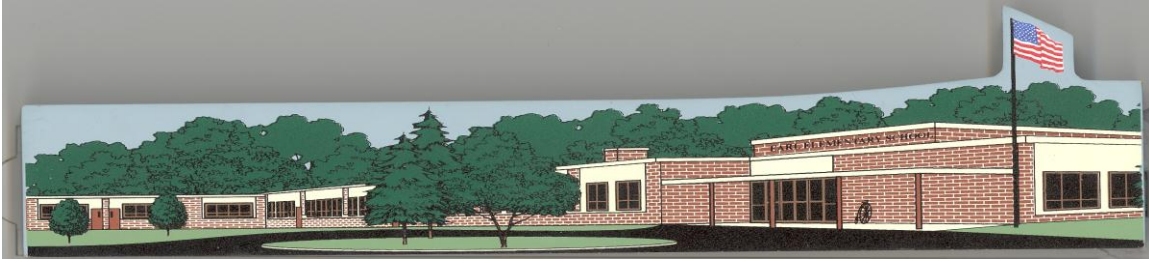


EARL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



**September 2011**

**Dr. Craig Zerr, Principal**

**Mrs. Helen Thomas, Secretary**

**PRINCIPAL'S NOTE**

Welcome back everyone! I am very excited to begin the upcoming school year. I believe we will have one of our best years ever at Earl. The 2011-12 year begins with an anticipation of a new commitment from parents, students and staff to increased student performance. Thanks to the Earl PTO three new Smart Boards were installed this summer in a Grade One classroom and both Grade Four classrooms. ***Earl School now has a Smart Board in every K-6 classroom, Reading Room, Music Room, and Learning Support Room! Also Phase 1 of the new Outdoor Classroom was installed last spring! Thanks to parent and student volunteers watering all summer the gardens and trees are in good shape to begin the school year! Phase 2-4 will be installed during this school year by the B.E.A.R.S. Club.*** This year's Student Council began last year to express their vision and goals of academic achievement and improved respect and school climate. Staff and students alike are very impressed with the maturity and resolve of our upcoming student leaders. I am confident they will make a difference in the success of Earl Elementary this year!

Last year's assessment results indicate that Earl continues an upward trend in student achievement. This is a testament to the commitment to excellence of the whole Earl team: students, parents, and staff alike. Parents and staff continue to work together to offer our students a special, and in many ways, unique experience at Earl. Our Earl PTO, a very dedicated group of parents, has already met this summer and is working diligently to plan many important events for our school. Upcoming events such as the new B.E.A.R.S. Club in charge of the Outdoor Classroom and Nature Trail Project, PTO Walk-a-thon, PTO Family Nights, PTO Craft Night, PTO Santa's Shop, Gr. 4 Environmental Education Camp Experience, Parents as Reading Partners, Reading Olympics Teams, Book Exchange, field trips, Field Day, Skating Party, Concert Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Author Visits, Art Show and Book Fair, Hawk PRIDE, No Place for Hate, and Special Assemblies are just a few of the many exciting activities that engage our students, parents, and staff as a community of learners. Please consider being an active member in the Earl PTO this year. It is a fantastic group of parents who give of their time and talents willingly to ensure that Earl is the best little school in the world. I look forward to talking to new and returning parents at the various Back to School Nights in September!

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT SCHEDULE**

Tuesday	September 6	Grade 1	6-7 p.m.	Library
Tuesday	September 6	Grade 2	6-7 p.m.	Classrooms
Tuesday	September 6	Grade 3	7-8 p.m.	Classrooms
Thursday	September 1	Grade 4	6-7:30 p.m.	Classrooms & Library
Wednesday	September 7	Grade 5	6-7 p.m.	Classrooms
Wednesday	September 7	Grade 6	7-8 p.m.	Classrooms

## **CONSTITUTION DAY SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**

We will be acknowledging the U.S. Constitution Day September 16, 2011. As we also remember the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of those that lost their lives during the events of September 11, 2001 it is a good opportunity to reflect about the wonderful freedoms we enjoy as Americans!

