

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

The Home and School Working Together

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November 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**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



November

1	Grade 4 Music Concert – 7:00 – 7:30 PM
4	1 st Quarter Ends Planetarium (Mrs. Gehman/Mrs. Kiester) – 1:00 PM HSA Family Movie Night – 7:00 – 9:00 PM
6	Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn Clocks Back One Hour
8	Election Day School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Gilbertsville Elementary
14	Veterans' Day Program HSA Meeting, 7:00 PM
17	D.A.R.E. Graduation – 9:00 – 10:30 AM Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
18	EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:30 PM, Staff Development HSA Basket Raffle – 5:30 PM
21	EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:30 PM, Parent/Teacher Conferences
22	EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:30 PM, Parent/Teacher Conferences
23	EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:30 PM
24-28	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED, Thanksgiving Holiday
29	Planetarium (Mrs. Kumpf/Mrs. Nyce) – 1:00 PM
30	Mass Screenings
All Month	HSA Aluminum Can Recycling (WES Parking Lot)

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.boyertownasd.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.***



**MAIN OFFICE HOURS
8:00AM – 4:30PM**

VISITOR

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.



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.



Tardy Students

Attendance at school is important. This includes arriving **on time** in order to be ready to start each school day properly.

School begins each day at **8:45AM**. Any student being transported by private vehicle who arrives after 8:45AM will be considered tardy. **He/she must report to the office with the transporting adult before going to the classroom.** The adult will need to complete an excuse form indicating the reason for the tardiness. When you sign your child in late at the office, please make sure **both** the tardy slip and sign-in sheet have recorded the number of minutes tardy.



Parent/Teacher Conferences

This year, Parent/Teacher Conferences for the first quarter will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, November 17th (4:30 – 7:30 PM)

Monday, November 21st (1 – 3:30 PM)

(Early Dismissal 12:30 PM)

Tuesday, November 22nd (1-3:30 & 4:30 – 7:30 PM)

(Early Dismissal 12:30 PM)



Gold Ribbon Fundraiser

Washington Elementary School raised \$2981 for the American Cancer Society.

Thank you for your support!



About Positive Behaviors Supports (PBS)



Washington Elementary School has always pledged to create a safe and stimulating environment for all students. In an effort to continue to improve our school climate, students have been learning about Positive Behavior Support (PBS), our schoolwide behavior program. This program is based on scientific research and our professional experience. It was created to promote the core values of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, and SAFETY for all students and staff at Washington Elementary School. PBS focuses around positive student behaviors in various areas of the school, i.e., lavatories, cafeteria, arrival/departure, recess, hallways, and the classrooms. The program allows students to be recognized as they meet the expectations of the school. As they are recognized, students earn CUBS tickets (Caught You Behaving Super). When they have earned five CUBS tickets, they are allowed to take a positive trip to the office to select a reward from our treasure box. Students also will have their picture taken and displayed in the showcase in the lobby. Please support our program by asking your child about the CUBS tickets!



Graduation

All 6th grade parents are invited to attend the Washington Elementary Sixth Grade D.A.R.E. America Graduation.

D.A.R.E. graduation will take place on Thursday, 11/17, at 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.

All 6th grade students will be honored. Please come and join the celebration.

Can Tab Project Update

We are almost at 4 million can tabs but we need your help. Please continue to save can tabs and send them to school with your child. The district has set a goal of collecting 6 million can tabs to demonstrate the number of Jewish people killed during the Holocaust. The can tabs will eventually be recycled and the proceeds donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

District Total

3,908,118 (65.1% of the goal) as of October 9, 2011.

How much is 6 Million?

The Sovereign Center in Reading has a seating capacity of 7,215 people. You would have to fill the center over 831 times to have the same number of people as the number of Jews killed during the Holocaust. You would have to fill the park 1524 times to have the same number of people as were killed in the Holocaust.

Facts about the Holocaust

- It is estimated that 11 million people were killed during the Holocaust. Six million of these were Jews.
- The Nazis killed approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe.
- An estimated 1.1 million children were murdered in the Holocaust.

Source: [Jennifer Rosenberg](#), *About.com Guide*

INTERNET SAFETY TIPS



- Never give any personal information to anyone you meet online. That means first or last names, phone numbers, passwords, birthdates, or credit card information.
- Never meet up with anyone you don't already know. Don't tell them your schedule or where you'll be hanging out.
- Don't fill out any "fun" questionnaires that are forwarded to you, even if they're from your friends. Remember, you're in a world where everything can be forwarded.




