

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

The Home and School Working Together

October 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

October

- 2 Hat Day
- 5 Fire Prevention Week Begins
- 7 **PICTURE DAY**
- 8 Fire Prevention Assembly
- 9 WES Walk
- 12 Staff Development – NO SCHOOL/OFFICE OPEN
- 13 School Board Meeting, Education Center, 7:00PM
- 14 Grade 5, Reading Symphony Youth Concert
Kindergarten Field Trip – Green Lane
- 16 WES – Walk/Rain Date
- 21 Box Out Bully Assembly
- 22 Parent Visitation Day @ Washington Elementary
Blood Drive
- 23 HSA Fall Festival
- 26 H.S.A. **Market Day Pick-Up, Cafeteria, 5:00 – 6:00PM**
- 27 School Board Meeting, Washington Elementary, 7:00PM



BLOOD DRIVE

Where: Washington Elementary School
Date: Thursday, October 22, 2009
Time: 7:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

All donors must be 17 years old, weigh 110 lbs. and be in good health. All registered donors will receive coupons for one ice cream and candy compliments of Bause's Super Drug Store and Longacre's Dairy.

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. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Iacobelli.

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.

Early Dismissal Days

Students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. for all the early dismissal days below.

November 13, 2009
November 23, 2009
November 24, 2009
November 25, 2009
December 23, 2009
January 27, 2010
April 12, 2010
May 21, 2010
June 11, 2010

Please mark your calendars!



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)

KIDS STUFF BOOKS INFO

Please check your KidStuff Coupon Book! A few families have reported that their book is missing pages 289-320 and pages 257-288 are repeated. If your book is misprinted, please contact Marion via email at mevery@live.com with your child's name and their teacher's name to replace your book. We are very sorry for any inconvenience.

Unannounced Early School Dismissals

I was very impressed with the number of responses we received concerning the expectations for children in the event of an unannounced school closing. The safety of all students is as important to us as it is to parents/guardians. It is important that your child know their plan in case we need to close school for whatever reason. Please take a few moments to work out the plan before it becomes necessary to use it. The task of getting more than 600 children to the right locations is a very large one to say the least and we need to devote the office personnel to insuring all students are taken care of properly. We have made available in the Elementary School Handbook a listing of media locations that will broadcast serious weather conditions that may make it necessary to close schools, delay openings, or dismiss early. Please refer to **page 8** in your handbook under the heading "Hazardous Conditions Developing During the Night" for that information. Once again thank you for your response for emergency information.



Unity Walk

This year's Unity Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th, at Boyertown Junior High West. Live entertainment begins at 1:00 PM with musicians David Cullen and Denise King. There will be a children's center for younger children (grades 3 and younger), outdoor non-competitive field games for students in grades 4-9 and an art gallery featuring local prominent artists. Food will also be available. The walk will begin at 2:30 PM. Hope to see you there.

Parent Visitation Day Thursday, October 22, 2009

This year, Parent Visitation at **WES** will be held on **Thursday, October 22, 2009**. The purpose of this day is for you to be able to visit your child's classroom and get a feeling for the routine that your child experiences on a daily basis.

We are proud of what we do at WES. It is our hope that many of you will be able to visit WES in order to see the many fine things that occur in our school.

Remember that this is a **parent** visitation day. Younger siblings are not permitted to accompany parents to school on this day.

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. 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.



PICTURE DAY @ WES

will be held on **Wednesday, October 7, 2009**



FROM THE HSA

The Washington Walk will be held on Friday, October 9 (Raindate:10/16). This year it is a school wide event with students from Kindergarten through Sixth Grade participating. Students raise money by walking laps at school. They get extra time outside, "earn" prizes for themselves, and take an active part in earning money for the programs, activities, and supplies that benefit them. The class with the most laps walked will win a Pizza Party. For more information, check the website (www.weshsa.com) If you would like to volunteer to help with the Walk, contact Jenn Martin (jlmartin4@comcast.net)

Sat. October 3 the recycling trailer will be in the parking lot from 9 am - 1pm. Aluminum only.

Friday, October 23rd-Fall Festival-6:30pm will be the Halloween Parade (non-scary costumes only) and then will be followed by lots of fun activities for the whole family. Carnival games, crafts, pictures, baked goods and cider and lots of fun to be had by all. There will be school store items for sale and a raffle for all HSA members to win prizes. We NEED LOTS of volunteers so that everyone can take a turn enjoying the activities with their children. If you would like to volunteer please contact Cindy Roma at croma@entermail.net. We also need people to help set up and clean up after it's over.

Monday, October 26-Market Day Pickup-5 - 6 pm in the cafeteria. Volunteers always welcome to help unload the boxes at 3:45pm.

Tuesday, October 27 will be the Boyertown School Board Meeting at Washington at 7pm. Volunteers are needed to make baked goods, veggie trays, etc. for the snack table. Also help setting up and cleaning up. Please contact Brenda Krupp to help out at kruppbrenda@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to check the HSA Website on a regular basis for the Need to Know information!!! It's updated almost daily and is a great source of anything you need to know about what is going on. www.weshsa.com

From the Health Room:

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.

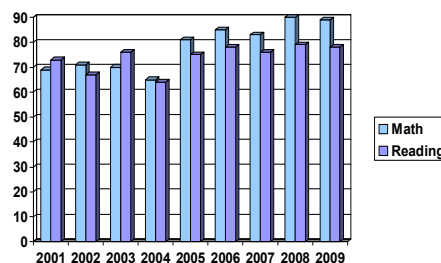
Head Lice: September was National Head Lice Prevention month. To effectively manage head lice infestations and prevent excessive absences in school, the Boyertown Area School District has a strict No-Nit policy. Our school nurses also perform random classroom head lice checks but we request that parents routinely check their children for head lice. Information on head lice is available on the BASD website or by handouts from the school nurse on request. If your child gets head lice, our policy requires parents to notify the health room: please help us prevent head lice by following the policy and checking your children often.

Reminder: Anytime you have phone number changes, either at home, work, or for an alternate, please notify the main office or health room in writing so we can keep your child's emergency contact information current. We would also like to have cell phone and pager numbers for parents. If you did not list these on your emergency card, we will be happy to add them upon your request.

Mass Screening: Heights, weights, vision and hearing will be performed on all 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.

During the month of September, the school nurse has been into the class rooms to review proper hand washing technique. Kindergarten had a discussion and demonstration. First grade had a review of what they learned in Kindergarten and 2nd through 6th grade viewed a video. Ask them about it!

Time To Celebrate Our PSSA Scores...We Made AYP!!!



Washington Elementary School once again has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)! AYP, as part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), makes schools accountable to students, their parents, teachers, and the community. The purpose of AYP is to ensure that all students have reading and math skills that prepare them for the future. This law states that all students must reach the Proficient level or higher in Reading or Language Arts and Mathematics by 2014. School districts and schools must show Adequate Yearly Progress on several measurable indicators: Attendance or Graduation Rate, Academic Performance, and Test Participation. AYP targets measure whether a school or district is making sufficient annual progress towards the goal of 100% proficiency.

Thanks to all of the hard work and dedication of our teachers, staff, parents, and the students of Washington Elementary School, steady improvement in student achievement has been noted. Congratulations everyone for such an awesome accomplishment!