

# COLEBROOKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



September 2011

Come hear a message from me on the web at:

<http://www.boyertownasd.org/our-schools/colebrookdale-elementary/index.aspx>

**Mr. Michael R. Stoudt, Principal**

**“We are Expected”**

## **Welcome Back!!!**

WOW SEPTEMBER ALREADY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Where did the summer go? It is hard to believe that the summer is over and we are starting another school year. We have worked hard this summer to prepare for what we expect to be another great and “Expected” year here at Colebrookdale Elementary School. We will continue our tradition of sending newsletters such as this one home every month to keep you informed of dates, events and other important information. We will provide you with an opportunity to opt out of hard copies of newsletters (see attached). The newsletter and other items such as the school menu will also be posted on the website. Please take a few moments to read through the newsletter when it arrives. Remember, working together as a team we will produce the greatest “Expected” results for our students.

## **Teaching Responsibility**

We at Colebrookdale are working very hard to teach students “Expected” behavior. One of those “Expected” behaviors that we would like to reinforce is that of being responsible. Starting in October, the building will only be open until 5:00 PM. If your child has forgotten something, he or she may come back to CES and get that item until 5:00 PM. If after 5:00 PM, your child realizes that they have forgotten something (homework, text book, instrument, etc.) then your child will have to accept responsibility for the forgotten item. If your child has this experience, please send a note in the next day telling the teacher that there was a forgotten item or responsibility. If your child is participating in a pre-approved

activity such as Cub Scouts, then your child will be permitted to be in the building, but they will not have access to go back to their classrooms. By working together as a team, we will teach responsibility at home and at school and go a long way to instill the characteristics of successful citizenship.

## **Returning Forms**

During the first week of school a number of papers were sent home with your child for you to complete. We appreciate your assistance in completing and returning the forms promptly.

## **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. 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 p.m. It is not necessary for you to buzz in at that time. Remember, however, that no one is permitted beyond the lobby at any time. Deliveries of any kind (forgotten homework, birthday treats, lunches) are to be made directly to the office only, not to the classroom.

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.

For your convenience a note pad home was sent home with your child. You may use this when

sending a note to the teacher regarding pick-up information about your child.

### **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 \$2.20 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.

### **New Staff Members**

Mrs. Brittney Wisler – Kindergarten teacher  
Mrs. Jemma Malkasian – Strings Teacher  
Miss Kayla Bauer – Grade 4 teacher  
Mr. Michael Miltenberger is now teaching life skills and learning support students.

### **School District Comprehensive Calendar**

The school district will not be printing a paper calendar. For school events, please refer to the School District Comprehensive Calendar located on the school district web site home page [www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org).

### **Student Absence**

Whenever your child is absent from school, please report it to us before 9:00 AM. Our answering device will record your message at all hours of the night or morning. The number to call is 610-369-7427. Also, if you receive a doctor's excuse for any absence, send the excuse to the school office. For the Boyertown Area School District policy on attendance refer to the Absenteeism/Attendance Regulations section in the Elementary Student Handbook your child brought home on the first day of school. This policy will be strictly enforced.

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.

### **Assignment Books**

Students in grades two through six received an assignment book at the beginning of the school year. 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.

### **Picture Day**

Picture Day this year is Thursday, October 6. 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 19. Retakes are scheduled for Monday, November 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Retakes are for students who were not pleased with their pictures or were absent for Picture Day.

### **Reading Requirement Eliminated**

The reading requirement for elementary students has been eliminated.

### **Parent Visitation Day**

This year Parent Visitation Day will be held on Friday, October 14, 2011. 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.

### 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.

### 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 March 12 to 23, 2012 when the PSSA tests are being administered. Grade 5 will be taking the PSSA Writing test April 15 to 20 and Grade 4 will be taking the PSSA Science test April 23 to 27.



