

December

2009

EARLY DISMISSALS – On December 23, we will have a 12:30 early dismissal.

The Kindergarten schedule is as follows:

On 12:30 early dismissal days:

AM Kindergarten—8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

PM Kindergarten—10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF – The No Child Left Behind requirements require all teachers and Title I instructional aides to be “highly qualified” according to guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. We are proud to say that all of the teachers and Title I aides in the Boyertown Area School District meet these criteria. If you have any questions regarding the educational background and certifications of your child’s teacher, please contact the teacher or principal and we will gladly share this information with you.

HSA CHRISTMAS CRAFT NIGHT – The HSA will have their Christmas Craft Night on Friday, December 4. Children from Kindergarten to grade 6 will have the opportunity to make several craft items. All families participating are encouraged to bring a canned good for Boyertown Area Multi-Service.



WINTER CHORUS PROGRAMS – Holiday Concerts will be held on Wednesday, December 16 for the 6th Grade Chorus and Show Choir and on Thursday, December 17 for the 5th Grade Chorus and Show Choir. Both concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. in the GES Cafeteria.

LITTLE SHOPPER’S SHOPPE – Little Shopper’s Shoppe will be open from Tuesday, December 1 through Monday, December 7. Each class visits the Shoppe at an assigned time. Students have an opportunity to purchase gifts for family members.

BUS PASSES – Daily bus passes will be limited to emergency purposes only, including unscheduled early dismissal days (i.e., weather related). An emergency is defined as an uncontrollable, non-recurring event. Bus drivers will not accept notes from parents.

STUDENT DROP-OFF (AM) – The doors at the morning student drop-off are locked after 8:45 a.m. I suggest that you watch your child enter the building to make sure the door is open. If the door is locked, you will need to bring your child to the main office for sign-in.

HOLIDAY DINNER – Our Holiday meal in the cafeteria will be on Wednesday, December 16. The menu includes roasted turkey with gravy, potato filling, corn, cranberry sauce, and strawberry tart.

TOYS FOR TOTS – Once again, Mrs. Sartor and the G.E.S. Student Leadership Group will be conducting their annual “Toys for Tots” toy collection for the holiday season. Our dates for the collection will run from Wednesday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 16. We are requesting new, unwrapped, non-violent toys.



The toys collected are distributed by the Boyertown Detachment of the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary to the Multi-Service and various local churches to help needy families in the area. Let’s make this another successful year! Remember others as you do your shopping this holiday season! Help teach your child the joy of kindness and giving!

KEEPING TOUCHES SAFE & HEALTHY -- Parents of second grade students are invited and encouraged to attend a parent preview of “Keeping Touches Safe & Healthy”, which will be presented at the Junior High West Cafeteria on Wednesday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m. The program will be presented to our second grade students on Friday, January 29, 2010.

POP-A-TAB – Gilbertsville Elementary School is participating in a district-wide project of collecting six million soda can tabs. Tolerance, Acceptance, Belonging is a No Place For Hate project being conducted by Junior High West. Why six million? That is the number of Jewish people who were killed during the Holocaust. All tabs collected will be donated to Ronald McDonald House. Our collection barrel was decorated by Junior High students and is located in the lobby.

PSSA TESTING – The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) will be administered to our students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 to provide assessment in writing, reading, mathematics, and science.

Since these tests are a source of important information for you and our school, we urge you to plan accordingly so your child is in the right frame of mind. **We are asking that family trips not be scheduled on testing dates. Trip requests will not be approved during this time.** Because nutrition and plenty of rest are an essential part of your child’s growth and development, it is important that he/she receives both, especially during the days of testing. Your child will be more alert and better able to concentrate.

The following is a schedule of when these tests will occur:

Grades 3-6 – Reading/Math

April 7 through April 16, 2010

Grade 5 – Writing

April 19 through April 23, 2010

Grade 4 – Science

April 26 through April 30, 2010



**Spring Basket Party
Friday, March 26,
2010**

SPRING BASKET PARTY – You may be in the midst of planning for the holidays, but the HSA Spring Basket Party committee is hard at work looking ahead to 2010! We are very excited to bring you a Wild West themed basket party on March 26, 2010, so keep your eyes open for ticket information

coming home the first week of January. In the past we have been able to offer the most amazing prizes and we are relying on our generous GES families to support our event again this year.

Please consider adding just an item or two to your holiday shopping list to donate to our event and help us show the entire community how incredibly giving our GES families can be! More information regarding basket donations (and incentives!) will be forthcoming in January 2010.

Anyone who would like to help with the Spring Basket Party or who has questions regarding this great evening can contact Erica Fisher at 610-705-5897 or fisherericar@rocketmail.com.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Cold & Flu Season

- With the cough & flu season approaching, students occasionally need to take medication at school. Please review the BASD medication policy which requires a written doctor's order for all over-the-counter and prescribed medicines. The medication policy and medication authorization forms are available from the BASD website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under the Services dropdown menu, under Student Services - Medication. **Please do not send medications to school with your child: parents or a parent-designee must bring the medications and a complete medication authorization form to school.** Reminder: per BASD policy, elementary students are not permitted to bring cough drops to school; we have Chloraseptic spray available for all students to treat mild coughs and sore throats.

School Dental Exams

- The PA school health code requires a dental exam for kindergarten & 3rd grade students. For families who are unable to have the exam done privately, school dental exams are scheduled for January 27th by Dr. David Szymanski, DDS. The nurses will be contacting the parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten and 3rd grade who currently do not have results of a dental exam on file in the health room. If your kindergartener or 3rd grader has an upcoming dental appointment and you need a dental form, you can request one by contacting the health room or via the BASD website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under the Services dropdown menu, under Student Services – Dental form.

Attention 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Parents

- As part of our school district's health curriculum, students in these grades receive Life Education (covers physiological changes that occur with puberty) and AIDS education. The Life Education Parent Night is scheduled in the Junior High West auditorium for January 13th to provide parents the opportunity to review Family Life/HIV & AIDS videos before they are presented to students. Sessions are as follows: **grade four** parents 6-7 PM in the auditorium; **grade five** parents 6:30-7:30 PM in the cafeteria; and **grade 6** parents 7-8 PM. A Life Education Parent Night response letter with this information will be sent home with each student in grades 4 – 6 before the holiday break.