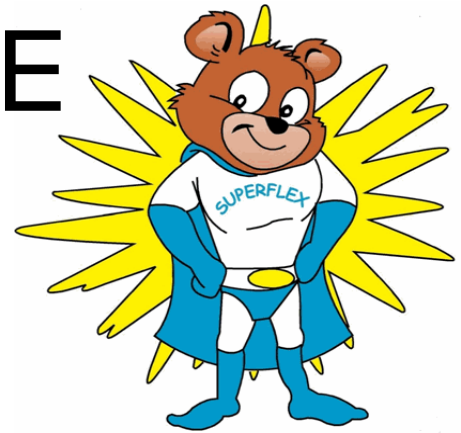


COLEBROOKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



September 2018

Mr. Michael R. Stoudt, Principal

"We are Expected"

Welcome Back!!!

WOW SEPTEMBER ALREADY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Where did the summer go? It is hard to believe that the summer is over and we are starting another school year. We have worked hard this summer to prepare for what we expect to be another great and "Expected" year here at Colebrookdale Elementary School.

Newsletters are issued monthly. It will be posted on the website along with other items such as the breakfast and lunch menus. Please take a few moments to read through the newsletter each month. Remember, working together as a team we will produce the greatest "Expected" results for our students.

Student Absence

The Boyertown Area School District recognizes that attendance is an important factor in educational success. Our district attendance policy has recently been updated in compliance with state and federal mandates. Details regarding attendance policies and procedures can be found on the BASD website under School Board policies and the Elementary Handbook.

Procedures for reporting and documenting absences have become more stringent as a result of the federal government's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Parents are now required to do one of the three procedures written below. Please read them carefully:

1. Parents/guardians may send an email to attendanceCES@boyertownasd.org from the email address of the parent/guardian on file with the district by 9:00 am on any day that their child will be absent or tardy. This form of communication will not need a phone call or follow-up hand written note.
2. Parents/guardians may use the district website/app and fill out the absence note, <https://goo.gl/4DRhyF>, by 9:00 am on any day that their child will be absent or tardy. This form of communication will not need a phone call or follow-up hand written note.
3. Parents/guardians may call the attendance line 610-473-5202 by 9:00 am on any day that their child will be absent or tardy. However, absences must now also be followed up with a handwritten parent note or doctor's note within three days of the student's return to school. Failure to submit the appropriate note within three days will result in the absence being coded as unlawful, and this coding cannot be reversed even if a note is handed in after the three day window. Once a student has received three unlawful absences, a truancy elimination plan may be enacted. This plan could lead to a citation from the District Magistrate.

A handwritten parent note or email communication for verification of absence is acceptable for the first 10 days of absence per school year. Any further absences require a doctor's note. Handwritten notes may be sent in to school with your child. However, it is your child's responsibility to present the note to their teacher or Mrs. Bauer in the office. Other acceptable ways to turn in a note are for a parent to drop it off personally to the school office between the hours of 7:45 am-4:15 pm or to scan the handwritten note and email it as an attachment to the school attendance secretary, Mrs. Bauer.

In the past, there have been occasional situations in which families have forgotten to submit an educational trip form for approval prior to their trip. Failure to submit a trip form prior to departure will result in trip days being counted as an unlawful absence. Trip forms continue to be available in the school office as well as on the BASD website.

We recognize that this represents a change from prior procedures. Therefore, reminders of these new procedures are also available via individual buildings' monthly e-newsletters, list serv messages, and school Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Thank you for your cooperation as we enact these new requirements. We look forward to working with you to help our students succeed in a changing world.



Picture Day

Picture Day this year is Monday, September 24. This is for the students' individual pictures and class composite pictures. Casual pictures will be taken on March 5. Retakes are scheduled for Thursday, November 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Retakes are for students who were not pleased with their pictures or were absent for Picture Day. The Grade 5 group picture will also be taken on November 8.

