

EARL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



**October 2009**

**Dr. Craig K. Zerr, Principal**

**Mrs. Helen M. Thomas, Secretary**

**PRINCIPAL'S NOTE**

The 2009-2010 school year has gotten off to a very positive start. The students are working very hard on academics and responsibility. I am very proud of the initial attitude and commitment of our Student Council. They are assuming more of a leadership role for Earl School. This group of student leaders is determined to strive for excellence in both respect and responsibility. Having high expectations is helping to build a strong sense of community. Please help us to encourage the Student Council and all of our students to make responsible decisions and stand up for what is right. I would like to extend a special thanks to all Earl Parents for the wonderful support and encouragement you extend to your children. Together, we are building the leaders of tomorrow!

**EARL SPIRIT WEAR** – Earl School is planning a spirit wear sale in time for holiday giving. T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants will be available in school colors with the school logo. Ordering information will follow at a later date.

**EARLY DISMISSALS**

Please make a note that all elementary early dismissals are scheduled for **12:30 p.m.**

**SPECIAL AREA CLASS ADJUSTMENTS**

Due to the large amount of Monday holidays, on three separate occasions this year we will be holding Monday special area classes on Tuesday. **Monday specials will be held on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**ACCESS TO SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL HOURS**

Occasionally we have a child who forgets his/her homework, textbooks, etc. and wishes to retrieve them after school hours. A parent must accompany the student into the building. Please note that due to our security system you will not be able to utilize the camera and buzz-in system after the office closes at 4:15 p.m. After office hours, please ring the night bell on the brick wall to the left of the doors. Please allow ample time for the custodian to answer the bell as he may be working at the other end of the building. There is a sign-in sheet for you to log your visit.

**DISTRICT-WIDE READING REQUIREMENT**

Students in grades 1-6 are required to read ten books each year. Specific guidelines and recommended reading lists are available at each school and on the school district web site.

### **DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS**

Please try to schedule doctor and dentist appointments outside school hours. Instructional time is very important. If these appointments can be scheduled at another time, your child will be the benefactor.

### **PARENT VISITATION DAY**

Parent visitation day will be held on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. You will receive specific information regarding your child's schedule at a later date.

### **SCHOOL PICTURE RE-TAKES**

If your child was absent or if you forgot to send in the appropriate envelope, there will be a make-up session on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:00 p.m. If you have an AM Kindergarten student, you will need to bring them back to school to have their picture taken/re-taken. We will also have casual pictures taken in the spring and, as always, we will have our annual Earl yearbook sale later in the year.

**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.**

### **BOOK CLUB ORDERS**

Throughout the school year, students are given the opportunity to order books from various book clubs. To speed the ordering process, we are asking that all payments are made by check. Checks are to be made payable to the book company, not the teacher.

### **PARENTS AS READING PARTNERS PROGRAM**

Earl Elementary School will be participating in our Parents as Reading Partners program (PARP) again this year. The program goal is to involve kids and their parents with reading. When a student returns his/her PARP calendar, he/she may choose from a personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut, a small blizzard or kids meal from Dairy Queen, or a Fresh Fit Kids meal from Subway. Here's how the program will work this year:

- The program will run for six months - October through March.
  - Students are asked to read for 20 minutes for at least 20 days each month.
  - The student or parent checks off the days on the monthly calendar, marks a coupon preference, a parent signs it, and the calendar is returned to school.
  - A coupon from either Pizza Hut, Dairy Queen, or Subway is given to each student fulfilling the requirement at the end of each of the six months.
  - Students who return their PARP calendars will also receive 50¢ credit each month that can be used at Earl's book fair on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Individual students who fulfill the requirement for all 6 months will receive a \$4.00 certificate to be used at the book fair (50¢ for each of the months plus a bonus dollar).
- The PARP program begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Happy reading to all the students of Earl and their families!

### **FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT, MRS. MOLLY LORENZ**

Reminder: If you haven't sent an old shirt into school for your child for art, please do so. Thank you.

### **SCHOLASTIC SOFTWARE CLUB, FROM THE COMPUTER LAB**

Scholastic Software Club is back again. A flyer will come home periodically with your child containing computer software. Any purchase of software benefits the Earl School computer lab. The order form and check should be made payable to Scholastic, should be addressed in an envelope to Mrs. Hiriyak and returned by date stamped on the order form. Cash will not be accepted.

