

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

The Home and School Working Together

January 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**

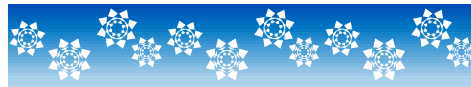


CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JANUARY

- 1 Winter Holiday
- 4 School Reopens for the New Year!
- 4 HSA Market Day Pick-Up, Cafeteria, 5:00 – 6:00PM
- 6 School Dentals
- Keeping Touches Safe and Healthy – Parent Preview Night
- 11 H.S.A. Meeting, Library, 3:45 pm (babysitting provided)
- 11-25 4Sight Reading Grades 3-6
- 12 School Board Meeting, Ed Center, 7:00 pm
- 13 Family Life Education Parent Night
- Grade 4 – 6:00 pm/ Grade 5 – 6:30 pm/Grade 6 – 7:00 pm
- 14 D.A.R.E. Parent Night
- 18 **SCHOOL CLOSED** – Martin Luther King Holiday
- 22 HSA Book Bingo – 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- 26 End of Second Quarter Marking Period
- School Board Meeting, Junior High West – 7:00 pm
- 27 Early Dismissal – 12:30 pm
- 28 Pre-K Story Time - 2:00 – 2:30 pm



Heavy snowfall or other serious weather conditions may make it necessary to close schools, delay opening, or dismiss early. At times it may be possible to avoid canceling a day of school by opening two hours later than the regularly scheduled time. In case of two hour delayed openings, pupils should arrive at the bus stop two hours later than normal.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

When weather conditions appear to be such as to warrant closing schools early, parents are urged to anticipate such action in order that they may be home to receive the children when they arrive. In cases where this is not possible, provisions should be made to take care of your children upon their arrival from school. If a child is customarily met by his/her parents when he/she gets off the bus or has a long distance to walk at the end of the bus route, it is very important that parents make adequate provisions for the child in case of bad weather. Parents are requested not to drive to school and create additional traffic problems.

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING



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.

KEYSTONE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is pleased to announce that Washington Elementary School has earned the *Keystone Achievement Award* to recognize schools that have met their Adequate Yearly Progress improvement targets for two consecutive years. Washington Elementary School will be awarded the Keystone Achievement Award due to its accomplishment of this goal.



DISTRICT READING REQUIREMENT

The Boyertown Area School District instituted a reading requirement several years ago as a way of encouraging students to practice their reading skills using a wide variety of literature. Each student is required to read **ten books** a year. In first, second, and third grades, these books must include two non-fiction and six books of their choice. In fourth through twelfth grades, students must also read two biographies each year, which leaves four books of their choice. These titles are recorded in a cumulative folder, which will follow each student through twelfth grade. Books may be counted with parent and/or teacher approval. The requirement must be met each year to obtain promotion to the following grade and for graduation.

IT'S GETTING COLD!



Students will be going outside for recess unless the wind chill factor is 9° 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, mitten and hats. Please refer to page 13 & 20 of the Elementary School Handbook for additional information regarding recess.

STANDARDIZED TESTING



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

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

PSSA Grade 5, Writing
April 19 - 23, 2010

PSSA Grade 4, Science
April 26 – 30, 2010

The PSSA is used to determine how well students are learning academic standards in reading, mathematics 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.

Drop Off of Students in the Morning



Children should ***not*** be dropped off by the side door leading into the music suite/cafeteria area. Instead, vehicles are to proceed toward the front of the school to the designated ***student drop-off area*** by the front entrance of the school. School personnel will be assigned to this area between **8:25** and **8:45AM** to supervise students entering the building at the front entrance. We are requesting that students ***not*** be dropped off early in the morning before the start of school. This creates a safety concern as we are unable to provide supervision. Please time your drop-off so the students arrive between **8:25** and **8:45AM**. During this time, students may then proceed directly to their classrooms upon their arrival at school in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation!

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.

