

**EARL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**September 2009**

**Dr. Craig Zerr, Principal**

**Mrs. Helen Thomas, Secretary**

**PRINCIPAL'S NOTE**

Welcome back everyone! I am very excited to begin the upcoming school year. I believe we will have one of our best years ever at Earl. The 2009-10 year begins with an anticipation of a new commitment from students and staff to increased student leadership. This year's Student Council began last year to express their vision and goals of academic achievement and improved respect and school climate. Staff and students alike are very impressed with the maturity and resolve of our upcoming student leaders. I am confident they will make a difference in the success of Earl Elementary this year! Last year's assessment results indicate that Earl continues an upward trend in student achievement. This is a testament to the commitment to excellence of the whole Earl team: students, parents, and staff alike. Parents and staff continue to work together to offer our students a special, and in many ways, unique experience at Earl. Our Earl PTO, a very dedicated group of parents, has already met this summer and is working diligently to plan many important events for our school. Upcoming events such as the new outdoor classroom and nature trail project, Walk-a-thon, PTO Family Nights, Craft Day, Santa's Shop, Gr. 4 Environmental Education Camp Experience, Gr. 3 Hobby Show, Parents as Reading Partners, Reading Olympics Teams, Book Exchange, field trips, Field Day, Skating Party, Concert Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Bell Choir, Author Visits, Art Show and Book Fair, Hawk PRIDE, Pat-on-the-Back, No Place for Hate, and special assemblies are just a few of the many exciting activities that engage our students, parents, and staff as a community of learners. Please consider being an active member in the Earl PTO this year. It is a fantastic group of parents who give of their time and talents willingly to ensure that Earl is the best little school in the world. I look forward to talking to new and returning parents at the various Meet the Teacher Nights in September!

**MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT SCHEDULE**

Thursday	September 10	Kindergarten	6-7 p.m.	Library
Tuesday	September 8	Grade 1	6-7 p.m.	Library
Tuesday	September 8	Grade 2	7-8 p.m.	Classrooms
Wednesday	September 9	Grade 3	6-7 p.m.	Classrooms
Thursday	September 10	Grade 4	7-8:30 p.m.	Classrooms & Library
Wednesday	September 9	Grade 5	7-8 p.m.	Classrooms
Wednesday	September 9	Grade 6	7-8 p.m.	Classrooms

### **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES**

We ask that you call the school office (610-369-7504) if your child will not be attending school due to illness, etc. You may call between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., giving your child's name, teacher's name, and reason for absence. We also have voice mail for those who are not available to call between the scheduled times. The teachers complete their attendance daily by 9:15 a.m. If your child is not in attendance and you have not called the school to report your child's absence, we will attempt to call you. We seek cooperation in this matter for the safety of your child. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to either call the school office or complete an excuse blank within three days of the absence.

### **STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES**

A clipboard is located in the office to be used by the parent or designated adult who is signing your child in or out from school. Please send a note to school if someone other than a parent will be signing your child out from school. (We will not permit a student to be dismissed to an adult other than their parent or guardian without a note.) Any time that you bring your child to school late or pick your child up we require you to sign this sheet. If you bring your child to school in the morning, be advised that students are not permitted to enter the building prior to 8:25 a.m. .The school day begins at 8:45 a.m. Students are not considered tardy until after 8:45. If you are picking your child up at the 3:30 p.m. dismissal, please report to the gym to sign out your child and wait in for dismissal. Students will be dismissed to the gym if signed out by an adult.

### **SCHOOL SECURITY**

Earl Elementary School utilizes a camera and buzz-in security system. All visitors are required to state their name and purpose for their visit prior to obtaining entry to the building. All visitors are to report to the school office immediately upon entering the building. Deliveries of any type are to be made to the office only (not directly to the classroom). A badge (visitor, volunteer, etc.) must be secured in the office before you are allowed in student areas. Parents are expected to meet their children for appointments or at dismissal at the office or other designated areas and not at the classroom.

