

BAKER ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

February, March, & April 2010

Principal's Corner

Don't you sometimes wonder where the school year goes? We have arrived at the second semester so quickly.

Now that the winter season is upon us, please encourage your children to dress appropriately for cold weather. Winter coats are to be worn and fastened. Hoodies/sweatshirts are not acceptable for outside attire. Boots, hats, gloves, and scarves should be worn. Children should wear sweaters or long sleeved items to school. We want to keep our students comfortable during the school day.

During the next few months, teachers and students will be preparing for the **Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)**. Integration of standards expected to be tested will become the focus of our core subject lessons. The PSSA provides a benchmark by which we are able to assess students' strengths and weaknesses. This analysis enables us to identify areas of concern and strengths; so, we can design instruction for addressing both. Listed below are the PSSA testing dates:

Third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students will be taking the State Assessment in Reading and Math the weeks of April 7 through April 16, 2010.

Fifth grade students will be taking the State Assessment in Writing the week of April 19 through April 23, 2010.

Fourth grade students will be taking the State Assessment in Science the week of April 26 through April 30, 2010.

IMPORTANT: Once testing begins, a child arriving late due to tardiness, and/or an outside appointment, will not be admitted to the classroom during the testing process. They will be assigned to a location in the building for waiting until the test is completed in the classroom. Likewise, once testing begins in the morning, a child cannot be released from the testing situation until the test has been completed. Therefore, should a parent have need for releasing a child for an appointment outside the building during the school day, please contact the teacher for making special arrangements.

Let's all continue working toward making good things happen at Baker Elementary School and keeping it a terrific place for children to grow.

Patrick Labriola, Principal

BAKER LIONS ROAR!



Tips for PSSA Success:

- ▶ Attendance, taking the test with your classmates and teacher is easier than during a make-up session.
- ▶ Ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a nutritious breakfast.
- ▶ Reassure your child that test scores are only one measure of his or her abilities, not the whole picture.
- ▶ Talk with your child about what they are doing in class and ask what he or she is reading.
- ▶ Express a positive attitude about the test and confidence in your child's ability to do well on it.
- ▶ Realize that putting too much emphasis on the test and the results can increase your child's anxiety about the test. Too much anxiety can prevent your child from doing his or her best.



Attendance and Arriving at School On Time

Attending school on a regular basis and on time is vital to your child's education and over all well being. Students arriving late disrupt important instruction time for his/her classmates and teacher. Have your child attend school on a regular basis and arrive before the 9:10 a.m. late bell rings. Please be considerate of your child's classmates as well as the Baker teachers. Thank you for your cooperation.

Arrival/Dismissal

Please remember to proceed slowly through the school area, both in vehicle or on foot, when delivering and/or retrieving children; especially during inclement weather. On some inclement weather days, the crosswalk sign at Coleridge Avenue may not be displayed because of snowplows in the area. Please exercise extreme caution using the crosswalk on those days. The Baker Elementary School area is supported by several major thoroughfares, which often have piles of snow and can become slippery. Therefore, please apply extra caution, not only for your own children, but for all the children and adults during arrival and dismissal. Please, do not block bus/van lanes, or the courtyard entrance. Sometimes, with snow piles, crossing with the aid of the crossing guard at Logan and Ward may be the safest approach. By working together, we will insure everyone arrives home safely.



Weather-Related Delays and Cancellations

The Altoona Area School District **does not have** early dismissals due to inclement weather. Although, inclement weather may require two-hour delays on some mornings. Please tune to local television and radio stations, or tune to the Educational Access Channel (cable channel 13) to answer any questions you might have regarding delays. If a two-hour delay is called, **students are not to arrive before 11:00 a.m. Parents will be contacted to pick up their children for students who arrive before 11:00 a.m.** On days with a two-hour delay, the breakfast program **is not** in effect. Thank you.

A Message From Our Cafeteria

It is important to keep your child's cafeteria account up-to-date. Balances of a negative \$5.00 or more may cause your child to be placed on a cash only status as outlined in the District Charge Policy. Payment may be made in the form of cash or check. Checks should be made payable to the Altoona Area School District. Be sure to write your child's name and/or ID# on the check. If you cannot pay for your child's meals, you need to complete the Free or Reduced application to see if you can qualify for this program. These applications can be picked up in the office.

Breakfast is served beginning at 8:30 a.m. Parents will be contacted to pick up their children for students who arrive before 8:30 a.m. Please use the Landis Street entrance when dropping off children for breakfast.



