

APRIL

2009

TESTING INFORMATION – Please mark your calendars with the following PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) dates: **PSSA Science** will be given to students in Grade 4 between April 27–May 8.

PLEASE NOTE: Parents should make sure appointments are **NOT** scheduled during these time periods. Students will **NOT** be excused for “educational trips” during these testing periods.

READING REQUIREMENT – Since we are beyond the mid-year point, I must remind all parents of the reading requirement. Students in grades 1 through 12 must read 10 books per year (adjustments will be permitted for special educational needs). A student must fulfill this requirement each year. By this time, your child(ren) should have read 5 or more books. Please keep encouraging your child(ren) to reach the goal of at least 10 books. The cumulative number of books read toward this requirement will be recorded on each quarter’s report card.

WACKY HAIR DAY –Our Student Representatives have designated Tuesday, April 7, as “Wacky Hair Day”. In support of the 6ABC/Girl Scouts Baby Bundles Campaign, students who wear their hair in a “creative” style on that day are encouraged to bring an item such as: diaper ointment, washcloths, diapers, baby shampoo, baby lotion, towels, diaper wipes, bottles, and clothes up to 36 mos. No infant formula, please.

PARENT CONFERENCES – Parent Conferences/Report Cards: The third quarter report cards will be distributed to all grades on Wednesday, April 15. Teachers desiring conferences will send an invitation to parents. Likewise, parents who would like to request a conference should contact their child’s teacher early in April.

GRANDPARENT’S DAY – Grandparent’s Day is quickly approaching. This year we will be holding Grandparent’s Day on Friday, April 24. Information has been sent home with all students. Please note the date, we love having grandparents visit and see their grandchildren in action here at Gilbertsville Elementary School.

SPELLING BEE – The district spelling bee, sponsored by the Boyertown Times, will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the LGI room at Boyertown Elementary School.

TEACHER REQUEST INFORMATION (2009-2010) – 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 year's placement. Any written requests of this nature must be submitted by April 10. 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.

READING OLYMPICS – The Berks County Reading Olympics will be held Thursday, April 2 at Twin Valley Middle School. The students had to read 10 books each to prepare for the competition. The team will be asked questions about the books and receive points for answering them correctly. The students have worked very hard to prepare for this competition and are looking forward to competing with the other Berks county schools involved.

ART SHOW – Attention Parents! The GES Art Show will be Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday April 23. Helping with the art show might involve stapling projects to papers, displaying clay pieces and many other small details. If you have any interest in helping to make the art show a success, please contact Mrs. Harner at eharner@boyertownasd.org.

BOOK FAIR – The Book Fair will run from Friday, April 17 to Friday, April 24 and be open during the Art Show nights 5:30-7:30pm. Check <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ges> to sign up to volunteer to help set up the Book Fair, help during school and the Art Show evenings, and clean up the Book Fair. Volunteer sign up letters have been sent home. The class schedule and flyer will go home for families to look through the week before the Book Fair.

2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR – The BASD School Calendar for next school year is available on line at www.boyertownasd.org under “Our District”/Calendar.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Family Life and AIDS Presentations

- April 1: Grade 6 Family Life presentation by The Weller Center & AIDS presentation; Grade 5 Family Life Presentation. **If you do not want your child to attend a presentation, please submit a written request to the attention of the principal and that request will be honored.**

PA Mandated Dental and Physical Exams

- **2008/2009 School Year:** the health room's annual State report is due on June 1st so please submit copies of physicals and dentals exams no later than May 29, 2009.
- PA Mandated Dental and Physical Exams for **2009/2010 School Year:** PA School Health Act #535 requires dental examinations for all students entering Kindergarten, third and seventh grades in September 2009 and physical examinations for students entering kindergarten and sixth grade. Physical or dental examinations that were completed on or after September 1, 2008 are acceptable. Please contact the health room if you need a form for an upcoming appointment or download the forms from the BASD website @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under Services, Student Services, Health.

Medications

- With the arrival of the spring allergy season and classroom field-trips, the health room would like to remind parents to refer to the BASD medication policy if your child needs to take medications during school hours. All medications, prescribed and over-the-counter, require a written order from a doctor and written parent permission to be given at school. Medication authorization forms are available on the BASD Web site @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under Services, Student Services, Health or by request from the health room.

Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) for the Spring/Summer Months!

Thank you to all the families who have participated in the BOOK-IT! Program sponsored by Pizza Hut. As you know, this program runs from October through March. So, in an effort to keep the kids reading, many local sponsors have come forward to offer reading incentives. For the months of April through September, students who read at least 15 minutes a day for at least 20 days per month will be able to take a completed calendar directly to **one** of the sponsors below to claim a reward:

- **SUBWAY (Cornerstone Plaza or Bechtelsville Super Wal*Mart)**
 - one free Fresh Fit Kids Meal.
- **Rita's Water Ice (Boyertown)** – one free kid's water ice
- **Domino's Pizza (Route 73 Gilbertsville)** – one medium one-topping pizza
- **Dairy Queen (Rt. 73 Gilbertsville or High St Pottstown)**
 - one free small Blizzard –or- one free kids meal

The child must be present to claim the reward; the offer expires 30 days from the end of each completed month. No photocopies of the calendar will be accepted. Calendars are now being printed; the students will be receiving them very soon!!