***The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It is a set of basic laws organizing, granting and limiting the powers of our government. It is something that we all share.***

### **Basic Facts:**

- ***It was created in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania...***
- ***during the summer of 1787...***
- ***in secret...***
- ***in 87 days.***
- ***It has 39 signers (some famous local signers are Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Mifflin, from the area that is now Shillington, PA a.k.a. Governor Mifflin- the first governor of Pennsylvania)...***
- ***and is made up of a preamble (beginning with the famous words- We The People), seven articles, and 27 amendments added later.***

Each grade level will be observing this special day. Kindergarten students will be learning about being a "citizen" while singing songs, making American flags and having a parade. First grade will be using Scholastic News magazine to review the constitution while comparing it to their classroom rules. Second grade will be reading and discussing a Weekly Reader article called "We the People," learning a new song and wearing American flag pins. Third grade will be viewing *TLC Elementary School: Understanding Government* and creating classroom flags that symbolize the shared values of their classroom. Fourth grade will be viewing a webcast from the ConstitutionCenter.org by Sandra Day O'Connor and following up with discussion during Social Studies. Fifth grade will be viewing a Discovery Education United Streaming Video called *Understanding the Constitution: Creating the Federal Government* and follow up with classroom discussion about the necessity of the Constitution and what our country would be like without it. Sixth grade will be viewing a video titled *The Almost Painless explanation of the Constitution* and follow-

up with discussion on how the Constitution affects us today.

## **READING REQUIREMENT ELIMINATED**

The reading requirement for elementary students has been eliminated.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR**

The school district will not be printing a paper calendar. For school events, please refer to the School District Comprehensive Calendar located on the school district web site home page, [www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org).

## **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES**

We ask that you call the school office (610-369-7504) if your child will not be attending school due to illness, etc. You may call between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., giving your child's name, teacher's name, and reason for absence. We also have voice mail for those who are not available to call between the scheduled times. The teachers complete their attendance daily by 9:15 a.m. If your child is not in attendance and you have not called the school to report your child's absence, we will attempt to call you. We seek cooperation in this matter for the safety of your child. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to either call the school office or complete an excuse blank within three days of the absence.

## **EARL SCHOOL IS "GOING GREEN"**

Beginning in November you will have the option of receiving this newsletter, as well as other important school information, via email. A letter will be coming home mid-month enabling you to sign up or opt out and continue receiving paper copies.



### **FAMILY TRIPS**

If you are planning a family trip that will infringe on school attendance, (even for one school day) please request an **Application to be Absent from School for an Educational Trip or Tour Form** in advance. Complete the form and return to school for action from the principal. Permission for non-school trip requests must be submitted at least 2 days prior to any trip taken for it to be counted as an excused absence. We request that families take trips on days school is not in session in order to avoid interrupting a student's educational program. Please read the student handbook for more information. Thank you for your cooperation!

### **MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

If your child must be taken out of school during the school day for a doctor or dental appointment, we ask that you send a note to your child's teacher so he/she can prepare for the student's early dismissal. A clipboard is located in the office to be used by the parent or designated adult who is signing your child out from school. Students will not be sent outside to wait at any time for someone to pick them up.

### **NEW STAFF MEMBERS**

- Mr. Ronald Butt – Art Teacher
- Mrs. Doreen Cechak – Art Teacher
- Mrs. Teri Hoffman – Vocal Music Teacher
- Mrs. Kathy Mumie – Orchestra Teacher
- Miss Melanie Shuhler – Learning Support  
Long Term Substitute Teacher
- Miss Courtney Zook – Grade One Extended  
Substitute Teacher

### **PARKING**

Parking is available along the side of the school building or on the lower parking lot. We request that parents refrain from parking in the circle in front of the building due to buses coming and going throughout the day.

### **RETURNING FORMS**

During the first week of school a number of papers will be sent home with your child for you to complete. We appreciate your assistance in completing and returning them to school promptly.

### **SCHOOL SECURITY**

Earl Elementary School utilizes a camera and buzz-in security system. All visitors are required to state their name and purpose for their visit prior to obtaining entry to the building. **All visitors are to report to the school office immediately upon entering the building.** Deliveries of any type are to be made to the office only (not directly to the classroom). A badge (visitor, volunteer, etc.) must be secured in the office before you are allowed in student areas. Parents are expected to meet their children for appointments or at dismissal at the office or other designated areas and not at the classroom.

### **STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES**

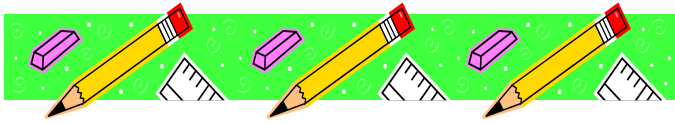
A clipboard is located in the office to be used by the parent or designated adult who is signing your child in or out from school. Please send a note to school if someone other than a parent will be signing your child out from school. (We will not permit a student to be dismissed to an adult other than their parent or guardian without a note.) Any time that you bring your child to school late or pick your child up we require you to sign this sheet. If you bring your child to school in the morning, be advised that students are not permitted to enter the building prior to 8:25 a.m. .The school day begins at 8:45 a.m. Students are not considered tardy until after 8:45. If you are picking your child up at the 3:30 p.m. dismissal, please report to the gym to sign out your child and wait for dismissal. Students will be dismissed to the gym if signed out by an adult.