**FROM THE DESK OF MRS. TURNBULL,  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

●CHILD CUSTODY INFORMATION - The school requests information when a student does not reside with both natural parents due to separation or divorce. Please complete a "child custody" information form to be on file at school for future reference. **This information MUST be updated every year so that all information is current.**

●PARTNERING WITH OUR DAUGHTERS TO BE THEIR BEST - **For parents and daughters (grades K-12): A FREE Workshop** -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 Gerhart, 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**, please contact me at 610-473-1690 or [gturnbull@bovertownasd.org](mailto:gturnbull@bovertownasd.org). For further information, please contact Marilee Cassidy, School Counseling Coordinator, at [mcassidy@bovertownasd.org](mailto:mcassidy@bovertownasd.org).

**FROM THE HEALTH ROOM**

The yearly health screenings for grades 1-6 will be held on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. If your child wears glasses or contacts, please help them to remember to bring them to school on this day. It is important that your child have their vision checked with their glasses on or corrective lenses in place.

**Attention parents of Kindergarten, 3rd and 6th graders**--We still need many of your Physical and/or Dental Exam reports. As soon as your child has had their physical or dental exam, please forward the completed paper to the health room. If you need a form, please contact the nurse's office and one will be provided to you. School physicals will take place on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. If we have not received a private physical form from you, you will be notified to participate in this program. School dental exams will be scheduled later this school year.

**Cold weather will be arriving soon. Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess. If the weather warms up by recess, students can always remove layers if necessary. Also, October is the official start of the cold and flu season.**

Here are a few reminders:

Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess.

●Please remind your children to wash their hands often to prevent the spread of colds/flu at home and in our classrooms.

●If your child has a fever during the night, please keep them home until they are fever free for 24 hours.

●**Effective 2001, elementary students are not permitted to bring cough drops to school under any circumstances.** Please refer to the BASD policy in your Parent Handbook to review the policy.

●**Please see the BASD medication policy in the BASD handbook to review the policy.** Do not send medications to school with your child. A written doctor's order for over-the-counter and prescribed medicine is required. The nurse **CANNOT** administer any medication to students if the proper procedures are not followed. Parents must bring the medications to school. The policy is in place for the safety of all students.

As we enter each school year we are always faced with the possibility of children getting lice. We at school try our best to prevent lice from spreading throughout the school. The school district will be enforcing the no nit policy that is in place. What this means for parents is any child having lice will be excluded from school. Following treatment the child must be brought to school by a parent or parent designee to be re-evaluated. Once the nurse determines the child is free from nits/lice, the child may then return to the classroom and will be permitted to ride the bus. Your child will then be checked by the school nurse for seven days after initial observation of lice. If nits or lice reappear, then your child will be excluded again and the

process will begin over. If at any time you suspect your child may have lice, please contact the school nurse to have your child evaluated. We appreciate your cooperation in this very sensitive matter. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the nurse's office at 610-473-1670.

**FROM THE LIBRARY**

We are pleased to announce that Earl Elementary School has been selected as one of only 200 schools in the country to take part in the Mo Willems simulcast. All students will watch the author and illustrator talk *live* about his new book in the Geisel award- winning Gerald and Piggie series Pigs Make Me Sneeze plus a super, secret, special surprise! Mo Willems is the creator of the Don't Let the Pigeon... books, Knuffle Bunny and various other books.

**MUSIC NOTES FROM MR. BRUNNER**

Music classes are off to a wonderful start this year. I am challenging the students in a number of new ways. Fifth and sixth grades are beginning a series of projects on composing music using the latest technology. We will be using the software programs Sibelius and Garage Band. Classes are being challenged to create pieces of music in which they will perform later on in the year.

Kindergarten, first, and second grades are having fun playing games, singing songs, and marching around the room. In addition, I am having students from first through fourth grades learning how to read notes on a staff. First graders are in the process of learning how to play "Mary Had a Little Lamb" on the tone bells. Third and fourth graders will begin playing the recorders soon.