Information for Volunteers

Complete information on the procedures for volunteering in the Boyertown Area School District can be found at the BASD website www.boyertownasd.org/domain/1253. The governor has waived the \$10.00 fee associated with obtaining the Pennsylvania Criminal History Clearance (Act 34) and the Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance (Act 151), so we suggest that if you are getting the FBI Federal Criminal History Record Report (fingerprint clearance), to go right ahead and update all clearances at the same time. These clearances will be good for five years. In place of the FBI Federal Criminal History Record Report you may complete the [ACT 153 Volunteer Affidavit](#). This will need to be notarized and submitted to the District annually.

Updating Student Information

In an effort to improve data quality and efficiency, the Boyertown Area School District is beginning to utilize an electronic registration portal known as InfoSnap. This new web-based portal is already being utilized for all new registrations and is beginning to be used for some updating of emergency card information. This system is a secure and green process which allows the district to quickly and efficiently obtain up to date information on your child.

This year all elementary school parents and guardians are being asked to utilize the online system to update demographic, contact, and other important emergency information. This is for verification purposes only. If you have recently registered your child for the upcoming school year, you must still complete this verification process.

To begin the process, please visit the following site: www.boyertownasd.org/Page/4218. If you've never completed an online form with InfoSnap, you will need to create an InfoSnap account. This allows you to securely save your work and come back at a later time, if necessary. You can use your email address or cell phone number. If you already have an account, you can sign in and complete the form using the same account. Forms for multiple children can be completed in the same account. Please review all sections carefully prior to making any changes. Please change/delete any data that is not current or is incorrect.

Raptor System

All Boyertown Area Schools have the Raptor Identification System. All school visitors/volunteers will be required to provide a driver's license or other government-issued identification card before the visitor/volunteer will be able to proceed into the school. School staff will swipe the card to determine if the individual is a registered sex offender. In most cases the system will issue a temporary ID badge to wear during a visit or volunteer activity. If the system lists any offender information, the principal will intervene and the individual will not be permitted to enter the school outside of the school office area. Individuals who need to drop off or pick up materials in the school office will not be required to use the system. This system was identified as a safety improvement by our District and Building Safety Teams. Additional information on the Raptor System can be found on our District website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/domain/1179>. We are committed to continuing to provide a safe school environment for all students, staff and community members.

Transportation Information

Occasionally a bus may be late picking your child up or dropping them off. If you have any concerns, please call the transportation office at 610-369-7431. The school buses have radios and the bus drivers can be contacted directly from the transportation office. **Attention: Please send a note to school when your child will be picked up from school. If we have not received a written note, your child will be sent home on their regular bus.**

Bus passes will only be issued in emergency situations. Bus passes will not be approved for your child to go to a friend's house to play.



Family Trips

District policy permits students to be absent a maximum of ten (10) days per year to accompany parents on educationally worthy trips upon written request. As stated on the trip request form, any student absent from school for an educational trip is expected to keep a journal of the experience and present it to the teacher upon his/her return.

Although permitted, we do not encourage absence from school. The activities of the classroom can never be fully made up. Please give serious consideration before planning extended absences during school time. Speak with your child's teacher about the effect such absences may have upon your child's class work. Please note that educational trips will **not** be approved for students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 during the weeks of April 15 to 26, 2019 when the PSSA ELA tests are being administered. The PSSA Math tests will take place April 29 to May 3, 2019. Grade 4 will be taking the PSSA Science test April 29 to May 3, 2019.



News from the Music Room

Chorus is beginning! Fourth and fifth grade parents, please fill out Google Chorus Form with the link below. To pay for shirts, credit card or Pay Pal is accepted on the link. Shirts are \$6.00 if paying cash/check to Colebrookdale (send in to teacher), or \$6.49 if using Pay Pal (to cover fees). One stop shopping online, though!!

Our Chorus concerts are: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 and Monday, April 15, 2019 (right before Easter!) at Middle School West. Chorus members must attend both concerts. Please avoid scheduling your child for an appointment on the day of the concert if possible, as we will have rehearsals and an assembly that day!

Google Form: <https://tinyurl.com/CESCHORUS>
Paypal: <https://tinyurl.com/paypalCESCHORUS>

Third Grade Concert

Attention third grade students and parents! Mark your calendar for the CES Third Grade Concert on February 12, 2019! The concert will be held here at Colebrookdale. It promises to be a musical night!

