

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

The Home and School Working Together

November 2009

Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Principal



Absence Reminder

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**



**MAIN OFFICE HOURS
8:00AM – 4:30PM**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



November

- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends – **Turn Clocks Back One Hour**
- 2 Grade 4 Music Concert – 7:00 – 7:30 PM
- Grade 4 – Mrs. George & Mr. Davis – Planetarium 1:00 pm
- 3 Election Day
- Grade 4 – Mrs. Carns & Mrs. Wightman – Planetarium 10:00 am
- 6 1st Quarter Ends
- 7 Aluminum Can Recycling – WES Parking Lot
- 10 Mix It Up Day (see page 3 of newsletter for more info)
- HSA Meeting – 7:00 – 8:00 PM – Cafeteria
- School Board Meeting, 7:30PM, Gilbertsville Elementary
- 12 Grade 4 – Field Trip Martin Stone Quarry & Lost River Cavern
- 13 **Early Dismissal 12:30 PM**, Staff Development
- 18 Picture Retake Day
- D.A.R.E. Parent Night
- 19 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 20 HSA Family Movie Night – 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- 23 **EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:30PM**, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Market Day Pick Up – 5:00 pm - Cafeteria
- 24 **EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:30PM**, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 25 **EARLY DISMISSAL, 12:30PM**
- 26 – 27 **NO SCHOOL**, Thanksgiving Holiday
- 30 **NO SCHOOL**

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 listed in the BASD Elementary Handbook page 9.



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

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.



School District Reading Requirement

All students, grades 1 through 12, in the Boyertown Area School District are required to read a minimum of ten (10) books during the school year. All novels used in the teaching of reading may be counted toward this reading requirement. Students may read books that are not on the reading list. You may consult with your child's teacher to determine the appropriate reading level for your child. The cumulative number of books recorded toward this requirement will appear on each report card. Students **must** complete this requirement for promotion to the next grade as per district policy.

HEALTH ROOM NEWS

School Dental Exams

If we have not received a completed dental form, a free dental exam will be offered to WES kindergarteners, third grade, and any new student with incomplete dental records. Dr. David will be performing school dentals on January 6th 2010. The health room will be contacting parents of these students to offer this school exam as the exams are only done with written parent permission. The dental exams do not involve any cleaning or treatment.

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 page 17 in 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.

Mass Screening: Heights, weights, vision screenings will be performed on all students and hearing screenings will be performed on kindergarten through 3rd grade students in WES on November 4th. This is a state mandated screening and needs to be done on all students. 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 be your responsibility to provide a height, weight, vision and hearing result on your child to the health room.



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 new school wide 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!



Mix It Up at Lunch Day

On Tuesday, November 10th Washington Elementary School students will be participating in Mix It Up at Lunch Day. **This is a nationwide campaign** sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program. The program is designed to get students to sit with someone new in the cafeteria so they can mix and mingle.

Mix It Up helps to equip students with an appreciation for diversity and skills necessary to work alongside different kinds of people. By participating in this nationwide campaign we hope to help our students make new friends and understand that, no matter what our differences, we can all be friends.

For more information on this project please visit

www.mixitup.org.



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 pink sign in sheet are completed.

6th Grade Readers

Have a 6th grader that struggles to find a book that interests them? Have a 6th grader that loves to read? A book club just for 6th graders is beginning that is perfect for both. Students are able to select, read, and discuss books selected to interest and challenge 6th graders. If your 6th grader would like to join 6th grade book club, watch for the information letter and form to come home. Please return the form to Mrs. Markley. **Please be advised that these books may contain mature themes or language, since they are selected for middle school readers.**



Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

Thursday, November 19th (Conf. 4:30 – 7:30 PM)

Monday, November 23rd (Conf. 1 – 3:30 PM)

(Early Dismissal 12:30 PM)

Tuesday, November 24th

(Conf. 1-3:30 & 4:30 – 7:30 PM)

(Early Dismissal 12:30 PM)

HSA News

The Spiritwear Sale takes place **November 2-13**. Order forms will be coming home with students. We will be offering Tee Shirts, Short Sleeve Tie Dye Shirts, Pullover Hooded Sweatshirts, and Sweatpants.

Recycling takes place again on **Saturday, Nov. 7th** from 9am-1pm in the WES parking lot.

Tuesday, Nov. 10th - 6-7pm HSA How to Craft Meeting for Homeroom Parents to come learn how to do the holiday craft and pick up your classroom kits in the cafeteria before the HSA meeting.

Tuesday, Nov. 10th - 7pm - 8pm HSA Meeting in the WES Cafeteria. Please come out and hear what is going on and be a part and share your voice.

Thurs. Nov. 19th - HSA prepares a hot home cooked meal for our teachers during conferences. Contact Tracy Liebermann if you would like to help out. Go on the HSA Website to see contact information.

Friday, Nov. 20th - HSA Family Movie Night - Monsters vs. Aliens movie. It will be held 7 - 9pm in the cafeteria. Please bring blankets, pillows, etc. and enjoy a night out with the family.

Monday, Nov. 23rd - Market Day pick-up from 5 - 6 pm.

As always, don't forget to check the HSA Website for up to date info on everything!! www.weshsa.com

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.

H1N1 Update

Over the last few weeks, our schools have been experiencing a high rate of student absences. We will continue to monitor this situation and work closely with the parents/guardians of children who are ill.

BASD continues to follow the practices identified through the information on our district website and letters previously sent to parents/guardians to minimize the impact of the H1N1 virus. These measures include: monitoring student enrollment, reinforcing hand washing at school, and working closely with parents/guardians of children that may be ill.

We encourage all parents/guardians to consult with your family physician related to any medical concerns you may have and/or possible treatment/prevention options. It is also recommended from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that children stay home at least 24 hours after a fever is gone. BASD also recommends this practice to avoid infecting other students and employees. More detailed information can be accessed from the H1N1 link on the Boyertown Area School District's website @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> or directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Health @ <http://www.h1n1inpa.com/>

Students Health

Below is a list of some of the precautions WES has taken in attempt to keep our students healthy...

1. Proper hand washing techniques were taught to students by Mrs. Smith, Certified School Nurse.
2. Teachers provide time for students to wash their hands prior to going to lunch.
3. Students are encouraged to cough in their sleeve.
4. Students may bring anti-bacterial hand sanitizers to school.
5. Anti-bacterial hand sanitizers have been placed in common areas of the school for student and staff use, i.e., cafeteria, gymnasium, office.
6. A rotating cleaning schedule has been created to ensure that desks, tabletops, door knobs, etc. are disinfected, cleaned, and wiped down in each classroom.
7. Students are sent to the nurse when they are not feeling well.
8. Parents are encouraged to keep their children home if they are sick and until they are 24 hour fever free.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this issue, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Iacobelli at the school.