### 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.

### Fifth and Sixth Grade Chorus "Auditions"

Our CES performing groups, Chorus and Ensemble, are beginning!! Chorus is optional in fifth and sixth grade, however; the majority of fifth and sixth graders choose to join. Most CES fifth and sixth graders already auditioned for me last spring. I will hear some students sing for me again, and hear any new CES students who are interested in chorus. FYI: all Chorus rehearsals take place during the school day. Interested students will be asked to sing "America" ("My Country 'Tis of Thee") for the audition which is held in a separate room from the rest of the class. The purpose of this audition is to help me get to know the children's voices and to split students into two parts. Also, based on this audition, students will be selected for "Vocal Ensemble." During the first week of school, I will be sending home a Chorus Contract with more information. Please sign and return this form as soon as possible.

We will have two chorus concerts this school year which will both be held in the auditorium at Junior High West. The Holiday Concert will be Wednesday, December 14 and an all school concert on Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

Welcome back!



### Transportation Information

Occasionally a bus may be late picking your child up or dropping them off. If you have any concerns, please call the transportation office at 610-369-7431. The school buses have radios and the bus drivers can be contacted directly from the transportation office. **Attention: Please send a note to school when your child will be picked up from school. If we have not received a written note, your child will be sent home on their regular bus.**

### Student Insurance Forms

If you are interested in purchasing accident insurance for your child, contact the

school office for a brochure/application which provides a complete description of the plans and coverages. The deadline to purchase insurance is September 16, 2011.

### **Medical Exams**

Parents of kindergarten students are reminded to return two required health forms – a physical exam report and a dental exam report. Parents of third grade students should return a dental exam report and parents of sixth grade students should return a physical exam report. Extra health forms are available in the school office.

### **Unity Walk – Save the Date**

On **Sunday, October 9**, at 1:00 PM the Boyertown Community is planning a one mile downtown walk to bring attention to the respect and caring that we want for each member of our community. Families will be invited to participate. More information will be forthcoming. The Boyertown Area Coalition and the United Way of Boyertown sponsor this walk. Please plan to participate.

### **The Reading Corner – Mrs. Thompson**

As a new school year begins, it is important for us as parents and teachers to provide optimum reading opportunities for our children. Being a skilled reader can help a child perform better in content area subjects and helps to build confidence in a child. So...what can a parent do to support a child's reading?

One of the best ways to help a child excel in reading and remain interested in reading is to read **to** and **with** a youngster. Sharing good literature is key to building vocabulary, learning new information, and sharing exciting experiences through literature regardless of your child's grade level. Talking about books is a great way to help your child enhance comprehension skills. Questions such as:

- Does this book remind you of anything you have already read?
- Can you make a personal connection to the book?
- What is your favorite part of the book? Why?
- Who is your favorite character and why?
- What have you learned by reading this book?

Reading aloud to your child can be one of your best parenting experiences! Hopefully, you and your child will create many memories

as you explore children's books together. Do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the reading specialist, Pat Thompson, should you need some reading suggestions.

Stay tuned for next month's topic... ***Why Should I Read?***

### **Curriculum Booklets**

All 2011-2012 Curriculum Booklets are now available on the Parent Resource page of our District website (under the Curriculum tab). They are in FlipBook format, but can be downloaded as PDF's by selecting that option on the FlipBook menu bar.

<http://www.boyertownasd.org/curriculum/parent-resources/index.aspx>

### **Constitution Day**

We will be acknowledging the U.S. Constitution Day September 16, 2011. As we also remember the tenth anniversary of those who lost their lives during the events of September 11, 2001, it is a good opportunity to reflect about the wonderful freedoms we enjoy as Americans! The staff and students of Colebrookdale will honor this day by wearing red, white and blue.

### **News from the Health Room**

Attention Parents/Guardians: New Immunization Regulations! Please contact your health care provider to determine if your child needs these immunizations.

**Effective AUGUST 1, 2011 children attending school will need two** doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or a history of the disease.