Reading News with Mrs. Madsen, Reading Specialist

Welcome back to school! I hope you and your family had a wonderful summer and that you are looking forward to the excitement of a new school year. I am looking forward to seeing what the school year holds for our Colebrookdale readers. We are always trying to find different ways motivate readers here at school. Below are tips that may be helpful when motivating your child to read at home!

10 Ways to Motivate Your Child to Learn

Inspire her thirst for knowledge inside — and outside — of school. If you want your child to be a stellar student, don't limit learning to the walls of his classroom. Although the skills he's learning there are crucial to his intellectual and social growth, your child needs your help to open up the world of ideas. His renewed **joy in discovery** will transfer to his schoolwork, so you'll boost his academic achievement too!



- 1. Fill your child's world with reading.** Take turns reading with your child, or establish a family reading time when everyone reads her own book. Demonstrate how important reading is to you by filling your home with printed materials: novels, newspapers, even posters and placemats with words on them.
- 2. Encourage him to express his opinion, talk about his feelings, and make choices.** He can pick out a side dish to go with dinner and select his own extracurricular activities. Ask for his input on family decisions, and show that you value it.
- 3. Show enthusiasm for your child's interests and encourage her to explore subjects that fascinate her.** If she's a horse nut, offer her stories about riding or challenge her to find five facts about horses in the encyclopedia.
- 4. Provide him with play opportunities that support different kinds of learning styles – from listening and visual learning to sorting and sequencing.** Supplies that encourage open-ended play, such as blocks, will develop your child's creative expression and problem-solving skills as he builds. He'll need lots of unstructured play time to explore them.
- 5. Point out new things you learn with enthusiasm.** Discuss the different ways you find new information whether you're looking for gardening tips on the Internet or taking a night class in American literature.
- 6. Ask about what he's learning in school, not about his grades or test scores.** Have him teach you what he learned in school today – putting the lesson into his own words will help him to retain what he has learned.
- 7. Help your child organize her school papers and assignments so she feels in control of her work.** If her task seems too daunting, she'll spend more time worrying than learning. Check in with her regularly to make sure she's not feeling overloaded.
- 8. Celebrate achievements, no matter how small.** Completing a book report calls for a special treat; finishing a book allows your child an hour of video games. You'll offer positive reinforcement that will inspire him to keep learning and challenging himself.
- 9. Focus on strengths, encouraging developing talents.** Even if she didn't ace her math test, she may have written a good poem in English class. In addition to a workbook for math practice, give her a writing journal.
- 10. Turn everyday events into learning opportunities.** Encourage him to explore the world around him, asking questions and making connections.

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/motivate-school-success/10-ways-to-motivate-your-child-to-learn>

Parent Visitation Day

This year Parent Visitation Day will be held on Friday, October 19, 2018. 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 regular basis.

We are proud of what we do at Colebrookdale. It is our hope that many of you will be able to come out and visit on Parent Visitation Day in order to see the many fine things that occur in our school.

A sign in sheet will be in the lobby. Please stop at the table, sign in and take your visitor's badge.

Remember that this is a parent visitation day and we will be following our normal daily routine. Siblings are not permitted to accompany you to school on this day.

News from the Health Room

Students in grades 1-5 will have their annual health screenings on October 10, 2018 and kindergarten and life skill students will be done on a one to one basis. This includes height, weight and vision screenings. For grades K-3, hearing is also screened. If your child wears glasses, please remind your child to bring their glasses to school that day. Students who do not pass the hearing and/or vision screenings will be rechecked before a referral requesting further evaluation will be sent home. If you have any questions, please contact the health room at (610)473-5270.

The start of the school year means that numerous forms need to be completed. Please remember to bring the health forms into school as soon as possible. These include: physical exam forms for kindergarten and dental exam forms for kindergarten and grade 3. If your child received any immunizations during the summer break, please send in an updated immunization record for our records. Medication administration forms are needed for all medications that are to be given during the school day. Medications, even over the counter medications, need a physician's order. The health room cannot accept medication without the completed medication form. Also remember that children cannot transport medication to and from school. Physical exam, dental exam and medication forms can be downloaded from the Boyertown Area School District website, www.boyertownasd.org under departments and health.

