadelphia	WCAU Channel 10
Philadelphia	CBS3 – TV

At times it may be possible to avoid canceling a day of school by opening one or two hours later than the regularly scheduled time. In the case of a delayed opening, pupils should arrive at the bus stop one or two hours later, accordingly. When there is a one-hour delay, AM Kindergarten will arrive one hour late with regular dismissal time. PM Kindergarten will be on the regular schedule. If there is a two-hour delay, AM Kindergarten will be bused to school with grades 1 – 6 and remain at school until the afternoon kindergartners arrive. Transportation home of AM Kindergarten will be approximately one and one-half hours later than normal. PM Kindergarten will have a regular schedule with dismissal at school's closing time.

Parent E-Mail

If you signed up for our parent e-mail list, you will receive information via e-mail regarding any weather-related early dismissals or closures. If you are interested in being on this e-mail list, please follow these directions: write a statement which reflects your desire to receive information by e-mail. Please make sure to include your children's names and grades in the statement. E-mail the statement to esmith@boyertownasd.org. We can only accept one e-mail address for each parent or guardian.

Parental Responsibility

When weather conditions appear to warrant closing schools early, parents are urged to anticipate such action in order that they may be at home to receive the children when they arrive. In cases where this is not possible, provisions should be made with neighbors to take care of the children upon their arrival at home. **Kindergarten students will only be released at their bus stops to the adults listed on their green kindergarten transportation form. If no one is available to meet the kindergarten students, they will be returned to school.** If a student's parents customarily meet a child when he/she gets off the bus or has a long distance to walk at the end of the bus route, it is very important that parents make adequate provisions for the child in case of bad weather. Parents are requested not to drive to school and create additional traffic problems for police and school officials.



PSSA Test Dates

PLEASE DO NOT PLAN TRIPS DURING THE STATE TESTING DAYS!

All 5th grade students will be administered the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in writing from April 19 – 23, 2009. **NO TRIPS WILL BE APPROVED FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS BETWEEN APRIL 19 – 23, 2009.**

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in Reading and Mathematics will be administered to all 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th grade students from April 12 – 16, 2009. **NO TRIPS WILL BE APPROVED FOR 3RD, 4TH, 5TH, AND 6TH GRADE STUDENTS BETWEEN APRIL 12 – 16, 2009.**

All 4th grade students will be administered the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test in science from April 26 – 30, 2009. **NO TRIPS WILL BE APPROVED FOR 4TH GRADE STUDENTS BETWEEN APRIL 26 – 30, 2009.**



From the Nurse:

School Dentals Attention: kindergarten and 3rd grade parents: if you have not returned your child's dental exam form, please return to the nurse as soon as possible. If you need a form you may contact the health room or visit the Boyertown area school district website at: www.boyertownasd.org. The school dental exams are scheduled for February 3, 2010.

Parents here are a few reminders for the winter:

- Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess. They do go outside in cold weather, please have them bring a coat, hat and gloves to school to stay warm while outside.
- Please remind your children to wash their hands often to prevent the spread of colds/flu at home and in the classrooms.
- **Effective 2001, elementary students are not permitted to bring cough drops to school under any circumstances.** Please refer to the BASD policy in your Parent Handbook to review the policy.

Attention 4th, 5th and 6th grade parents: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 will be the parent preview night for our Family life and AIDS program at Junior High West. Parents are invited to preview the material used for the presentation.

- 4th grade parents will meet from 6-7pm in the auditorium
- 5th grade parents will meet in the cafeteria from 6:30-7:30pm
- 6th grade parents will meet in the auditorium from 7-8pm

Please notify the nurse if there are any changes in your child's health status. We would like to keep your child's health record current and up to date to ensure proper care while your child is attending school.

Please keep your Emergency Card information current: Anytime you have phone number changes, either at home, work, or for an alternate, please notify the health room so that we can keep your child's emergency card current.

**Greetings from your school counselors,
Erin Nester, Erica Hummel (on family leave), and Peg Glasgow**

Happy Holidays!

It's that time of year again! The holiday season can be a wonderful time of family togetherness and goodwill. The following is a list of ways that you can help your children understand the true meaning of giving this year.

- Use the holidays as a time to remind children that they are fortunate to have their basic needs met; point out that others are not as lucky.
- Encourage your child to choose some toys that he or she no longer plays with and give them to a shelter. If you are able, allow your child to select a new toy to purchase for children in need. Better yet, suggest that he or she contribute some of their own money to buying the toy.
- Donate clothing that is outgrown or never worn to children in need.
- Help your child collect canned goods for various charities.
- Volunteer in the community and bring your child along.
- Make cards for people who are in hospitals or assisted living facilities.
- Go to a nursing home and sing Christmas carols.
- Invite people who are alone to have a holiday meal with your family.

The holidays truly are the most wonderful time of the year, as they afford us the opportunity to reflect on our own blessings and assist others who are not as fortunate. Happy holidays to you and your families!

P.T.O. News

The BESPTO ended the month of November very busy. We had our fundraiser come to an end and earned a combined profit of \$8,635.00. Thanks to all who made that possible. Our Holiday Shoppe took place with the students enjoying their time shopping for family and friends. Thanks to all the parents who helped the students with their purchases.

We're starting a new fundraiser. The fundraiser is called *Project A+* from Tyson Products. Look for Tyson products that display the Tyson *Project A+* logo. By cutting the label and sending it into school with your child, you can help us raise money. Our school will receive 24 cents for every label. The label you save is easily identified by looking for the simple 1, 2, 3



program steps. Kim Ibach will collect the *Project A+* logos along with the Box Tops for Education labels. So start clipping so we can raise more money for our school and our children.

This year the PTO has decided to join the Multi Service Festival of Trees. Please look for our tree on display at the Spring Street Center during the Holiday House Tour on December 4th, 2009. The theme of our tree will be Snow Days. We are very excited to take part in this community event.

On behalf of the entire BESPTO, we wish all of our families a wonderful holiday. Please contact me if you are interested in finding out about the officer and chair positions that are available. There are several openings that you could shadow for the remainder of this year to see if the position is right for you.

Andrea Elsier
PTO President
610-367-4697