### **MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

If your child must be taken out of school during the school day for a doctor or dental appointment, we ask that you send a note to your child's teacher so he/she can prepare for the student's early dismissal. A clipboard is located in the office to be used by the parent or designated adult who is signing your child out from school. Students will not be sent outside to wait at any time for someone to pick them up.

### **FAMILY TRIPS**

If you are planning a family trip that will infringe on school attendance, (even for one school day) please request an **Application to be Absent from School for an Educational Trip or Tour Form** in advance. Complete the form and return to school for action from the principal. Permission for non-school trip requests must be submitted at least 2 days prior to any trip taken for it to be counted as an excused absence. We request that families take trips on days school is not in session in order to avoid interrupting a student's educational program. Please read the student handbook for more information. Thank you for your cooperation!

### **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 (610) 473-3473. 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 on their regular bus and will be dropped off at their regular stop.***

### **RETURNING FORMS**

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

### **PARKING**

Parking is available along the side of the school building or on the lower parking lot. We request that parents refrain from parking in the circle in front of the building due to buses coming and going throughout the day.

**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.**

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT WEB SITE**

The Boyertown Area School District web site is [www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org).

### **STUDENT INSURANCE FORMS**

Voluntary student accident insurance is available for purchase. A letter and brochure detailing the benefits and exclusions of the policy will be sent home with each student. The deadline to return the application envelope is September 16, 2009.

### **PICTURE DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**

An envelope with package information will be sent home shortly. Picture packages will be printed only for students paying on picture day. All students who purchase a picture package will receive a class composite photograph.

### **NEW STAFF MEMBERS**

- Mrs. Patricia DiGiovine – Remediation Teacher
- Mrs. Kathleen Pearson – Staff Nurse
- Mrs. Kathleen Stettner – Kindergarten Teacher

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

PLEASE take note that on "art day" your child should wear an oversized T-shirt or smock to protect his clothing. It is your child's responsibility to make sure he puts it on and follows classroom rules. Keep new or special clothes for days when your child does not have art.



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

Hello and welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I am looking forward to another exciting year as your School Counselor. It is a pleasure for me to help children and their families in Boyertown. I think it is important our students learn how to get along with others, make good choices and solve problems. In order to help students succeed I will be working with students in a variety of ways. Throughout the year I will be conducting classroom guidance lessons, small groups and individual counseling sessions. Examples of classroom lessons I will cover include; social skills, conflict resolution, bullying prevention and tolerance. My emphasis this year will be on friendship skills. My office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please feel free to visit, e-mail or call with concerns and good news. You can reach me at [gturnbull@boyertownasd.org](mailto:gturnbull@boyertownasd.org) or 610-473-1690. I'm looking forward to another great year!

### **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.



***Happy Reading! Happy Reading!***

### **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. We appreciate all our volunteers do for our school and thank you for your cooperation with this policy.

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

The Earl PTO would like to welcome everyone back to school. We're very excited about the year and we're off to a great start. Check out our website at [www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org) and click on Earl Elementary. This will provide you with valuable information on committees, membership meetings and PTO sponsored events. Feel free to contact us via the website with your questions or suggestions. Your input is greatly appreciated! All parents will be receiving a volunteer recruitment letter regarding ways to get involved. We have great parent support at Earl and we hope to continue that tradition but we need your help. There are various ways of supporting your school and student and we hope you will give this serious consideration. Thank you in advance and we hope to see everyone at Meet the Teacher's Night!

### **Market Day:**

Welcome back! We have two great specials for September's order. If you order \$90. or more in Market Day, you will receive a FREE 4 pack of Turkey Tournedos. Also, you can get a car organizer with qualifying purchases (see your order guide.) If you order online be sure to put in the Promo Code – SEPTFREE

Be sure to get your orders in before 9/15/09. Our first pick up date will be Monday, 9/21, from 6 - 7p.m.

We look forward to a great year with a lot of great specials! Be sure to share your order forms with friends and family as well, or have them log into Market Day and set up their own account with Earl Elementary as their school. Every order counts and earns our school money! Thanks to everyone for your continued support.