

January

2010

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER – Are you looking forward to 2010? Like most of us, you probably have mixed thoughts and feelings about the new year. You may find some people to be positive and happy, and yet others to be unhappy and disgruntled. Their circumstances and situations could be quite similar. What makes the difference? It's probably a matter of an optimistic or pessimistic attitude.

May I challenge everyone in 2010 to look for the positive – the sun behind the clouds! Good can be found in every person and hope in every situation! That's our New Year's resolution to you. Will you pledge the same to our school and staff?

EARLY DISMISSAL – On January 27, 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.



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 presentation will be made to our students on Friday, January 29, 2010.

ARRIVING LATE? – If your child arrives at school after 8:45 a.m., you must sign in him/her in the office. This procedure helps us verify why children are late to school. Again, thank you for your cooperation.

LABEL CLOTHING – Please mark all coats, hats, lunch boxes, etc. with your child's first and last names. Without the names, it is difficult to find the correct owners. The lost and found rack is in the entrance area to GES.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT NIGHT – Special thanks to Mrs. Melcher, Mrs. Coyle, Mrs. Stuetz, Mrs. Huber, and all of the other volunteers for a fantastic HSA Craft Night. The children (with parental assistance) were able to make various ornaments for their trees. It was truly a family craft night. A wide array of refreshments capped the evening.

LITTLE SHOPPERS' SHOPPE – Special thanks to Mrs. McKeown, Mrs. Hubler, and all the many helpers for making Little Shoppers' Shoppe a huge success. The students were very excited about shopping for their parents, siblings, other relatives, and friends. Without your many hours of assistance, we could not offer this shopping opportunity to our students.

MARKET DAY – We would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone for continuing to support Market Day, which directly provides resources for GES.

PARENT PICK-UP – If you send a note to the teacher about arrangements for your child being picked up, please write the teacher's name and the words “Pick-up Information”. I am asking you to do this because a substitute will not open the note if you only have the teacher's name written. This will ensure that the proper persons are aware of the dismissal arrangements.



LUNCH NEWS – Please be reminded that if you pay for your child’s lunch by check, you should make the check payable to “BASD Cafeteria Fund.”

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH – Any parent or guardian who has undergone a recent financial change, which may qualify them for the free or reduced lunch program, should call the school for an application.

ABSENCE REMINDER -- When calling our health room (**610-369-7518**), make sure you give a specific reason for your child’s absence i.e. sore throat, flu, upset stomach, etc. If you feel that your child might be able to do the schoolwork missed, please let us know who should bring his/her work home or whether you will pick up the homework after 3:30 p.m. If we do not receive a call, the teacher will give the child an excuse blank to sign. We must receive a call or signed excuse blank about your child’s absence. Without either of these methods of communication, we will need to record the absence as unlawful. Also, if your child sees a physician, please bring a note from the physician. **Please call this number before 9:00 a.m. to report your child absent.**

UPDATING EMERGENCY INFORMATION – It is important for families to keep the school informed of any changes such as address, phone number, and emergency contacts. In the event we need to reach you, we must have current information. Please send a note to your child’s teacher and our health room informing us of these changes.

WINTER CLOTHING – With the winter season in full swing, it is probably best that all children come to school dressed for the worst possible weather with appropriate hats, gloves, and heavy coats.

NEW TOYS – Each year after the Christmas Holiday, children want to bring in some of their new toys, games, dolls, and other gifts to show their classmates as well as to play with them during recess. Each year we also have a few unfortunate incidents where these same toys are broken or misplaced. Please tell your children that if they bring these items to school, they are responsible for them. We, at GES, cannot assume responsibility for your child’s toys.

PARENTING FOR PREVENTION – The Caron Treatment Centers and Carpenter Technology Corporation will present the program, “Parenting for Prevention” on February 3, 10, and 17, 2010 from 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. in the Boyertown Junior High West library. This program is designed for parents and caregivers of children ages 9 through 14 to provide information on the effects and consequences of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and technology trends and safety. The program is free.

Spring Basket Party Update

“The Wild West at its Best” GES Spring Basket Party is scheduled for March 26, 2010 and tickets will be on sale soon!! We invite all GES families to take advantage of our very affordable ticket price and purchase tickets when they become available on January 11, 2010. Ticket information will be coming home the first week of the new year and will also be available on the Gilbertsville Elementary School website. Of course, our event wouldn’t be successful without your generous donations! Please consider adding just an item or two to your holiday shopping list to donate to our event! Anyone who makes a donation to the Spring Basket Party by February 19 will be entered to win \$100 cash! If you would like to help with the Spring Basket Party or have questions regarding this great evening, please contact Erica Fisher at 610-705-5897 or fishereric@rocketmail.com.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

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 with Dr. David Szymanski. A form to request a school dental exam was sent home with students in Kindergarten and 3rd grade who currently do not have results of a dental exam check on file. If your kindergartener or 3rd grader is having a private dental exam and you need a dental form, you can request one by contacting the health room or downloading one from the BASD website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under Services - Student Services – Health - Dental.

Attention 4th, 5th and 6th Grade Parents – As part of our school district's health curriculum, students in these grades are given the opportunity to receive Life Education (covers physiological changes that occur) and AIDS education. The **Life Education Parent Night, which allows you to preview the materials presented to the students, is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2010 Junior High West as follows:**

- Grade 4 parents from 6-7PM in the Junior High West auditorium
- Grade 6 parents from 7-8PM in the Junior High West auditorium
- Grade 5 parents from 6:30-7:30PM in the Junior High West cafeteria

A Life Education Parent Response letter was sent home with each student in December. If you did not receive this letter, check with your child or you can send a note that indicates if you will or will not be attending this Parent Night presentation.

The date and time of each grade level's presentations will be announced at Parent Night and printed in the monthly GES Principal notes. **Dates for Family Life and AIDS presentations at GES are as follows:**

- 4th Grade AIDS - February 3, 2010 FAMILY LIFE - February 24, 2010
- 5th Grade AIDS - January 20, 2010 FAMILY LIFE - February 17, 2010
- 6th Grade AIDS and FAMILY LIFE - January 20, 2010

If you do not want your child to attend these presentations, submit a written request to the principal's attention and your child will be excused from attending the presentation(s) per your request.

Cold & Flu Season

- Is it a cold or is it the flu? Flu symptoms come on suddenly and affect the body all over. Cold symptoms develop gradually and mostly affect you above the neck. However, when you get the flu, you are more prone to developing secondary infections such as bronchitis, sinus, and ear infections. To prevent colds and the flu, wash your hands often; keep your hands away from your nose, eyes, and mouth; use an instant hand sanitizer when you can't wash your hands; try not to touch people or their things when they have a cold or the flu; get regular exercise, eat well, get adequate rest; and get a flu shot if your health care provider advises it.
- 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/> Services - Student Services – Health - 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 coughs and sore throats.