



Boyertown Elementary School

A Monthly Publication For Parents

Greg Miller, Principal

October 2009

September has been a busy month trying to get all of the students back into the routine of school. I would like to thank all of the parent volunteers for their help over the first few days. They were a great help at school arrival and during 1st grade lunch.

Reminder



All schools in the Boyertown Area School District **will be closed Monday, October 12, 2009.**

Fire Prevention Week



As a part of this year's Fire Prevention Week, the Friendship Hook & Ladder and Keystone Fire Company will be holding an informative and exciting session with the kindergarten, first and second grade classes on Friday, October 9, 2009.

Unity Walk

This year's Unity Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 2009 at Boyertown Junior High West. Live entertainment begins at 1:00. The walk will begin at 2:30 PM. Hope to see you there.

Absences/Attendance

Regular school attendance is very important for several reasons. First, since many of the lessons are accompanied by hands-on activities and active student participation, it is impossible for a child who has missed class, to completely make-up the experience. Second, it's the law!

All absences must be documented in one of three ways: a phone call to the office, a written note from the parent or doctor, or a completed excuse blank. We cannot accept e-mail messages. **We would prefer a phone call to the office as the first method of reporting your child's absence.** Our phone number is 610-369-7462. If you are reporting a child's absence during non-business hours, please leave your name, the child's name, the child's teacher and the reason for absence on the school's voicemail.

Please remember if you e-mail or phone your child's teacher about an absence, you must also call the office to report the absence.

Dog Walkers



If you walk your dog on the school grounds; please remember to clean up after your dog. This creates unsanitary conditions for our children when they use the grounds during gym class and recess.

Security Reminder

Please remember if you need to pick up your child unexpectedly, you must come to the office and sign him or her out. You should be prepared to show some identification. Please do not take it upon yourself to wait near the busses or in the lobby of the building to try to catch your child. This practice is in place for the safety of everyone. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



Pop A TAB

Boyertown Elementary School is participating in a district wide project of collecting six million soda can tabs. **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.



Parent Visitation Day

Please join us for this year's Parent Visitation Day scheduled for Friday, October 16, 2009. Each teacher has sent home information to allow parents or guardians to pre-schedule a time that they would like to observe a portion of their child's school day. Unfortunately, this visit is only available for parents or guardians. Siblings can not accompany parents. Those of you, who do choose to participate, please keep in mind you will be coming to observe your child. Anything you see in reference to someone else's child should not be discussed. We need to try to honor each student's right for confidentiality. School passes will arrive home prior to Parent Visitation Day. The pass

enables you to enter the school through the main lobby where you will be greeted by our PTO volunteers. **If you do not have the pass you will be required to sign in at the office. Please be prepared to show identification at the office.**



Car Riders

There are *two choices* for dismissal.

1. Parents/Guardians may park their car in the side parking lot, enter through the main front doors and sign out their child in the office.

Parents will be asked to show a form of picture identification when they pick up their child. Only those people who are listed on a child's white emergency card will be permitted to pick up that child. If someone not listed on the card is to pick up your child, a note must be sent to the classroom teacher.

2. Parents/Guardians wishing to pick up their child daily/regularly should fill out the blue car rider form and return it to the school office. A laminated sign to identify the car and child will be issued. The sign should be displayed in the windshield when the parent/guardian arrives for pickup.

At dismissal time, the car line is **only** for cars that have laminated signs. If you do not have a laminated sign, you need to park in the parking lot and proceed to the office to sign out your child.

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 Health Room



All Kindergarten and 3rd Grade private dental exam forms are now due. All Kindergarten and 6th Grade private physical exam forms are also now due.

PA School Health Act #535 requires these examinations for all students in these grades and for any student with incomplete health records. If you need a new form just contact the health room. Please schedule an appointment for your child for these exams as soon as possible if they are still needed.

School physical exams will be offered to kindergarten and sixth grade students with incomplete physical exam records on Nov. 20,

2009. The health room will be in contact with the parents of students who have not handed in a completed form to offer the option of having a school exam.

School dental exams will be scheduled later this school year and the health room will be in contact with the parents of students who have not handed in a completed form to offer the school exam.

Cold weather will be arriving soon. Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess. If the weather warms up by recess, students can always remove layers if necessary. Also, October is the official start of the cold and flu season.

Here are a few reminders:

- Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess.
- Please remind your children to wash their hands often to prevent the spread of colds/flu at home and in our 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.
- **Please see the BASD medication policy in the BASD handbook to review the policy.** Do not send medications to school with your child. A written doctor's order for over-the-counter and prescribed medicines is required. The nurse **CANNOT** administer any medication to students if the proper procedures are not followed. Parents must bring the medications to school. The policy is in place for the safety of all students.

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

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

A goal that we all share is having children ready to learn when they come to school each day. There are many things that can decrease a child's ability to think and absorb knowledge. These include being hungry, tired, upset, and according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, spending too much time watching television.

- The American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines recommend that parents limit their children's viewing to one to two hours per day at most.
- **The best rule is no TV during the week, and limited weekend TV.** This ensures that kids are not rushing to finish their homework so they can watch a favorite show. It also frees up more time for family interaction during the busy weekdays. For example, instead of children watching TV while you fix dinner, have them help you cook.
- Make conversation a priority in your home. Interacting more will help your children improve their conversational skills.

- Read to your children.
 - Begin reading to your children before they are age one.
 - Encourage older children to read on their own and continue reading aloud together as a family.
 - Show your children that you enjoy reading. Let them see you reading rather than watching TV to relax.
- Don't use TV as a reward or punishment.
 - This gives the TV too much importance.
- Encourage active recreation.
 - Encourage your kids to take part in sports, games, hobbies, and music. For example; you may turn off the TV and take a walk or do a project with your child.
 - Designate certain evenings for special family activities, like a family bike ride or a game night.
- Keep the TV in the living room or family room.
 - Placing a TV in your child's room keeps you from monitoring the amount of TV and the types of shows that they watch. TVs in children's bedrooms are linked to both academic and sleep problems.
- Use a TV guide or newspaper to decide which shows to watch instead of channel surfing until something gets your interest.
 - Turn the TV on for these programs only. Turn it off and discuss the programs when they're over.
- For children younger than two years old, instead of television do interactive activities that will promote brain development such as talking, playing, singing, and reading together. Little ones can ride along in a backpack as you do chores and toddlers can "help" with chores around the house.

We thank the American Academy of Pediatrics and University of Michigan for these ideas. As always, not all information is helpful for every family. Feel free to "Take the Best and Leave the Rest." Our common goal is helping students become life long learners. If we can be of help to you, please call 610 473-5118 or email pglasgow@bovertownasd.org or enester@bovertownasd.org

P.T.O. News

October is here and that means our Fall Fundraiser will soon begin. Please look for the Market Day Catalog to come home. We hope that you will find a few items to purchase for yourself or as gifts for the upcoming holidays and help our fundraiser. The profits raised will be used to support the many events that we sponsor during the year.

On October 16th our PTO volunteers will be available to greet parents during Parent Visitation. Please don't hesitate to ask our volunteers if you need help finding your child's classroom.

Boyertown Elementary's first Ice Cream and Bingo Social will take place on October 23rd. Please look for further information to come home.

Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Please join us.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Andrea Elsier
PTO President
610-367-4697