Fifth and Sixth grade Chorus and Vocal Ensemble are off to a wonderful start. I can already tell the students involved are dedicated and having fun. My goal with them is to become better readers of music. I have incorporated many new Solfege exercises into my routine that has already impacted the choir. They are learning music faster and retaining their individual parts with less effort. The Earl choir has already performed for the Boyertown Area School Board of Directors meeting. They prepared three songs for the event, and the kids showcased their hard work well. They were

overjoyed by the experience, and they were excited about the praise they received by everyone in attendance.

Please take note of the following performances and any changes:

- Chorus Holiday Concert – Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Jr. High West
- Third and Fourth Grade Concert – Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Jr. High West
- Chorus Spring Concert – Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Boyertown Area Sr. High

Third and fourth grade parents, I am in the process of designing this year's program. Please look for a letter to be sent home in October explaining the concert this year. I will also be in need of parent volunteers. Please fill out the appropriate paperwork and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

I look forward to all of the creativity in the classroom and the performances for the 2009-2010 school year. If you would like to contact with questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to email me at [jbrunner@boyertownasd.org](mailto:jbrunner@boyertownasd.org). You may also phone me at 610-473-1819.



**FROM THE DESK OF MRS. WAMPLER,  
READING SPECIALIST**

Research has shown that one simple activity – reading aloud – is the most important thing you can do to encourage your children’s success as readers. Reading aloud is a powerful learning and emotional resource in children’s lives. It is one of the best ways to put your child on the road to success – academically and personally. All ages of children love when their parents read to them. They like to hear their parents’ funny voices illustrating different characters and they like to hear special sound effects to keep the story moving. Children like when parents ask questions eg. What do you think will happen next? Do you know what this word means? Which character is your favorite? Finding time to read aloud may be difficult, but those reading moments can help build strong bonds and play a vital role in your child’s development. A child is never too old to enjoy a story read aloud. Reading to your child is one of the most inexpensive forms of entertainment. Please help to pave the way toward your child’s love of reading.

**P.T.O. FUNDRAISER INFORMATION**

The Fall Fundraiser, the Student Walk-A-Thon, is just around the corner. The walk will take place during school hours on Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> (rain date October 16<sup>th</sup>.) Please have your child wear sneakers and dress accordingly for the weather. All sponsor pledge money must be returned to your child’s classroom by Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> to qualify for the various prizes being offered. Good luck and thank you to all who are participating.

**P.T.O. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Concerned about the flu season and the H1N1 virus? Please join us on October 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Earl Elementary library to get the facts on the swine flu. Community Health Specialist from Pottstown Memorial Medical Center will join us to give current information on the H1N1 virus. Learn more on how we can all protect our children as we head into the cold and flu season. A brief PTO meeting will follow the presentation. If you have any questions, kindly email earlpto@gmail.com.

**P.T.O. MARKET DAY**

Thank you to everyone who ordered and helped with our September Market Day. We had 46 orders, many new members and earned \$247 for our first month. For the month of October we have several great offers and one BIG thank you! Purchase \$40 or more and receive a FREE 1-lb package of Ground Beef. You can also qualify to receive a FREE 1-lb package of Large Shrimp when you order \$90 or more. Be sure to list the promo code if you order online, it is listed on the October Order Guide. October’s pick up date will be Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6 – 7 p.m., be sure to mark your calendars. Be sure to ask family, friends and co-workers for orders. You can pre-pay online when placing your orders to make for a faster pick-up. Thank you for your support!

**HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTIES**

The PTO sponsored Halloween parade and parties will be held on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The students will change into their costumes at 2:00 p.m. The parade will begin at 2:15 p.m., followed by the individual classroom parties at 2:30 p.m. All are invited to view the parade. Only homeroom parents and their designated assistants are permitted in the classrooms before and after the parade. **In the event of inclement weather, the parade portion will be canceled.** Please send a costume to school with your child in a **paper bag** with your child’s name and teacher’s name on the outside. Large costumes are not appropriate as there is no place to store the costume until the parade/party. **Costumes which promote violence are not appropriate. Play/pretend guns, rifles, etc. are not permitted.** If a parent objects to the celebration of Halloween, please feel free to send a note to the teacher indicating that you will pick up your child in the office at 2:00 p.m. Please understand that from 8:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. the day will be spent in regular academic studies.

