

# Pine Forge Elementary School



**September 2011**

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

## **EVENTS**

- 2 & 5 Holiday – No School
- 6 Orchestra Demonstrations  
PTA Fundraiser Begin
- 7 Grade 2 Parent Night – 6:30 pm  
Grades 1 & 3 Parent Night – 7:10 pm
- 8 Grade 4 Parent Night – 6:30 pm  
Grades 5 & 6 Parent Night – 7:10 pm
- 12 Band Demonstrations
- 13 School Board Meeting – BASH – 7:00 pm
- 16 Constitution Day
- 20 School Picture Day
- 27 PTA Fundraiser Ends  
School Board Meeting – EES – 7:00 pm

## **RETURNING FORMS**

During the first week of school a number of papers will be sent home with your child for you to complete. We appreciate your assistance in completing and returning the forms promptly.

## **CONSTITUTION DAY SEPTEMBER 16TH**

We will be acknowledging the U.S. Constitution Day September 16, 2011. As we also remember the 10th anniversary of those that lost their lives during the events of September 11, 2001 it is a good opportunity to reflect about the wonderful freedoms we enjoy as Americans!

***The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It is a set of basic laws organizing, granting and limiting the powers of our government. It is something that we all share.***

### **Basic Facts:**

- ***It was created in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania...***
- ***during the summer of 1787...***
- ***in secret...***
- ***in 87 days.***
- ***It has 39 signers (some famous local signers are Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Mifflin, from the area that is now Shillington, PA a.k.a. Governor Mifflin-the first governor of Pennsylvania)... and is made up of a preamble (beginning with the famous words- We The People), seven articles, and 27 amendments added later.***

## **WELCOME BACK!**

Welcome back everyone! I am very excited to begin the upcoming school year. I hope this school year is filled with new experiences and opportunities. A big thank you to the PTA for providing additional Smart Boards for our classrooms. It is greatly appreciated!

Your child will be bringing home a copy of the BASD Elementary School Handbook. Please review the handbook and keep it for future reference. Please be sure to sign the included form indicating you have read this information and return the form to your child's teacher.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Parent Nights.

Mrs. Laura Heineck, Principal

## **NEW STAFF MEMBERS**

- Mrs. Patty DeMaria – Kindergarten Teacher
- Mrs. Susan Kull – Kindergarten Teacher
- Mrs. Teri Hoffman – Vocal Music Teacher
- Miss Melanie Schappell – Grade 5 Long Term Substitute
- Mrs. Elizabeth Wagner – Additional Art Teacher
- Mrs. Jemma Malkasian – Strings Teacher
- Mrs. Debra Holauchock – Certified School Nurse
- Mrs. Janet Triebel – Paraprofessional Aide

Each grade level will be observing this special day. Kindergarten and first grade students will talk about the idea of the constitution and having a set of rules to follow to help people live together. Second grade will read the book "We the People" and talk about what it means to be a citizen of the US and the importance of rules. Third grade will read a book on the Bill of Rights and discuss a right they would not want to give up. Fourth grade will be reading a book, but the main activity will be working on fluency with the Bill of Rights during the entire week. Fifth grade. Fifth grade will be working together to complete a visual Bill of Rights. Sixth grade will review the basics and structure of the Constitution. Each student will write an amendment.

## **PICTURE DAY – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**

An envelope with package information will be sent home shortly. Picture packages will be printed only for students paying on picture day.

## **NEWS FROM MRS. FELDSTEIN, COUNSELOR**

It's back to school time!! For most children, the late summer "back to school" season brings excitement and anticipation... new shoes, old friends, and the pride of moving up to a new grade and new class! For others though, the thought of going back to school brings out fears and anxieties.

If your child is expressing fear or reluctance about going to school, the good news is, there are some things you can do! The Weller Center offers some tips for helping children who exhibits anxieties about attending school.

1. Listen to your child. It's hard to really listen to our kids without jumping in to reassure them that "they'll be fine!" There could be any number of reasons your child may be fearful, and the easiest way to uncover those reasons is to listen. Ask some questions, restate what you've heard, and allow some conversational "space".
2. Remind your child of past success. Talk about other times when your child has faced similar challenges, and help them uncover the strategies they used. Perhaps a strong sense of humor, or a friendly disposition were the assets they've used to conquer challenging situations in the past. Kids don't tend to think of those things as strengths, so as parents we can help them to acknowledge and articulate those valuable personal qualities!
3. If you do find that your child has some specific fears (they don't know their teacher, they've been teased by a classmate, etc.), help them brainstorm what might help. Would meeting the teacher before school begins allay fears? Once you've been able to determine what actions (if any) would ease fears, follow through.

For more information and ideas, go to my new blog, [pinetreevillage.wordpress.com](http://pinetreevillage.wordpress.com)! I'll be sure to add a link to the Weller Center, a wonderful resource!

