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Winter, 2012

The Official Newsletter of the Bonfield PTO

A note from the principal ...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

School is most appealing to children who arrive ready to learn. That means children whose natural curiosity is aroused and encouraged at home, who recognize that books are full of fun, and who understand that trying over and over is the sign of a good student, not a failing one.

This kind of *readiness* happens when:

- You take family outings, such as picnics, movies or museums, and then discuss your adventures as a family.
- Your child is welcome to participate in adult company.
- You actively participate in television watching, sharing thoughts with one another about the show, so that it is not just a passive activity.
- You model being a student yourself, looking up information, seeking answers to questions, asking others for advice.
- You read to your child and talk about what you've read.
- You monitor homework and reward your child's efforts.

Children who enjoy reading will continue to learn and grow throughout their lives. Reading is one of the most inexpensive and readily available forms of education and entertainment available. Parents play an **incredibly important** role in helping their children become better readers and arrive ready for school each and every day. Thank you for partnering with our school to insure that your child has a rewarding educational experience!

Happy New Year!

Dr. Montgomery



Bingo Night

Thank you all for coming and I hope it was a wonderful family night out for everyone.

I want to send a special thank you to the bingo callers for the evening; Mrs. McFadden, Mrs. Barbato, Mrs. Pfeiffer and Dr. Montgomery. I also want to thank the parent volunteers who helped me throughout the evening; Stephanie Bennecoff and Tammy Demmy.

Wendi Keeney



Snowman Express

The PTO would like to send out a HUGE Thank You to all the parents and teachers who volunteered their time at Snowman Express. Our event was a huge success and, as always, the kids enjoyed themselves immensely. Events like this would not be possible without our volunteers!!

Chris Glick

Standards of Achievement: Home and School Collaboration

In an effort to ensure that all children in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receive a strong academic foundation with the skills needed to lead productive lives, the state has established and continues to revise *standards of achievement*. Educational experts have compiled the knowledge and skills students at each grade level must be proficient in for future success. These research-based standards have been developed for students from pre-K through grade 12 in most subjects, and schools are held accountable for teaching them. In an effort to leave no child behind, we teach and assess to assure students are making progress and reaching the benchmarks that have been made the measure of whether schools are doing their jobs.

Since the success of children depends on so much more than just what schools can do, educators seek to form partnerships with parents and the greater community in the best interests of children. Good parenting is crucial to our ability to maximize the potential of each child. When parents do their part at home, and when they work with the school in the educational process, children get their “best shot” at success. Parents have the power to create home conditions that support children as learners. This would involve:

- 1.) Establishing routines for learning in the home
- 2.) Participating with their children in interactive learning activities
- 3.) Supporting, guiding, and encouraging their children’s development
- 4.) Keeping the lines of communication flowing between home and school

The research is clear:

"Parental involvement in the form of “at-home good parenting” has a significant positive effect on children's achievement and adjustment even after all other factors shaping attainment have been taken out of the equation." (Desforges, C (2003) The impact of parental involvement, parental support and family education on pupil achievement and adjustment: a literature review. DfES Research Report 433)

Home and school working together - a beautiful combination!

Mrs. Deb McDonald
Bonfield Learning Facilitator
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Congratulations! – Llana Clauss and Joe Muller

Llana Clauss and Joe Muller, outstanding sixth grade band students from John R. Bonfield Elementary School, participated in the Youth Honor Band 2011. Both Llana and Joe played their trombones at the annual Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 7 Youth Honor band, which occurred at the Ephrata Middle School on November 4 & 5, 2011. A total of 140 fifth and sixth grade musicians from eight counties represented their schools at the Youth Honor Band 2011. Attending this two-day musical event required these musicians to dedicate additional time and energy to practicing their band instruments. Llana and Joe, along with five other Warwick elementary band students, practiced in preparation for the event, and they rehearsed for many hours Friday evening and Saturday morning with the Youth Honor Band during the November 4 & 5 weekend. Llana, Joe, and the other Warwick musicians then performed a fantastic concert on Saturday afternoon to conclude the 2011 Youth Honor Band event.



Talent Show 2012

If you missed the talent show last night, you missed a great one! There were lots of dance acts, singing acts, and a couple of magic acts. Many different musical instruments were represented last night; electric guitar, drums, piano, violin, viola, trombone and even a ukulele! Katie Pyle and Evan Clark did excellent jobs at being the Masters of Ceremony and amused the audience throughout the evening. The night could not have been pulled off without the parent volunteers. A huge thank you goes out to Cindy Oxendine (for organizing the event), Bonnie and Chris Barnhart, Tammy Snyder, Mike Sham, Janelle Roberts and of course, our very own Mr. Doug Miller!



