

Pine Forge Elementary School

October 2009

Mrs. Melissa L. Woodard, Principal

EVENTS

- 5 Grade 5 – Planetarium – 10:00 am
- 9 Kindergarten Field Trip
- 11 Unity Walk
- 12 No School – Staff Development
- 13–16 Book Fair
- 13 PEP Field Trip
School Board Meeting – Ed Center – 7:00 pm
- 14 5th Gr–Reading Symphony Orchestra–1:15 pm
PTA Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 16 PTA Fall Festival
- 23 Parent Visitation Day
- 27 School Board Meeting – WES – 7:00 pm



PARTNERING WITH OUR DAUGHTERS

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 Siwik, and Peg Glasgow on Monday, October 5, 2009 in the library at Junior High West from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Together, learn more about relational aggression (“girl bullying”), cyber-bullying, and what to do about it.

To register for this workshop or to request further information, please contact your daughter’s school counselor by phone or email or contact Marilee Cassidy, School Counseling Coordinator, at mcassidy@boyertownasd.org.

UNITY WALK

The Unity Walk will be held on Sunday, October 11th at Junior High West. Free pre-walk activities begin at 1:00 pm. There will be activities for all ages. Food will also be available. The walk will begin at 2:30 pm.



PARENT VISITATION DAY

Parent Visitation Day will be held on Friday, October 23rd. 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.

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.

FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

Please take note that on "art day" your child should wear an oversized T-shirt or smock to protect their clothing. It is your child's responsibility to make sure he/she puts it on and follows classroom rules. Keep new or special clothes for days when your child does not have art.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are pleased to announce the visit of award winning author and illustrator, Debra Frasier, to Pine Forge Elementary School. Debra Frasier will be presenting student presentations, eating lunch with students and conducting a Family Night on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. We will be providing families the opportunity to order her books at a discount. Book order forms will be coming home September 28th and are due by October 5th. If you would like to see the books, they will be available in the library.

MUSIC NEWS

Music classes are off to a wonderful start this year. I am challenging the students in a number of new ways. Fifth and sixth grades are beginning a series of projects on composing music using the latest technology. We will be using the software programs Sibelius and Garage Band. Classes are being challenged to create pieces of music in which they will perform later on in the year.

Kindergarten, first, and second grades are having fun playing games, singing songs, and marching around the room. In addition, I am having students from first through fourth grades learning how to read notes on a staff. First graders are in the process of learning how to play "Mary Had a Little Lamb" on the tone bells. Third and fourth graders will begin playing the recorders soon.

Fifth and Sixth grade Chorus and Vocal Ensemble are off to a wonderful start. I can already tell the students involved are dedicated and having fun. My goal with them is to become better readers of music. I have incorporated many new Solfege exercises into my routine that has already impacted the choir. They are learning music quicker and retaining their individual parts with less effort.

Please take note of the following performances and any changes:

Chorus Holiday Concert – Tuesday, December 8 at 7 PM Jr. High West

Third and Fourth Grade Concert – Wednesday, February 10 at 7 PM Jr. High West

Chorus Spring Concert – Wednesday, April 7 at 7 PM Boyertown Area Senior High

Third and fourth grade parents, I am in the process of designing this year's program. Please look for a letter to be sent home in October explaining the concert this year. I will also be in need of parent volunteers. Please fill out the appropriate paperwork and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

I look forward to all of the creativity in the classroom and the performances for the 2009-2010 school year. If you would like to contact with questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to email me at jbrunner@boyertownasd.org. You may also phone me at 610-473-1819.

POP A TAB

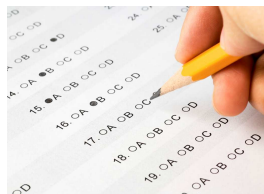
From an idea that started with the Boyertown Area School District Diversity committee, community members have gathered together to collect 6 million pop tabs as a way to see what 6 million looks like. Why 6 million? Because there were 6 million Jews killed during the Holocaust due to racial and ethnic intolerance. The

idea was spawned after several area leaders viewed the movie, *Paper Clips*, the true story of a Tennessee school that set out to collect 6 million paper clips. In Boyertown, it was decided to collect pop tabs because many local organizations and school groups already collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. When the goal of 6 million is met, all tabs will be donated to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House.

In order to complete this monumental task, every household is encouraged to start a container for collecting pop tabs. A container with the "Pop a Tab" label is in the PFES lobby.

MATH HOTLINE

The district will once again provide a Math Hotline for students. The Hotline is manned by math teachers and students. Hotline hours are Monday through Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm in Room 19 at Junior High West. Students may also call the Hotline at 610-473-3720 or 610-473-3721.



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

week of April 12-16. **PSSA** Writing will be given to students in grade 5 during the week of April 19-23.

PSSA Science will be given to students in grade 4 during the week of April 26-30. **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

If you wish to volunteer in our school, please present your original criminal and child abuse clearance forms to the office to be copied and kept on file. We appreciate all our volunteers do for our school!

LOOKING AHEAD



Picture Re-Take Day – Tuesday, November 17th

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Thursday, November 19th – 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Monday, November 23rd – 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Tuesday, November 24th – 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm