



---

# Boyertown Elementary School

---

A Monthly Publication For Parents

*Greg Miller, Principal*

*February 2012*

## **BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

The Boyertown Area School District is announcing kindergarten registration for the 2012-13 school year. Information packets were mailed in January 2012 to each resident with a child who will reach 5 years of age on or before September 10, 2012. These names are taken from the district's census file. If you or someone you know has a child that meets the age requirement and has not received a packet please contact the district office to obtain one.

All kindergarten registration is done by appointment and will be done at the District Education Center located at 911 Montgomery Avenue, Boyertown from 3/5/12 – 3/13/12. The packet will include all the necessary forms and instructions for registration.

Note that although students entering kindergarten are required to have a physical and dental examination, these exams must be completed after September 1, 2011.

Please contact Cindi Bartholomew in the Student Registration Office at 610-369-7492 or at [cbartholomew@boyertownasd.org](mailto:cbartholomew@boyertownasd.org) if you did not receive a packet or have questions or concerns regarding this process.

### **Report Card Distribution**

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Cards go home February 8, 2012



### **Music News**

The second grade classes will be presenting their program “Interplanetary Jammin” on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Come and see us celebrate all that March has to offer!

### **Orchestra/ Band News**

For information on your children's practice or upcoming concert information visit the website at [www.basd-elem-music.wikispaces.com](http://www.basd-elem-music.wikispaces.com)



## PSSA Test Dates

PLEASE DO NOT PLAN TRIPS  
DURING THE STATE TESTING  
DAYS!

All 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be administered the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in writing from April 16-April 20, 2012. **NO TRIPS WILL BE APPROVED FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS BETWEEN April 16-April 20, 2012**

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in Reading and Mathematics will be administered to all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from March 12-23, 2012. **NO TRIPS WILL BE APPROVED FOR 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>, 5<sup>TH</sup>, AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS BETWEEN MARCH 12-23, 2012**

All 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be administered the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test in science from April 23-27, 2012. **NO TRIPS WILL BE APPROVED FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS BETWEEN APRIL 23-27, 2012**

## REMINDER

Children are not to be dropped off before 8:25 AM. If a student arrives after the 8:45 AM bell, a parent must sign the child in at the office.

## Student Pick-Up Reminder

Parents/Guardians who are picking up students during the school day must sign the child out in the office. For safety reasons, please be prepared to present identification if asked. We see many faces in the office and may not recognize you. The students' security is always our first concern.

## Student Car Rider Line

If you drive your child to or from school, you will have noticed many more cars this year. Due to the increase in cars, I wanted to take a moment to review our procedures.

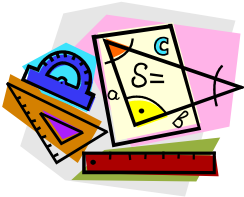
- During morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up, please be sure to pull all the way forward before loading or unloading.
- Our morning drop-off area is from the light post to the crosswalk. Please be sure to pull forward and unload once you are in that area.
- If your child needs help loading or unloading, please park and help them across the crosswalk.
- If at all possible, teach your child to load and unload on the sidewalk side to help ensure safety.
- When pulling away, be sure to use caution because of pedestrians.
- The Car Rider Line is intended for cars to pick-up. Not for walk up service. Please **DO NOT** park and walk the car line.

All of these helpful points are to keep our students safe.



## 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@bovertownasd.org](mailto:esmith@bovertownasd.org). We can only accept one e-mail address for each parent or guardian.



## Student Class Assignment

Each year we work diligently to determine student placements for the following school year. Since we consider the placement process to be one of our most important tasks, we would like to share the process with you. Student placement is determined and reviewed by a team of professionals consisting of your child's present teacher, reading specialist, guidance counselor, and the principal. Additional personnel, such as the remediation teacher and special education teachers, are consulted when appropriate. Each child's academic, social and emotional growth and needs are discussed as well as peer relations. We strive to create classes that are heterogeneous, function as cohesive groups, and provide each child with an educational environment that will meet his or her needs. We feel our time is well spent because we also have a personal investment in each child.

In view of the time and consideration taken in the placement of your child, we request that you do not ask for a specific teacher placement. Should your child need special consideration, such as a specific type of learning environment or you wish to share information about your child's specific needs, please write the principal a letter stating those areas that should be taken into consideration when making next year's placement. Any written request of this nature must be submitted by April 15. **Letters that include specific teacher names and/or are received after April 15 will be returned.** No requests will be considered after April 15. We ask that you respect our professional judgment and be assured that we strive to make the best possible match for your child.

## 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.**



### **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)
Allentown	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.**

The ConnectEd Service (telephone messaging system) will be used to complement our emergency preparedness procedures to communicate emergency delay or closings to parents and guardians.

**You may also call the Boyertown Area School District information line at 610-369-SNOW (7669)**

**Or visit the Boyertown Area School District homepage at [www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org) “Latest Announcements” for updates**



**Read Across America/Dr. Seuss’  
Birthday Week**

**Special Days are scheduled each day  
of the first week in March.**

**Monday – February 27<sup>th</sup>**

Bring your favorite  
Dr. Seuss book or another book to  
school this day.

**Tuesday – February 28<sup>th</sup>**

Cat in the Hat Day – wear your favorite  
hat!

**Wednesday – February 29<sup>th</sup>**

Oh the Places You’ll Go Day – wear  
your favorite shirt (from a city, trip,  
vacation, sports team, etc.)

**Thursday- March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Green Eggs & Ham – wear green on  
March 1st. The cafeteria will be serving  
green eggs and ham as one of their menu  
offerings.

This is also the BOOK SWAP day!

