

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

The Home and School Working Together

December 2011

Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Principal



Procedures for Calling Students In Absent or Tardy

When calling our health room **610-754-9594** for absences and tardiness, make sure you give a specific reason for your child's absence i.e., sore throat, flu, upset stomach, etc. If you feel that your child might be able to do the schoolwork missed, please let us know who should bring his/her work home or whether you will pick up the homework after 3:30 pm. For safety reasons, we call parents whose children are absent but have not left a message on the attendance line. If we leave a message on your cell, home, or work phone, please call us back so that the absence is verified. The teacher will give the child an excuse blank to sign if we do not receive a call. We must receive a call or signed excuse blank about your child's absence. Without either of these methods of communication, we will need to record the absence as unlawful. Also, if your child sees a physician, please bring a note from the physician. **Please call the number above before 9:00 a.m. to report your child absent.**

**Please refer to pages 8 & 15 in the Elementary Handbook for more information.*

**To speak w/Nurse
610-473-1970**



**MAIN OFFICE HOURS
8:00AM – 4:30PM**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



December

- 2 HSA Holiday Night/Book Fair – 7:00 PM
School Physicals
- 5 Planetarium (Mr. Davis/Mrs. George) – 1:00 PM
- 6 School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Education Center
- 7 Planetarium (Mrs. Carns/Ms. Wightman) – 1:00 PM
- 8 Planetarium (Miss Johnson) – 10:00 AM
- 9 5th Grade Bullying Program
Planetarium (Mrs. Linderman/Mrs. Raifsnider) – 10:00 AM
- 12 HSA Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 13 Grade 5 & 6 – Holiday Chorus Concert – 7:00 PM
School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, NHUF
- 14 Giving Tree Items Due
- 22 Grades 4, 5, & 6 to Jr. High West Holiday Program
Sing-A-Long/Santa Visit
- 23 **EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:30PM**
- 24 – 31 **NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED**, Winter Break
- Jan. 2 School Resumes

Inclement weather:

Please listen to:

FM 93.5, 96, 99.9, 100.7, 102, 104, 105.1, 105.5,

107.1, 107.5, **AM** 790, 830, 1060, 1160, 1240, 1340, 1370

TV WFMZ, WCAU, 6ABC, CBS3 for school closings and early dismissals. Or, you may call **610-369-SNOW (7669)**, or you may check the district web site

www.bovertownasd.org. TV Websites are listed in the BASD Elementary Handbook page 7.



***It is important to keep school telephone lines open to
conduct normal school business.***

Budget Meetings

You are invited to attend the following meetings as we develop the budget for the next school year.

December 20, 2011 – Curriculum and Personnel, 6:30 p.m., Ed Center

January 3, 2012 – Technology and Special Education, 6:30 p.m. Ed Center

January 10, 2012 – Facilities and Transportation, 5:30 p.m., Ed Center

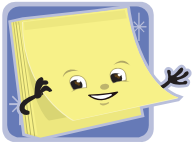
January 17, 2012 – Preliminary Budget Review, 6:30 p.m., Ed Center

January 24, 2012 – Adoption of Preliminary Budget, 7:00 p.m., JHW

Visitors & Volunteers



All visitors and volunteers must report to the office whenever entering the building during school hours. This includes before and after school. Visitor or volunteer badges **must be picked up and worn** throughout your stay with us. Please remember to return these badges to the office and sign out before leaving. We will be looking for badges on all visitors in our building as a safety precaution.



NOTE TO SCHOOL

Don't forget to send a note to school with any changes in your child's emergency information. Emergency info needs to be updated with current home telephone numbers, work numbers, and cell phone numbers (optional), for emergency use.



IT'S GETTING COLD!

Students will be going outside for recess unless the wind chill factor is 18° Fahrenheit or below, or it is precipitating. It is most important that all students dress warmly so that they will be comfortable when they are outdoors. This includes having students bring coats, mittens, and hats. Please refer to page 12 of the Elementary School Handbook for additional information regarding recess.



Remember to recycle your Inkjet cartridges. Just place the cartridge in a plastic bag and deposit it in the container in the lobby. You may check the list in the lobby to see what types of cartridges are recyclable.



Family Trips

When planning a family trip, please refer to the Elementary Handbook. It is very important to remember that an educational trip form must be submitted to the building principal at least two (2) days prior to the trip. **Educational trip forms that are submitted after the trip will not be approved.** Please note that although permitted, we do not encourage absence from school. The activities of the classroom can never be fully made up. Please note that educational trips will not be approved during any standardized achievement tests, i.e., PSSA, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Iacobelli.

HEALTH ROOM NEWS

Attention 4th, 5th and 6th grade parents: As part of our school district's health curriculum, students in these grades are given the opportunity to receive Life Education (covers physiological changes that occur) and AIDS education. The Human Growth and Development Parent Night, which allows you to preview the materials presented to the students, is scheduled for January 11th in the auditorium at Junior High West (snow date January 18th) as follows.

Grade 4 Parents 6:00 PM Auditorium

Grade 5 Parents 6:30 PM Cafeteria

Grade 6 Parents 7:00 PM Auditorium

A Growth and Development Parent Response letter will be sent home with each student in grades 4 - 6 on December 2. If you do not receive this letter, check with your child or you can send a note that indicates if you will or will not be attending the presentation. The date and time of each grade level's presentations will be announced at Parent Night. If you are unable to attend Parent Night, the date and time of the classrooms' presentations will be printed in the monthly newsletter. If you do not want your child to attend these presentations, submit a written request to the principal's attention and your child will be excused from attending the presentation(s) per your request.

