



Boyertown Elementary School

A Monthly Publication For Parents

Greg Miller, Principal

November 2009

The BES Review ...

In October, the students and staff at Boyertown Elementary School welcomed parents for our annual Parents' Visitation Day. Many parents joined us in our classrooms to experience a part of their child's education. This very special day, sponsored by our PTO, allowed teachers to show parents some of the many wonderful learning opportunities their child receives in the course of a year. Thank you to everyone who came out to join us.

Staff Updates

A sincere "**Welcome**" to ...

Anna Berry - Librarian, Long Term Substitute

E-Mail Contact

Boyertown Elementary would like to create an address book of parent e-mail addresses. By having your e-mail address, we can e-mail various announcements, parent newsletters, event schedules, cancellations, etc. to you. Your e-mail address will be confidential and will not be e-mailed to others. 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. For those who do not have computer access and/or would rather not receive information in this manner, paper copies of communications will still be sent home. During the initial start up phase, you may receive both an e-mail and a paper copy. Our hope is to increase communications between home and school through the use of technology.

Early Dismissals

On the following dates, students will have a 12:30 Early Dismissal:

Friday	November 13, 2009
Monday	November 23, 2009
Tuesday	November 24, 2009
Wednesday	November 25, 2009

For Kindergarten Parents Only

We have a 12:30 PM early dismissal on November 13th, 23rd, 24th and 25th. As a reminder, please note the following modified kindergarten schedules on these early dismissal days:

12:30 Dismissal
Morning Kindergarten
8:45 – 10:25 AM
Afternoon Kindergarten
10:25 - 12:30 PM

Parent-Teacher Conferences

All grade levels will be conducting parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first marking period. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress in school with the teacher. Since conferences are scheduled back-to-back, please make sure to arrive at your scheduled time. We have also made available evening conferences scheduled on November 19, 2009 from 4:30 - 7:30 PM and November 24, 2009 from 4:30 – 7:30 PM. All professional staff will be available during these evening times. We look forward to conferencing with all our parents.

Report Card Distribution

For the first marking period, report cards will be distributed to parents at the scheduled parent-teacher conferences. The end of the first marking period will be November 6, 2009.

Student Tardiness Reminder



School begins promptly at 8:45 AM. If your child is late, you need to come to the office with your child and sign him/her into school. **For safety reasons, please do not drop off your child at the front of the building. Please escort the student into the building.**



Picture Retakes

Picture Retake Day will be Monday, November 9, 2009 at 9:00 AM. If your child was absent on Picture Day, they may have their picture taken on this day. If you are not satisfied with your package of pictures, your child may have his/her picture taken again. Please return the original package on retake day with your child's name, teacher, and package selection written on the front envelope. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school office.



Annual Food Drive

In this season of giving thanks and sharing, our students will have an opportunity to bring in canned items for our annual food drive from November 2 - 23 2009. The food that is collected will be donated to the Salvation Army.



Recess

With the exception of inclement weather, the children go outside for recess on a daily basis. Outdoor recess is 20 minutes and the students should be dressed appropriately. If a child wears a jacket to school, we expect that child to wear the jacket to recess.

Music News

Come Hear the Elementary Instrumental Winter Concert!

The senior orchestra and senior band are proud to present another winter concert this year. As in years past, the concert will take place at Boyertown Area Senior High School in the auditorium. The concert begins at 7:00 pm on December 2nd. We will be featuring both the senior band and senior orchestra at our concert.

Dress rehearsals will be held on December 1st. The schedule is as follows: SENIOR orchestra and band students only - Senior orchestra members will be bused to the high school for a 3:30 to-5:30 rehearsal. Students will need their own transportation home. Youth symphony rehearsal, which is 6th grade students only, is from 5:30-6:00. Senior band will rehearse from 6:00-7:30. Those students will need transportation to and from the high school.

We will be selling poinsettias again this year prior to the concert. These will decorate the stage during our concert. Purchases will be available for pick up after the performance.

Our students have worked hard to prepare some great tunes. All are invited to come out to support the elementary instrumentalists in the 2009 Winter Concert!

H1N1 Update

Over the last few weeks, our schools have been experiencing a high rate of student absences. We will continue to monitor this situation and work closely with the parents/guardians of children who are ill.

BASD continues to follow the practices identified through the information on our district website and letters previously sent to parents/guardians to minimize the impact of the H1N1 virus. These measures include: monitoring student enrollment, reinforcing hand washing at school, and working closely with parents/guardians of children that may be ill.

We encourage all parents/guardians to consult with your family physician related to any medical concerns you may have and/or possible treatment/prevention options. It is also recommended from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that children stay home at least 24 hours after a fever is gone. BASD also recommends this practice to avoid infecting other students and employees. More detailed information can be accessed from the H1N1 link on the Boyertown Area School District's website @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> or directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Health @ <http://www.h1n1inpa.com/>





From the Nurse:

Parents of Kindergarten , 1, 3 and 6

grade students: If you have not yet handed in your physical and/or dental form, you still have time to have the form completed. Please contact your family physician/dentist to make an appointment and have the form completed. If you need a new form, please contact the nurse or visit the district website under health services to obtain a form. (requirements: Kindergarten and grade 1 physical and dental exams, grade 3 dental exam and grade 6 physical exam).
Reminder that school physicals will be given on November 20, 2009, parent permission for the school exam is required. If you wish to have a school physical exam and have not yet signed up, please contact the health room immediately at 610-473-5170 to register for the exam.

REMINDER! With colder weather arriving, students must be dressed

appropriately to go out to recess. Please make sure your child has something warm to wear for recess. Students can always take their outerwear off if the weather warms up at recess time. Thank you for your help!

COLD AND FLU SEASON:

- Review the importance of hand washing and demonstrate the proper way to wash your hands with your child.
- Children should be free from fever, vomiting and/or diarrhea for a full 24 hours before returning to school.
- Review the medication policy in your BASD handbook. **WE MUST HAVE A DOCTOR'S ORDER AND PARENT PERMISSION TO GIVE ANY MEDICATION INCLUDING THOSE SOLD OVER THE COUNTER .**
- **STUDENTS MAY NOT TRANSPORT THEIR MEDICATION TO AND FROM SCHOOL**
- **COUGH DROPS** are **NOT** allowed in school per the BASD policy effective 2001.

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

**Mid November brings us to parent-teacher conference time,
How to Make Parent-Teacher Conferences Work for Your Child**

All children learn in different ways. They have their own individual personalities and their own listening and work habits. To help their students learn new knowledge and skills, teachers must know as much as they can about each child's likes and dislikes. No one knows more about these things than you, the parents. And no one has more influence over your children than you. That's why teachers need your help. Working together, you and the teacher can help your child have a successful school year.

Getting Ready

Talk to your children before the conference. Find out what they think are their best subjects, and what subjects they like the least. Find out why. Also, ask your children if there is anything they would like you to talk about with their teachers. Make sure your children don't worry about the meeting. Help them understand that you and their teacher(s) are meeting together in order to help them.

Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about:

- things about your child's life at home, personality, problems, habits, and hobbies you feel it's important for the teacher to know
- your concerns or questions about your child's progress
- how you and the school can work together to help your child

If your spouse can't attend the conference with you, ask for his or her concerns and questions.

The Conference

Some possible questions to ask are these:

- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and most challenging subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? For example, have you noticed any squinting, tiredness or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?
- How does my child handle taking tests?

It's a good idea to ask your most important questions first, just in case time runs out before you and the teacher have a chance to discuss them all. Be sure to ask the teacher for specific suggestions on ways to help your child do better. This is the most important part of the meeting. It can become your action plan. If the teacher says something you don't quite understand, don't be shy about asking for an explanation. It's a good idea to end the conference by summing up decisions you've made together.

After the Conference

Start immediately on the action plan you and the teacher worked out together. Discuss the plan with your child. Make sure he or she knows that you and the teacher care. To see if the action plan is working, watch your child's behavior and check your child's class work and homework.

Meeting with your child's teachers should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships—partnerships that are needed if you and your child's teachers are to reach your common goal of helping your child get the best education possible.

Source: The National PTA, National Education Association of the United States, Stock No. 5174-2, How To Make Parent-Teacher Conferences Work for Your Child

P.T.O. News

This is the time of year where our PTO is very busy. Our fall fundraisers are completed and we want to thank all who supported us during this difficult financial time. Thanks to Judy Miller who did another great job running the Market Day fundraiser. Fundraiser pick up will be November 12th starting at 6 pm-8 pm.

Thanks to all the parent volunteers who helped at the welcome table at Parent Visitation. Your time was very much appreciated.

The PTO held its first BINGO and Ice Cream Social on October 23rd. Thanks to Sharon Smith for planning this family event. We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all the parents who donated toppings. Thanks to all the teachers and staff who helped make this event a success. Special thanks go out to the custodial staff who helped with setup and cleanup.

With November just around the corner our PTO will be gearing up for one of our busiest events, the Holiday Shoppe. Connie Hukari will be contacting volunteers to help with this event. If you did not sign up to help with this event and are interested in volunteering some time to help, please contact me. This event needs many hands.

We are in the process of gathering information on offering a Spirit wear sale. This information should be coming home soon and the items should be available to give as holiday gifts. Sweatshirts, pants, shorts and other Boyertown Bears merchandise will be available for purchase.

Our next PTO meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 7pm. You may want to plan to pick up your fundraiser merchandise and then attend the meeting.

If there is anyone who may be interested in getting involved in the PTO, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Andrea Elsier
PTO President
610-367-4697