

COLEBROOKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Mr. Michael Stoudt, Principal

March 2010

March Events

5	Pre-school Story Time Library, 9:30 a.m.
6	Music League Dinner and a Show Junior High West, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.
9	School Board meeting Education Center, 7:00 p.m.
12	P.A.R.P. calendars due
12	Grade 5 to Planetarium
12	Casual Picture Day
12	Market Day delivery all-purpose room, 4:45- 5:45 p.m.
14	Daylight savings time begins
23	School Board meeting Junior High East, 7:00 p.m.
26	Grade 2 to Planetarium
31	No School

Reading News from Mrs. Thompson

March is the last month for the PARP program for this school year. Please return your March PARP calendar as soon as the month ends, so we can calculate the Book Fair certificates for the Spring Book Fair in April. All students who read and returned their calendars during the school year will receive a certificate valued at \$0.50 times the number of months read. Any child who has read and returned his/her calendar for all 6 months of the program will receive an extra \$1.00 bonus from the H.S.A., making their certificate worth \$4.00. Certificates must be redeemed for books at the Spring Book Fair on April 29 and on Grandparents' Day on April 30. We would like to thank the H.S.A. for supporting this important reading incentive! Happy Reading!☺

Casual Picture Day

The casual pictures will be taken on Friday, March 12. It is not necessary to send in money on that day, but you will need to send the Pose Selection Form with your child. This form was sent home the end of February. Approximately three weeks after your child's picture is taken the portrait package will be sent home and at that time you have the option to buy the portraits or return them to school.

Caring * Experiencing * Succeeding Performance Week in the Music Room is Coming!

March is "Music in Our Schools" month. To celebrate I would like to invite all students in grades 2 – 6 who take music instrument lessons or dance lessons to perform in music class during the week of March 22. Students are always welcome to perform during class if they take lessons, but this month is special. My goal is to have EVERY Colebrookdale student who plays a musical instrument (grades 2 – 6 only) perform in class! Guidelines are as follows:

- ♫ The student must take lessons. (strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion, piano, guitar, dance, etc.)
- ♫ The student must practice and be prepared to play one piece of his/her choice.
- ♫ The student must bring his/her music and instrument. I will provide a piano and music stand.
- ♫ If a student is dancing, he/she must take lessons and should provide a tape/CD for me to play that is appropriate for school.
- ♫ If a student plays more than one instrument, he/she may play both!

If there are several students in one class who want to play together, they may play a group selection and a solo piece. For example, if there is a drummer, saxophone player, and a flute player in one class, they could all play a band piece together and then each play separately.

Students who perform will receive two good job rewards. Performance dates are as follows:

- ☞ Monday, March 22
Mrs. Mitchell's class
Mrs. Boyer's class
Mrs. Rotonda's class
Miss Hoffman's class
- ☞ Tuesday, March 23
Mr. Miltenberger's class
Mrs. Wentzel's class
Mrs. Crills' class
Mrs. Cronin's class
- ☞ Wednesday, March 24
Ms. Schaeffer's class
Miss Renninger's class

The Boyertown Music League will be holding a Chicken Bar-B-Que Dinner fundraiser on **Saturday, March 6** from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the **Junior High West Cafeteria**. The auditorium will be used as a performance hall. There will be different performance times:

- 1:55 – Mrs. Freed
- 2:00 – Junior High East Show Choir
- 2:20 – Gilbertsville Elementary
- 2:35 – Colebrookdale Vocal Ensemble
- 2:50 – BASH Orchestra
- 3:10 – Elementary Jazz Orchestra
- 3:30 – BASH Band
- 3:50 – NHUF Choir Chimes
- 4:00 – Junior High Select Ensemble
- 4:20 – Junior High Jazz Band
- 4:40 – Junior High West Show Choir

Dinner will include Kauffman's bar-b-que chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll, butter, beverage, and dessert. The cost for the dinner will be **\$8 for adults and \$6 for students. Take out meals are available, but need to be ordered in advance.**

Your generosity is much appreciated as we are gladly accepting donations of applesauce cups (not colored), cases of soda, bottled water and desserts.

Teacher Request Information

At this time of year we start to think of student placements for the fall. The staff and I devote a considerable amount of time placing students in class groupings for the upcoming year. Since we consider the placement process to be one of our most important tasks, I would like to share the process with you.

Student placement is determined and reviewed by a team of professionals consisting of your child's teacher(s), reading specialist, guidance counselor and myself. 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 best meet his or her needs. We feel our time is well spent because we have a personal investment in each child.

In view of the time and consideration taken in the placement of your child, I 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, please write me a letter stating those areas that should be taken into consideration when making next year's placement. Any written requests of this nature must be submitted by April 16. No requests will be considered after this date. We ask that you respect our professional judgment and be assured that we will strive to make the best possible match.

National School Breakfast Week

March 8-12, 2010 is National School Breakfast Week. To celebrate on Friday, March 12, your child will be offered breakfast. Students will be served a breakfast sandwich along with a choice of milk or fruit juice. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day for children. Studies have shown it improves behavior and results in higher academic scores.

CONNECT-ED®

Our **Connect-ED®** telephone messaging service enables us to deliver important school information in the event of any emergency, including weather delays or closings. With the **Connect-ED®** service, we are able to send a personalized voice message to parent/guardians and families with one recorded phone message. It is important that the school office is updated with any change in contact telephone numbers so that you will not miss any important communications. We are utilizing your phone numbers from our student information system.

Reading Requirement

Since we are at the mid-year point, I must remind all parents of the reading requirement. Students in grades 1 through 12 must read 10 books per year (adjustments will be permitted for special educational needs). A student must fulfill this requirement each year. By this time, your child(ren) should have read 5 or more books. Please keep encouraging your child(ren) to reach the goal of at least 10 books. The cumulative number of books read toward this requirement will be recorded on each quarter's report card.

Reading with Children

Ask your child this simple question, "What is reading?" Hopefully, you'll get a response that may include:

- "Reading is fun."
- "Reading is learning."

However, reading is more than figuring out the words and saying them. Reading is making meaning through interaction with text. It is **comprehending**.

Classroom teachers are encouraging students to develop and improve their comprehension through the use of comprehension strategies that are a focus in every classroom. One important strategy is to monitor comprehension. In essence, they are asking students to keep track of their reading and understanding. If the student finds he/she is "getting lost" in the reading and is just "saying the words", the student should stop, identify the problem and try to fix it.

When your child is reading at home you can encourage your child to **Monitor and Fix Up** by asking:

- Is what you're reading making sense? Tell me about it.
- What are some of the difficult words you've come upon?
- Did you reread to help yourself understand?
- Did you read on for more clues that may help you "fix-up" your lack of understanding?

Monitoring and fixing up is critical for **comprehension**. It encourages the student to THINK during reading.

H.S.A. Corner

The H.S.A. is hosting a roller skating party at Pheasantland Roller Skating Rink on Sunday, April 25 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. This is a change from the original date of March 6. This party is for all grades and is open to Colebrookdale students, staff and their families. **Children MUST be accompanied by an adult (no drop-offs please).**