## **REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCE**

Please call the school office (610-323-7609) to report your child's absence from school. Our answering system will record your message at all hours of the day or night. If your child is not in attendance and you have not called the school to report the absence, we will attempt to contact you. This procedure ensures that your child has arrived safely at school. If you receive a doctor's excuse for an absence, please send the excuse to school. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## **READING REQUIREMENT ELIMINATED**

The reading requirement for elementary students has been eliminated.

## **SCHOOL SECURITY**

Our school utilizes a camera and buzz-in security system. All visitors are required to state their name and purpose for their visit prior to obtaining entry to the building. Once you are buzzed into the building, please report directly to the office to sign in and obtain a visitor's badge. Deliveries are to be brought to the office (please do not go directly to the classroom). Parents are expected to meet their children for appointments at the office and not at the classroom.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR**

The school district will not be printing a paper calendar. For school events, please refer to the School District Comprehensive Calendar located on the school district web site home page, [www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org).

## **TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**



Occasionally a bus may be late picking your child up or dropping them off. If you have any concerns, please call the transportation office 610 473-3473. The school buses have radios and the bus drivers can be contacted directly from the transportation office. ***ATTENTION: Please send a note to school when your child will be picked up from school. If we have not received a written note, your child will be sent on their regular bus and will be dropped off at their regular stop.***

## **MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

If your child must be taken out of school during the school day for a doctor or dental appointment, we ask that you send a note to your child's teacher so he/she can prepare for the student's early dismissal. A binder is located in the office to be used by the parent or designated adult who is signing your child out from school. Students will not be sent outside to wait at any time for someone to pick them up.



## **HEALTH ROOM INFORMATION**

### **Attention Parents/Guardians: New Immunization Regulation for 2011-12**

#### **Effective AUGUST 1, 2011 FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALL GRADES SCHOOL REGULATIONS in 2011/2012 children need the following:**

- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or documented history of the disease

**Please contact your health care provider to determine if your child needs these immunizations. Notices will be mailed to parents if immunization documents currently on file for their child do not have a record of these immunizations. If you do not receive a notice, your child's immunization records are up to date.**

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 2011-2012 school year. Physical and dental exam forms may be dated no earlier than one year prior to September 1st therefore forms submitted must be for exams that occurred **on or after September 1, 2010**. Please contact the health room if you need a physical or dental form for an upcoming appointment or you can download forms at any time from the BASD website @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under **Services - Student Services - Health**. Please submit completed physical and dental forms for these grade levels **by September 30, 2011**.

**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.** Medications must be delivered to the school nurse by a parent or adult designee. Medication authorization forms are available on the BASD Web site @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under Services - Student Services - Health or by contacting the health room.

**Head Lice:** September is National Head Lice Prevention month. 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. Information about head lice can be accessed on the BASD website under Services, Student, Health link or from the handout included in the packet mailed to parents in August. Prevention and control of head lice begins in the home. Please help us prevent head lice by following the policy and checking your children often. If your child gets head lice, please contact the health room so we can assist you and your child.

### **PINE FORGE IS "GOING GREEN"**

Beginning in November you will have the option of receiving this newsletter, as well as other important school information, via email. A letter will be coming home mid-month enabling you to sign up or opt out and continue receiving paper copies.

### **FAMILY TRIPS**

If you are planning a family trip that will infringe on school attendance, (even for one school day) please request an **Application to be Absent from School for an Educational Trip or Tour Form** in advance. Complete the form and return to school for action from the principal. Permission for non-school trip requests must be submitted at least 2 days prior to any trip taken for it to be counted as an excused absence. We request that families take trips on days school is not in session in order to avoid interrupting a student's educational program. Please read the student handbook for more information. Thank you for your cooperation!

### **STUDENT INSURANCE FORMS**

Voluntary student accident insurance is available for purchase. A letter and brochure detailing the benefits and exclusions of the policy will be sent home with each student. The deadline to return the application envelope is September 16, 2011.

### **LIBRARY CITIZENSHIP**

Checking out books from the library is an exciting experience and important responsibility for children. Please review these book care rules with your child.

- Keep library books away from food and drink.
- Always handle books with clean hands.
- Never mark or write in books.
- Keep books away from pets and young children.
- Keep library books in a special place at home.
- Always return books on time.



## **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 REMINDER**

Please be reminded, if you wish to volunteer in our school, to present your original criminal and child abuse clearance forms to the office to be copied and kept on file. Each school is required to keep a log 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. If you did not volunteer during the 2010-2011 school year you will need to submit new clearances to the school office. Please be sure to sign in on the sheet in the office each time you come in to volunteer. We appreciate all our volunteers do for our school and thank you for your cooperation with this policy

## **LOOKING AHEAD**



Parent Visitation Day will be held Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