### **STUDENT INSURANCE FORMS**

Voluntary student accident insurance is available for purchase. A letter will be sent home with each student. If you are interested in purchasing the insurance, please contact the school office for a brochure. The deadline to return the application envelope is September 16, 2011.

## **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 March 12-23, 2012. **PSSA** Writing will be given to students in grade 5 during the week of April 12-20, 2012. **PSSA** Science will be given to students in grade 4 during the week of April 23-27, 2012. **Parents should make sure appointments are NOT scheduled during these time periods. Students will NOT be excused for “educational trips” during these testing periods.**



## **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 (610) 473-3473. 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 on their regular bus and will be dropped off at their regular stop.***

## **FROM THE DESK OF MRS. TURNBULL, SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

Hello and welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I am looking forward to another exciting year as your School Counselor. It is a pleasure for me to help children and their families in Boyertown. I think it is important our students learn how to get along with others, make good choices and solve problems. In order to help students succeed I will be working with students in a variety of ways. Throughout the year I will be conducting classroom guidance lessons, small groups and individual counseling sessions. Examples of classroom lessons I will cover include; social skills, conflict resolution, bullying prevention and tolerance. My emphasis this year will be on kindness to support a positive

school climate. My office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please feel free to visit, e-mail or call with concerns and good news. You can reach me at [gturnbull@boyertownasd.org](mailto:gturnbull@boyertownasd.org) or 610-473-1690. I'm looking forward to another great year!

## **LIBRARY CITIZENSHIP**

Checking out books from the library is an exciting experience and important responsibility for children. Please review these book care rules with your child.

- Keep library books away from food and drink.
- Always handle books with clean hands.
- Never mark or write in books.
- Keep books away from pets and young children.
- Keep library books in a special place at home.
- Always return books on time.



***Happy Reading! Happy Reading!***

## **VOLUNTEER CLEARANCE POLICY REMINDER**

Please be reminded, if you wish to volunteer in our school, to present your original criminal and child abuse clearance forms to the office to be copied and kept on file. Each school is required to keep a log of active volunteers for their building each school year. An active volunteer is defined as a parent or community member that volunteers at least one time during the school year. Individuals that remain active do not need to obtain new clearances each year. If you did not volunteer during the 2010-2011 school year you will need to submit new clearances to the school office. Please be sure to sign in on the sheet in the office each time you come in to volunteer. We appreciate all our volunteers do for our school and thank you for your cooperation with this policy.

## **P.T.O. NEWS**

The Earl PTO would like to welcome everyone back to school. We're very excited about the year and we're off to a great start. Check out our website at [www.boyertownasd.org](http://www.boyertownasd.org) and click on Earl Elementary. This will provide you with valuable information on committees, membership meetings and PTO sponsored events. Feel free to contact us via the website with your questions or suggestions. Your input is greatly appreciated! All parents will be receiving a volunteer recruitment letter regarding ways to get involved. We have great parent support at Earl and we hope to continue that tradition but we need your help. There are various ways of supporting your school and student and we hope you will give this serious consideration. Thank you in advance and we hope to see everyone at Back-to-School Night!

### **Market Day:**

Welcome back to the 2011-2012 school year. We had a great year with Market Day last year and I would like to thank everyone who ordered and/or helped with this important part of our fundraising efforts for our school. I look forward to a great year and encourage everyone to TRY Market Day products. There are quick and easy meals, snacks and drinks to fit every budget and need. Give us a try and help our school at the same time, it's easy to do.

As we kick off the new year Market Day is having a great promotion. Purchase 3 qualifying items on page 7 of the order guide and receive 1 FREE Jumbo Tote! You can also qualify to receive a FREE Apple Pie with a qualifying purchase of \$90 or more when ordering ON LINE. Use the promo code shown in the order guide during your checkout. Cutoff date for September's orders is September 13, 2011 by 11p.m. Be sure to get your orders in on line or return the form to the PTO/Market Day by that date. The first pick up date will be Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7 p.m. Mark your calendars.

As always, if you have any questions regarding Market Day, please contact Amanda Kincade 484-941-4282 by phone or [email- akincade@worldtravelinc.com](mailto:akincade@worldtravelinc.com). Thanks again for your support and let's make this the best Market Day year ever!

