

EARL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



March 2010

Dr. Craig Zerr, Principal

Mrs. Helen Thomas, Secretary

**PRINCIPAL'S NOTE**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: FRIDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>  
Friday, March 5, 2010 is a very important day for Earl Elementary School! In the morning Mr. Brian Pinkney, children's book author and illustrator, will be visiting Earl School. We are excited to meet this talented, award-winning author/illustrator. Brian knew at the age of nine that he wanted to be an illustrator because he spent much of his free time watching his father, Jerry Pinkney (a popular author of children's picture books.) Brian studied art at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. His signature technique is scratchboard. With this medium, he covers a specially treated white board with black drawing. He then scratches or scrapes the black off the areas that are to appear white in the finished work. Brian then adds color to the areas with watercolors or oil paints. He has illustrated two Caldecott Honor books. Brian lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife Andrea and their two children. Brian often collaborates with his wife on his books. Let's welcome this award-winning author/illustrator to our school!

In the evening we have a landmark event for the Earl Music Department. The Earl Concert choir will be singing the national anthem in the Wachovia Center for the Philadelphia 76ers game versus the Boston Celtics! This is quite an honor! The choir will sing right before tip-off which is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. The game will be televised on the Comcast Sports Network. However, we are not sure if the national anthem will be televised. Congratulations Mr. Brunner and the Earl Concert Choir!

**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 time period of April 7-16. **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.**

**FIELD TRIP CHAPERONES**

When a field trip is planned, the school nurse identifies students who will require medical management during the trip. Per BASD guidelines, teachers must first ask the parents of these students to chaperone. **If the parent cannot attend the field trip, they are permitted to send a designee on the trip to manage their child's medical needs.**

Other parents will be asked to chaperone as needed. Some trips have limited space, so at times we are not able to include all parents who would like to attend. We also require all field trip chaperones to have both their PA Criminal Record and Child Abuse clearances on file in the school office. We appreciate your ongoing support and understanding in this matter.

## **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 we will use 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 also 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 years' placement. Any written requests of this nature must be submitted by Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **CASUAL PICTURE DAY**

Casual pictures will be taken of all students on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Look for a pose selection form to be sent home with students a week before picture day. Choose from four poses on the selection form and bring it to school on picture day. It is not necessary to send in money on that day. The pictures will be sent home at a later date and you will have the option to purchase or return the portraits. If you do not wish to have your child photographed, please send a note to the teacher.

## **WELLNESS FAIR**

The Boyertown Area Community Wellness Council was recently informed that the Wellness Fair we had scheduled for Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> has been moved to Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Running of the Bears event will also be rescheduled until Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. This will affect the touring of Healthy Bear. We have also implemented a new activity this year revolving around Healthy Bear. We will have a box with entry forms and students can count the healthy items on Healthy Bear and submit their name and classroom into the box. At the Wellness Fair a name will be drawn from the entries with the correct answer and their classroom will receive a healthy snack (to be arranged with their teacher) compliments of the Boyertown Area Community Wellness Council. Healthy Bear will be making its visit to Earl Elementary School during the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **IMPORTANT TO BE ON TIME**

School begins promptly at 8:45 a.m. Students arriving after 8:45 are considered tardy and need to be signed in to school by an adult in the office. Students are expected to be in their classrooms at the starting time. Getting to school on time is the responsibility of parents and students. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Kindergarten registration will be held at the Boyertown Area School District Administration Office by appointment between the dates of March 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Registration information has already been mailed home. School district policy requires that students must be five years of age on or before September 10, 2010 to be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten. To schedule an appointment, or for more information, contact the Administration Office at 610-369-7492.

## **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

Thank you for all the styrofoam egg cartons, yogurt cups and tin pie plates. I will continue to collect these items through the end of the school year.



## FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

### **Dates for up coming Family Life and AIDS classes:**

- ❖ Fourth Grade Family Life presentation: March 22, 2010
- ❖ Fourth Grade AIDS presentation: March 8, 2010

Remember, if you do not want your child to participate in these presentations, submit a written request to your child's classroom teacher or the school nurse before the scheduled date.

**Elementary students are not permitted to bring cough drops to school.** Please refer to the BASD policy in your Parent Handbook to review the entire medication policy. Chloraseptic spray is available to all students to treat sore throats and cough. If your student requires medication during school hours remember that a physician and parent note are required. This policy includes all medication, both over the counter medication (such as Tylenol, cough syrup, etc.) and prescription medication.

