

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

The Home and School Working Together

FEBRUARY 2010

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. If we do not receive a call, the teacher will give the child an excuse blank to sign. 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 this number before 9:00 a.m. to report your child absent.**

**Please refer to pages 10 & 17 in the Elementary Handbook for more information.*

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

Washington Township WELL Construction

Construction on the new Washington Township well began on January 25th. The project will be completed by May 2010. Lane closures on Route 100 may occur. Please be patient as you may experience backups or delays during the construction



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 1 Market Day Pick Up – 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- 6 Recycling 9:00 – 1:00 WES Parking Lot – NO PLASTIC BAGS!
- 8 Freedom Riders (JHW) – Grade 6
Report Card Distribution
- 9 Music Concert – 3rd Grade – 7:00 pm
School Board Meeting, ED Center, 7:00 pm
Planetarium – Nyce & Gehman – 1:00 pm
- 11 Pre-School Story Time – 2:00 - 2:30 pm
Planetarium – Kiestler & Kumpf – 1:00 pm
- 12 School Spirit Day – wear red, white, or pink (Valentine's Day 14th)
- 15 **SCHOOL CLOSED/President's Day Holiday**
- 22 HSA Skate Night
First Grade Field Trip – Sovereign Center – Click Clack Moo
- 23 School Board Meeting, CES, 7:00 pm
- 25 Pre-School Story Time – 2:00 – 2:30 pm

2009-2010 YEARBOOKS

The WES Yearbooks are now on sale. Yearbook orders are due by **February 26**. The cost is \$15.00 or \$17.00 with insert. Please make checks payable to WES HSA.

**MAIN OFFICE HOURS
8:00AM – 4:30PM**

ASSURANCE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Students and parents are assured that Boyertown Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnic heritage, sex, limited English language skills, handicap, etc. Any complaints alleging such discrimination should be directed to the responsible persons in accordance with the following procedure:

1. Complaints alleging discrimination on basis of race, religion, ethnic heritage, limited English language skills, or handicap should be presented in writing to the building principal.

Sex discrimination should be presented in writing to the Superintendent, 911 Montgomery Avenue, Boyertown, PA 19512. 610-367-6031.

Washington Elementary Spirit Days

Friday, February 12:
Valentines Spirit Day (red)

Tuesday, March 2:
Read Across America Day (PJ day)

Wednesday, March 17:
St. Patrick's Day (green)



STANDARDIZED TESTING



For this school year 2009-2010, standardized tests will be administered to our students as follows:

PSSA Grade 5, Writing
April 19 - 23, 2010

PSSA Grades 3 – 6 , Math & Reading
April 12 – 16, 2010

PSSA Grade 4, Science
April 26 – April 30, 2010

The PSSA is used to determine how well students are learning academic standards in reading, mathematics, science and writing and their scores are compared to students across the state of Pennsylvania.

BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TESTS REQUESTS FOR EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS WILL NOT BE APPROVED.



Preschool Story Time

Our Pre-school Story Times are scheduled to begin in February. They will be held in the Washington Elementary School Library at 2:00 – 2:30 PM on the following Thursdays:

- February 11 & 25
- March 11 & 25
- April 8
- May 13 & 27

If you know of anyone with preschool children, who does not currently have a student enrolled at our school, please pass this information on to them. This program is intended for preschoolers who will be enrolling in our kindergarten program for next school year.

Volunteer Policy Approved

On November 14, 2006, the Board of School Directors approved a policy that requires clearance checks for school volunteers. **Beginning January 2, 2007, school volunteers must follow this policy.**

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 a PA Child Abuse History Clearance (ACT 151) and a PA State Police Criminal Record Check (ACT 34). The forms to apply for these clearances are available in our school office. **Clearances will be valid as long as you continually volunteer in our school at least once a year.**

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.



BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL NOTICE OF KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Boyertown Area School District is announcing kindergarten registration for the 2010-2011 school year. Information packets are scheduled to be mailed in February 2010 to each resident with a child who will reach 5 years of age on or before September 10, 2010. These names are taken from the district's census file. If you or someone you know has a child that meets the age requirement and has not received a packet by February 28, please contact the district office (610-367-6031) to obtain one.

All kindergarten registration is done by appointment and will be done at the District Education Center located at 911 Montgomery Avenue, Boyertown during the month of March. The packet will include all the necessary forms and instructions for registration.

Note that although students entering kindergarten are required to have a physical and dental examination, these exams must be completed after September 1, 2009 and no later than September 15, 2010.

Please contact Cindi Bartholomew in the Student Registration Office at 610-369-7492 if you do not receive a packet or have questions or concerns regarding this process.

Health Room News:

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grade Parents: As part of our school district's health curriculum, students in these grades are given the opportunity to receive Life Education (covers the biological changes that occur) and AIDS education.

February 3rd AIDS 4th grade / **February 17th** Family Life- 5th grade / **February 24th** AIDS- 5th grade

If you do not want your child to attend these presentations, please submit a written request to the principal's attention, and your child may be excluded from one or both of the presentations as per your request.

Please remember to keep your Emergency Contact information current. Anytime you have phone number changes either at home, work, or for an alternate contact, please notify the health room so that we can keep your child's emergency contact information current.

