

COLEBROOKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Dr. Thomas L. Shugar, Principal

September 2009

Welcome Back!!!

It is hard to believe that the summer is over and we are starting another school year already. We have worked hard this summer to prepare for what we expect to be another great year here at Colebrookdale Elementary School. Newsletters such as this one will be sent home every month to keep you informed of dates, events and other important information. Please take a few moments to read through the newsletter when it arrives. Remember, by working together we CAN make a difference.

Reporting Student Absence

Whenever your child is absent from school, please report it to us before 9:00 a.m. Our answering device (610-369-7427) will record your message at all hours of the night or morning. This procedure ensures that your child has arrived safely at school. Also, if you receive a doctor's excuse for any absence, send the excuse to your child's teacher.

Requests for Assignments

To request assignments for students absent from school, contact the school office. The assignments may be sent home with a sibling or neighbor or they may be picked up in the office. If picking up assignments, they will be available after school in the office.

Parent Visitation Day

This year Parent Visitation Day will be held on Friday, October 2, 2009. The purpose of this day is for you to be able to visit your child's classroom and get a feeling for the routine that your child experiences on a regular basis.

We are proud of what we do at Colebrookdale. It is our hope that many of you will be able to come out and visit on Parent Visitation Day in order to see the many fine things that occur in our school.

A sign in sheet will be in the lobby. Please stop at the table, sign in and take your visitor's badge.

Remember that this is a parent visitation day and we will be following our normal daily routine. Siblings are not permitted to accompany you to school on this day.

Caring * Experiencing * Succeeding Lunch

This year we will continue our computerized procedure for purchasing lunches. This streamlines the purchasing process and makes the tracking of money remaining in individual accounts easier. Money left in a child's account from last year has been credited to this year's account.

Student lunches will cost \$2.00 this year. The cost for a reduced lunch is \$.40. Milk, if purchased individually, will cost \$.50. This is a bargain for a well-balanced, nutritional lunch. Glass bottles and soda are not allowed in the cafeteria for safety reasons.

Snacks will also be available for purchase. There will be a limit of one snack per child per day again this year.

Picture Day

Picture Day this year is Thursday, October 8. This is for the students' individual pictures and class composite pictures. Casual pictures will be taken in March. Brochures for Picture Day will be sent home the week of September 21. Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 at 1:00 p.m. Retakes are for students who were not pleased with their pictures or were absent for Picture Day.

Family Trips

District policy permits students to be absent a maximum of ten (10) days per year to accompany parents on educationally worthy trips upon written request. As stated on the trip request form, any student absent from school for an educational trip is expected to keep a journal of the experience and present it to the teacher upon his/her return.

Although permitted, we do not encourage absence from school. The activities of the classroom can never be fully made up. Please give serious consideration before planning extended absences during school time. Speak with your child's teacher about the effect such absences may have upon your child's class work. Please note that educational trips will **not** be approved for students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 during the weeks of April 7 - 31, 2010 when the PSSA tests are being administered.

Attendance: A Key to Your Child's Success

Schools are responsible for teaching your child. But schools can't do their job if your child is absent. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.

Research shows that children who are in school most of the time do better on state tests. Studies also show that children who are absent more often score lower on state tests.

Being late for school also hurts a child's learning. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year.

Children can copy notes or make up an assignment, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background - one that can only be gained through regular school attendance.

Security and Sign In Procedures

In order to enter the school, all visitors are required to buzz the office by pushing the silver button located to the left of the front door. Mrs. Bauer will respond to the buzzer and ask you to state your name and purpose for your visit. Once you are buzzed into the building, please report to the office to sign in and pick up a visitor's badge.

For parents who pick up their children at the end of the day, the doors will be open starting at 3:15. It is not necessary for you to buzz in at that time. Remember, however, that no one is permitted beyond the lobby at that time.

When you come to school to pick up your child, whether it is for an appointment or at the end of the day, you need to come into the office and sign out your child, at which time he/she will be called to the office.

Child Custody Information

The school requests information when a student does not reside with both natural parents due to separation or divorce. Please complete the "Child Custody" form sent home with your child on the first day of school. This information will be kept on file at school for future reference. This information **MUST** be updated every year so that all information is current.

Assignment Books

Students in grades two through six will be receiving an assignment book. We are requiring **ALL** students to use this book regularly. If your child misplaces his/her book, it will be your responsibility to replace it. We have extra books available for purchase at school. It is our hope to help students become responsible for their own work and give them a tool to do so. Thank you for your support and cooperation.



Partnering with Our Daughters

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 Siwik, and Peg Glasgow on Monday, October 5, 2009 in the library at Junior High West from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Together, learn more about relational aggression ("girl bullying"), cyber-bullying, and what to do about it.

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

Library Citizenship

Checking out books from the library is an exciting experience and important responsibility for children. Please review these book care rules with your child.

- Keep library books away from food and drink.
- Always handle books with clean hands.
- Never mark or write in books.
- Keep books away from pets and young children.
- Keep library books in a special place at home.
- Always return books on time.

H.S.A. Corner

The H.S.A. officers would like to thank all parents, grandparents, students, and staff for their help and participation during the 2008-2009 school year.

The Cherrydale fundraiser raised \$11,073.36 for our students. We also processed and redeemed \$934.30 in Box Tops for Education labels, \$633.68 in Redner's receipts, and 25,800 points in Campbell's labels which will be used to purchase items for our school. Please continue to save these items and send them to school. Every little bit helps!

We would also like to thank everyone who gave of their time throughout the school year. While we are all very busy, many of you were able to give a few hours here or there to help make activities like the Holiday Shoppe, class parties, field trips, Market Day, Field Day, and Fun Fair a success. Without parent volunteers to staff and provide donated items when needed, these activities would be impossible to provide for our children.

The H.S.A. will once again have its annual Cherrydale fundraiser which will begin on Wednesday, September 16 and end on Wednesday, September 30.

The first H.S.A. general meeting is Wednesday, October 8 at 3:30 p.m. in the library. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME. Babysitting will be provided. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be a meeting for all parents interested in being homeroom parents immediately after the H.S.A. general meeting.

The H.S.A. officers for the 2009-2010 school year are Renee Allmendinger – president; Tracey Seyler – vice president; Linda Moyer – treasurer; Ruthanne Trate – secretary. Please feel free to contact any of the officers with any questions.