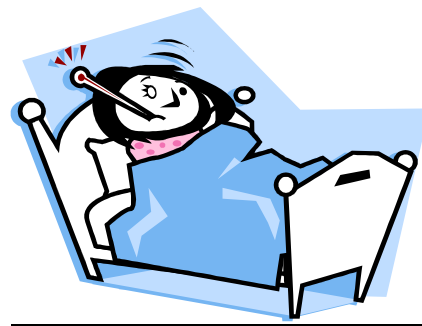
**Kindergarten registration** requires proof of immunization for entry into school. If you will be registering your child for Kindergarten, please remember to bring a copy of their immunizations with you.

**Guidelines on school attendance when your child doesn't feel well:** Even though attendance in school is important for your child's education, there are occasions when they should be kept home from school. Keep the following guidelines in mind if you have questions about sending your child to school.

Your child should stay home if he/she:

- has a fever of 100 degrees or more within the last 24 hours
- has been vomiting more than one time within the last 24 hours
- has had diarrhea more than one time within the last 24 hours
- has a rash with a fever of 100 degrees or higher
- has a rash, without a fever, that is open and draining (such as chickenpox/impetigo)
- has strep throat and has not been on medication for 24 hours (*may return to school after being on medication for 24 hours*)
- has pink eye and has not been on medication for 24 hours (*may return to school after being on medication for 24 hours*)
- Your child should not arrive at school with an injury that occurred at home to be evaluated by the school nurse. Please have any serious injury occurring at home evaluated by your health care provider

**Reminder to all parents,** please notify the school nurse of any change in your child's health status so that we may better serve your child at school (this would include such things as new health condition: diabetes, seizures, GI disorder, returning to school post surgical procedure, serious injury or illness.) If you have any changes to your emergency contact information, please notify the nurse/school so the changes can be made.



## **MUSIC NOTES FROM MR. BRUNNER, VOCAL MUSIC TEACHER**

I want to take the time to congratulate everyone who participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade show, "A Trip to Disney." You put on an excellent performance that was well received by the entire Boyertown community. Thank you to all the parent volunteers. The hard work paid off!

There are several special music events happening in the school district this March. Our very own choir has been chosen to perform the National Anthem at the 76ers game on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. I submitted a tape to the 76ers this past October, and we were one of the schools selected to perform before a home game this season. The kids have worked very hard and I believe we will have an awesome experience singing for a crowd of 30,000 fans! Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> is the Boyertown Area Music League Chicken Dinner and Concert. Although Earl and Pine Forge will not be performing this year (because of the concert the night before), any donations sent in to help out with the dinner are appreciated. A list of items needed was included in last month's newsletter, as well as sent home with each child in the school. By going out that day and picking up a Kauffman's Chicken Dinner, you are helping to fund music activities here at school. The chicken dinners will be available from 1-5 p.m. at Jr. High West. Thank you for your support! The high school is performing *West Side Story* on March 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. All tickets are \$10 and are reserved. Seats are over half sold, so be sure to purchase your tickets as soon as possible. Check out the district website for more details. The show may not be appropriate for all elementary aged children; however, the shows are very professionally done. You do not want to miss a Boyertown High School production. I believe the older kids would really appreciate the opportunity to see it. Junior High West will be performing their *Broadway Musical Revue* on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Tickets may be purchased at the door. This will be appropriate for kids of all ages and will include scenes from musicals like *Wicked*, *The Secret Garden*, *Young Frankenstein*, *South Pacific*, and many others. All proceeds from the show will help to fund the new grand piano at Junior High West. I hope to see you there as well.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the Earl and Pine Forge Spring Choral Concert on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be performed at 7 p.m. at the Boyertown Area Senior High New Auditorium.

If you would like additional information about any of these events, or have any questions concerning what your child is doing in music class, please feel free to contact me at [jbrunner@boyertownasd.org](mailto:jbrunner@boyertownasd.org) or call me at 610-473-1819.

## **P.T.O. NEWS**

### Hawk Folders

Replacement Hawk folders are available for sale in the office for \$1.00 per folder. These folders are made available compliments of the Earl PTO.

### Market Day

Thank you to everyone who supported our February Market Day sale. In March you will receive a FREE 4-pack of All Natural Stain Erasers with a minimum order of \$40. You can preview Market Day's new line of natural home cleansers on line coming in April! Remember to place your order of \$40 or more any two months from February to April to qualify for the Spring Frequent Buyer Program and receive your FREE step stool. It's also a great time to stock up on desserts for your spring celebrations! Be sure to place your order for March, ask family and friends for their support as well. The March pick up date is Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-7 p.m.

### Upcoming P.T.O. Meeting Dates

- 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.