Colebrookdale Kindness Initiative

In our lobby we now have a KINDNESS TREE. Kindness is the most important skill for life. It is magical and powerful. The person who receives kindness is happier and the person who gives kindness is also happier. Our goal is to make kindness something that the students practice, just like Reading or Math, so that it becomes automatic. The end result will be happier students, therefore more successful students.

As the children are practicing kindness during the day, they may be caught being kind. The staff member who caught them being kind may give them a high five and a kindness hand. Their name and act of kindness will be written on the construction paper hand and placed on the kindness tree for all to see.

The staff at CES is helping the students to identify ways that they can be kind and is modeling kindness. At home, please help your child find ways to be kind. Our saying is the following:

The kinder you are, The happier you will feel. So let's make kindness, Our way to heal.

Thank you and have a KIND day.

Watch Dog Dads are Returning!

Fathers and Father-figures,

On Wednesday, September 19, 2018 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm we will be having our third annual 'Dads and Kids' Pizza Night at our school. You will meet here at the school cafeteria at 6:00 pm for FREE pizza and drinks. At 6:30 pm we will have a presentation about our WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads Of Great Students) Program. WATCH D.O.G.S.® is an innovative program being used by schools across America which helps them to be positively impacted by the committed involvement of fathers and father-figures in their students' life. Our goal is to have you spend at least one day this year at the school to be a positive male role model and to provide an extra set of eyes and ears.



Dads, granddads, uncles, step-dads and adult brothers . . . this is your chance to have a night out alone with your students in a fun atmosphere at school.

Child Custody Information

Student safety is an important concern at Colebrookdale Elementary School. We are updating our child custody information for the current school year (2018-2019) and may require additional information from you. The school requests information when a student **does not** reside with both natural parents due to separation or divorce. You may request a copy of the child custody form in the office. This information will be kept on file at school for future reference. In order to insure your child's safety we need the following information:

- Is the child's father/mother permitted to pick up the child from school?
- If he/she is not permitted to pick up the child from school; we need a copy of the current court order that limits access to your child.
- Does a court order limit his/her access to student records? If so, please provide a copy of the court order outlining specific restrictions.

Without the specifics of a court order, we will release the child to the non-custodial parent and provide educational information and access upon request.

We thank you in advance for your help with this important matter. If you have any questions, please call Lisa Johnson, the school counselor, at 610-473-5290.

Teaching Responsibility

We at Colebrookdale are working very hard to teach students "Expected" behavior. The building will only be open until 5:00 PM. If your child has forgotten something, he or she may come back to CES and get that item until 5:00 PM. If after 5:00 PM your child realizes that they have forgotten something (homework, text book, instrument, etc.), then your child will have to accept responsibility for the forgotten item. If your child has this experience, please send a note in the next day telling the teacher that there was a forgotten item or responsibility. If your child is participating in a pre-approved activity held at CES, then your child will be permitted to be in the building, but they will not have access to go back to their classrooms. By working together as a team, teaching responsibility at home and at school will go a long way toward instilling characteristics of successful citizenship.

Title I Information

As a parent of a student attending a school that is receiving Federal Title I dollars, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teacher(s) and instructional paraprofessional(s) who instruct your child. Federal law requires every Title I school district to comply and to provide you with the requested information in a timely manner.

We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law in December 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1956 (ESEA) includes additionally right to know requests. At any time, parents and family members can request:

- Information on policies regarding student participation in assessments and procedures for opting out, and
- Information on required assessments that include
 - o subject matter tested,
 - o purpose of the test,
 - o source of the requirement (if applicable),
 - o amount of time it takes students to complete the test, and
 - o time and format of disseminating results.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals meet applicable Pennsylvania state requirements.

We look forward to the upcoming school year. Together we will make a difference in your child's life.

Sara E. Obarow, Ed.D.