**Friday - March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Pajama Day - wear school appropriate  
pajamas to snuggle up to a good book  
during reading workshop. Guest Readers  
will also be visiting our classrooms.

**Family Life Presentations**

As part of the Boyertown Area School District’s health curriculum, children in grades 4, 5 and 6 will be given the opportunity of receiving instruction in Life Education. Children in grades 4, 5 and 6 will also be participating in the AIDS education program. Parents may have their children excused from any of the instructional presentations through a request in writing to the school principal. Please include your child’s name, teacher and reason for request on the written notice. It is the school district’s belief that this important activity should be a shared responsibility between home and school. You may wish to discuss the topics with your son or daughter at the same time it is being discussed in school. The classroom schedules for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade programs are listed below. If you have any questions or wish to discuss these presentations in more detail, please contact the school nurse at 610-473-5170.

***Grade 4***

4/10/12	Family Life Education (segregated by gender)
4/11/12	AIDS/HIV presentation

***Grade 5***

2/1/12	Family Life Education (segregated by gender) AIDS/HIV presentation
--------	--



### **From the Nurse**

**Attention kindergarten and third grade parents:** School dental screenings will be held on Feb 17, 2012. If you have not yet met this requirement, notices were sent home in January requesting permission for the school exam. If you have not yet returned the dental exam form, please return to the school nurse as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding the screening or if you would like your child to participate and have not yet returned the permission form, please contact the nurse immediately at 610-473-5170

**February is Dental Health month:** During this special dental awareness month, here are some thoughts on brushing. Keeping teeth healthy does not require vigorous brushing. Hard scrubbing can wear down enamel. A soft touch is just as effective. Look for the American Dental Association Seal of Approval on toothbrushes and toothpaste. And see your dentist on a regular basis.

**Attention 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents:** The AIDS presentation will be given on Wed. 2/1/2012. If you do not wish to have your child participate in this program, please provide a note in writing to your child's teacher.

**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. Chloraseptic spray is available to all students with parent permission on emergency card. The nurse cannot administer any medication at school without proper authorization, this includes all over the counter preparation, such as Tylenol or cold medicine and all prescription medicine. Please make sure to provide the nurse with a written from your physician, a sign parent note and the medication in the appropriate labeled container, if your child should need medication during school hours.

**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.



### Chaperone and Volunteer Guidelines

Parents who wish to volunteer in the classroom or chaperone class trips must adhere to the following guidelines. Parents must also obtain their Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse History clearances. The forms for these clearances are available in the school office.

Each school will be keeping a list of active volunteers for their building each school year. An active volunteer is defined as a parent or community member that volunteers at least one time during the school year. Individuals that remain active do not need to obtain new clearances each year. Going forward you will need to reapply for clearances each year if you are not an active volunteer. Please be sure to sign in on the sheet in the office each time you come in to volunteer.

### Chaperone Guidelines

- The purpose of chaperones on a school trip is to make the trips more meaningful and manageable.
- School trips are attended by class members and parents who have permission only.
- Chaperones are expected to supervise the children who are assigned to them.
- Chaperones are expected to encourage and support proper, respectful, and expected behaviors of students.
- Chaperones should report any unexpected behavioral issues to the classroom teacher immediately.
- Chaperones should not bring younger siblings on the school trip or make arrangements to meet other family members on the school trip.
- All smoking and purchase and or consumption of alcohol on school trips is prohibited.
- Chaperones are expected to follow the classroom rules: school dress code, appropriate language, and expected behaviors.

### Volunteer Guidelines

- All volunteers' activities must be prearranged with the principal or his/her designee and must be specific to the type of activity, the location, and the time.
- Volunteers are not permitted to bring other children with them for their volunteer activity.
- All volunteers must sign in at the office and receive a new volunteer ID badge for each visit to the school.
- Volunteers should arrive at the school approximately 5 to 10 minutes before their work time. When the volunteer arrives at the school, they should immediately sign in at the office. Once signed in and given a volunteer badge, the volunteer may then proceed to the assigned workstation.
- After the assignment is completed, volunteers should go directly to the office, return their ID badge, and sign out for the day.
- Due to confidentiality issues, volunteers must limit their visit to the school to the time and workstations arranged for as part of their volunteer work.
- All volunteers are expected to follow the classroom rules: school dress code, appropriate language, and expected behaviors.
- Upon arrival, please place any cell phone or electronic device in vibrate mode. Only in the case of an emergency will the use of a cell phone or electronic device be permitted. If a cell phone call must be made, please leave the building to do so.
- Duties and guidelines for volunteers should be reviewed with the volunteer by the principal or his/her designee in advance of the first visit.



### **A Message from your School Counselors, Mrs. Nester & Mrs. Hummel**

This year educators in the district created an informational poster for students that describes what bullying is and what students can do when bullying occurs. This poster hangs in classrooms, hallways, restrooms and cafeterias. Teachers used this poster at the beginning of the year to talk to students about bullying.

The Boyertown Area School District defines bullying in the following ways:

- Bullying is intentional, mean behavior that is unwanted and usually repeated.
- Being bullied may make one feel threatened, intimidated, excluded, or defenseless.
- Bullying may happen in different ways: verbal, physical, written, non-verbal or electronic.

Students have been taught that if they see bullying they can:

- Tell a trusted adult.
- Help the person being bullied get to a safe place.
- Stick up for the person being bullied.

It is our hope that students will think before they speak and act and recognize how their words and actions affect others. We encourage students to act as confronters and allies if they see incidents of bullying. With help from the students' teachers, staff, and administrators hope to decrease the amount of bullying that occurs in school.