Makin' the Grade

Kindergarten

100...days of school that is!! The kindergarten students are so excited to reach this milestone in our school year. We have been counting our days of school all the way to 72. Students are counting by tens and ones to figure out what number we have reached. We are so smart!! We will celebrate by having a 100th day party! During this time we will order 100 numbered Hershey's kisses on our 100 chart- Yum! We will also celebrate by counting to 100 by 1's, by 5's and by 10's. Look out! We might have to hop on one foot 100 times or maybe do 100 pushups! Just kidding! The students will also use stamps to make ten rows of ten that will equal 100. We will count 100 pieces of snack by counting ten pieces of ten different kinds of treats. Kindergarten students will be asked to bring in a 100th day project that we will hang on our bulletin boards in the hallway. Here we will be able to compare the size of different groups of objects that all equal 100! We will even write about 100. "What would you do if you had 100 dollars?" Hmmm. Maybe you would take your teacher out for dinner!! It's going to be an exciting time in our kindergarten classrooms. Here's to 100 days of learning and growing!!!

100 Things in My Closet

Inside my closet, guess what I see:

10 stuffed animals looking at me!

10 lost checkers, some red and some black,

10 chocolate candies (I'd saved for a snack).

And would you believe that there are 10 rocks

Sitting on top of 10 missing socks!

10 rubber balls and 10 baseball bats,

And I think I see 10 old winter hats!

10 shirts and 10 pants where they shouldn't be.

There seems to be quite a big cleanup for me!

By Betsy Miller

First Grade

What did you learn in school today?



If you happen to ask this question to a first grader in the second half of the school year, be prepared to hear responses similar to these:

Well, in our Language Arts block, we are focusing on learning the long vowel sounds while still working hard on reading with fluency, accuracy and expression. Retelling our stories with details shows that we comprehend what we read. We are excited to show others that we read for meaning. We like to go on any of our first grade teacher's web site and practice our sight words with the podcasts they produced for us. We also like to go to these websites to practice many language arts skills:

www.readwritethink.org

www.internet4classrooms.com/skills_1st.htm

All math blocks in first grade are working on increasing their "A's." That is "Accuracy and Automaticity!" Research shows that when we have our facts memorized, we are able to devote more working memory to higher-level thinking and problem solving. Therefore, each math block class is doing a self-pacing math program to foster speed and accuracy with math facts.

One of the websites we like to visit is

www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician/cathymath.html

In the content areas of Science and Social Studies, we can be found excitedly studying about how to keep our bodies healthy, while in Social Studies we are celebrating our great county, its patriotic symbols and the American Heroes of the past.

Makin' the Grade

Second Grade

Wow, it is January already! It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through this school year. Second graders have been very busy learning many new exciting topics at school.

Do you remember borrowing and carrying? We call it regrouping now. Second graders are learning to subtract two-digit numbers in math class. They have learned a little poem to help them remember when to regroup: *More on the top, no need to stop! More on the floor, go next door and ask for ten more! If the number is the same, then zero's the game!* Keep practicing those facts at home! It becomes extremely important to know the basic addition and subtraction facts as we progress into multiple digit addition and subtraction. Next we will be studying the value of money and counting coins.

In reading class this month, students will either become detectives while reading mysteries about Cam Jansen and Nate the Great, or read biographies and complete a book project to learn about a famous person. In a few weeks the classes will switch topics. It is fun to read different types of genres!

Second graders will soon be turning in their social studies books for science books. We will begin by exploring the wonderful world of earth science and talking about *The Earth, Weather and Seasons* and *The Solar System*. Don't be surprised if your second grader starts talking about landforms, erosion, earthquakes and the properties of rocks. They will become quite the smart little scientists.

Thank you for your continued support at home.

Third Grade

The Third Grade is well on the way to becoming 4th graders! We're WORKING on our cursive handwriting, knowing our math facts fluently, and writing good paragraphs that are indented and include LOTS of organization, details, and are grammatically correct!

We are looking forward to our trips to the Franklin Institute and the Capitol in Harrisburg. The Franklin Institute will offer the chance to learn MORE about Ben Franklin and many wonderful scientific inventions and discoveries. The State Capitol allows the opportunity to see the AMAZING Rotunda and learn more about our state government.

As we continue to develop our 3rd grade skills we look forward to our first opportunity for being assessed through the PSSA. There will be more information forthcoming on how we can best be prepared for these tests. One important detail to remember is that the tests should be approached with ease and the knowledge that we are assessing what has been learned over their 8 or so years. There is no official 'studying' that needs to be done.

