



2010

DELAYED OPENINGS – In the event of a 2-hr delayed school opening, the following “Modified Schedule” is in effect for Kindergarten:

AM Session 10:45 to 12:50 Bus pick-up is two hours later than normal.

Students depart from school at 12:45.

PM Session 12:50 to 3:30 Regular Schedule

This information is found on page 8 of the Gilbertsville Elementary School Handbook.

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Boyertown Area School District is announcing kindergarten registration for the 2010-2011 school year. Information packets were mailed in January 2010 to each resident with a child who will reach 5 years of age on or before September 10, 2010. These names are taken from the district’s census file. If you or someone you know has a child that meets the age requirement and has not received a packet by February 6, 2010, please contact the district office to obtain one.

All kindergarten registration is done by appointment and will be done at the District Education Center located at 911 Montgomery Avenue, Boyertown during the month of March. The packet will include all the necessary forms and instructions for registration.

Note that although students entering kindergarten are required to have a physical and dental examination, these exams must be completed after September 1, 2009 and no later than September 15, 2010.

Please contact Cindi Bartholomew in the Student Registration Office at 610-369-7492 or at cbartholomew@boyertownasd.org if you do not receive a packet or have questions or concerns regarding this process.

HSA MEETING – Dr. Dion Betts, Boyertown Area School District Superintendent, will attend our HSA Meeting on Monday, March 1, 2010.

ABSENCES – Parents, it is extremely important that you call the attendance line at 610-369-7518 whenever your child is absent. Beginning March 15, we will start calling parents whose children are absent and whose parents have not left a message on our attendance line’s voice mail. If we leave a message on your cell, home, or work phone, you must call us back so that the absence is verified. If you have any questions, call Dr. Christman at 610-369-7485.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP NEWS – In February, our students collected **\$858.27** for the Haiti Relief Effort. Great job, GES!

Our Student Representatives have designated Friday, March 12, as “**Pajama Day**”. In support of the 6ABC/Girl Scouts Baby Bundles Campaign, students may wear their pajamas on that day and 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. Please Note: Pajamas must be in line with our dress code (i.e. appropriate, no spaghetti straps, etc.).

ICE CREAM SOCIAL/BINGO NIGHT – You are welcome to join us here on Friday, March 12 for our Ice Cream Social and Bingo Night. 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! Children may not be dropped off. Parents must stay for the child to attend.

HSA BASKET PARTY – The Spring Basket Party scheduled for Friday March 26, 2010, is nearly here! Over 350 tickets have already been sold for this fantastic event so please submit your ticket orders before we sell out! If tickets remain they will be sold during the Ice Cream Social on March 12. 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! Basket suggestion lists are available in the lobby if you are looking for ideas! In addition to the baskets, we are proud to announce our grand prizes... two round-trip airline tickets to anywhere in the U.S., a 32- inch flat screen TV, a full family membership to the Hillside Aquatic Club, and a \$400 gift certificate to the oceanfront Windrift Resort in Avalon, New Jersey! Donate... attend... just take part in this one-of-a-kind evening!

TEACHER REQUEST INFORMATION (2010-2011) – 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 16. 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.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY – MARCH 2, 2010

Every year, the National Education Association sponsors Read Across America, an event that celebrates reading and honors the birthday of the late Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss). At school, students will be reading and sharing favorite books with their classmates and reading buddies. The cafeteria will be serving Green Eggs and Ham! 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 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 (password: basd) for information about a vast variety of books and authors.
- ✓ Come see **Brian Pinkney**, author and illustrator, at GES - 7:00 PM on March 4th!

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.

AUTHOR VISIT – Brian Pinkney, author and illustrator, will be at GES on March 4 and 5. Mr. Pinkney will discuss his writing and illustrations with the students March 4. In the evening, Brian Pinkney will return for a family presentation at 7:00 p.m. where he will talk about his writing and illustrations along with autographing books. If you are interested in ordering books written and/or illustrated by Mr. Pinkney, books can be pre-ordered and autographed. Books will be for sale during the family presentation. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Gramp mgramp@boyertownasd.org.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES – Cell phones must be turned off and kept in the student's book bag upon arrival to school and remain there. 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, DS games, 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.

WELLNESS FAIR –The Boyertown Area Community Wellness Council has scheduled the Wellness Fair for Saturday, April 10. The Running of the Bears event will also occur on Saturday, April 10. This will affect the touring of Healthy Bear. We have also implemented a new activity this year revolving around Healthy Bear. We will have a box with entry forms and students can count the healthy items on Healthy Bear and submit their name and classroom into the box. At the Wellness Fair, a name will be drawn from the entries with the correct answer and their classroom will receive a healthy snack (to be arranged with their teacher) compliments of the Boyertown Area Community Wellness Council. The healthy bear will be at GES the week of March 23.

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

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Medications at School

- If your child needs 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 Service, student services, health. **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, salt water gargle, or water bottles available for all students to treat mild coughs and sore throats.

Emergency Contact Information

- Please remember to keep your Emergency Contact information current. Anytime you have phone number changes either at home, work, cell or for an alternate contact, please notify the main office or the health room so that we can keep your child's emergency contact information current.

Head Lice

- During each school year, almost without fail, we can expect to find some cases of head lice among our students. To effectively manage head lice infestations in our schools, the Boyertown Area School District has a Nit-Free Policy that requires students with head lice or nits to be excluded from school and be readmitted when the school nurse determines the students are lice and nit-free.
- According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control, 2008), head lice are spread most commonly by direct head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact. Symptoms of lice include itching of the scalp and red marks or scratches on the scalp and neck. The current recommendation is for parents to check for nits and live head lice at least once a week. Lice are small brown insects about the size of sesame seeds and nits are yellowish white eggs which attach to the hair shafts. You may find nits or head lice anywhere on the scalp but they are often found at the back of your child's head, near their neck, behind their ears and at the crown of their head. Unlike dandruff, a nit cannot be brushed off. To check for lice and nits, wash your child's hair with a regular shampoo and hair conditioner and then check your child's hair after you rinse and dry it, but while it is still damp. Hair conditioner will make it easier to comb through your child's hair. If you find lice or nits, your child must be treated for head lice with an anti-lice shampoo and nit removal. If your child is treated for head lice, our policy requests parents contact the health room and work with the school nurse to ensure proper treatment.
- Prevention and control of head lice begins in the home: parents should routinely check their children for head lice and not allow them to share hats, clothing, brushes, combs or sleeping bags with other children. More information on head lice is available on the BASD website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under Services, Student Services, Health or from the school nurse. Please help us prevent head lice by following the policy and checking your children often.

BASD INFORMATION LINE -- By dialing 610-369-7669 or logging onto the district website www.boyertownasd.org, parents/guardians will be informed of current information regarding the status of the district's schedule depending on conditions.

CONNECT-ED® -- Our **Connect-ED®** telephone messaging service enables us to deliver important school information in the event of any emergency, including weather delays or closings. With the **Connect-ED®** service, we are able to send a personalized voice message to parent/guardians and families with one recorded phone message. It is important that the school office is updated with any change in contact telephone numbers so that you will not miss any important communications. We are utilizing your phone numbers from our student information system.