

# Pine Forge Elementary School



**October 2011**

**Mrs. Laura A. Heineck, Principal**

## **EVENTS**

- 5 Mass Health Screenings
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Reading Symphony – 1:15 pm
- 9 Boyertown Unity Walk
- 10 No School – Staff Development
- 11 School Board Meeting – Ed Center – 7:00 pm
- 14 Book Fair & PTA Fall Fest – 5:00 – 8:00 pm
- 18 PTA Meeting – Library – 7:30 pm
- 19 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Planetarium Trip – 1:00 pm
- 21 Parent Visitation Day
- 25 PEP Field Trip – Phila Museum of Art
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade BEEP Philadelphia Trip
- School Board Meeting – WES – 7:00 pm
- 27 4<sup>th</sup> Grade BEEP Baltimore Trip
- 28 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip – Nolde State Park



## **CONNECT-ED® TEST**

A district-wide test message is planned for October 3rd, at approximately 7:00 p.m. If you do not receive a call please contact Mrs. Cronrath at 610-323-7609.

## **UNITY WALK**

The Unity Walk will be held on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at Junior High West. Free pre-walk activities begin at noon. There will be activities for all ages. Food will also be available for purchase. The walk is scheduled to begin at 1:30 pm.

## **PARENT VISITATION DAY**

Parent Visitation Day will be held on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of this day is to strengthen the home/school connection and for parents to experience the programs taking place at PFES. You are invited to attend the AM Session (9:00 am – 10:30 am) or the PM Session (1:15 pm – 2:45 pm). Due to space limitations, we ask that you only attend one of the sessions. We also request that siblings not accompany parents on this day. You will receive specific information at a later date.

## **ANTI-BULLYING UPDATE**

The Boyertown Area School District formed a task force last year who developed an action plan of steps we are implementing to work towards eliminating bullying from our schools. One of the identified steps is to help students, staff, parents/guardians and community members understand what bullying is and what we should do if we encounter bullying. With input from this task force and numerous sources, an anti-bullying "companion document" has been developed. All students and staff members will be working with this document in the next few weeks and it will be posted in all district classrooms and common areas. You can go to our district website to learn more about the work BASD is doing on this issue. A copy of the document is attached to the end of this newsletter.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

Dear Parents and Families:

Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. Of all the skills children learn, it is the one you can influence the most.

We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: *encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.*

Our Scholastic Book Fair theme – **To the Book Fair and Beyond!** – is part of an out-of-this-world reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get.

Reading is vital to every child's success, and raising kids as readers means getting involved while they're young. Now is the time. Since there will never be a substitute for a parent's direct involvement in his/her child's education, please make plans to visit our Book Fair. Hope to see you there!

Book Fair Dates: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Shopping Hours: 5pm to 8pm

## **ART DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Mrs. Lorenz is collecting clean plastic yogurt containers, Styrofoam egg cartons, and other small containers to use for paint. Please send the items to the office.

## **NEWS FROM MRS. HOLE, READING SPECIALIST**

PARP is BACK! Time to kick off another year of our Parents as Reading Partners (PARP)/Book It! Program at Pine Forge. We know that one of the best ways for children to grow as readers is to simply READ as often as possible and read books that they enjoy. PARP is a great way to encourage and celebrate their growth as a reader.



The requirements are simple: children read for at least 20 minutes a day for 20 days each month from October to March. Your child may read TO YOU, you may read TO THEM or they may read ALONE. This should be an enjoyable time together!

Mark each day you read on the calendar with a sticker or symbol of your choice. Parents must SIGN the calendar in order to receive the coupon. Return completed calendars to the classroom teacher within the first week of the next month. We will then send home a PIZZA HUT coupon for your child to receive a FREE pan pizza.

If your child reads and returns their calendars for all 5 months they will also receive a \$5 gift certificate to use at the spring Book Fair! Look for the first calendar to come home by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support in encouraging a lifelong love of reading.

## **HEALTH ROOM NEWS**

**Physical & Dental Exams:** All state-mandated Kindergarten and 3rd Grade private dental exam forms and all Kindergarten and 6th Grade private physical exam forms are due now. If you have an upcoming appointment, please notify the health room of the appointment and we will make note of the date in your child's records.

**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, 2010), 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.

**Cold weather:** Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess. Also, October is the official start of the cold and flu season. Please remind your children to wash their hands often to prevent the spread of colds/flu at home and in our classrooms.

**Medication at school:** Please see the BASD medication policy in the BASD handbook or on the BASD website to review the policy if your child needs to take any medications during school hours. Your child may receive medications in school daily or as needed during school if the medication policy as follows: Complete a Medication Authorization form to be signed by the parent/guardian and the prescribing physician; the medication is to be hand delivered by a parent/guardian or designated adult; the medication, whether over-the-counter or prescription, must be in its original container and labeled with the child's name, drug name, dosage, and time to be given in school. Medication forms are available on the BASD Web site at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> via link Services - student services - health: medication or by request from the health room. Please contact the health room if you have any questions at 610.473.1870.

**Mandated health screenings:** Pine Forge students in grades 1-6 will have their annual mandated health screenings on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. A team of

school nurses will check each student's height, weight and vision; students in grades 1-3 had hearing checks. "Health report cards" with the results of your child's screenings will be mailed to all parents once all the screenings and rechecks are completed and the report cards have been printed.

**Reminder:** Anytime you have phone number changes, either at home, work, or for an alternate, please notify the main office or health room in writing so we can keep your child's emergency contact information current.

### **"GO GREEN" 2011**

Would you like this to be the last paper copy you receive of our school newsletter? Beginning with the November newsletter we will be sending all pertinent school correspondence via e-mail to parents who provided their e-mail address. If you haven't yet and want to sign up please visit the Boyertown Area School District website ([boyertownasd.org](http://boyertownasd.org)). Once you are on the website, select from the **Contact Information** pull-down menu **Listserv Sign Up**. When you are on the **Listserv Sign Up Page**, enter your email address, select Pine Forge Elementary, and then submit. You can access the **Listserv** web address directly at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/pages/email-signup.aspx>

### **TESTING INFORMATION**

Please mark your calendars with the following:  
**PSSA** (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) Reading and Math will be given to students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 during the weeks of March 12-23, 2012. **PSSA** Writing will be given to students in grade 5 during the week of April 12-April 20, 2012. **PSSA** Science will be given to students in grade 4 during the week of April 23-27, 2012. **Parents should make sure appointments are NOT scheduled during these time periods. Students will NOT be excused for "educational trips" during these testing periods.**



### **VOLUNTEER CLEARANCE POLICY**

Each school keeps a list of active volunteers for their building each school year. An active volunteer is defined as a parent or community member that volunteers at least one time during the school year. Individuals that remain active do not need to obtain new clearances each year. Please be sure to sign in on the sheet in the office each time you come in to volunteer.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**



Picture Re-Take Day – Tuesday,  
November 1<sup>st</sup> - 1:30 pm

#### Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – 1:00 pm – 3:40 pm  
Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
& 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

