



Principal's Newsletter

Brookhaven Elementary

Oct/Nov 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It has been a pleasure getting to know this wonderful school community over the last number of weeks. We have had a very smooth opening to a new school year. Our September "Meet the Teacher" evenings were a big success and very well-attended. These presentations certainly were impressive. As I've visited classrooms, it's clear that your children are fully engaged in the learning process and that high quality and literacy-based instruction is occurring daily.

I would like to also share my appreciation to all of you for attending the first PTA meeting of the year. The team effort to positively impact the home-school connection for our kids is vital. You will soon see that we have an amazing PTA which sponsors so many great events for the students throughout the year. This month the PTA will be organizing our annual fall activities which include on-site pumpkin picking, The Great Pumpkin "estimation", as well as our Halloween Ball, which takes place on October 29th. Food, games, and entertainment will be sponsored by our PTA. I hope to see you there!

This week marks two very important events: School Photos and School Spirit Week at Brookhaven! I truly have to thank our 3rd grade class for generating our daily spirit themes. Monday is "Dress Your Best Day"; Tuesday will be "Crazy Hat Day"; Wednesday will be "Sports Team/Jersey Day"; Thursday will be "Mismatch Day" and Friday concludes the week with "Pajama Day". We look forward to seeing our spirited youngsters throughout Spirit Week showing their Brookhaven pride and learning our new character pledge! Also during our Spirit Week we will be having our character education kick-off assemblies which will discuss two character-building programs, our Brookhaven "Honor Bus" and our "Catch-A-Kid Being Good" recognition programs. Both programs are designed to celebrate students who display positive character traits throughout the year, both on the school bus as well as at school.

I look forward to our partnership this year and making this a wonderful year of learning for Brookhaven students.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Rozzi, Principal

READING CORNER...

Nothing is more important to academic achievement than being a good reader. Parents know their children best and can provide the one-on-one time and attention that will lead them to success in reading. Here is a list of ways to help your children become more effective readers:

1. Set aside a regular time to read to your children every day.

Studies show that regularly reading out loud to children will produce significant gains in reading comprehension, vocabulary, the decoding of words, and increase their desire to read independently.

2. Surround your children with reading material.

Children with a large array of reading materials in their homes score higher on standardized tests. Tempt your kids to read by having a large supply of appealing books and magazines at their reading level. Put the reading materials in cars, bathrooms, bedrooms, family rooms, and even by the TV.

3. Have a family reading time.

Establish a daily 15 to 30 minute time when everyone in the family reads together silently. Seeing you read will inspire your children to read. Just 15 minutes of daily practice is sufficient to increase their reading fluency.

4. Encourage a wide variety of reading activities.

Make reading an integral part of your children's lives. Have them read menus, roadside signs, game directions, weather reports, movie time listings, and other practical everyday information. Also, make sure they always have something to read in their spare time when they could be waiting for appointments or riding in a car.

5. Develop the library habit.

Entice your children to read more by taking them to the library every few weeks to get new reading materials. The library also offers reading programs for children of all ages that may appeal to your children and further increase their interest in reading.

6. Show enthusiasm for your children's reading.

Your reaction has a great influence on how hard they will try to become good readers. Be sure to give them genuine praise for their efforts.





Important Dates to Remember in October/November:

- October 20, 2010: BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- October 25, 2010: Pumpkin Picking & Yankee Candle PTA sale begins!!!
- October 29, 2010: Costume Ball, 6:30 p.m.
- November 2, 2010: Election Day/ SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS
- November 10, 2010: Chuck E Cheese Night, 4:00 p.m.
- November 11, 2010: Veterans Day/SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS
- November 12, 2010: End of 1st Quarter
- November 15, 2010: PTA Spirit Wear sale begins!!!
- November 17, 2010: BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- November 24-26, 2010: Thanksgiving Recess/SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS



Our Pledge of Character....

- I will pledge to be a kid for character.*
- I will be worthy of trust.*
- I will be respectful and responsible, doing what I must.*
- I will always act with kindness.*
- I will show that I care.*
- I will be a good citizen and always do my share!*

KIND REMINDERS:

ConnectEd Phone Messaging System: We are pleased to announce that ConnectEd, a telephone messaging notification service, keeps parents, community members and staff informed about school closings, early dismissals, calendar updates, newsletters and other school-related matters. If for some reason your household is not receiving such notifications, please call the main office at 730-1700. The service offers a wonderful way for us to keep the lines of communication open with our parents and staff!

Dismissal Reminder: Dismissal begins at 3:10 pm daily for walkers and daily pick-ups. We require a photo ID of all parents or others picking up students prior to official release. In addition, anyone requesting to sign out a student must be identified as a person allowed to do so by the parent/guardian. Such people must be identified on your child's emergency contact form that was submitted in September. If you would like to amend such release information, please call our main office at 731-1700 and come in to amend the form in person. As always, we thank you for diligently helping us to maintain a safe and orderly school.

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Elementary Math Brain Teaser ...

"Haystacks"



A farmer has a large field with 12 haystacks in one corner of the field, a third as many in another corner, twice as many in the third corner, and a fourth as many in the fourth corner. If the farmer piles all the hay together in the center of the field, how many stacks of hay would he finally have? Be careful, this question is a bit tricky!

Submit answer, with your name, into the envelope located on the yellow "Math Problem of the Month" bulletin board located outside the main office mail room!