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.

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 the same clearance requirements that employees must complete. The forms to apply for these clearances are available in our school office. Clearances will be valid as long as you continually volunteer.

Upon receiving the clearances, volunteers will provide the original to the school office, and the secretary will make a copy for our files.

FROM THE HSA



September and October have proved busy months for the HSA, and November looks just as busy with many more fun events planned.

- **11/2** Basket Meeting in the library at 7pm. This is a huge event and our largest fundraiser of the year. Please consider donating some of your time by coming out to show your support.
- **11/4** This is family movie night at WES. Bring your blankets and pillows and settle in with the family to catch Yogi Bear. For more information or to help please contact Valerie Gery at timbernuk@dejazzd.com. This is also the date of our first quarter Box Top Raffle. Please place 20 neatly trimmed, unexpired Box Tops in the container at school with your child's name and grade in a baggie to be entered into our 20.00 gift card drawing.
- **11/6** Daylight Savings - Don't forget to turn the clocks back an hour.
- **11/8** Election Day
- **11/11** Veterans Day and our Basket Wrap Party in the Cafe from 7-9pm. Come help us wrap up baskets for this exciting fundraiser. You may be able to get a sneak peek as well!
- **11/14** November HSA Meeting in the library at 7pm.
- **11/17** Teacher Meal - For those that are new to the school, each year during evening conferences we provide our teachers with dinner as a thank you. Sometimes they don't have time to run out and get something. Please contact Tracy Liebermann at Tracy.Liebermann@yahoo.com to find out how you can help. She's looking for volunteers to set up and clean up as well as provide food.
- **11/18** HSA 2nd Annual Basket Raffle - Held this year at the Boyertown YMCA, doors open at 5:30. Raffle will begin at 7pm. Check the website or our Facebook page for more information! Contact Wendy Drabick at wdrabick@dejazzd.com to help with this event or for more information and to obtain your tickets contact Stacia Wenhold at stacialw@comcast.net.
- **11/18** Early Dismissal
- **11/21-11/22** Early Dismissal and Parent Conferences
- **11/23** Early Dismissal
- **11/24-11/28** Happy Thanksgiving (No School)

Our Spiritwear sale is this month. Look for more information to come home with your child. They make great Christmas gifts!

From the Health Room

Mass Screening

Heights, weights, vision and hearing will be performed on all students in WES on November 30th. This is a state mandated screening and needs to be done on all students. If your child wears glasses, please have them bring them to the screening. If you **do** not want your child screened by the school please send in a note signed by a parent saying not to do the screening. It will then be your responsibility to provide a height, weight, vision and hearing result on your child to the health room.

School Physical Exams

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.

Cold and Flu Season

As the cold and flu season begins, here are a few reminders:

- Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess.
- Please remind your children to wash their hands often to prevent the spread of colds/flu at home and in our classrooms.
- Effective 2001, elementary students are not permitted to bring cough drops; please refer to the BASD policy in your parent handbook to review the policy.
- If your child needs medication during school hours, please review the BASD medication policy in the WES school handbook. Parents or an adult designee must bring the medications to school. Students may not bring medications to school. Additionally, a written doctor's order is required for any over-the-counter or prescribed medicine.

The health room is in need of sweats for girls and boys. If you have any outgrown clothes (all sizes) that you would like to donate for students, please drop them off. We do not need jeans.

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

This month we will continue our focus on school climate. You may recall from last month's newsletter, school climate refers to the quality and character of school life. Our goal at Washington Elementary is to create a **positive** school climate where all students feel safe, comfortable, valued, and accepted. A positive school climate affects everyone associated with the school- students, staff, parents, and the community. It is defined by effective teaching, quality leadership, motivated staff and students, and a sense of community. "School climate sets the tone for all the learning and teaching done in the school environment, and as research proves, it is predictive of students' ability to learn and develop in healthy ways. (Alliance for the study of school climate, Cal State)

Over the last three decades there has been an extraordinary and growing body of research that attests to the importance of school climate. Positive school climate supports learning and positive youth development. A positive school climate is associated with and predictive of:

- Academic achievement
- School Success
- Reduced student drop-out
- Higher morale among students and teachers
- Increased institutional pride
- Effective violence prevention
- Students' healthy development
- Teacher retention

Sources: 1. www.psba.org/workshops/school-leadership-conference/2010/conference-handouts/
2. <http://schoolclimate.org/climate>