

EARL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



February 2010

Dr. Craig Zerr, Principal

Mrs. Helen Thomas, Secretary

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) Reading and Math Tests will be given in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 between the dates of April 12-16. The PSSA Writing Test will be given in grade 5 between the dates of April 19-23. The PSSA Science Test will be given in grade 4 between the dates of April 26-30. Make-up tests for any of these assessments will be given between the dates of May 3-7. Standardized tests are designed to give a common measure of how well students are doing. Over the past few years, these tests have become more important than ever. Many states, including Pennsylvania, have defined specifically what students should know and be able to do, grade by grade. These are commonly called the "state standards." State standards are designed to spell out what is expected of students. You can find details of the standards on the Pennsylvania Department of Education web site at www.pde.psu.edu, click on PDE Quick Links.

How can you help your child do better on standardized tests?

In the months preceding the test:

- Find out when the tests are to be given. Write the date and time on your calendar. Avoid scheduling appointments or trips during these times.
- Ask the teacher what you can do at home. Before the state tests, the teacher might ask you to review math facts or vocabulary terms, for example.
- Encourage your child to **read**. The easiest and best way to prepare your child for doing well on tests is **read often**.

Right before the test:

- **Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Provide a good breakfast.**
- Have your child dress in layers- kids do better on tests if they don't have to think about how hot or cold they are.
- Don't be too anxious. Say, "This test is important. I know you will try hard and do your best." Your confidence will be contagious.
- On the day of the test, give your child these tips:
 1. Pay close attention to test directions.
 2. Answer the easy questions first.
 3. Read every answer before you choose one.

4. If you are not sure of the answer, rule out the choices that you know are wrong. Then pick the best answer that is left.
5. If you have time, check your answers carefully. Make sure the numbers of your answers correspond to the numbers of the questions on the test.
6. If you start to feel stressed, take some deep breaths to relax.

Believe in Yourself and Do Your Best!



TESTING INFORMATION

Please mark your calendars with the following: **PSSA** (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) Reading and Math will be given to students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 during the week of April 12-16. **PSSA** Writing will be given to students in grade 5 during the week of April 19-23. **PSSA** Science will be given to students in grade 4 during the week of April 26-30. **Parents should make sure appointments are NOT scheduled during these time periods. Students will NOT be excused for "educational trips" during these testing periods.**

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Boyertown Area School District is announcing kindergarten registration for the 2010-2011 school year. If you or someone you know has a child who is eligible for kindergarten and has not received a packet of information by February 5th, please contact the district office at 610-369-7492. Students must be age five (5) on or before September 10, 2010 to be eligible for kindergarten.

Please note that it is necessary to schedule an appointment for kindergarten registration. Registration will be held at the District Education Center, 911 Montgomery Avenue, Boyertown, from March 1-12, 2010. Your packet will include all necessary forms and instructions for registration.

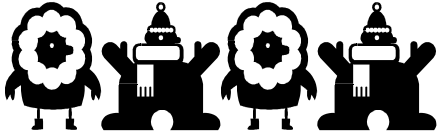
Contact Cindi Bartholomew at 610-369-7492 to obtain a packet and/or schedule an appointment for registration.

SCHOOL DISTRICT READING REQUIREMENT

All students are required to read a minimum of (10) TEN books during the 2009-2010 academic year (June 2009 to June 2010) and each of the succeeding years, until GRADUATION. All novels which are used in the teaching of reading may be counted toward the reading requirement. Students may read books that are not on the district reading lists; however, these books must be pre-approved by your child's classroom teacher. Approval will be based on appropriate reading levels. The cumulative number of books recorded toward this requirement will appear on each report card. NOTE: Students MUST complete this requirement for promotion to the next grade. We are amazed and very pleased with the number of students that have ALREADY met this requirement! Our students should be halfway finished [five (5) books read] by the second report card. Many of our students read over the summer and have finished the minimal requirement. Reading takes you everywhere!

