

Principal's Message...



Dear Schweitzer Families:

The month of March typically marks the beginning of spring, and we begin to experience warmer weather. Unfortunately, we have to use our collective imaginations to "think spring" right now!

Hopefully, spring flowers will replace snow drifts in the coming weeks; March does, however, bring state assessments to schools. Our students in grades 3-5 will be participating in the PSSA assessments beginning March 25th. The reading and math assessments will take place on March 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, and April 1st and 2nd. The PSSA writing assessment for students in grade 5 will take place from April 9th to the 11th. Finally, fourth grade students will take the PSSA science assessment on the 29th and 30th of April.

The reading assessments are given to test students' ability to read and interpret fiction and non-fiction text. The skills that are necessary to do so are vast and require a good deal of expertise. Our students, as you know, have been taught the four strategies embedded in the *Reciprocal Teaching*, teaching technique: *predicting, questioning, clarifying, and summarizing*. Based on the research from Palinscar and Brown (1986), students taught this technique not only improved their comprehension skills almost immediately, but also maintained their improved comprehension skills when tested one year later. We expect that all students apply these strategies when reading all texts.

The math assessments require students to demonstrate understanding of mathematical concepts, as well as explain their thinking through written open-ended responses. This requires higher level thinking as well as organizational thinking. Students are expected to determine the correct answers to problems, and then explain how they came to that conclusion.

Writing assessments are devised to determine, to what degree, 5th grade students can articulate a response to a prompt. Students are expected to demonstrate skill in writing in one or more of the following genres: *argument, narrative and/or informational*.

As you can see, the assessments are a good measurement of what your child(ren) have learned in school. The content of all assessments are based on standards that are common to all students in the State of Pennsylvania.

Please encourage your child(ren) to go to bed early, eat a healthy breakfast, and utilize the strategies that they have been taught to demonstrate what they have learned this year.

I am very excited to have been able to offer a Math Night for parents of students in grades 3-5 on March 11th. This is one way we can help you work with your child(ren) on mathematical concepts. Please remember to send your response form to school this week. We look forward to seeing you there!

I would also like to extend an invitation to you to come in to school to learn more about the strategies taught through the Reciprocal Teaching technique. Please join me on March 18th from 10:00-11:00 AM. If you are interested in attending, please call the office to r.s.v.p. at 215-809-6380.

Thank you for your continued support,
Kathleen Brewster
Principal

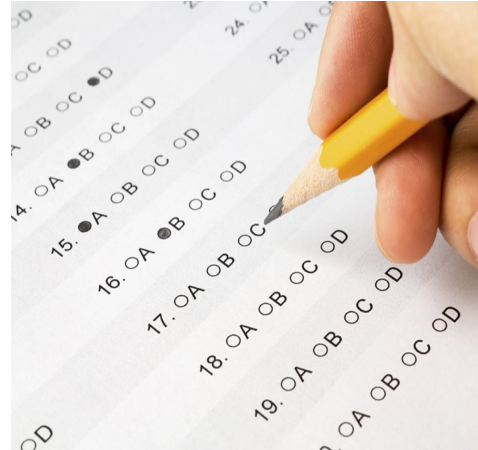
PSSA TESTING

Students in grades 3-4-5 will be taking the PSSA tests for Reading and Math during the week of **March 25th through April 1st.**

Grade 4 will take the Science PSSA on **April 29 and 30.**

Grade 5 will take the Writing PSSA on **April 9, 10 and 11.**

Testing will occur in the morning, so please do your best to have your children to school on time and well rested.



Kindergarten Registration Day

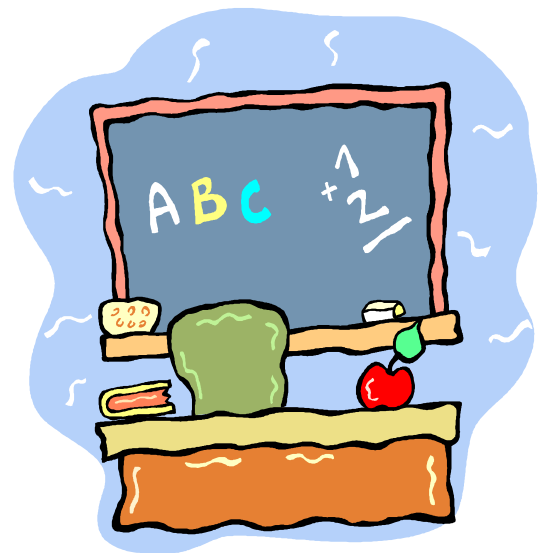
The Neshaminy School District will hold Kindergarten Registration Day on **Friday, March 7, 2014.**

You may register your student between 9:30 am - 11:30 am or 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Students are to be registered at the school they will attend in September, 2013.