If your child has borrowed clothing from the health room, please see that it gets returned as we are running low on clothes.

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. The medication policy and medication authorization forms are available from the BASD website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org>

Health Room Donations The health room is in need of sweatpants for boys and girls. All sizes. If your children have outgrown sweatpants, please feel free to donate them to the health room.



WES proves that *Together We Can* support our community and show our holiday spirit.

This fall the entire WES community participated in 2 very worthwhile projects that showed our holiday spirit and supported families in need. The HSA created a beautiful "Giving Tree" in the school lobby. It was decorated with paper ornaments which were tagged with gift items. Parents took the ornaments and purchased items which were then confidentially given to families in need from our area. The first annual "Giving Tree" project was a huge success. Jenn Martin and representatives of the HSA were thrilled with the outpouring of generosity from the Washington Community. The spirit of giving did not end there.

The WES Kindness Council worked along with the HSA on a canned food drive. Non-perishable food items were donated to these families as well as to the Boyertown Multi-Service. Armed with incentive, the school collected 2,467 cans in the classrooms and approximately 500 additional items around the "Giving Tree." The Multi-Service was thrilled with the massive donation. The number of families they feed daily has risen dramatically recently.

In an effort to increase enthusiasm and spread some WES spirit, Mr. Iacobelli and teachers gave the students the following challenge: Any class that donated 200 canned goods would receive an extra recess and the teacher would join Mr. Iacobelli on stage to perform the can-can dance. Many classrooms met their challenge. On December 22nd several teachers, aides, and Mr. Iacobelli performed their dance in "can" costumes made especially for them. Their performance will not be forgotten any time soon! What made this project so special was the fact that WES donated over 3000 food items to help others in our area and proved that *Together We Can* make a difference in our community!

If you did not catch the can-can dance, you can view it on You Tube at KLMiller95. Students should get parent permission prior to logging on to You Tube.

Upcoming HSA & WES Events:

- 1/26 End of Second Quarter/ Second Box Top Raffle
- 1/26 School Board Meeting- Junior High West-7:00
- 1/27 Early Dismissal 12:30
- 1/28 Pre-K Storytime 2:00-2:30 Library
- 1/28 Book Club Class 5:30-6:15 Library



February WES and Home and School Activities

- 2/1 Monday Market Day Pick-Up 5:00-6:00 Cafeteria
- 2/6 Saturday Recycling 9:00-1:00 WES Parking Lot – NO PLASTIC BAGS!
- 2/8 Monday Report Cards
- 2/9 Tuesday 3rd Grade Music Concert 7:00
- 2/10 Wednesday January PARP Calendars Due
- 2/11 Thursday Pre-K Story time 2:00-2:30 – Library
- 2/19 Friday Gianni Pizza Spring Fundraiser Starts orders due NLT 3/5
- 2/22 Monday Family Skating Night Pheasant Land Skating Rink from 6-9 PM
- 2/25 Thursday Pre-K Story time 2:00-2:30 – Library
- 2/26 Friday Yearbook orders due by this date



We encourage your support to help strengthen the bond between Home and School.

Give your school a hand and let's work together to make WES the best school it can be!

Call or email Marion Reigner 610-845-8977 mevery@live.com

or Jenn Martin jlmartin4@comcast.net to participate in HSA events.

SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

A few months still remain when it might become necessary to have a delayed opening, early dismissal, or no school due to bad weather conditions. Please refer to **pages 8 & 9** in the Elementary School Handbook for radio, TV stations and websites that broadcast school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals. You may want to make a copy of these pages for reference at work. **Thank you, in advance, for not calling the school. We need to keep our phone lines free to receive additional information. **Also, school closing information is posted on the district's website @ www.boyertownasd.org. Go to "Latest Announcements".**

You may also call our information line available for specific information relating to weather, schedules, etc.

**To reach this information line,
dial 610-369-SNOW (7669).**

When there is a two-hour delay, the Kindergarten schedule is as follows:

AM Kindergarten is 10:45 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

PM Kindergarten is regular schedule, 12:50 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

In the event of a weather-related early dismissal, the PM kindergarten session is usually canceled.

Parents need to be aware of impending hazardous weather conditions and should have arrangements made for their children in case of early dismissals. If it is not possible for a parent to be at home when the bus arrives, provisions should be made with neighbors to take care of the children upon their arrival. Children need to know ahead of time what to do if they arrive home and no one is there. Please discuss this situation with your children so they will know to go to a neighbor's or friend's house when they arrive. **Parents are requested not to drive to school and create additional traffic problems for police and school officials.**

Students should not be brought to school on days when a late start is in effect until the start of school. Please be sure of the starting time before leaving the children at school. For example, when school is beginning at 10:45 a.m. (a two hour delay), students should not arrive before 10:25 a.m.

When schools are closed for emergency reasons; they will reopen the next day unless the radio stations carry information that school will remain closed.

We have recently implemented our new Connect-ED telephone messaging service enabling us to deliver important school information in the event of any emergency, including weather delays or closings. With the Connect-ED service, we will be able to send a personalized voice message to parents/guardians and families with one recorded phone. It is important that your school have all of your current telephone numbers so that you will not miss any important communications. We are utilizing your phone numbers from our student information system.