

April 2016

Mrs. Laura Heineck, Principal

EVENTS

- 4/1 EARLY DISMISSAL 12:30 PM**
- 4/5 Spring Photos
6th grade group photo
8:50 AM Multi-purpose room
- 4/6 PSSA Assembly (grades 3 -6)
9:15 AM Multi-purpose room
JHW discussion with 6th grade students
Chorus Concert
7:00 PM JHW
- 4/11-4/22 PSSA Testing (grades 3 – 6)
- 4/12 School Board Meeting
7:00 PM Ed. Center
- 4/21 Planetarium visit
Kdg. AM 9:45 AM
Kdg. PM 1:20 PM
- 4/25-4/29 PSSA Testing (grade 4)
- 4/29 Grandparents' Day

Students should arrive and meet on stage at 6:45 PM and wear their red chorus shirts and black or dark bottoms (pants or skirts). See you there!



ART NEWS

The Pine Forge Art Show and Book Fair will soon be here. It is scheduled for May 19, 2016. Please stop by to see all of the fabulous art!

YEARBOOK

It is that time of year again to order your 2015-2016 Yearbook. **The deadline for ordering is April 4, 2016.** Don't miss out on this opportunity to capture your child's memories. Printed order forms are available in the office for your child to bring home.



SPRING PHOTOS

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 is Spring Photo Day at Pine Forge Elementary School. Bring your smile!

6th GRADE GROUP PHOTO

The 6th grade class will have a group photo taken on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 8:50 AM in the morning.



MUSIC NEWS

Attention 5th and 6th Grade Chorus Parents!

We will be having our spring concert at Junior High West on April 6th at 7 PM.

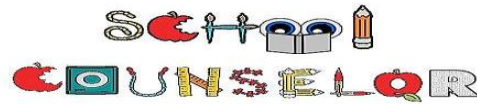


GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Grandparents' Day will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016. The purpose of this day is to show our grandparents a typical school day and the wonderful educational opportunities at Pine Forge Elementary. A letter inviting grandparents will be sent home soon. Remember that parents' visitation day is in the fall, so we discourage parents from visiting on this special day reserved for the grandparents of our students.

LOST & FOUND

Please remind your child to check the lost and found bin for any missing items.



DISCOUNT INTERNET ACCESS

Access to the internet has become an essential avenue for gaining access to information and services. Increasingly, services are being provided online and in some cases exclusively online. Unfortunately, the need to cut costs has pushed some companies/providers to move entire industries online. Additionally, educational resources and supports are also growing rapidly in the online world. A challenge that these changes are creating is how to help ensure everyone has access to the internet. Thankfully, a few of our local internet service providers offer low cost/need based internet programs starting as low as \$9.95 per month. If you are interested in learning more about these programs, please visit the following sites or call the company directly at the number listed.

Internet Essentials from ComCast 1-855-846-8376 or visit <https://apply.internetessentials.com/>
Windstream's Lifeline Service 1-800-347-1991 or visit <https://www.windstream.com/About-Us/Lifeline-Assistance-Program/>

TESTING INFORMATION

Please mark your calendars with the following:

PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) Reading and Math will be given to students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 during the weeks of April 11 - 22, 2016.

PSSA Science will be given to students in grade 4 during the week of April 25 – 29, 2016.

Parents should make sure appointments are NOT scheduled during these time periods. Students will NOT be excused for "educational trips" during these testing periods.

THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER School Counselor, Charlee Malfaro

Preparing for the Test

It's that time of year again! PSSA testing will take place for grades 3-6 at Pine Forge starting Monday, April 11, 2016.

Standardized test are used to provide statewide consistent information about student achievement. Though students are tested throughout the school year, standardized testing can heighten nerves for some students. Below are some tips for parents to help minimize some stress and help students come into school calm and ready to do their best:

- Make sure your child has a good night's sleep. It is recommended that children 7-12 years of age get nine to eleven hours of sleep a night.
- Be sure to get your child up early enough to be at school on time and eat a healthy breakfast. This will help your child sustain energy during testing.
- Have your student dress comfortably. When they feel comfortable there is less to bother them, which can help them focus more on the task at hand.
- Try to convey a positive attitude and encourage your child to try their best. Your child looks up to you. If you show them how you can be calm and positive they will be more inclined to reflect those outlooks too.
- Consider extra physical activity after school as a way to release energy and stress.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming testing, or about your student please contact us.



2016 – 2017 STUDENT CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Each year we work diligently to determine student placements for the following school year. Since we consider the placement process to be one of our most important tasks, we would like to share the process with you. Student placement is determined and reviewed by a team of professionals consisting of your child's present teacher, reading specialist, guidance counselor, and the principal. Additional personnel, such as the remediation teacher and special education teachers, are consulted when appropriate. Each child's academic, social and emotional growth and needs are discussed as well as peer relations. We strive to create classes that are heterogeneous, function as cohesive groups, and provide each child with an educational environment that will meet his or her needs. We feel our time is well spent because we also have a personal investment in each child.