Children entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 1, 2014.

You may also register on-line (at any time) at www.neshaminy.org. Click on the drop down bar and select Albert Schweitzer Elementary School. Follow the step-by-step directions on how to register on-line.

Please also be sure to check the website for all documentation that needs to be provided in order to complete your child's registration (i.e., birth certificate, proof of residency, immunizations, etc.)

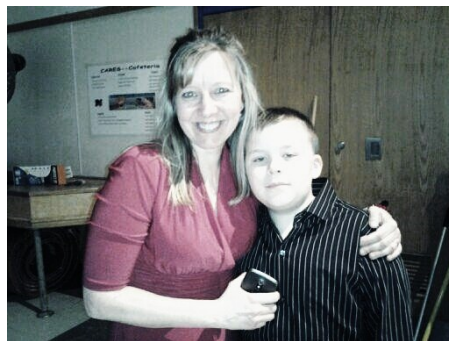


PTO Sweetheart Dance

Our Sweetheart Dance was a huge success! We had a sell out crowd and a fabulous time. Thank you to all parents and volunteers who pitched in and to all those who attended the event with their child. A BIG thank you goes out to the teachers who donated wonderful prizes to our raffle table; the kids were super excited! The PTO and Ms. Brewster both would like to express their greatest appreciation!

"PRIZES WON"

Basket with Barnes & Noble gift card and sweet treats from Ms. Brewster - Sophia Raczynski
Parisi Training Session at the NAC with Mrs. Sroba and friend - Anthony Fischer
Breakfast and XBOX/Kinex with Mrs. Exner and friend - Nicholas Kaiser
Spend recess with Mr. Toner and (9) friends playing "sport of choice" - Kylie Ream
Bake Tie Die cupcakes with Miss Supowitz and friend - Madeline Bak
Recess/Ice Cream party with 2nd grade teachers and friends - Gwen Dozier
Movie and a meal with 5th grade teachers and friend - Ryleigh McGinty
Bake a batch of cookies with Mrs. Hanley and friend - Olivia Giberson
Golf at Snipes in Morrisville with Ms. Flynn and friend- Sophia Raczynski
Music or Voice lessons with Mr. Stoverschlegel - Haley Martino
Pizza lunch with Mrs. O'Driscoll and friends - Owen Mace
Catered Lunch and dessert with 4th grade teachers and friends - Christopher Phillippe
Thank you again for partnering with us to make the dance a fun and memorable occasion!

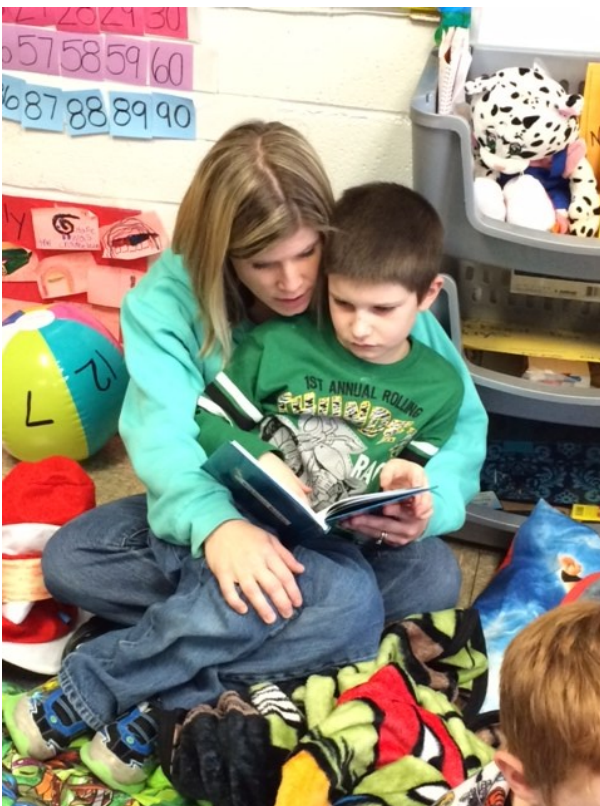


Dr. Seuss's Birthday - March 3, 2014





Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss





FIRST IN MATH CLASSROOM WINNERS!!!