**Children ATTENDING 7th grade in 2011/2012 will need the following:**

- 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) if 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

### **Child Custody Information**

**Student safety is an important concern at Colebrookdale Elementary School.** We are updating our child custody information for the current school year (2011-2012) and may require additional information from you. The school requests information when a student **does not** reside with both natural parents due to separation or divorce. You may request a copy of the child custody form in the office or download a copy on the school's website on the counselor's webpage.

This information will be kept on file at school for future reference. In order to insure your child's safety we need the following information:

- Is the child's father/mother permitted to pick up the child from school?
- If he/she is not permitted to pick up the child from school; we need a copy of the current court order that limits access to your child.
- Does a court order limit his/her access to student records? If so, please provide a copy of the court order outlining specific restrictions.

**Without the specifics of a court order, we will release the child to the non-custodial parent and provide educational information and access upon request.**

We thank you in advance for your help with this important matter. If you have any questions, please call Lisa Johnson, the school counselor, at 610-473-5290.

#### **Volunteer Clearance Policy Reminder**

Please be reminded, if you wish to volunteer in our school, to present your original criminal and child abuse clearance forms to the office to be copied and kept on file. Each school is required to keep a log 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. If you did not volunteer during the 2010-2011 school year you will need to submit new clearances to the school office. Please be sure to sign in on the sheet in the office each time you come in to volunteer. We appreciate all our volunteers do for our school and thank you for your cooperation with this policy.

#### **Greetings from Mrs. Johnson, School Counselor**

Welcome back to school! It has been a busy place here at CES all summer but especially during the last few weeks as teachers and staff prepare the classrooms for the students.

The start of the school year is a time of change for students and families and it may bring some anxiety. As we begin this process, here are a few tips for handling separation anxiety.

#### **Tips for Easing Back-to-School Jitters**

- Establish a daily routine; consistently begin morning activities at the same time every day. Prepare book bags, complete homework, and

pick out the next day's clothes in the evening to avoid morning mayhem.

- Be aware that children do sense your mood, even if they cannot yet communicate their feelings, so try to remain calm and positive about your child going to school, especially if it is for the first time.
- Do not assume that your child is anxious about starting school or that he/she will have separation anxiety. Do not signal that she should be nervous by asking leading questions, such as "Are you nervous to meet your new teacher?" Instead, focus on the exciting aspects of starting school.
- Do not extend the separation process. Give your child a hug or kiss, tell them you will see them after school, and send them on the bus. Do not stay or return if your child begins to cry.
- Always be there on time to pick up your child. Being on time is especially important during the first few days of school. If she believes that you will be there to pick her up when you said you would, then she will be more likely to separate easily.

#### **H.S.A. Corner**

The H.S.A will once again have its annual Cherrydale fundraiser which will begin on Monday, September 12 and end on Friday, September 30. Due to issues the H.S.A. has encountered in the past, they will no longer accept "starter" checks as payment for anything.

The first H.S.A. general meeting is Thursday, October 13 at 3:45 PM 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 2011-2012 H.S.A. officers are  
Renee' Allmendinger – president; Hannah  
Martin and Ginny Angus – co-vice-presidents;  
Linda Moyer – treasurer; Ruthanne Trate –  
secretary. Please feel free to contact any of

the officers with any questions.



Would you like to be a little more GREEN? We are currently asking for parents who would **NOT** like to receive hard copies of all of the office communications. If you would like fewer school papers coming home, please visit the Boyertown Area School District website ([boyertownasd.org](http://boyertownasd.org)). Once you are on the website, select from the **Contact Information** pull-down menu **Listserv Sign Up**. When you are on the **Listserv Sign Up Page**, enter your email address, select Colebrookdale Elementary, and then submit. You can access the **Listserv** web address directly at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/pages/email-signup.aspx>

---

Please return this form to your homeroom teacher if you DO NOT want to get hard copies of paperwork from the office. We are looking to get this electronic communication process rolling by conference time.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes I would like to sign up for email communications

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade and Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If you received this information at Parents' Night and completed and returned that form, please ignore this form.

THANKS!