



# BAKER ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

November, December, 2009/January, 2010

## A Message from Principal Labriola

We are off to a wonderful start to the school year. Our Baker students are focused, well-mannered and attending school regularly. I observe engaging reading, writing, and math lessons throughout the building as I do walk-a-bouts. It takes all of us working together to build a strong foundation at the elementary level. Students have also participated in many exciting activities such as volleyball, soccer, football and cheerleading.

As we turn the calendars to the winter months, I would like to review some safety procedures that we follow here at Baker to ensure the welfare of all students. Schools in the Altoona Area School District are equipped with buzzers, monitors, security cameras, and alarm systems. Once the school day begins at 9:00 a.m., all doors are locked and you may only enter the school at the main entrance, facing Logan Boulevard.

We are asking for your cooperation and understanding so we can make Baker as safe as possible. We are asking parents to follow a few simple guidelines to assure student safety:

1. Always come to the office first after entering the school. This means not walking your child/children to the classroom or visiting the teacher without an appointment before or after school. We will be happy to accommodate you, but please come to the office first.

2. If you are bringing a child to before-school and after-school child care, please take your child to the child care area – art/music room or gym. If you need to see a teacher or need something in the classroom, please come to the office first and we will accommodate your needs.

3. If there is an event that you are invited to, sign in at the office. If you are volunteering, sign in at the office and get a volunteer badge. All personnel approved to be in the building must wear a district ID or a Baker badge ID or they will be escorted to the office and security may be called.

4. At arrival and dismissal, the Principal will monitor the outside of the school. If the Principal is not available, a designee-teacher or custodian – will assist in the arrival/dismissal monitoring. When possible, there will be a number of staff monitoring arrival and dismissal.

Please have patience with us, we are trying to take precautions to make our children as safe as possible. The precautions may take a little more of your time, but we feel it will better protect our children.

Thank you for your cooperation and have a great second marking period!

## Web-Site

Please check out Baker's web-site by logging on at [HTTP://BAKER.AASDCAT.COM](http://BAKER.AASDCAT.COM). Our web-site has valuable information about Baker Elementary and the Altoona Area School District. In addition to significant dates, it includes useful information relevant to each grade level and provides links to other school district services and events. Check it out!

## Student Attendance

Any student arriving late must report to the office before going to class. Parents/guardians **MUST** accompany their child to the office and present an excuse as to why the student was late. Please note that some tardies may be considered unexcused. A student will receive one detention for being tardy 8 times. Baker Elementary's late bell rings at 9:10 a.m. Please make every attempt to have your child at school on time. Being late interferes with the student's learning and the learning of his/her classmates because of the disruption in instruction time. Thank you for your cooperation.



## Student Absences

When your child is going to be absent from school, please notify the teacher **directly** using their four digit extension. That way, plans to make up missed work can be arranged. Teachers are able to receive telephone calls from 8:10 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.



## Snow Days/Two-Hour Delays

Due to inclement weather, school delays or closings sometimes become necessary. Please listen to local news stations on television, the AASD Educational Access channel 13, or the

radio for information regarding delays or closings. When a two-hour delay occurs, students are to report at 11:00 a.m. On days with a two-hour delay, our breakfast program is **NOT** in effect. This is because our students arrive at 11:00 a.m., which is when the first lunch period begins.



## Provine Pictures

Individual school pictures will be taken on Tuesday, November 10th. Information and payment envelopes were already sent home. Late orders cannot be accepted. Thank you!

## A Message From Our Guidance Counselor, Dr. Larry Pennington

### *Bouncing Back*

Resiliency is the ability to bounce back from the ups and downs of life. Resilience is a positive form of life energy. The loss of this energy is often called "burnout". Research has shown that while some people seem to come by resiliency naturally, these behaviors can also be learned.

Here are some ways to build resilience in your child:

- Look for opportunities over the holidays to help your child build connections with close family and friends.
- Encourage your child to do something he/she enjoys each day.
- Help your child accept that change is a part of life.

Life will challenge resiliency each day. As the school counselor, I encourage you to work with me this year as I promote the building of resilience skills. Together we can make a difference.

