



NHUF SCHOOL NEWS

"Expect Excellence"
Phone: 610-754-9580

Principal: STEPHANIE WILSON

SEPTEMBER 2009
www.boyertownasd.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, September 2	Grade 6 Parent Night 6:00 PM
Thursday, September 3	Kindergarten Parent Night 6:00 PM
FRIDAY & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 & 7	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 8	Grade 1 Parent Night 6:00 PM
	School Board Meeting 7:00 PM Senior High
Wednesday, September 9	Grade 5 Parent Night 6:00 PM
Thursday, September 10	Grade 2 Parent Night 6:00 PM
Monday, September 14	Express Pick-up Starts
Tuesday, September 15	Grade 3 Parent Night 6:00 PM
Thursday, September 17	Grade 4 Parent Night 6:00 PM
Monday, September 21	Boy Scout Enrollment 7:00 PM All Purpose Rm
Tuesday, September 22	School Board Meeting 7:00 PM Earl Elem
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23	PTCA MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL 7:00 PM
	ALL PURPOSE ROOM
Wednesday, September 30	Mass Health Screening



PSSA TEST DATES

PLEASE DO NOT PLAN TRIPS DURING THE STATE TESTING DAYS!

The three weeks of April 7–April 30, 2010 will be the days that all 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades will be administered the PSSA State Academic Assessment Tests. **NO TRIPS WILL BE APPROVED BETWEEN APRIL 7 – APRIL 30, 2010.**

WELCOME BACK

I welcome all NHUF students and parents back to school. Children are always so excited about starting school, and it is my hope that we can keep that enthusiasm growing all year long. It is going to be an exciting year filled with new experiences and new opportunities.

As usual, the custodial and secretarial staffs have done a superb job in ensuring that we are ready for the start of school. Preparing a school of our size for the opening is an enormous task and the fact that everything is in place and the building is glistening in readiness is evidence of the hard work and the commitment to excellence of these individuals. We sincerely thank them for a job well done.

Parents are the most important influence in a child's life, and when parents and teachers work together for the success of a child in school, it is a powerful team. Please plan to attend parents' night and start your communication with your child's teacher right away. We strongly encourage parents to communicate regularly with teachers and other appropriate school personnel to foster openness, understanding and a team commitment to academic success.

Your children should be bringing home copies of the BASD Elementary School Handbook. We recommend you review the handbook carefully and keep it for future reference. Also please be sure to sign the included form indicating you have read this information and return the form to your child's teacher.

We only have a few teacher changes this year. Miss Brittany Wagner is a new hire who will be joining the first grade team. She is replacing Mrs. Sallie Miller, who is moving into the Literacy Support position. Mrs. Miller will be working with small groups of students who need additional support in first grade. Because we have eliminated a section of second grade and third grade with the redistricting moves, Mrs. Jane Roberts is



moving from second grade to third grade. Our third grade team will now be Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Leary, Miss Dufner and Mrs. Wendy Gilbert. We now have four homerooms in every grade except first grade which has five homerooms.

We said good-bye to four staff members at the end of the year. Mrs. Slifer (Gr. 3) retired, Mrs. Joyce (Gr 3) returned to teach at Boyertown Elementary, Miss Bournonville (Literacy 1) is teaching in another district and Mrs. Stettner (K) will be teaching full time at Earl Elementary.

I look forward to meeting you at parent nights. I am generally in school from 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM each day and can be reached at 610-754-9580 during that time. I attempt to return every phone call daily. My school email address is swilson@boyertownasd.org. By communicating and working together to solve problems before a crisis develops, we will ensure the best possible learning environment for your child and a happy and successful school year.

Again, welcome back! The staff and I are ready to make this a wonderful year for your child.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Stephanie Wilson, Principal

PARENT – TEACHER NIGHT

All parents are cordially invited to attend the parent-teacher nights at NHUF. Information regarding the dates and times of these meetings are listed in the Calendar of Events.

We strongly encourage parents to attend these sessions to meet with your child's teacher and learn about the curriculum and school program. Your child's education will be most effective if you become an active partner with us in ensuring student success. Please begin that process by joining us for these important meetings. **Please remember there are no provisions for children at school on these evenings.** These meetings are for adults only.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Effective on the first day of school, we will be utilizing our call-in procedure designed to account for all children absent from school on a given day. Please remember to report your child as being **absent or tardy** by calling the number **before 9:30 AM** on any day your child will not be in school. This is a 24-hour number.