A Message from our School Nurse, Marie Brenneman

Here are some tips to help keep your child's teeth healthy:

- Brushing and flossing at least twice daily. This will help to remove plaque and food particles from the outer and inner tooth surfaces. It also prevents bacteria from lingering around teeth and gums.
- Visiting the dentist at least twice a year for a professional cleaning and examination.

- Using fluoride helps to strengthen tooth enamel, thereby reducing dental decay.
- Wearing mouth guards for high contact sports can prevent most sports related tooth and mouth injuries. A mouth guard may even prevent concussions by acting like a shock absorber between upper and lower teeth.
- Following a well balanced diet will give your body the full range of vitamins and minerals it needs.

Kindergarten and First Grade Registration

Kindergarten and First grade registration for the 2010-2011 school year will take place at Baker Elementary School on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the PTO room located downstairs in the basement. You will need to bring the following documents: birth certificate, up-to-date immunizations, social security number, and any custody paperwork. Students who are currently attending as kindergarten students do not need to re-register to continue as a first grade student.



Provine Pictures

Provine Pictures will be at Baker on Tuesday, March 23rd to take classroom group pictures and Spring Fever Portraits. More information on those packages will be sent home at a later date.



Valentine's Day Party

The Valentine's Day Party in each class will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. Please check with your PTO homeroom mom for details regarding volunteering and donations. The only parents/guardians that are permitted to help with the parties are people who have already been pre-approved by the classroom teachers and Baker's PTO. Thank you!



All City Concert

The Elementary Music Department of the Altoona Area School District would like to extend an invitation for family and friends to attend the All City Concert which will be held on Thursday, March 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at the AAHS auditorium. This vocal and instrumental concert is a fantastic opportunity for our community to see the overall musical talent level of our elementary students. Hope to see you there!

Q-Site Sponsored Hoss's Day for Baker Elementary

Thursday, February 18th will be Baker Elementary Day at the Pleasant Valley Hoss's Restaurant. Coupons will be distributed to students a few days before Hoss's Day to be given out to your friends and family. Have them join us for some Hoss-pitality! Bring your coupon and enjoy the food knowing that Hoss's shares the profit with Baker Elementary. The money will be put into a Q-Site account to fund future Q-Site ventures.

Baker's Spectacular Evening

On the evening of Tuesday, March 16, 2010, Baker students, staff, and parents will participate in a wonderful event. This event will include the Technology Fair, Learning Fair, and the Book Fair. We will share how we integrate technology and science into the curriculum. More details will follow soon. Hope to see you there!



Q-Site Sponsored Book Swap

Baker Elementary's Q-Site is collecting used books for The Book Swap that will take place on March 16, 2010 during Baker Elementary's Spectacular Evening. There is a yellow book collection box located in the foyer of Baker Elementary's main entrance. Please donate any used books that your child(ren) no longer wants. We will be collecting used books until March 15, 2010. Thank you for your support!



Student Council

Student Council has been very busy with the following events:

Pet Month: During the month of January, Student Council celebrated Pet Month. Pet pictures were displayed outside of the gym, and students were able to bring stuffed animals to school. All proceeds were donated to the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society.

Daffodil Days: Daffodil order forms were sent home last week. Daffodils will be delivered March 18. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Any student that sells over 100 flowers will have the opportunity to attend an ice cream social! If you have any questions, please contact Miss McNelis at extension 4005.

Make-A-Wish Event: This annual event raises money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. It will be held March 12th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for **fourth through sixth grade students only**. All money collected will be given toward a wish for a Blair County child. Tickets will be on sale at the end of February.



Talent Show: Student Council is also planning to host a talent show during the last week of school. It's never too early to start planning an act!

**For all Student Council activities, please remind your students that they must follow the dress code and follow all school rules.*

PTO News

Box Tops: Please remember to send in all your Box Tops and Campbell Soup labels. Collection boxes for both are located in the main entrance foyer. Our deadline is March 26th.

Fundraiser: Baker's Spring fundraiser will soon be coming up. We will be selling Gardner's Candy and something new and different – Soup! Please support the Baker PTO. Funds raised will be used for field trips, the school picnic, and enrichment assemblies to name a few.

Holiday Store: A BIG thank you to Carla Pennabaker and her volunteers for the wonderful job they did! The students loved making their holiday purchases!



