

COLEBROOKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dr. Thomas L. Shugar, Principal



December 2009

December Events

1	School Board meeting Education Center, 7:00 p.m.
2, 3, 4	H.S.A. Holiday Shoppe
2	Elementary Band/Orchestra Concert Senior High Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
4	Market Day delivery
8	Holiday Chorus Concert all-purpose room, 7:00 p.m.
8	School Board meeting New Hanover Upper Frederick Elementary School, 7:00 p.m.
11	P.A.R.P. calendars due
15	Kindergarten to Planetarium
23	Holiday parties
23	12:25 p.m. dismissal
24 – January 3	No School

Message from the Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being such a supportive group of parents over the past 10 years. As I move onto the next phase of my life, I look back on the many things that have been accomplished during my time here at Colebrookdale Elementary School. I will always cherish the memories of the many people I have met and worked with at this wonderful school. The staff, students and parents of Colebrookdale are indeed a special group and I will never forget you.

So as I write to you for the last time, I would like to wish you a happy holiday and a wonderful new year. I sincerely hope that you and your child will enjoy much success and happiness in the years to come.

Most sincerely,

Dr. Thomas L. Shugar

Caring * Experiencing * Succeeding Emergency Information Changes

Don't forget to send a note to school with any changes in your child's emergency information. Emergency information needs to be updated with current home telephone numbers, work numbers, and cell phone numbers for emergency use.

Promoting Math Achievement... How Parents Can Help

- Parents can help by seizing every opportunity to involve their children in talking and thinking about the meaningful mathematics they encounter each day.
- Parents and children can figure out answers together. For instance, "How many days until my birthday?" is an opportunity to look at the calendar together.
- Parents should encourage children to look for patterns in the world around them – in floor tiles and wallpaper; in paintings and sculpture; in coins; paper money, and change; in combination pizzas.
- Parents should encourage their children to measure heights, weights, objects, ingredients in recipes, and so forth.
- Parents can purchase educational/mathematical toys, games, and puzzles and play them with their children.

Check out this manipulative math site:
<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>.

Clothing Needs

Are you a family in need of emergency clothing? Please contact Mrs. Weinberger for information about the Community Clothing Rack operated by St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Gilbertsville.

Late Arrivals

All students are expected to arrive at school between 8:25 and 8:45 a.m. Children who arrive after 8:45 are considered tardy. If your child is going to be late, we ask that parents bring them into the office and sign them in. Thank you for your cooperation with this procedure.

United Way Helplink

With rising unemployment, loss of benefits, and the rising costs of basic needs, help is available! Led by United Way of Berks County, the **HelpLink Network** is a group of local agencies with trained staff and volunteers committed to assisting individuals and families find the benefits, programs, and local resources needed to help them through these difficult times.

An example of benefits individuals and families may be eligible to apply for include:

- ➔ CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- ➔ TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- ➔ LIHEAP (Low Income Heating Emergency Assistance Program)
- ➔ Food Stamps
- ➔ Medical Assistance
- ➔ Child Care Subsidies

You can make an appointment at Boyertown Area Multi-Service by calling 610-367-6957 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Holiday Chorus Concert

Our Colebrookdale Chorus and Ensemble will be presenting "Christmas... with a Twist" on Tuesday, December 8 here at Colebrookdale. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. Chorus members need to report to the music room at 6:40. Students should wear their chorus shirts, black pants and nice shoes.

Our concert will feature traditional Christmas Carols, actual pieces from George Fredrick Handel's *Messiah*, and... some Christmas tunes with a twist! Listen for barking dogs – at this crazy concert, we've got those too! We hope you can attend!

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.

H.S.A. Corner

The H.S.A. is having their annual Holiday Shoppe on December 2, 3, and 4, 2009.

In the Holiday Shoppe, the children will be able to select and purchase items for family and friends. The items range in price from \$2 to \$10. Most of the gifts are under \$5.

We need as much help as possible. If you can spare an hour or two, it would be appreciated. Please give Mrs. Sheha a call at 610-369-0097 if you would like to volunteer. See the schedule below for the time your child will be shopping. An envelope for your child's money and gift labels was sent home before the Thanksgiving break.