THE ATTENDANCE NUMBER IS 610-754-9599. *Anyone needing a magnetic card with this number may request one through your child's teacher.*



When calling the attendance number you will receive a voice message asking for the name of the absent child, the child's teacher, **the reason for the absence** and the expected dates of absence. At 9:30 AM each morning we will retrieve the recorded messages and compare them to the list of children absent from school on that day. We will then make every attempt including calling work and emergency phone numbers to verify the safety of any child whose parents have not notified us of the absence.

Everyone's cooperation in reporting absences is essential to make the procedure effective and efficient. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO LEAVE THE REASON FOR ABSENCE** so that we may code the attendance records accordingly. We believe it is an important step in ensuring the safety of every child entrusted to our care. By working together, we will enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing the security of our children is assured each school day.

EXPRESS PICK UP

We have developed a safe and easier plan for parents who pick their children up every day after school or on some type of regular schedule. We have eliminated some of the parking congestion that happens at the end of each day in the small visitor's lot and the overcrowding in the central hallway. Teacher Krista Gallagher is in charge of this plan.

We offer a gym door pick up so that you can stay in your car, circle around the west parking lot, be identified by a staff member, have your children brought to your car, sign them out from your car and then you can depart so the next few cars can pull forward.

Only students registered with an Express Pick Up Form will be permitted to use express pick up. If you are interested, you **MUST** request an Express Pick Up Form from your child's teacher and it **MUST BE RETURNED BY WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**. No forms will be accepted after this date. Only students registered with this form will be permitted to use express pick up. Upon our receipt of the form you will be sent a guideline sheet about procedures for express pick up. This service is only for end of day pick up, and again you must be picking up your child(ren) on a regular basis for the days you indicate. **EXPRESS PICK UP WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009.**



PARTNERING WITH OUR DAUGHTERS TO BE THEIR BEST

For parents and daughters (grades K-12): A FREE Workshop

This interactive evening will feature information, videos, sharing, and ideas for parents and daughters who are seeking more information about some of the tough situations girls experience in and out of school. Join counselors Marilee Cassidy, Maureen Gerhart, and Peg Glasgow on Monday, October 5, 2009 in the library at Junior High West from 6:30 to 8:00. Together, learn more about relational aggression ("girl bullying"), cyber-bullying, and what to do about it.

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, School Counseling Coordinator, at mcassidy@bovertownasd.org.

DIRECT DIAL TEACHER PHONE NUMBERS

Please use these extension numbers to call individual teachers. Use the prefix 610-473 and the 4 digit extension number. This will take you directly to the classroom telephone.

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| Mrs. Kehs – 1712 | Mrs. Slaybaugh – 1711 | Miss Book – 1708 |
| Miss Brown – 1714 | Miss Cahill – 1715 | Mrs. Miller - 1754 |
| Mrs. M. Gilbert – 1713 | Miss. Wagner – 1716 | Mrs. Roberts– 1717 |
| Mrs. Frain – 1718 | Ms Hutchison – 1719 | Miss Dufner – 1709 |
| Mrs. Pannepacker – 1725 | Mrs. Sell – 1720 | Mrs. Leary – 1724 |
| Mrs. W. Gilbert – 1723 | Mrs. Irvin – 1731 | Mrs. Goodrich – 1727 |
| Mrs. Grzywacz – 1741 | Mrs. Bauman-1735 | Miss Rumble – 1729 |
| Mrs. Ventresca – 1730 | Mrs. Ramsey – 1739 | Mr. Maurer – 1732 |
| Mr. Wentling – 1733 | Mr. Butt – 1740 | Miss. Hogentogler – 1736 |
| Mr. Gaut – 1737 | Mr. Grim – 1749 | Mrs. Ruddy – 1738 |
| Mrs. L. Fox – 1746 | Mrs. Corcoran – 1751 | Mrs. R. Fox – 1722 |
| Mrs. Ong – 1790 | Mrs. Malkasian/Mumie – 1743 | Mrs. DiCello – 1728 |
| Mrs. Hughes – 1748 | Mrs. Merklely – 1744 | Mrs. Wenger - 1745 |
| Mrs. HOLAUCHOCK/Webb, Health Room – 1770 | | Miss Dougherty – 1747 |
| Mrs. Gallagher - 1742 | | |

DARE PROGRAM RETURNS TO NHUF

Our school will again this year sponsor the DARE program for sixth grade students. DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a preventative program. The primary emphasis of the program is to assist students in recognizing and resisting the pressures that influence them to experiment with harmful drugs. On Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:00 PM, as part of the Grade 6 Parent Night, our DARE officer, Sergeant Joe Tomaselli, will introduce himself.