Makin' the Grade

Fourth Grade

Dear Reader,

I had a wonderful holiday vacation with friends and family, but I am so excited to have returned in January to my 4th grade class. I know my teachers are very excited to see me as well! My teachers have given me a preview of what is to come in the next few months and I can't wait to share some of the highlights!

First, in math class, the entire fourth grade is working on a 'Measurement Mania' bulletin board! Each week we will be studying two units of measurement. Then, it is my responsibility to bring in a picture or an object that I could measure with that measurement unit. I cannot wait to learn more about measurement and discover what I can measure with customary and metric units of measurement!

Next, in Language Arts, I will be hard at work reading my favorite chapter book and working in my 'R5' reflection journal. Did you know that I can choose any book and still make connections to the story, discover a plot, differentiate between facts and opinions, and summarize my reading?! It is amazing that each of these elements of reading are found in so many different texts. I also am excited to be able to continue to enjoy the non-fiction articles in the National Geographic Explorer magazine. Thank you again to the Warwick Education Foundation who provided a grant so that I can have a subscription to this monthly educational magazine.

Well, it is time to get back to content. My teacher has signed out the laptop computers for my class to use. Today, I will be learning about simple machines. We get to go on the Ed Head website and discover how simple machines are used in our homes. Then, I will respond to a written prompt on Moodle, explaining what I would invent with the use of 4 simple machines.

Sincerely,

A Bonfield 4th Grade Student

P.S. Mom and Dad, THANK YOU for all of your love and support! I couldn't be the great student I am without you.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade remains busy as we start 2012. Math classes are working on multiplication and division skills, which will help as we look forward to algebra. Keep practicing those facts! In reading, we are all working on skills good readers should use. We are continuing to work hard in writing so that our pieces are organized, focused, and include good details. The beginning of the marking period was the time when homerooms switched for content. Science classes have been studying the earth's layers and types of rocks. Mrs. Seaber even stopped in to share her knowledge of rocks. She is excited to come in and share her wealth of United States history knowledge. Social studies classes continue to learn map skills and about the founding of our nation. Our weekly chorus rehearsals are preparing us for February's upcoming concert. Mark your calendars.

The fall also had us delving into learning about folk tales with The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and John Henry. Students explored the characteristics of tall tales and figurative language. Our friends from the garden also stopped by. Gnomeo, Juliet, Shroom, Nannette, and Featherstone visited the classrooms and brought out our "inner-gnome". The students had fun completing as blues and reds, and you can still spot a stray gnome hat if you're looking carefully.

As we start this new year, fifth grade hopes that the happiness and blessings that brought us into the year will carry all of Bonfield's families throughout the rest of 2012.

Makin' the Grade

Sixth Grade

Math

Problem solving is an integral part of mathematics and we will continue to emphasize problem-solving skills in math class. We encourage parents to help us by finding ways to involve math and problem solving skills in daily activities. Shopping, cooking and other household activities can provide the perfect setting for problem solving activities. Together we can create better problem solvers!!!

Language Arts

Sixth Grade has been busy reading, writing and creating items that reflect our reading. The second marking period is upon us and a new reading log will be due. Just a reminder that the number of pages required will increase with each new marking period. Most sixth graders are required to read at least 700 pages this marking period.

Content

Exciting times have been occurring in content! We had a visit from a local celebrity, News 8's, Joe Calhoun. He visited our Sixth Grade at the conclusion of the weather unit. Our students were also fortunate to have Miss Mueller's parents came for a visit, to discuss the culture of Africa. A slide show of pictures and items were brought in from their recent visit there.

Chorus

Many 6th graders are currently involved in our choral program and are preparing for the chorus presentation, which is scheduled for February 7th. It is wonderful to hear the joyous songs coming from the music room. We look forward to the show!



Mark your calendar ...

“Spirit Day”

Friday, January 20th instead of previously scheduled Friday, January 27th due to in-service day

It is Sports Day – Wear your favorite football/hockey/etc. jersey or something that lets us know what your favorite sport is.

All Pro Dad’s Day

Thursday, February 2nd , 7:00 –7:50 AM



Open PTO Meeting

Tuesday, February 7th , 6:00 PM

Spirit Day

Friday, February 24th – Crazy Day

A Look Ahead...

March

All Pro Dads Breakfast, Thursday, March 1st , 7 AM

Preschool Story Time Tues 3/20, 1:00 PM

Spirit Day – 3/30

April

All Pro Dads Breakfast, Thursday, April 5th , 7 AM

Open PTO Meeting – Thursday, April 5th 8:00 AM

Preschool Story Time – Monday, April 16th , 1 PM

Turn off TV Week – Monday, April 16 – Friday, April 20th

Dinner Theater – Thursday, April 19th at 7:00 PM

Career Day – Thursday, April 26th

Spirit Day – Friday, April 27th