WINTER RECESS

District guidelines stipulate children will go outdoors for recess except when the wind chill is 9 degrees Fahrenheit or below. If the weather is marginal, children may go out for a shortened period. Please dress your children accordingly.



BASD INFORMATION LINE

By dialing 610-369-7669 or logging onto the district website (www.boyertownasd.org), parents/guardians will be informed of current information regarding the status of the district's schedule depending on conditions.

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.

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 media locations will broadcast the information.

Radio

93.5 WSBG-FM	Stroudsburg
96 WCTO-FM	Allentown
99.9 WODE-FM	Allentown
100.7 WLEV-FM	Allentown
102.5 WRFY-FM	Reading
104 WAEB-FM	Allentown
105.1 WIOV-FM	Reading
105.5 WMGH-FM	Tamaqua

107.1 WWYY-FM	Allentown
107.5 WFKB-FM	Reading
790 WAEB-AM	Allentown
830 WEEU-AM	Reading
1060 KYW-AM (District #893)	Philadelphia
1160 WBYN-AM	Boyertown
1240 WIOV-AM	Reading
1340 WRAW-AM	Reading
1370 WPAZ-AM	Pottstown

Television

CBS3 – TV	Philadelphia
WCAU-TV – NBC 10	Philadelphia
WFMZ-TV – Channel 69	Allentown
WPVI-TV6	Philadelphia

Websites

www.wfmz.com
www.wzzo.com
www.fox1470.com
www.b104.com
www.waeb.com
www.NBC10.com

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. 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, announcements will be made that will detail the plan. Afternoon kindergarten classes will not meet on days when schools are dismissed on the above schedule. When school is closed, all school and community activities in district buildings are canceled.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Parents are expected to anticipate early dismissal due to inclement weather and to make appropriate provisions for their children.

REMINDERS

●If there is no announcement from **Connect-ED®**, the previously listed radio and television stations or on the district website, parents can be assured the schools will remain open.

●Please limit phone calls to the school so the telephone lines may remain open for emergency use. The BASD Information Line (610-369-7669) and district website will have current information regarding the schedule for the day.

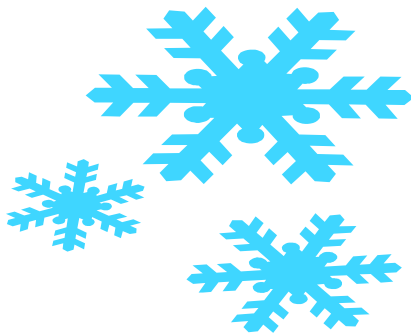
●When schools are closed for emergency reasons for one day, they will reopen the next day unless the radio, television stations, and/or district website carry information that schools will remain closed.

SIXTH GRADE COMBINED GROUP PICTURE

A photographer from Lifetouch will be at school on Friday, February 12th, to take our annual group picture. This will be done first thing in the morning. There are no picture envelopes or money due for this picture. Each sixth grade student will receive a copy of the picture at the end of the school year.

OFFICE DEPOT 5% BACK TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Every time parents, students and school supporters give our school's 5% Back to Schools ID number (**70085205**) when buying qualifying school supplies at Office Depot, our school receives credits equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for free supplies. Thank you for your support of this program.



FROM THE ART ROOM, MRS. LORENZ

The following students were chosen for "Star Student" in art for the 2nd quarter: H-1 Madison Andes, K-1 Alexandria Elmore, G-2 Abigale Beidler, M-2 Michele Zimmerman, L-3 Olivia Hurley, B-3 Avery Goffredo, B-4 Levi Evans, Y-4 Brooke Hurley, V-5 Erin Morrell, L-5 Allen Stewart, W-6 Heather S., G-6 Kaitlyn Seigfried. Their art work is displayed in the hallway near the music room.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Attention Kindergarten and Third Grade

Parents: Reminder: If your child has not returned the required school dental form to the school nurse (notification of missing exams were sent home in January), school dental screenings will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010, in the health room. Please contact the nurse with any questions or concerns.

