

# March

2009

**TESTING INFORMATION** – Please mark your calendars with the following PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) dates:

PSSA Reading and Math will be given to students in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 between March 16-27.

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 at 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.

BINGO				
12	18	41	47	61
7	26	39	54	70
4	27	FREE SPACE	49	63
5	23	35	58	73
3	30	32	52	75

**BINGO & ICE CREAM** – You are welcome to join us here on Friday, March 13 for our Bingo/Game Night and Ice Cream Social. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and games will start at 7:00 p.m. We ask that every family bring one ice cream topping. Ice Cream and entertainment will be provided! Parents must stay with child to attend.

**THE GES SPRING BASKET PARTY** is scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2009. Over 325 tickets have already been sold to this fantastic event so please submit your ticket orders before we sell out! Please take a moment to preview some of our prize baskets in the school foyer and show your support by donating a basket of your own! New basket suggestion lists are available each week in the library and in the office! In addition to the baskets, we are proud to announce our grand prizes... luxurious overnight getaways, a huge sport package, and a generous basket of childhood essentials that prove we love our GES kids! Donate... attend... just take part in this one-of-a-kind evening! Anyone with questions regarding the Spring Basket Party should contact Erica Fisher at 610-705-5897 or [fishereric@rocketmail.com](mailto:fishereric@rocketmail.com).

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010** — Children who will be attending kindergarten in September 2009 will be registered at the Education Center for school during the week of March 2. Please contact Mrs. Bartholomew at 610-369-7492 to schedule an appointment. If you have recently moved into our area and have reason to believe your child is not on our eligibility list, please contact her. Registration information was mailed in February to parents of all children on the eligibility list. A child must be five years old on or before September 10, 2009 to enroll in kindergarten and one year older to enroll in first grade.

It would be best if you do not bring younger children along with you to register. Also, if you have neighbors who have children eligible, please share this information with them. If you have any questions, please call 610-369-7492.

**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.

**HOMEWORK** – If your child is ill, you need to inform the school whether you will pick up the work after 3:45 p.m.\* or would like it sent home with a sibling or a child in your neighborhood. This information can be given when you call the health room about the absence.

\*Please note: Homework cannot be gathered for your child until after 3:45 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE** – Regular school attendance is very important. Since many of the lessons are accompanied by hands-on activities and active student participation, it is impossible for a child who has missed class to completely make-up the experience.

School begins promptly at 8:45 a.m. Students arriving after 8:45 a.m. are considered tardy. Students are expected to be in their classrooms at the starting time. Getting students to school on time is the responsibility of parents and students. If your child is late, you need to come to the office with your child and sign him/her into school. Thanks for your cooperation.

**GRANDPARENT'S DAY** – Grandparent's Day is quickly approaching. This year we will be holding Grandparent's Day on Friday, April 24. More information will be forthcoming, but please reserve this date on your calendar. We love having grandparents visit and see their grandchildren in action here at Gilbertsville 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.

**STUDENT DROP OFF/PICK UP** – For those of you who drop off/pick up your children, we would like to remind you of our school hours. GES opens for students at 8:25 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:25 p.m. We have a concern that when students arrive early or stay late, it is not possible for them to be properly supervised. Please help us deal with this issue by following the above listed time schedule.

Also, make sure students are dropped off at the student drop-off area before school begins at 8:40 a.m. The bus circle is not a safe area with buses parking, unloading and leaving. This creates an unsafe situation where people could get hurt.

**CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES** – Cell phones must be (1) turned off; (2) kept in the student's book bag upon arrival to school and remain there; and, (3) repeat offenders must have the parent/guardian retrieve the phone. This procedure will be used for any electronic device that is brought in to school by a student, i.e., iPods, Gameboys, etc. Please remind your child that they should not have these items out in school. This also applies while they are walking in the halls during dismissal.

**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@bovertownasd.org.

## **FROM THE HEALTH ROOM**

### **School Physical Exams**

GES school physicals are scheduled for March 18 with Dr. Harrison. Forms regarding school physicals were sent home with students in Kindergarten and 6th grade who currently do not have results of a well check on file in the health room. If you have received a notice about school physicals and have not yet responded, please contact the health room no later than March 17 if you would like your child to have a school physical.

### **AIDS/Family Life Presentations**

- The 4th grade AIDS video will be presented to the GES 4th grade students on Wednesday, March 11. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade family life program is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1. If you do not want your child to attend the presentation(s), please send a written request to the attention of the principal and alternate arrangements will be made for your child during the presentation.
- Attention 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, March 26, 2009** in the Junior High West auditorium. A Life Education Parent Response letter with more information will be sent home with each 6<sup>th</sup> grade student. GES 6<sup>th</sup> grade and AIDS and Family Life presentations are scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

## **READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY – MARCH 2, 2009**

Every year, the National Education Association sponsors Read Across America, an event that celebrates reading and honors the birthday of the late Dr. Seuss. At school, students will be reading and sharing favorite books with their classmates and reading buddies. The primary grades may even have a surprise visit from a famous Cat!

Families can participate, too. Visit the parent section of the NEA website at [www.nea.org/grants/13026.htm](http://www.nea.org/grants/13026.htm) for lots of great ideas. Here is a sampling:

- ✓ Set a good example as a reader – let kids see you reading every day.
- ✓ Get a subscription in your child's name to an age-appropriate magazine.
- ✓ Suggest subscriptions, books, or bookstore gift certificates to relatives as gift ideas for your children.
- ✓ Visit the library often.
- ✓ Make reading time with your child a fun time that you both look forward to spending together.
- ✓ Check out the NEA web site for several lists of recommended books.
- ✓ Check out [www.TeachingBooks.net](http://www.TeachingBooks.net) (password: basd) for information about a vast variety of books and authors.

Our Information Services Department has provided unlimited home and school access to TeachingBooks for everyone affiliated with our district -- including all teachers, librarians, staff members, students, and families.

**“For Our Daughters To Be Their Best!”**  
**For parents of daughters in grades K-12:**  
**A FREE Parent Workshop**

This interactive evening will feature information, videos, sharing, and ideas for parents who are seeking more information about some of the tough situations girls experience in and out of school. Join counselors Marilee Cassidy, Maureen Gerhart, Peg Glasgow, and Linda Weinberger on Monday, March 2, 2009 in the Junior High West library from 7:00 to 8:30 to learn more about relational aggression, also known as “girl bullying,” cyber-bullying, and ideas for how to help and support daughters.

**To register**, please contact your daughter’s school counselor by phone or email. For further information, please contact your daughter’s school counselor or Marilee Cassidy, Counseling Coordinator, at [mcassidy@bovertownasd.org](mailto:mcassidy@bovertownasd.org).