



Boyertown Elementary School

A Monthly Publication For Parents
September 2009

Welcome Back...

It has been a busy summer for many of us as we took time to relax and enjoy our vacations. Many wonderful things were also happening here at Boyertown Elementary School during the summer which involved staff, students, and parents. I hope that we are all refreshed and anticipating the upcoming school year with much enthusiasm. It has been a rewarding opportunity for me to see the excitement that is quite evident as I walk around the building talking with children, parents, and teachers. We look forward to another exciting year.

Staff Updates

A sincere “**Welcome**” to ...

Jennifer Joyce – Literacy First Teacher
Erin Nester – Guidance Counselor (part-time)
Long Term Substitute
Kristi Medvetz – Reading Specialist Long Term Substitute
Rebecca Stoll – Art Long Term Substitute

Thank You...

- To our secretaries and custodians for all of the summer activities which prepare school for the new school year. Thanks to their efforts, we are well organized and ready to begin a new year in a clean school!
- To our teachers who have been working in their rooms, planning for the new year, attending committee meetings at BES, attending workshops and taking college courses.
- To our PTO and the many hours our parents and teachers have put into getting ready for our various activities this coming year.
- To parents for completing and returning forms in a timely manner.
- Parents and students for reading the handbook.

Please Mark Your Calendar



- 9/10/09 Meet the Teacher
Kindergarten 6:30 PM (AM & PM Kdg.)
(parents only)
- 9/9/09 Meet the Teacher
2nd grade 6:30 PM
Meet the Teacher
3rd grade 7:30 PM
- 9/3/09 Meet the Teacher
4th grade 6:30 PM
Meet the Teacher
5th grade 7:30 PM
- 9/10/09 Meet the Teacher
6th grade 7:30 PM

School Pictures



School pictures will be taken on Friday, September 25, 2009. Retakes are scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2009.

Appropriate Dress



We need your help to ensure good learning environments in our schools. One way is to make sure your child wears clothing that is appropriate for school. For example, short shorts and midriff tops are not appropriate for school. Please reference the District Elementary Handbook for the Dress Code.

Music News



Please mark your calendars for the following BES Concert Dates:

- Thursday, 11/5/09 3rd grade program
- Thursday, 12/10/09 Winter Chorus Concert
- Thursday, 2/11/10 2nd grade program
- Thursday, 3/25/10 4th grade program
- Thursday, 4/8/10 Spring Concert

Lunch



The price of a student lunch for 2009-2010 is \$2.00.

If your child does not have enough money or forgets his/her money, the computer will allow your child lunch credits. A negative balance letter will be sent home daily with your child.

When your child reaches a negative balance of \$6.00, an alternate lunch will be served until the balance is satisfied. The cost of the alternate lunch is \$2.00 and will be charged to your child's account.

Applications for free or reduced lunch are available for those who qualify and wish to take advantage of this opportunity. **If you received free or reduced lunch last year, you must reapply this year before September 18, 2009.** Any questions, please call BASD Food Service Department at 610-369-7419.

Student Accident Insurance

Information regarding school insurance for your child(ren) is available in our school office.

School – Wide Rules

At Boyertown Elementary School we...

- * Are kind, respectful and polite to ourselves and others.
- * Are prepared for learning.
- * Allow teachers to teach and everyone to learn.
- * Keep hands, feet and objects to ourselves.
- * Use acceptable language and voice levels at all times.



School Hours

School begins at 8:45 AM and ends at 3:25 PM.



Arrival and Dismissal

Students should not be at school prior to 8:25 AM unless they are working with a teacher on a special project or in a special program.

Just a reminder...

Cars should NOT enter the front driveway between 8:15 and 8:45 AM and 3:00 and 3:45 PM.

School Transportation



Questions about bussing should be directed to Mr. Missimer, Transportation Supervisor at 610-369-7431.

Attendance & Tardiness

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.

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. Please refer to the Elementary School Handbook for additional information. Please note that trips will not be approved during state testing periods.

Emergency Information

It is very important that we have accurate emergency information at all times.

Please update the emergency information sheets sent home the first day of school and return to school immediately. If there are any changes throughout the year, please send a note or call the office. Thank you!

Custody Issues

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to notify the school principal of the circumstances regarding custody of the child. A Custody Form should be completed to provide the necessary information.

The position of the school district is as follows:

- * When a Court establishes custody, the school-parent relationship will be maintained consistent with the decision of the Court.
- * When custody is not formally established, the school will presume that the parent with whom the child resides is the parent responsible for reports, excuse forms, and authorization of any deviation from the routine transportation arrangements for the child.
- * The non-custodial parent may receive progress reports and/or review the child's permanent record by contacting the building principal.

Student Safety

Please have your child check his/her pockets and backpacks before coming to school.

Pocketknives or other objects considered as weapons are prohibited in the school setting.

This includes toys that look like weapons.

Students in possession of such objects will face severe consequences. Also, please emphasize with your children that threats about "killing" will also result in severe consequences. Again, I thank you for your continued support. **Please reference the District Elementary Handbook for Weapons Offenses.**

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. 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 a call from the Connect Ed. 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.

Pottstown	WPAZ (1370)
Reading	WEEU (830)
Reading	WRAW (1340)
Reading	WIOV (1240)
Reading	WIOV-FM (105.1)
Reading	WRFY-FM (102.5)
Philadelphia	KYW (1060)
	District #893
Philadelphia	Channel 6
Philadelphia	Channel 10
Allentown	Channel 69

Parental Responsibility

Parents are expected to anticipate early dismissal due to inclement weather and to make appropriate provisions for their children.