IT'S THE LAW

With the opening of another school year, please remember the penalty for violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law includes: \$250.00 fine, 5 points on your driving record, and 60 day driver's license suspension.



YOU MUST STOP AT LEAST 10 FEET AWAY FROM A SCHOOL BUS WITH RED SIGNAL LIGHTS FLASHING AND STOP ARM EXTENDED.

BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE

Need to know a phone number, the lunch menu, location of a different school, the date and place of the next School Board meeting? Visit www.boyertownasd.org for all this information and more.

Maybe the most important list on this website for parents of NHUF students is every teacher's email address and direct phone number. Click on Our Schools, NHUF, Staff and there you will find the complete list, as well as other essential information.

TARDINESS OF STUDENTS

Please remember that school begins each day at **8:45 AM. Students are expected to be in their homerooms and ready to begin.** A student being transported by private vehicle who arrives at school after that time will be considered tardy. **BOTH AN ADULT AND THE STUDENT must report to the school office before the student goes to his classroom.** The adult will need to complete an excuse form indicating the reason for tardiness.

UNITY WALK – SAVE THE DATE

On **Sunday, Oct 11**, at 1:00 PM the Boyertown Community is planning a 1-mile downtown walk to bring attention to the respect and caring that we want for each member of our community. Families will be invited to participate. More information will be forthcoming. The Boyertown Area Coalition and the United Way of Boyertown sponsor this walk. Please plan to participate.



CALLING ALL BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS

All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are invited to wear their scout uniform to school on Friday, September 11, 2009 to join NH-UF in celebrating Patriot's Day. All scouts in uniform will be able to watch on the front lawn as members of the Cub Scout Pack 291 Color Guard raise the school's American Flag.

SCHOOL SECURITY PROCEDURES

For the safety of our students, we regularly review our security procedures to ensure that we are doing everything reasonably possible to protect and safeguard our children. While at times these procedures may cause inconvenience to parents and staff, we are asking your cooperation in complying with them for the sake of our children's safety.

2009-2010 NHUF SECURITY PROCEDURES WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

All 3:25 PM parent pick-ups will have students reporting to the side door of the library and gathering in the story pit. Parents may enter main library door at 3:25 PM to sign out their child and an aide will dismiss your child to you.

Visitor's door will be locked. A video security and buzzer system is installed.

During the school day, ALL outside doors to the school will be locked.

1. All faculty and staff have photo identification badges, which will be worn at all times during school hours.
2. **ALL** visitors to the building are **REQUIRED** to report to the office, sign in and secure an identification badge before entering the classroom areas. No adults will be permitted in the classroom areas without proper visible identification and a pre-scheduled visit with the classroom teacher.
3. All reasonable attempts to determine the whereabouts of children absent from school and unaccounted for will be made including contacting parents at work and utilization of other emergency phone numbers.
4. **All children leaving school by means other than school bus both during and at the end of the school day MUST be signed out by an authorized adult.**
5. **Kindergarten children will not be left at their bus stops unless a parent or authorized person is visible.**

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS MUST FOLLOW THIS POLICY

The Board of School Directors has approved a policy that requires clearance checks for school volunteers. Volunteers fall into three categories:

Single-Event Volunteer – This volunteer provides a service for a single event within the school which will be completed in one (1) school day or less.



Short-Term Volunteer – This volunteer provides a service for a period of one (1) week or less within the school.

Long-Term Volunteer – This volunteer provides a service from time to time throughout the entire school year. The service does not necessarily have to be performed on consecutive days. In addition to volunteers throughout the year, volunteers for field trips fall into this category if the volunteer will chaperone other parents' children.

Single event or short-term (a week or less) volunteers who are not reasonably expected to be present with students without a district employee present will simply need to sign a disclosure statement that will be kept in the school office.

Long-term volunteers or volunteers who will be with students without a district employee present with them will be required to complete the same clearance requirements that employees must complete. The forms to apply for these clearances are available in our school office. **Clearances will be valid as long as you continually volunteer.**

Upon receiving the clearances, volunteers will provide the original to the school office, and the secretary will make a copy for our files. The district will reimburse the cost of the clearances if the person so desires. If volunteers have clearances that are current within the year, they may bring in their original clearances and copies will be kept on file.

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN SCHOOL WITHOUT YOUR CLEARANCES OR DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.