In view of the time and consideration taken in the placement of your child, we request that you do not ask for a specific teacher placement. Should your child need special consideration, such as a specific type of learning environment or you wish to share information about your child's specific needs, please write the principal a letter stating those areas that should be taken into consideration when making next year's placement. Any written request of this nature must be submitted by April 15, 2016. Letters that include specific teacher names and/or are received after April 15, 2016 will be returned. No requests will be considered after this date. We ask that you respect our professional judgment and be assured that we strive to make the best possible match for your child.

PRE-K STORY HOUR



Pine Forge Library will once again be hosting a Pre-K Story time for children slated to begin kindergarten during the 2016/2017 school year. Story Hour will be held on 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 and 5/24 from 11:30 – 12:00. Your child can come to the library to experience a story and activity with the library staff. This not only allows your child to gain some exposure to the school, but parents will be given the opportunity to speak with various members of the Pine Forge staff while their children are in the library. If you have neighbors without school aged children, but incoming kindergarteners, let them know to save the dates.



LIBRARY NEWS

Don't forget to visit the Spring Book Fair on May 19th from 5 to 8 pm! We will have a wide selection of books available, along with examples of student work. We hope to see you there!



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2016-2017

Online Kindergarten Registration Now Available

The Boyertown Area School District is announcing kindergarten registration for the 2016-2017 school year.

Information packets were recently mailed in to each resident with a child who will reach 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2016. If you or someone you know has a child that meets the age requirement and has not received a packet; please contact

the district office to obtain a registration packet.

The Boyertown Area School District student registrations are now conducted through our electronic registration portal at www.boyertownasd.org All supporting documentation including residency, verification of birth, and immunization records should be available when completing the application and can be scanned and submitted as part of the application.

Note that although students entering kindergarten are required to have a physical and dental examination, these exams must be completed after September 1, 2015 and no later than September 15, 2016.

Please contact the Student Registration Office at 610-369-7492 or email cbartholomew@boyertownasd.org if you do not receive a packet or have questions or concerns regarding this process.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is going to be absent from school, please remember to call the school office at 610-323-7609. If you email the teacher informing him/her of your child's absence, please remember to contact the office as well.

When a child is absent without a note or phone call to the office, the absence is marked as "unlawful."

MOVING OVER THE SUMMER?

If you are planning to move out of our school attendance area for the next school year, please notify the school office at this time. This information will be most important as we make preparations for next school year. Also, if you or anyone you know are planning to enroll a new student in any grade for the 2016-2017 school year, please notify the school office at this time.



FIELD TRIP CHAPERONES

When a field trip is planned, the school nurse identifies students who will require medical management during the trip. Per BASD guidelines, teachers must first ask the parents of these students to chaperone. **If the parent cannot attend the field trip, they are permitted to send a designee on the trip to manage their child's medical needs.**

Other parents will be asked to chaperone as needed. Some trips have limited space, so at times we are not able to include all parents who would like to attend. We also require all field trip chaperones to have their PA Criminal Record Background Check, Child Abuse History Check and the FBI fingerprint requirement clearances on file in the school office. We appreciate your ongoing support and understanding in this matter.



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Medications

With the arrival of the spring allergy season and classroom field-trips, the health room would like to remind parents to refer to the BASD medication policy if your child needs to take medications at school or on a field trip. **All prescribed, over-the-counter medications, and/or substances used for medicinal purposes require parents to submit a completed medication authorization form which includes written authorization from a doctor and written parent permission.** Medication authorization forms can be downloaded from the BASD website at <http://www.boyertownasd.org> under Departments, Student Services, Health.

documents currently on file at school for their child do not have a record of these vaccines.

2015 - 2016 School Health Services Report

The health room's annual School Health Services report is due to the PA Department of Health on June 1 therefore all mandated physical and dental forms for the **2015-16 school year** *must* be submitted to the health room no later than May 31, 2016.

PA Mandated Dental and Physical Exams for 2016 - 2017 School Year

The PA School Health Act #535 requires dental exams for all students entering Kindergarten, 3rd and 7th grades, and physical exams for students entering kindergarten and 6th grade. For students entering these grades in September 2016, physical or dental exams that are completed *on or after September 1, 2015* are acceptable. Physical and dental forms for the 2016-17 school year were mailed to our current 2nd, 5th, and 6th grade parents with their child's screening notification letters. Please contact the health room if you need a form for an upcoming appointment or download a form from the BASD website @ <http://www.boyertownasd.org> under Departments - Student Services – Health link. Completed physical and dental forms can be submitted to the health room before June 7th or at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. **The health room is closed for the summer so if you submit a completed form over the summer, please retain a copy for your records.**

Children ATTENDING 7th grade in 2016-2017 need to show proof of the following vaccines:

- 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) if 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
- **Notices will be mailed to parents/guardians before the end of the school year if immunization**

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 infested 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 trust 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 Departments, Student Services, Health or from the school nurse. Please help us prevent head lice by following the policy and checking your children often.