**A Message From Our School Nurse, Marie Brenneman**



While the flu can be very serious, school nurses are urging parents not to panic but to be conscientious about prevention and alert to symptoms that should be reported to their physicians. Symptoms include fever above 100°F, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, head and body aches, chills, and fatigue. Preventative measures include frequent thorough hand washing, respiratory etiquette (covering mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, using tissues and properly disposing of them). The human body is equipped with marvelous defense mechanisms and the more we learn about how these defenses work, the better able we will be able to fight off the germs around us. For information on the seasonal flu and H1N1, refer to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

**American Education Week  
November 16 – 20, 2009**

American Education Week is an exciting time of year and Baker is gearing up for another wonderful event. Each classroom will be doing different activities during this week to help celebrate the event. You will also be invited to observe a music and/or physical education lesson.

The theme this year is “Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.” Please look around our school for great examples of your child’s work. We thank you for all of your continued support and encouragement.

**Student Council**

Student Council is up and running for the 2009-2010 school year. Already this year, Student

Council sponsored Gold Ribbon Day on September 25th to support childhood cancer victims. The school raised \$130 to donate to the Brian Morden Foundation, which helps support local children who have cancer.

During the month of October, Student Council sponsored a hat day and Red Ribbon Week from October 26-30. Children were encouraged to wear their ribbons to school during that week to promote a Drug Free atmosphere.

Student Council will be holding elections for officers in early November. Speeches will take place November 2nd, and elections will take place November 3rd.

For the month of November, Student Council would like to honor past and present soldiers. All students are asked to bring in pictures of soldiers to be displayed in the hallway outside of the gym. Please make sure your student’s name and teacher are written on the back of the picture to ensure proper return. Student Council will also be collecting toiletries, pictures, letters, and other items to send to soldiers over seas. Please send items to school with your student November 2-5. In honor of Veterans Day, November 12th is Red, White, and Blue Day at Baker.

December will be a very busy month for Student Council. We will once again be hosting a Movie Night on December 11th. Please watch for more information to be sent home.

To continue a Baker tradition during December, Student Council will once again sponsor the Holiday Contest. Students will be asked to dress up as their favorite Winter Holiday on December 22nd, and each classroom will choose the best-dressed student to win a prize.

Finally, to help those in need over the holidays, Student Council will hold a food drive to support local families from December 1-10. All nonperishable items are welcome.

We look forward to another successful year for Student Council and hope that all students at Baker choose to participate in as many activities as possible.



**Day of the Arts Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sponsored by Q-Site Council**

Q-Site is bringing together volunteers from our community to participate in Baker Elementary's Day of the Arts. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Baker students will be engaged in activities involving art, drama, dance, storytelling, and music. Day of the Arts is a very exciting day at our school and provides wonderful experiences for the students!

**Barnes and Noble Event**

Please plan on visiting Barnes and Noble on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Baker Elementary will receive a portion of all purchases made that day. More information to come.

**PTO**

The PTO Fundraising Committee would like to say "Thank You" to those parents and students who participated in this year's fundraiser. Our success can only be reached with everyone's participation.

The Fundraiser Baker Bash will be held Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This reward is for students who sold their quota or paid the fair share. More information to come.

**Scholastic Book Fair**

The entire school is excited about our upcoming PTO sponsored Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way! Your children will attend with their class on Tuesday, November

3<sup>rd</sup> or Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar for our Family Night which is Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Feel free to browse the featured books in the upcoming flyer and create a wish list to bring with you. See you at the Book Fair!

**Holiday Store**

The Baker PTO is having a Holiday Store again this year. Classes will attend during the day on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for students to purchase gifts for their family. There will be a 10 item limit for each student. More information will be available at a later date. Start making those wish lists!!

**PSSA**



As our students prepare for the PSSA tests in April, we are striving to do the best work we can. Baker teachers and students continue to make gains on the PSSA's. We met and exceeded state-wide standards again. Please keep the following dates in mind when scheduling appointments as attendance during these days are very important.

April 7-16	Grade 3,4,5,6 Math and Reading
April 19-23	Grade 5 Writing
April 26-30	Grade 4 Science

**Elementary Conferences**



Our Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on the evening of Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and during the day on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have school on Monday, but due to conferences, there will be **no school Tuesday and Wednesday. Students will also be off for**

**Thanksgiving on Thursday, Friday, and Monday. Students' first day back at school will be Tuesday, December 1st.**

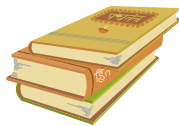
Conference letters will be sent home Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend your conference, please contact your child's teacher to schedule another time. Our goal is to meet with every child's parent/guardian.