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.

Loaner Clothing:

If your child has had the need to borrow "loaner clothing" from the health room and you have not yet returned them, please send them in with your child so they are available for the next child in need of a change of clothing at school.

Medication Policy Reminder:

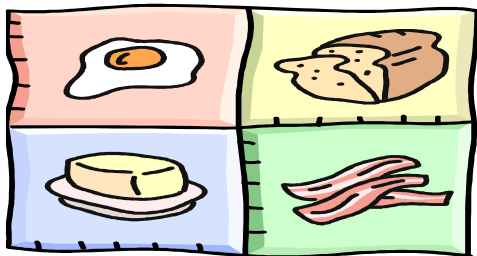
Remember we can only give medication - both prescription medication (i.e. antibiotics) AND over the counter medication (i.e. Tylenol, cough syrup, etc.) by having the parents' **AND** doctor's written permission. For further information, stop in the health room, see the elementary school handbook, or check the web site at www.boyertownasd.org and click on the Health Services link. If the proper procedure is not followed, the school/school nurse will not be able to administer the medication at school.

Emergency Card Information

Please keep your emergency card information current: Anytime you have phone number changes, either at home, work, or for an emergency contact, please notify the health room immediately so we can update your child's emergency card. If we do not have the proper contact information on file, there may be a delay or the unavailability of contacting you in an emergency.

Breakfast Alert

As we all know breakfast is the most important meal of the day. However, breakfast consumption has declined in recent years. Recent studies have shown that skipping breakfast makes a child less efficient in selecting critical information to solve problems. Also affected is the student's ability to recall and use newly acquired information, as well as verbal fluency and control of attention. Have your child take a few extra minutes in the morning to eat breakfast and get a jump start on their day.



FROM MRS. HART, LIBRARIAN

The first half of the school year has been an engaging one in the intermediate library classes for Earl students. Information Literacy Skills are taught through several units in every grade during library. Take a look below to find out what your child has been working on so far this school year.

- Fourth graders now know how to organize and locate fiction and nonfiction books on the library shelves using our online catalog and call numbers.
- Fifth graders have used their Social Studies books to reinforce their Index skills. Most recently these students have learned about the organization of library books according to the Dewey Decimal System.
- Sixth graders are becoming skilled researchers by learning how to evaluate online resources, cite them, and utilize them to create their own trivia questions.

MUSIC NOTES FROM MR. BRUNNER, VOCAL MUSIC TEACHER

A trip to Disney Information: 3rd and 4th Grade

The curtain goes up on "A Trip to Disney" in less than 2 weeks! It is time to start planning what the students will be wearing that evening. A few details before that though. The show is **Wednesday, February 10th** at Junior High West. The students will be traveling to West that morning for final rehearsal. Parents should plan on dropping off their child(ren) at **West Cafeteria no later than 6:15 p.m. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. The show begins at 7 p.m.**

During this year's performance each of your children will be dressed up like a ride at Walt Disney World ®. This may require your child to wear a **costume, make-up, or hair products**. If you have any reason for concern and prefer your child not wear something because of an allergy, etc., please notify your classrooms' head mom immediately. Below is a description of what your child will be wearing for the program. If you are unable to obtain an item, please contact your classroom head mom or me immediately. The students and I look forward to performing this program for you on February 10th.

Mr. Bauer's 3rd grade, Great Big Beautiful Tomorrow, Mrs. Goffredo and Mrs. Yingling jendan95@ptd.net *Students should wear jeans. Each child needs to bring a plain white t-shirt that can be painted with fluorescent paint. This needs to be in to Mr. Bauer by next **Friday, January 29th**.

Mrs. Landis' 3rd grade, The Tiki Room, Mrs. Goffredo and Mrs. Yingling jendan95@ptd.net *Students need to wear a bright colored t-shirt (any colors) or a Hawaiian Shirt, and a pair of jeans.