Emergency Evacuation

Complying with state regulations, every school conducts safety drills each month and has a plan for the expeditious evacuation of the school in the event of a bomb-threat or similar emergency. In the event of a dangerous nuclear incident occurring at the Limerick Generating Station, there is a written plan that is distributed to parents annually. Please review this plan periodically so that you become familiar with it.

Pennsylvania Megan's Law Website

For more information, please visit the Pennsylvania State Police website:
www.pameganslaw.state.pa.us

From the Health Room



All Kindergarten and 6th Grade private physical exam forms and all Kindergarten and 3rd Grade private dental exam forms are due now. If you have not yet completed the form please make sure that you return it to the nurse as soon as possible.

PA School Health Act #535 requires these examinations for all students in these grades. If you need a new form just contact the health room. Please schedule an appointment for your child for these exams if they are still needed. Parents or guardians may request a school physical or dental free of charge. They will each be offered later in the school year to anyone in those grade levels who have not handed in a completed form.

Please make sure that all updated information regarding contact information and health issues are noted on the Emergency form. It is very important for the school to have appropriate contact information to notify you in case of illness or injury at school.

Reminder to Parents: With the arrival of the fall allergy season, the health room wants to remind parents to **refer to the BASD medication policy** (see School Handbook or BASD web site) if your child needs to take any medications during school hours. Your child may receive medications in school daily or as needed during school if the medication guidelines are followed. Please contact the health room if you have any questions. Medication forms are available on the BASD Web site at <http://boyertownasd.org> or by request from the health room.

mySchoolBucks Information

The credit card association has mandated a change that affects mySchoolBucks and our valued parent users. Effective July 1, 2009, mySchoolBucks will no longer be allowed to offer a percentage based fee on transactions. MySchoolBucks is reintroducing the Membership Fee option which will take the place of the percentage of a transaction fee option and since we are no longer allowed to offer the percentage of a transaction method, we are introducing a new fixed transaction fee method, as required by the Credit Card Association rules.

Fixed transaction fee method:

You can make a single payment of any dollar amount and for any number of children, and the fee will be a fixed \$1.35 per transaction. So on any payment over \$45; you begin savings compared to the percentage method. If you were previously making smaller payments, please consider a large single payment (say one per month), which may save you money on fees as well.

Membership fee method:

By becoming a member and paying a single fee based on the time length of your membership, you may be able to save on your fees. Your membership covers all children in your family. The fees by length of time are:

12 months - \$14.80	6 months - \$9.90
9 months - \$12.90	3 months - \$4.95

Once you become a member, you are charged no additional fees during the membership period, no matter how many payments you make, of any dollar size. There is no fee to setup an account and view your child's meal purchases, balances, and to setup an automated email notice when your child's meal account falls below a dollar amount you specify. You can always make your payment directly at the school without incurring a fee.

Partnering With Our Daughters To Be Their Best

For parents and daughters (grades K-12): A FREE Workshop

This interactive evening will feature information, videos, sharing, and ideas for parents and daughters who are seeking more information about some of the tough situations girls experience in and out of school. Join counselors Marilee Cassidy, Maureen Gerhart, and Peg Glasgow on Monday, October 5, 2009 in the library at Junior High West from 6:30 to 8:00. Together, learn more about relational aggression ("girl bullying"), cyber-bullying, and what to do about it.

To register, please contact your daughter's school counselor by phone or email. For further information, please contact your daughter's school counselor or Marilee Cassidy, School Counseling Coordinator, at mcassidy@bovertownasd.org.

From Your School Counselors- Mrs. Glasgow & Mrs. Nester

Welcome Back and Welcome to Mrs. Nester!

Hopefully the summer break gave you time to relax and enjoy some good books. Now that we are all refreshed, it is time to focus our energy on another exciting school year. We would like to welcome all new students and their families to BES. We look forward to getting to know you throughout the year.

Reminder

Boyertown Elementary has two school counselors. Mrs. Peg Glasgow is the full time counselor and she can be reached at 610-473-5118. Welcome to Mrs. Nester who joins us as our part-time counselor. Mrs. Hummel is enjoying some time with her family following the birth of her new daughter Erynn and will return to BES January 2.

Mrs. Nester works at four of the elementary schools in the district. She is at BES for a half a day every Thursday and every other Monday. Mrs. Glasgow, Mrs. Nester, and Mrs. Hummel are certified professional counselors. We are here to help children succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. If we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Best Foot Forward

A new school year gives all students the opportunity for a fresh start. Help your children be successful in school by creating an atmosphere of support for academics. Here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics on developing good homework and study habits.

- Create an environment that is conducive to doing homework. Youngsters need a permanent work space in their bedroom or another part of the home with the needed supplies.
- Set aside ample time for homework.
- Establish a household rule that the TV set stays off during homework time.
- Be available to answer questions and offer assistance, but never do a child's homework for her.
- To help alleviate eye fatigue, neck fatigue and brain fatigue while studying, it's recommended that children take breaks with some stretching or exercise as needed.
- If your child is struggling with a particular subject and you aren't able to help her yourself, talk this over with your child's teacher.

Have a great school year!