Wednesday, December 2

9:00 – 9:30	Mrs. Groff – Grade 1
9:45 – 10:15	Mrs. Cronin – Grade 2
10:30 – 11:00	Miss Renninger – Grade 4
11:15 – 11:45	Mrs. Mitchell – Grade 2
12:30 – 1:00	Miss Hoffman – Grade 6
1:15 – 1:45	Mrs. Madsen – Grade 1
2:00 – 2:30	Miss Fisher – Intermediate LSS

Thursday, December 3

9:00 – 9:30	Mr. Miltenberger – Grade 4
9:45 – 10:15	Ms. Schaeffer – Grade 3
10:30 – 11:00	Mrs. Crills – Grade 6
11:15 – 11:45	Mrs. Sanger – Primary LSS
12:40 – 1:10	Mrs. Rotonda – Grade 5
1:25 – 1:55	Dr. Obarow – PM Kindergarten

Friday, December 4

9:00 – 9:30	Dr. Obarow – AM Kindergarten
9:45 – 10:15	Children who were absent Wednesday or Thursday
10:30 – 11:00	Mrs. Johnson – Grade 3
12:30 – 1:00	Mrs. Wentzel – Grade 5

Our holiday parties are scheduled for Wednesday, December 23. If you are able to help, contact your homeroom parent. As in years past, we will have a special visitor from the North Pole at school on December 23. He will be visiting each class and distributing a small gift to each student from the H.S.A.

The holiday parties are a great picture taking time for the yearbook. Please try to take some "close-ups" for better quality yearbook photos. The yearbook staff would be grateful for any photos from school functions. Please bring them to the school office.

Reading with Children

Comprehension...it is the ultimate goal of the reading process! In our last newsletter we discussed helping students to **Make Connections** while reading. Another important strategy that helps with comprehension and understanding is **Predicting**. When a reader predicts he/she draws from their own experience, uses information from the written text and attempts to anticipate or predict what could happen next.

As your child reads at home you can encourage him/her to predict before, during and after reading by:

- **Reading the title** – “What do you think this book will be about?”
- **Examining headings and subtitles** – “What will you learn from this reading?”
- **Skimming through books that don't have illustrations** – “What words will help you to predict what the book/article is about?”
- **Finally, adjusting the original predictions** – “What are the new predictions?” “I changed my prediction about... because...”

Predicting can be fun for your child and keeps a child interested in reading. Children are naturally good at predicting. Give it a try!

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides comprehensive health care coverage for all uninsured children and teens (up to age 19) who are not eligible for Medical Assistance. Brochures about the program and applications are available in the information kiosk in the lobby or by contacting our school counselor, Mrs. Linda Weinberger, at 610-473-5290.

Third Grade Concert Date Announced

The Colebrookdale Elementary Third Grades will present a concert on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the CES Auditorium. Third Grade Parents, please mark your calendars!!!! We hope that you will come and join us – we are going “Cruisin’ on the Caribbean,” featuring songs from various islands. We are even going to do a little Reggae and a Jimmy Buffet song, so we hope to see you there!



Angel Food Ministries

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and financial support to communities throughout the United States. The program began in 1994 with 34 families in Monroe, Georgia (between Atlanta and Athens), and has grown to serve hundreds of thousands of families every month across 35 states.

Angel Food is available in a quantity that can fit into a medium-sized box at \$30 per unit. Each month's menu is different than the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an average retail value of approximately \$60. Comparison shopping has been done across the country in various communities using a wide range of retail grocery stores and has resulted in the same food items costing from between \$42 and \$78. Angel Food Ministries participates in the U.S. Food Stamp program, using the Off-Line Food Stamp Voucher system.

Generally, one unit of food assists in feeding a family of four for about one week or a single senior citizen for almost a month. The food is all the same high quality one could purchase at a grocery store. There are no second-hand items, no damaged or out-dated goods, no dented cans without labels, no day-old breads and no produce that is almost too ripe.

Angel Food Ministries is available locally at Morning Star Fellowship. Please call 610-369-1960 for further information.

Winter Alert

The approach of winter always means the coming of contagious diseases. The best attack against illness is prevention. To promote your child's natural resistance and to help prevent the spread of contagious disease, please remember to do the following:

- ❄ Listen to the weather forecasts and dress your child accordingly. Warm coats, hats and mittens are a must in cold weather.
- ❄ A good night's sleep is essential in rebuilding our body's defense.
- ❄ Encourage good nutrition. A good breakfast paves the way to a good day.
- ❄ Stress good hygiene. Hand washing is most important since most germs are spread through the hands.