Have a wonderful conference!



**Headphones and Textbooks**

Baker Elementary's computer lab is equipped with headphones for students to utilize while working on the computer. Some students have a tendency to chew on the wire causing damage to the headphone. Parents/guardians have the option to purchase headphones. If you opt to purchase your child headphones, please place them in a ziplock bag with your child's name and send them to your child's teacher.



There also have been reports of students writing in their textbooks. Please talk to your children about taking care of their textbooks.

Both headphones and textbooks are very expensive to replace. Please note that parents/guardians will be required to provide financial restitution to replace any damaged headphones or textbooks.

**A message from the Parent Institute flyer**

Make a commitment to carve out a little time that is "parent-kid" time each day. If you have more than one child, look for time alone with each. Think about your day. If your child catches the

school bus, turn that short walk to the bus stop into your regular time together. Could you spend a little extra time as you tuck each child into bed? Invite one child at a time to help you prepare dinner. These small chunks of time will become very important. They may be the time when your child opens up and tells you what's really going on in his/her life.

**Shiny Pennies: A message from the Math and Science Connection flyer**

Give your child a pile of pennies and let him make them bright and shiny.

*You'll need:* dull pennies, paper cup, lemon juice, paper towel

*Here's how:* Have your youngster put a penny into a paper cup and cover it with lemon juice. After five minutes, he can take out the penny and dry it with a paper towel.

*What happens?* The penny will be much brighter than it was before.

*Why?* Pennies are made from copper, which is naturally shiny. But the coins lose their shine over time as the copper mixes with the oxygen in the air. That chemical reaction is called oxidation and causes the pennies to be coated with something called an oxide. The acid in the lemon juice removes the oxide-leaving the penny looking brand new!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL  
SPORTS TEAMS AND  
CHEERLEADERS FOR DOING AN  
OUTSTANDING JOB  
REPRESENTING  
BAKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!**



**BAKER LIONS ROAR!!**



## **DATES TO REMEMBER!!**

November 1-30 Student Council's Veteran picture collection  
November 2 End of 1<sup>st</sup> marking period  
November 3 Student Council officer speeches  
November 2-5 Student Council's Operation SOS soldier item collection  
November 3-4 Book Fair for classes  
November 3 Book Fair  
Parent Night  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
November 6 Teacher In-Service  
-NO SCHOOL  
November 9 Report cards go home  
November 9 Fundraiser Delivery times TBA  
November 9 PTO Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
November 10 Provine Individual Pictures  
November 10 Barnes and Noble Day  
November 11 Veteran's Day  
-NO SCHOOL  
November 12 Q-Site meeting 8:00 a.m.  
November 12 Student Council's Red, White and Blue Day  
November 13 Day of the Arts  
November 13 Student Council's Freaky Friday \$1.00  
November 16 thru 20  
American Education Week  
November 16 Physical Education and Music class visitation for American Education Week  
November 17 Physical Education class visitation for American Education Week  
November 19 Student Council Meeting  
8:15a.m. in Mr. Woomer's room  
November 23 Evening Conferences  
-SCHOOL IN SESSION  
November 24 & 25  
Elementary Conferences  
-NO SCHOOL  
November 26 -30  
Thanksgiving Break  
-NO SCHOOL

December 1 WELCOME BACK!  
SCHOOL IN SESSION  
December 1 -10 Student Council Food Drive  
December 3 Baker Bash Fundraiser Reward  
December 8-9 Holiday Store  
December 8 PTO Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
December 10 Q-Site meeting 8:00 a.m.  
December 11 Student Council Movie Night  
5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.  
December 17 Student Council Meeting  
8:15a.m. in Mr. Woomer's room  
December 22 Student Council's Holiday Contest  
December 23 Teacher In-Service  
-NO SCHOOL  
December 24-January 3  
Winter Break  
-NO SCHOOL  
January 4 WELCOME BACK!  
SCHOOL IN SESSION  
January 8 Student Council's Stuff  
Animal Day \$1.00  
January 12 PTO Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
January 14 Q-Site meeting 8:00 a.m.  
January 15 Teacher In-Service  
-NO SCHOOL  
January 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
-NO SCHOOL  
January 21 Student Council Meeting  
8:15a.m. in Mr. Woomer's room  
January 22 Student Council's Jersey Day  
January 25 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period  
January 29 Report cards go home



***Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday  
November 1<sup>st</sup>.***

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