District Federal Programs Coordinator

Trimester Information

Welcome back to another exciting school year! This letter serves to remind all parents and guardians that our system for reporting student progress has changed to trimester reporting.

The change to trimester reporting periods will allow teachers more time to accurately evaluate the progress of each child. Students will not be rushed into academic work at the beginning of the school year, but rather more time can be spent on establishing classroom routines and allowing students to be comfortable in their new learning environment. Reporting periods will also better align with parent-teacher conferences scheduled prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Specific Changes:

- Student report cards will be issued three times per year instead of four.
- Each reporting period will consist of approximately 60 days instead of 45 days. The initial trimester will be shortened by a few days to allow teachers time to prepare for the first trimester conferences.
- Student progress will be monitored by the classroom teacher and BASD staff. The school team will contact parents if there is evidence of a student not making adequate progress. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time throughout the trimester should any concerns arise.

Reporting Period Dates:

First Trimester: August 27, 2018 - November 12, 2018

Second Trimester: November 13, 2018 - February 28, 2019

Third Trimester: March 1, 2019 - June 5, 2019

Melissa L. Woodard

Assistant Superintendent for Academics

Library News

Welcome Back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer! I was very busy this summer with my daughters, Noelle (5) and Audrey (9 months). It is amazing how life changes with 2 kiddos at home! This summer, we traveled to Saint Augustine, Florida. We also did a lot of swimming and spent as much time as we could outside. As always, I am very excited to see all of you again and welcome our new students. I have many fun things planned for library this year. See you soon!!

P.S. Are you ready for some Penn State and Eagles football!?



Trimester 1: I Can!

Grade 1: I CAN follow directions when using the library.

Grade 2: I CAN explain why my personal information should not be given to anyone online.

Grade 3: I CAN compare and contrast online-only friends and in-person, face-to-face pals.

Grade 4: I CAN explain the difference between harmless and harmful communication online.

Grade 5: I CAN explain ways to deal with cyberbullying

Please be sure to check out my teacher website for up-to-date information on:

Library Schedules

Curriculum News

Important Links

Newsletters (by trimesters)

Please visit: www.boyertownasd.org, select your school from the drop down box and then select "teacher". Click on Jill Becht to view the website.

jbecht@boyertownasd.org

Mrs. Jill Becht, Librarian

H.S.A Corner

Welcome back to another great year at Colebrookdale! We have many exciting events and activities planned throughout the school year.

Your child brought home volunteer request forms on the first day of school. Please complete and return the form by Friday, September 7.

The first H.S.A general meeting will be held Monday, September 24 at 3:45 PM in the school library. All adults in attendance will be entered in a drawing to receive a small token of appreciation. There will be 10 lucky winners! Child care is provided during the meeting. For those of you who volunteered to be the homeroom parent, there will be a brief meeting following the general meeting. At this brief meeting, you will receive contact information of the other parents interested in helping within the classroom.

We will have two movie nights this school year. Our first one will be on Friday, September 21. Doors open at 7:00 PM. This is a FREE event for the entire family. We will provide water and popcorn and will be selling candy at the door. Snacks from home are also welcome. Don't forget your pillows, sleeping bags or blankets. The film for this event will be announced closer to the date.

KidStuff coupon books were distributed the first day of school. All orders are due Monday, September 17. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Brown or Cassey Brown (pearl428c@aol.com).

The Basket Raffle will be held at Morning Star Fellowship Church on Friday, October 12. Tickets are \$25 in advance, or \$30 the night of the raffle. Doors open at 6:00 PM, raffle begins at 7:30 PM. You will not want to miss this event.

To promote school spirit, we will be providing **ALL** students of Colebrookdale Elementary with a CES T-shirt. That's right, it's **FREE!** Each grade level will have their own color. Please consider selecting a size that your student will be able to wear throughout the year. The order forms need to be submitted by Friday, September 14.

Earlier this year, we were able to purchase a new piece of playground equipment because of the generous donations and fundraising efforts of our families and friends. We have been told it is a favorite at recess time. Please continue to help us in our fundraising endeavors, so that we can continue to provide fun and educational extras for our students.

Thank you, and we hope everyone has a wonderful school year.