Mass Screenings were performed on all students in WES on November 30th. If your child had an issue with vision and/or hearing you will receive a referral to take to your eye doctor or family doctor to be rechecked. Please return referral as soon as the recheck is done. Have the doctor fill out referral and send to the health room. **A big thank you to the volunteers that made mass screening day go so well.**

Cold & Flu Season: With the cough & flu season approaching, students occasionally need to take medication at school. Please review the BASD medication policy which requires a written doctor's order for all over-the-counter and prescribed medicines. Please do not send medications to school with your child: parents or a parent-designee must bring the medications to school. Also, per BASD policy, elementary students are not permitted to bring cough drops to school; we have Chloraseptic spray available for all students to treat coughs and sore throats.

HSA News

First and foremost, the HSA would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone involved in making this year's basket raffle a success. We couldn't have done it without the help of so many people, and a special thanks to Wendy Moyer Drabick for chairing this event. We appreciate all the donations from WES families, staff, and from businesses near and those farther away. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

It's hard to believe that December is here. After wrapping up our basket raffle, we've decided to keep it a light December!

12/2 Our Holiday Night and Book Fair will be held in the cafe/gym at WES from 7-9 PM. We will have light refreshments and holiday crafts for the kids, in conjunction with a book fair run by Mrs. Jill Becht, our librarian. There may even be a special guest dropping by! If you have any interest in helping, please feel free to contact Jenn Martin at jlmartin4@comcast.net. Help will be needed to run the book fair as well as the craft/refreshment area.

12/12 December HSA Meeting will be held in the library from 7-8 Pm.

12/22 Holiday Sing-A-Long

12/26-12/30 No School-Holiday Break!

We will once again be doing "The Giving Tree". For those of you not familiar we pair up with Boyertown's Multi-Service and donate items to families in need around the holidays. During conference time families chose ornaments off our tree in the lobby and then purchased and brought in items that we in turn donate to local families to make the season a little brighter for them. The deadline for returning items is **Wednesday, 12/14**.

The HSA would like to wish our entire WES family a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Lost and Found

Our lost and found items are increasing. Please label all hats, coats, lunch boxes, etc. This labeling will help us identify the owner. Lost and found items are located in the cafeteria on the table at the back entrance.

Keeping Touches Safe and Healthy

Parents of second grade students are invited and encouraged to attend a parent preview of "Keeping Touches Safe & Healthy", which will be presented at the Junior High West Cafeteria on Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30 p.m. The program will be presented to our second grade students on Friday, January 13, 2012.

Thank You HSA!

The staff at WES would like to give a big thank you to our HSA for generously purchasing the school a new laminator. Our old machine needed to be replaced and our HSA came to the rescue. The willingness and generosity of our HSA is amazing and we are very lucky to have them as our partners in education. Happy laminating!

BULLYING PROGRAM

Presented to: Washington Elementary 5th grade students

On: Friday, December 9, 2011

Presenter: Victim Services Center of Montgomery County

This prevention education class will focus on physical, emotional, cyber and verbal bullying. Through the use of a video and discussion the consequences of bullying and teasing for both the victim and the offender will be addressed. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Joanne Oxenford, School Counselor at 610-473-1990 or by email at joxenford@boyertownasd.org.




GIANT is proud to continue the A+ School Rewards program which has benefited local schools for many years. GIANT has donated over \$10 million since the program began. For the 2011/2012 school year GIANT will be donating \$3 million. Giant A+ School Rewards are points that accrue with each purchase using your BONUSCARD. At the end of each month, the A+ School Rewards are used in a calculation to determine each

school's cash total. Customers can support a school(s) (up to two) to benefit from the A+ School Rewards that accrue.

The 2011-2012 program begins October 9, 2011, and runs through March 31, 2012. You will earn one point for each dollar spent. Every time you shop and purchase a Healthy Idea labeled item you will earn Triple Points. Look for the Healthy Idea logo in the store and on the shelf. Earn Double Points on other participating brands by looking for the Double Points shelf tag in the store.

To sign up:

- Go to www.giantfoodstores.com, click on the  icon and then 'Click Here' for details.
- In the Customers-Designate Your School box, click the Register button to designate your BONUSCARD for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Enter the 1st 3 letters of your last name and your BONUSCARD number.
- Select your school designation. The school id for Washington Elementary School is 05814. If you search for Washington Elementary School you will find 2 listed. Be sure to select 05814 to select our school. Click the Designate button. Then click the Complete button.

A Message from Your School Counselors, Mrs. Oxenford and Mrs. Hummel

Newsletter articles this year have focused on the importance of a positive school climate. A positive school climate exists when students feel safe, comfortable, and valued at school. Bullying is one of the biggest problems schools face today. The Boyertown Area School District has developed an anti-bullying action plan. This past summer members of the Anti-Defamation League trained teams of counselors and teachers from every building in the district on bullying prevention. In August these teams began training their colleagues on that information and will continue with this effort throughout the rest of the year.

One of the first pieces of information that was taught was the importance of having a common language when talking about bullying. When a bullying situation occurs there are often a number of people involved. Listed below are the terms the school district will use to define the role each person takes in a bullying situation:

- Aggressor- Someone who says or does something harmful or malicious to another person intentionally and unprovoked.
- Target- Someone against whom mistreatment is directed.
- Ally- Someone who speaks out on behalf of someone else or takes action that is supportive of someone else.
- Bystander- Someone who sees something happening and does not say or do anything.
- Confronter- Someone who speaks out when an incident of bias takes place. The role of confronter can be filled by other people (allies) or by targets themselves.