If you secured your clearances last year they will remain valid for as long as you continually volunteer. If you were signing the disclosure statement last year you will need to get your clearances because you may only sign the disclosure statement five times and, **it does not start over with the new year.**

NOTES FROM THE CAFETERIA

PRICES FOR 2009-2010 ARE

A, B OR C LUNCH:	\$2.00 (includes milk)
Reduced Price Lunch	.40
MILK	.50
SNACKS/DRINKS	.50 & 60

The menu is posted on the district website. Knowing what is on the menu, especially **C lunch, which will be a different salad each week**, will become very important. Fresh fruit will also be available every day as an alternate to the posted dessert. The salad selection will vary between chicken caesar, chef salad, garden salad & taco salad. Milk selections will be low fat chocolate, 2%, 1% and skim milk.

Snacks will be available for students wanting them. They will go through the lunch line and pick up a card for 50 cents or 60 cents and then turn that card in at the snack window after they eat their lunch. When visiting the snack bar, **students will be limited to 1 snack and 1 extra drink a day.** Money **will not** be accepted at the snack window.

All money sent in for snack or lunch must be put in an envelope and handed in to the classroom teacher in the morning. It will be deposited the same day it is received. **No money will be accepted during lunch.** Your cooperation and participation is extremely important. When your child's account falls below \$5.00 a new envelope will be provided. This point of sale system eliminates the need for lunch tickets or charges.

Double lunches for Grades 3 – 6 only must be ordered in the morning when teachers take lunch count. Students will be given a coupon when a double lunch is ordered.

NO DOUBLE LUNCH WILL BE GIVEN WITHOUT THE COUPON.

Our goal is to offer all students more nutritious food choices and give them more time to eat. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me.

Thank you
Mary Steffy, Cafeteria Manager
610-473-1760
msteffy@bovertownasd.org

SAFETY PATROL

Our safety patrol will have a new look this year. Several fifth and sixth graders will be selected in September to be patrol monitors in our school. Selection will be based on fourth and fifth grade teacher input, with criteria such as demonstrated maturity, respect, and responsibility of actions. These students will no longer have any responsibilities on the buses. Badges and belts will be left in the building at dismissal.

As in the past, we will depend on our NHUF safety patrol to help with arrival and dismissal of students.

HEALTH ROOM NEWS

The PA School Health Act requires dental examinations for all students entering Kindergarten and third grade, and physical examinations for students entering kindergarten and sixth grade in the 2009-2010 school year; the physical and dental exams have to be completed **on or after September 1, 2008**. Please contact the health room if you need a physical or dental form for an upcoming appointment or you can download forms at anytime from the BASD website @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under **Services - Student Services - Health**. Completed physical and dental forms for these grade levels are **due by September 15, 2009**.

Medications at school: please refer to the BASD medication policy if your child needs to take medications during school hours. **All medications, over-the-counter and prescribed, require a written order from a doctor and written parent permission to be administered to a student by the school nurse.** Medication administration forms are available on the BASD Web site @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under Services - Student Services - Health.

Head Lice: September is National Head Lice Prevention month. To effectively manage head lice infestations and prevent excessive absences in school, the Boyertown Area School District has a strict No-Nit policy. Information about head lice can be accessed on the BASD website or through handouts on request to the health room. The school nurses perform random classroom head lice checks but the prevention and control of head lice begins in the home. If your child gets head lice, our policy requires parents to notify the health room: please help us prevent head lice by following the policy and checking your children often.

Contact the Health Room: Hours 8:25 – 3:45

Phone 610-473-1770

Mrs. Debra Holauchock, RN, CSN Monday, Tuesday email: dholauchock@boyertownasd.org

Mrs. Karen Webb, RN Wednesday, Thursday, Friday email: kwebb@boyertownasd.org

PTCA SEED PROJECT

Calling all prize-winning pumpkins, marigolds and sunflowers. *The Seed Committee invites the entire first, second and third grade gardeners to bring in their entries to be judged on Tuesday, September 22nd between 8-9 AM in the All Purpose Room.* We hope that all the parents will come to the PTCA membership social at 7:00 PM that evening to view all the terrific entries. More information will be sent home shortly.



SEPTEMBER MARKET DAY NEWS

Welcome to New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School. Market Day has been a very successful fundraiser for both New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School and the Upper Frederick Fire Company. Last year alone we raised over \$2,800 for the library and the playground funds. This year we would like to increase that amount, but we can't do it without your help!

By ordering Market Day each month you get delicious, easy to prepare restaurant-quality foods for your family. In addition, by ordering Market Day you will help raise funds to benefit the children at New Hanover-Upper Frederick as well as our local fire department.

Market Day is a **unique fundraiser** because our children do not sell door-to-door. It's easy because you fill out the order sheet each month, send it to school with your child and pick up your food at New Hanover-Upper Frederick Elementary School on the day of the sale. You can also order all Market Day products online at www.marketday.com. This website is a great resource for product photos and descriptions, ingredients, nutritional information, recipes and more!

September will feature a free car organizer with the purchase of 3 or more qualifying items and, if you spend \$90.00 or more, you will receive a free four-pack of Turkey Tournedos! In addition, look for details on how to become a Frequent Buyer. Let's make this year a great Market Day year. Your support is important to us, so please keep a look-out for your September order sheet or visit www.marketday.com to see the great selection of Market Day foods. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michelle or David Hanson at 215-234-0506 or jnhanson@comcast.net.

PTCA BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2009-10

It takes special parents to step forward and take a leadership position in our parent teacher association. We thank them in advance for their help and support.

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| President | - | Joanne Schatz |
| Vice President | - | Elise Watts |
| Vice President Ways & Means | - | Diane Little |
| Treasurer | - | Chrissy Hopkins |
| Secretary | - | Kristen Brechko/Joy Caprio |
| Members at Large | - | Rob Notartomaso & Christina Donovan |
| Faculty Members | - | Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Merkley
& a rotating teacher rep. |

Come meet the many committee chair people at the **PTCA Membership Fair on WEDNESDAY, September 23 at 7:00 PM.** This is an opportunity for you to hear about the many events PTCA sponsors and sign up to help on a committee. If each family helps just a little, we will have an organization that will be extraordinary!

Also, please visit the NHUF PTCA website which is a link on the NHUF district website for more information about the NHUF PTCA.

MEET THE COUNSELORS

My name is Mrs. Staci Ong, and I am the full-time guidance counselor for the school. Mrs. Grace Turnbull is returning this year as the part-time counselor. She is in the building every Friday. Mrs. Turnbull and I will visit the classrooms throughout the year to provide lessons on a variety of topics. We will also meet with students individually and in small groups as needed. New students to our building will be invited to a lunch group with one of us and the rest of the new students from their grade level. This gives us the opportunity to get to know our new students and address any concerns in a smaller setting. We invite parents to contact us with any questions or concerns that they have about their student(s). Welcome back!



SCHOOL PHOBIAS

It is not unusual for children to develop fears or anxiety about school. School phobia is defined as anxiety and fear related to going to school. This can lead to prolonged absences, deficiencies in academic performance, and impaired social adjustments. According to the American Psychiatric Association, school phobia affects from 5 to 10 percent of the U.S. school population. The onset of school phobia occurs at two critical stages: when children begin formal schooling at age five or six, and when students make the transition from elementary to middle or junior high school at age eleven or twelve. Reluctance or refusal to attend school often occurs after extended periods at home, such as summer vacations or holidays. School phobias may also follow stressful events in a child's life, such as moving to a new home or changing schools.

SYMPTOMS OF SCHOOL PHOBIA

Other than poor attendance and emotional outbursts, children who are school phobic have good manners and are respectful at school. But these children can display a number of other specific behaviors such as:

- Complaints of headaches, stomachaches, and sore throats which often go away if allowed to stay at home only to appear again the next morning
- Crying, tantrums, hiding, and refusing to leave the home
- Worry about a parent or pet
- Displaying sleep disorders
- Loss of appetite or overeating
- Constant visits to the health room or guidance office

- Displays of apathy, sadness, or poor concentration

INTERVENTIONS

Parents of children who display characteristics of school phobia are typically conscientious and loving, and because the onset of school phobia is usually sudden, it often catches them off guard. Quickly identifying the problem helps to remedy these behaviors more quickly. The bottom line for a parent is to get the child to school and to understand that staying home is NOT an option. Consistency and firmness are important because children will test a parent's determination to follow through. It is equally important to not show any emotion with the child. Because mornings can be difficult times it is important to establish a regular morning routine. Avoid asking the child how he or she feels. If a child complains about feeling ill, err on the side of sending them to school and allow the school nurse to make a determination about any possible ailments. Once at school, the school nurse or counselor monitors behavior and parents are kept informed. In most instances, the child overcomes his or her fears of school when in attendance and when engaged in school activities. School phobia will not disappear overnight, but with consistency, patience, and understanding, the problem will eventually go away.