Mrs. Bigler's 4th grade, One Little Spark, Mrs. Hillegass vthillegas@dejazzd.com *Students wear purple shirts and jeans

Mrs. Yasenchak's 4th Grade, It's A Small World, Mrs. Denithorne ddenithorne38@dejazzd.com or 484-300-8462 *Students should dress up like a character from a different country or culture from head to toe. Mrs. Denithorne will be available for help and suggestions.

Four students from each class will be a “speaking character.” Those students will need to dress like a tourist. A head mom will contact those students’ parents individually. Again, any questions or concerns please email your head mom or call me at 610-473-1819.

Don’t miss Dinner and a Show

The Boyertown Music League will be holding a Chicken Dinner fundraiser on **Saturday, March 6th**. Along with this event, there will be opportunities for different musical groups from around the district to perform.

The Chicken Dinner will be held from **1-6 p.m. at Junior High West**. Dinner will be held in the Cafeteria while the Auditorium will be used as an open house style performance hall. You can come and go as you please. Performances will be scheduled between 2-5 p.m. 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, \$6 for students**.

Chicken dinners can be dine in or eat out. If you are interested in purchasing a chicken dinner, please contact your school’s music director or Amy Flannery, Lead Teacher for the Fine Arts, aflannery@boyertownasd.org, 610-473-3464.

Your generosity is much appreciated as we are gladly accepting donations of the following products to be sure of a successful event:

- paper plates
- apple sauce cups (not colored, please)
- 12 oz. soda cans
- bottles of water
- dessert

Mr. Brunner, Mrs. Mumie, Mr. Yoder, Mrs. Malkasian, and Mr. Agatone will be accepting donations throughout the month of February.

The Music League supports all of the musical activities in the Boyertown Area School District. This very supportive group of parents, faculty and

community members have helped purchase musical instruments for our school, as well as helping to fund the annual 5th grade trip to Reading Symphony. This is a great opportunity to meet other musical families in the Boyertown area, and see other groups perform. Come support your friends and families and enjoy a great meal together.

76ers

The tickets for the 76ers will be arriving shortly. Please look for information soon regarding your seats and any requests to sit next to your friends.

Mark your calendars

Wednesday, February 10th, “A Trip to Disney” Earl and Pine Forge 3rd and 4th grade show, Junior High West, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 5th, Earl and Pine Forge perform the National Anthem at a 76ers game at Wachovia Center in Philadelphia

Saturday, March 6th, Boyertown Music League and performing groups Chicken Dinner at Junior High West from 1-6 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 18th-21st, 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. (Sunday), Boyertown Area Senior High presents *West Side Story*, tickets are on sale now

Wednesday, April 7th, Earl and Pine Forge Choral Concert at Boyertown Area Senior High New Auditorium at 7 p.m.

If you need to contact me, you can reach me at 610-473-1819 or jbrunner@boyertownasd.org.

P.T.O. NEWS

Market Day

We would like to thank everyone who supported our January Market Day sale. Cookie Dough Bonus Days are here in February for a limited time only with nine delicious flavors including NEW Lemon Cooler! We’ll earn extra profit on every box! You can also start qualifying for the Frequent Buyer® Program to earn a FREE Mite ‘N’ Mighty Step Stool. For details and to order online, visit marketday.com. Pick-up date for February is the 22nd from 6-7 p.m. Please be sure to place your

order and remember to ask friends and family to support our school with these quick and delicious food items.

Book Exchange

The Book Exchange is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24th. Please help your student select age appropriate reading material which is in good condition. A maximum of three books may be exchanged.

Bingo

The PTO is planning an afternoon of Bingo on Sunday, February 28th, at the Earl firehouse from 1-3 p.m. Your child will receive a flyer with details.

Upcoming P.T.O. Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, February 17, 2010; 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 16, 2010; 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 14, 2010; 6:30 p.m. (general membership)
- Tuesday, May 11, 2010; 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 9, 2010; 4:00 p.m.

