



**October 2019**

**Mrs. Kelly Mason, Principal**

### EVENTS

- 10/14 Staff Development**  
**NO SCHOOL**
- 10/18 PTA Fall Festival  
5 – 8 PM  
Book Fair  
5 – 8 PM
- 10/21 Picture Retake Day
- 10/22 School Board Meeting  
BASH 6:30 PM
- 10/23 Early Dismissal 12:25 PM**
- 11/01 Parent Visitation Day

### HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

The Title I requirements mandate that all teachers and instructional aides who work with students in our district's Title I program must be "highly qualified" according to guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. We are proud to say that all of the teachers and Title I aides in the Boyertown Area School District meet these criteria. If you have any questions regarding the educational background and certifications of your child's teacher, please contact the teacher or principal and we will gladly share this information with you.



### PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Picture retake day is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019.

### BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at our school from October 15<sup>th</sup> through October 18<sup>th</sup> with a special opportunity for parents to shop with their children on October 18, 2019 during the PTA Fall Festival. Stop into the library between 5 and 8 PM and shop the fair for some exciting books. If you are unable to join us on the 18<sup>th</sup>, you are able to shop on-line. We will still receive credit for those sales to benefit our library program. In the past we have used book fair profits to add popular high-demand titles to our shelves, and we have also been able to purchase iPad minis for library and classroom use. We thank you for your support of the Pine Forge Library.



### PARENT VISITATION DAY

Parent Visitation Day will be held on Friday, November 1, 2019.



The purpose of this day is to strengthen the home/school connection and for parents to experience the programs taking place at PFES. More information pertaining to your child's time will be sent in a separate document.

### TESTING INFORMATION

Please mark your calendars with the following: **PSSA** (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) will be given from April 20 – May 8, 2019. **Parents should make sure appointments are NOT scheduled during these time periods. Students will NOT be excused for "educational trips" during these testing periods.**



## NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

**Physical & Dental Exams:** All State-mandated Kindergarten and 3rd Grade private dental exam forms and all Kindergarten 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 in your child's records.

**Cold weather:** Please remind your children to dress appropriately for outdoor recess. If your child is not dressed appropriately for the weather/temperature they will not be going out to recess. Also, October is the official start of the cold and flu season. Please remind your children to wash their hands often to prevent the spread of colds/flu at home and in our classrooms.

**Medication at school:** Please see the BASD medication policy in the BASD handbook or on the BASD website to review the policy if your child needs to take any medications during school hours. **Your child may receive medications in school daily or as needed during school if the medication policy is followed: Complete a Medication Authorization form to be signed by the parent/guardian and the prescribing physician; the medication is to be hand delivered by a parent/guardian or designated adult; the medication, whether over-the-counter or prescription, must be in its original container and labeled with the child's name, drug name, dosage, and time to be given in school. Medication forms are available on the BASD Web site at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> via link Services - student services - health: medication or by request from the health room. Please contact the health room if you have any questions.**

**Mandated health screenings:** Students in grades 1-5 have their annual mandated health screenings, from now through December. A team of school nurses check each student's height, weight and vision; students in grades 1-3 have hearing checks. Once all students have been screened, a "Screening Notification Letter" with the results of each child's screenings will be mailed to parents/guardians.

**Head Lice:** During each school year, almost without fail, we can expect to find some cases of head lice among our students. To control outbreaks in our schools, the Boyertown Area School District follows the PA Guidelines for School Based Program for Control for Lice Infestation (2011). When an active head louse infestation is detected by the school nurse (findings of crawling insects or nits within one half inch of the scalp), the student's parent or guardian will be asked to come to school and take the student home for treatment. The parent or guardian will have two options for treatment: (1) Contact their family physician for diagnosis and treatment or (2) use a checklist provided by the school nurse for at home treatment using an over-the-counter pediculicide (chemical shampoo that kills lice). The school nurse will also check any siblings in grades K through 12 that may have been exposed or possibly be infested with head lice. Students with head lice will be excluded from school and from riding the school bus until the school nurse or child's physician determines the student has received proper treatment and is non-infectious. Students may return to school once they have been treated with an approved pediculicide. Parents or guardians must present proof of the pediculicide used for treatment (empty bottle or dated receipt) to the school nurse. Students should receive a second treatment in 7-10 days. Retreatment is recommended because no approved pediculicide completely kills all eggs. The school nurse will do a follow up check in 7 – 10 days to ensure the at home treatments have been effective.

**Prevention and control of head lice begins in the home: parents should routinely check their children for head lice and not allow them to share hats, clothing, brushes, combs or sleeping bags with other children. Individuals become infested with lice by coming into close contact (usually head-to-head contact) with an lice-infested person, by wearing infested garments, by using infected combs and brushes, or by lying on infested carpets, beds, or upholstered furniture that have recently been used by an infested person. We strongly urge all parents to read about head lice and inspect the hair and scalp of their children regularly.** Please contact the school if you discover that your child has lice. The Boyertown Area School

District trusts that with the school and home working cooperatively, head lice can be kept under control with minimal inconvenience to our students and their families. More information on head lice is available on the BASD website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org/> under Services, Student Services, Health or from the school nurse. 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.

### **BASD ATTENDANCE POLICY REMINDER**

The district attendance policies and procedures can be found on the BASD website under school board policies and in the elementary handbook.

Please remember that an e-mail, handwritten note, district website/app absence note, or doctor's note are required for all absences. Phone calls to the attendance line will prevent a phone call from the office checking on the safety of the student. However, phone calls to the attendance line must be followed up with a handwritten parent note, e-mail, or doctor's note within three days of the student's return to school. Failure to submit the appropriate notes will result in the absence being coded as unlawful. 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 which could lead to a citation from the District Magistrate.

A handwritten parent note or email communication of the absence is acceptable for the first 10 days of absence per school year. Any further absences require a doctor's note.

Please remember to submit an educational trip form prior to departure. Trip forms continue to be available in the school office as well as on the BASD website.

### **Preston's Little Lending Library**

On July 11, 2019, a devastating flash flood swept through the area of Ironstone Park, taking the life of Pine Forge student, Preston Dray, along with his mother and unborn sister. At that same park, a little lending library that had been built and installed last spring by the Boyertown Middle School West Technology Student Association was reduced to splinters and swept away. The only part of the library that has been recovered since the flood is the door. In remembrance of Preston and his family, the West TSA Club plans to rebuild the little lending library, reposition it at Ironstone Park in Pine Forge, and stock it with children's books for the community to enjoy. Through October 18, each school in the district will have a box in the lobby to collect donations of new or gently used children's books. Books should be intact and odorless, without torn pages, scribbles, scent of smoke, or mildew. Book donations will be used to restock the little lending library at Ironstone Park, with any additional donations being used to build classroom libraries at Pine Forge Elementary School. Please help us to raise a community of readers and honor the memory of this precious family.