Student Presentation PETIE THE PEACEMAKER

Present to: Washington Elementary 4th Grade students

On: Friday, January 8, 2010

Presenters: Educators from Berks Women in Crisis

This presentation will focus on conflict resolution and social responsibility. Using Petie, a PeaceMaker character, students will be encouraged to use characteristics that they possess to solve conflicts in a peaceful manner. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Joanne Oxenford, Washington Elementary School Counselor at 610-473-1990 or by email at joxenford@boyertownasd.org

From the Health Room:

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. Parent preview night is:

When: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 (Snow Date: January 19, 2010)
Where: Junior High West
Times: Grade 4 Parents 6:00 PM Auditorium, Grade 5 Parents 6:30 PM Cafeteria, Grade 6 7:00 PM Auditorium
Program: Presentation of the District Family Life Education Program

Parents will be notified of the dates that students will be viewing videos and discussing topic when we have the parent preview. They will also be in the February newsletter.

A Family Life Education Parent Response letter was sent home with each student in grades four and five prior to the holiday break. If you did not receive the letter, please check with your child or send a note to school to let us know if you will or will not be attending the presentation. The date and time of each grade level's presentation will be announced at the Parent Preview Night and sent home with all fourth, fifth and sixth grade students prior to the presentations. If you do not want your child to attend these presentations, just submit a written request to Mr. Iacobelli's attention, and your child will be excluded from one or both of the presentations as per your request.

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 www.boyertownasd.org.

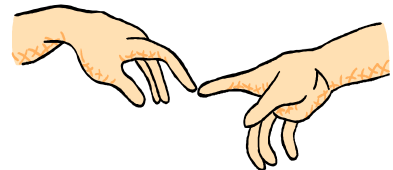
Physical & Dental Exams: All state-mandated Kindergarten and 3rd Grade private dental exam forms and all Kindergarten and 6th Grade private physical exam forms are due now; if you have an upcoming appointment, please notify the health room of the appointment and we will make note of the date.

School Dentals will be held January 6th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 pm. School physicals will be March 24th 9:00 – 12:00 pm.

Guidance Information:

Keeping Touches Safe & 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: Junior High West Cafeteria
On: Wednesday, January 6, 2010
Starting: 6:30 PM
Presenters: Victims Services Center of Montgomery County



This is an age appropriate program utilizing a video presentation and discussion, which teach children how to recognize and prevent sexual abuse. Support systems are identified and communication with adults is encouraged.

This program has been reviewed and approved by the Boyertown Area School District. All second grade students will participate in this program between the dates of January 11-29, 2010. A parent preview program will include a discussion of the dynamics of child sexual abuse, indicators of abuse, and how to handle disclosures from a child. You will also have an opportunity to view the exact video that will be presented to the students.

Notification of this program was sent home with all second grade students before the holiday break. If you did not receive the letter, please check with your child or send a note to school letting us know if you will or will not be attending the parent preview presentation. The date and time of the student presentation will be sent home with your child prior to the program. If you do not want your child to attend these presentations, just submit a written request to Mr. Iacobelli's attention, and your child will be excluded from the presentation as per your request.

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 trips will not be approved during any standardized achievement tests, i.e., PSSA, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Iacobelli.

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.



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.boyertownasd.org

TV Websites listed in the BASD Elementary Handbook
page 9.

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

HSA NEWS:

Market Day Pickup - Monday, January 4th from 5-6 pm.

Can use help from 3:45 - 5pm unpacking the boxes if
anyone can give some time.

HSA Meeting - Monday, January 11th - 3:45 pm !!!

Childcare provided in Mrs. Keister's room for school age
children.

Family Book Bingo - Friday, January 22nd from 7 - 9 pm.

Admission is new or gently used books.

Pre-Kindergarten Storytime #1 - Thursday, January 28th
from 2:00 - 2:30 pm



Breakfast @ Washington

Hectic mornings? Have to battle with your child to eat breakfast? Running late? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider having your child participate in Washington Elementary's School Breakfast Program. Now, each school day, more than fifty students begin their day with a healthy breakfast for just \$1.00 (.30 reduced). The cost can be deducted from your child's cafeteria account. Studies have shown that eating breakfast improves attention span and test scores. Breakfast is a great way to help your child do his/her best in school. If mornings are too hectic for your child to eat breakfast at home, or if your child just isn't hungry first thing in the morning, school breakfast might be a healthy alternative. Whether you use the school breakfast program daily or just occasionally, take advantage of this great way to get your child off to a healthy start each day.

**On another note...Parents, please remember to
keep your child's cafeteria account up to date.**

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!

Happy Holidays!

