

NOVEMBER

2009

EARLY DISMISSALS – On November 13, 23, 24, and 25, we have a 12:30 p.m. early dismissal.

AM Kindergarten—8:45 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

PM Kindergarten—10:25 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

H1N1 UPDATE – Over the last few weeks, our schools have been experiencing a high rate of student absences. We will continue to monitor this situation and work closely with the parents/guardians of children who are ill.

BASD continues to follow the practices identified through the information on our district website and letters previously sent to parents/guardians to minimize the impact of the H1N1 virus. These measures include: monitoring student enrollment, reinforcing hand washing at school, and working closely with parents/guardians of children that may be ill.

We encourage all parents/guardians to consult with your family physician related to any medical concerns you may have and/or possible treatment/prevention options. It is also recommended from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that children stay home at least 24 hours after a fever is gone. BASD also recommends this practice to avoid infecting other students and employees. More detailed information can be accessed from the H1N1 link on the Boyertown Area School District's website @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> or directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Health @ <http://www.h1n1inpa.com/>.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE REMINDER -- When your child is absent from school, please report it to us before 9:00 a.m. by calling **610-369-7518**. Our answering machine will record your message at all hours of the night or morning. If you do not call regarding the absence, the classroom teacher will send home an excuse blank for your completion. **If you do not call the school or complete an excuse blank, the absence will be recorded as unlawful.**

You may also request assignments for students on the answering machine when you phone in the absence **before 9:00 a.m.** The assignment may be sent home with a sibling or neighbor, or they may be picked up **after 3:45 p.m.** in the office. Teachers are not able to gather this information until the school day has ended.

CHARACTER TRAITS – At GES, we are continuing to emphasize the character traits of respect and responsibility. However, we will now add the character trait of trustworthiness for the second quarter. Parents, we appreciate you helping to show your children what these traits look like and sound like in your home. I encourage you to share how you feel when your children demonstrate respect, responsibility, and now trustworthiness.

Also, we continue to emphasize being “bucket fillers” rather than “bucket dippers.” Children are making a concerted effort to share positive words about others rather than destructive words.

UPCOMING STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENTS – Our student leadership group will sponsor two events in November. November 13 is “*Hats on for Habitat*” Day. On this day students are invited to buy a button for \$1.00 that will allow them to wear their favorite hat for the day. All proceeds will benefit Berks County Habitat projects. The “*Buy a Pilgrim*” campaign will run from November 20 through November 25. Students may donate \$1.00 and get to write their name on a pilgrim which will be displayed in the cafeteria. All proceeds benefit the Greater Berks Food Bank which supplies food to the Salvation Army, Boyertown Multi-Service and various shelters. Each dollar donated translates into \$20 worth of food!

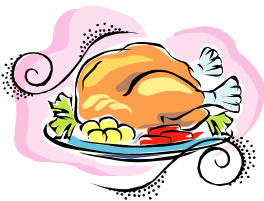
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – The School Board meeting on Tuesday, November 10 will be held at Gilbertsville Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. You are cordially invited.

REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION — For the first marking period, report cards will be distributed to parents at the scheduled parent-teacher conferences. The end of the first marking period is Friday, November 6. Also, for your information, the district was unable to switch to an electronic elementary report card for this school year.

LABEL CLOTHING – Our lost and found items are increasing. Please label all hats, coats, etc. This labeling will help us identify the owner.

THREATENING COMMENTS - Parents, please instruct your children to refrain from making threatening comments such as “I am going to beat you up”, “I am going to hit you”, and “I am going to kill you”. Comments like these are totally unacceptable and severe consequences will follow such actions. I would remind you that we as adults must refrain from such comments since children will model what we say.

PICTURE RETAKES ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – If your child was absent from school on picture day, the photographers will be here on Wednesday, November 4 from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. Please send your money on that day if you wish to make any purchases. Likewise, if you are dissatisfied with the present photographs, return the entire package with a note to the classroom teacher for a retake. **Parents of afternoon kindergarten students will need to bring their children to school between 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. for picture retakes.**



THANKSGIVING DINNER – Our Thanksgiving dinner will be on Wednesday, November 18. The dinner will consist of roasted turkey with gravy, potato filling, green peas, cranberry sauce, whole wheat roll, and apple crisp.

PARENT VISITATION DAY...A SUCCESS! On October 16, over 490 parents visited Gilbertsville Elementary. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend our school. Now that you know what to expect of your child's class this year, we ask for your continued support of your child's learning. Stay involved! Parent input is important and together we can be successful.

SNOW DAYS – On snow days, information about delays or cancellations will be provided. Listen to one of the stations listed in the Elementary School Handbook. You may also call the district information line for specific information relating to weather. That phone number is 610-369-SNOW (-7669). Special announcements are also posted on the district website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/>.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME – Come explore the world of books at Gilbertsville Elementary School Preschool Storytime. The storytime meets every other Tuesday from 11:00 to 12:00 in the library. The program is open to all area preschoolers who want to have fun. The activities include sharing, reading books, doing crafts, and even choosing library books.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES – During November, throughout the district, the first quarter achievement of the elementary students is communicated through a parent conference using the report card as the basis. Any persons divorced or separated, who desire separate conferences, must inform the child's teacher. Some suggestions, which can be helpful to you and the teacher during the conference, are as follows:

1. Focus on current achievement and only discuss the past if relevant.
2. Come directly to the classroom and have a seat in the hallway, should the door be closed.
3. Approximately 15-20 minutes have been allotted for each conference. Help us stay on schedule.

If you are unable to keep your scheduled conference due to urgent reasons, call the school as soon as possible (610-369-7485) before 4:00 p.m. or leave a message on the classroom teacher's voice mail.

HSA FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – Bring your family out for a showing of "UP" on Friday, November 20, here in the GES multi-purpose room. Admission and popcorn are FREE! Doors open at 6:30, the movie starts at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own chairs, blankets and drinks.



FAMILY COUNT EMAIL – There is still time to provide us with your email address. Send your email address to jmiller3@boyertownasd.org. We will send HSA information via email.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Growth, Vision, and Hearing Screenings

The nurses are completing growth, vision, and hearing screenings for all GES students. Rechecks will be done for students who did not pass a screening the first time. If your child fails a vision or hearing re-screen, a referral for further medical evaluation will be sent home with your child and you will be notified of the referral by the school nurses.

Cold and Flu Season

As the cold and flu season begins, here are a few reminders:

- Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess.
- Please remind your children to wash their hands often to prevent the spread of colds/flu at home and in our classrooms.
- The BASD medication policy does not allow elementary students to bring cough drops because they present a choking hazard.
With parent permission students may have Chloraseptic spray or gargle during school hours to treat mild sore throats. Please consult your doctor if your child has a severe sore throat.
- If your child needs medication during school hours, please review the BASD medication policy in the GES school handbook or on the BASD website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under Services, Student Services, Health.
Reminder: Students may not bring any medications to school.

Head Lice

To effectively manage head lice infestations in school, the Boyertown Area School District has a strict No-Nit policy. The 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. Lice are small brown insects about the size of sesame seed and nits are yellowish white eggs which attach to the hair shafts which are generally found at nape of neck, behind ears, and at the crown of head. Symptoms of lice itching of scalp or red marks or scratches found on scalp and neck. If your child gets head lice, our policy asks parents to notify the health room. 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.