Baker Elementary's Birthday Book Club

Baker School has a "Birthday Book" program. The program is one in which parents, relatives, and friends can provide a gift for the library that will go on long after the birthday is over! The club works like this. In honor of your child's birthday, you may donate a book to the Baker Library. The school librarian, Mrs. Eileen Conlon, along with your input, will select the book. The inside cover of the book will then display a bookplate acknowledging your child's gift, and will be circulated the first time to your child. The child may choose to share it with the whole class on his/her special day, or also take it home to share with his family. Mrs. Conlon will then make this special for your child by placing your child's name and title of the purchased birthday book on a certificate. For more information, please contact Mrs. Conlon in our library at extension 4080.

Sixth Grade Fundraiser

To help with the costs of the special activities that Baker's 6th grade students are involved in, they will be doing a fundraiser selling candles, Sheetz MTO coupons and coupon tab-card books. If you are interested in helping our 6th Grade Baker students fund their end-of-the-year activities by purchasing one of their fundraiser items, please contact your local 6th Grader!

United States Census 2010

The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States. All U.S. residents must be counted—people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens. Census Day is April 1, 2010. Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires. Census is very important because it determines the distribution of more than \$300 billion annually of government funding for critical community services. It also impacts your voice in Congress. With your help, the Census Bureau will continue to produce accurate data, which will directly affect the quality of life in your community. So please make sure you complete your Census questionnaire. Thank you!

New Procedure for Baker Evening Events

When evening events are held at Baker Elementary for students, parents will now be required to complete the After School Event Student Permission Form. This form will include information such as emergency telephone numbers, who will be picking your child up, etc. **Students will not be admitted without this permission form.** Such information is important for the safety of all our students.

Most evening events are for Baker students only and do not include other family members. When parents are invited to evening events, that

information will be noted on any flyer that is sent home.

Thank you for your cooperation with this new procedure Baker Elementary is instituting.



Sledding Tips from the Cambria Allegheny Regional Highway Safety Network

Never sled ride in the dark. Sled ride in a well lighted area free of trees or other objects.

Wear a helmet. Head injuries can be serious. A broken arm/leg can be repaired, many head injuries are permanent and life threatening.

Wear appropriate outdoor clothing to keep warm.

To slow down a runaway sled, drag your feet, or even roll off your sled onto the ground.

Avoid using inner tubes, saucers, and disks. They are hard to steer. Sleds are a much better option.

Sled ride in snow and not the ice. Ice will make your sled go very fast and may be uncontrollable.

A sled should never be attached to a bumper of a car or any other moving vehicle. This can be extremely dangerous and result in serious injuries.

Dates To Remember

February 4	Daffodil orders and money due	March 16	Baker's Spectacular Evening 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
February 5	NO SCHOOL -Teacher In-Service Day	March 18	Student Council meeting 8:15 a.m. in Mr. Woomer's classroom
February 9	PTO Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m.	March 18	Daffodil Day delivery
February 11	Q-Site meeting 8:00 a.m. in the library	March 23	Provine Spring Fever and classroom pictures
February 11	Valentine's Day Parties 2:00 p.m.	March 24	Student Council's Wacky Wednesday \$1.00
February 11	Student Council's Hat Day \$1.00	March 26	Last day to turn in Box Tops and Campbell Soup labels
February 12	NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day Holiday	March 31	End of 3 rd marking period
February 15	NO SCHOOL -Presidents' Day Holiday	April 2-5	NO SCHOOL -Spring Break
February 18	Student Council meeting 8:15 a.m. in Mr. Woomer's classroom	April 7-16	PSSA Grades 3,4,5,6 Math and Reading Assessment
February 18	Hoss's Day	April 8	Report cards go home
February 22-26	Student Council's Rainbow Week Monday-wear red Tuesday-wear orange & yellow Wednesday-wear green Thursday-wear blue & purple Friday- wear rainbow colors	April 8	Q-Site meeting 8:00 a.m. in the library
March 2	Baker Kindergarten Registration 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.	April 9	Student Council's Twins Day
March 4	All City Concert 7:00 p.m. AAHS Auditorium	April 13	PTO Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m.
March 5	NO SCHOOL -Teacher In-Service Day	April 15	Student Council meeting 8:00 a.m. in Mr. Woomer's classroom
March 9	PTO Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m.	April 19-23	PSSA Grade 5 Writing Assessment
March 11	Q-Site meeting 8:00a.m. in the library	April 26-30	PSSA Grade 4 Science Assessment
March 12	Make-A-Wish Event Grades 4 through 6 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	April 30	Student Council's Movie Star Day
March 15-19	Book Fair Week		



***Daylight Savings Time begins on
Sunday, March 14th.***

***Don't forget to turn your clocks
ahead one hour.***