Each week, your child's classroom has the opportunity to win the First In Math "Class of the Week" trophy!

Encourage your child to play online each night and earn as many points as they can. This trophy is awarded to the class who has earned the most points in the previous week.

Mrs. Deeny's and Mrs. Rittler's students are our next winners of the classroom trophy. Congratulations!

E-Mail ListServ Comes to Neshaminy

What is a ListServ? It is a method of communicating with a group of people via email. Messages are distributed to subscribers on an electronic mailing list.

The Neshaminy School District is utilizing a listserv to deliver pertinent information to our community in a timely and efficient manner via email. If you would like to join, please go to our Neshaminy School District Homepage, www.neshaminy.org, and click on the envelope under District Links.



Please follow the directions and be aware that there is a Subscribe Address for both Neshaminy School District and Albert Schweitzer Elementary School. If you would like to receive announcements/messages from both, you will need to subscribe to both addresses.

Messages will only be sent to the computer where you accessed and joined the listserv. In order to reply, you do not need to type in anything on the subject line or in the message area. Just press send when the email address comes up on your screen.

Also, once you are in the Neshaminy School District's website, kindly go to Albert Schweitzer School's website and click on the Home Access Center at the top right-hand side of the screen. Once you access your child's information, please make sure your contact information is correct **and that your email address is included.**

Reminder: IPAD users can access the website at <https://hac.neshaminy.org/homeaccess>

Operation Helping Hand - Food Drive

Our Operation Helping Hand Food Drive is currently being held at Albert Schweitzer School to support members in the Bucks County community. Tables have been set up in the lobby for donations.

The food drive will run from March 1 through March 12. Pick up for all food will be the morning of Thursday, March 13. Food will not be accepted at school after that date.

We hope you will help support our community to be a stronger, happier, healthier place!

Kindergarten	Canned Vegetables, Cereal
1st Grade	Cereal, Nonperishable Milk Products
2nd Grade	Canned Fruit, Tomato Products
3rd Grade	Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Meat
4th Grade	Canned Fruit, Juice, Cereal
5th Grade	Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Tomatoes

100th Day of School





100th Day
of School





MARCH EVENTS



- March 5 PTO Meeting - Library - 6:00 pm
- March 6 K-9 Demo & Anti-Bullying Assembly - all students
- March 7 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DAY
NO SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN
- March 9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS - Move clocks AHEAD
- March 13 OPERATION HELPING HAND PICK-UP
- March 18 Claire's Gourmet Fundraiser order due
- March 18 Market Day Orders - Delivery
- March 24 Poison Prevention Presentation for Kindergarten students
- March 25—April 1 PSSA Reading and Math (grades 3,4,5)
- March 28 SCHOOL STORE

ART NEWS



Mark your calendars!

The annual Schweitzer Art Show will be on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Artwork will be on display from each student throughout the hallways at Albert Schweitzer School.

The artwork has been fantastic so far this year with more to come! As always, thank you for your support for our wonderful young artists!

More details to follow as the date gets closer.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

March, 2014

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

Notification Letter for Parents or Guardians

The Neshaminy School District uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents and weeds. Our goal is to protect every student from pesticide exposure by using an IPM approach to pest management. Our IPM approach focuses on making the school building and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. We accomplish this through routine cleaning and maintenance. We routinely monitor the school building and grounds to detect any pests that are present. The pest monitoring team consists of our building, office, and teaching staff and includes our students. Pest sightings are reported to our IPM contractor who evaluates the "pest problem" and determines the appropriate pest management techniques to address the problem. The techniques can include increased sanitation, modifying storage practices, sealing entry points, physically removing the pest, etc.

From time to time, it may be necessary to use pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency to manage a pest problem. A pesticide will only be used when necessary, and will not be routinely applied. When a pesticide is necessary, the school will try to use the least toxic product that is effective. Applications will be made only when unauthorized persons do not have access to the area(s) being treated. The Schedule for all Neshaminy School District monthly IPM services will be posted in all Main Office sites throughout the year.

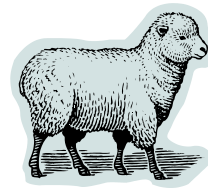
Staff and parents or guardians of students enrolled in the school may request prior notification of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must be placed on the school's notification registry. If you would like to be placed on this registry, please send a letter to the Neshaminy School District Facilities Department, 2001 Old Lincoln Highway, Langhorne, PA 19047

If a pesticide application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided via the Neshaminy School District web site and postings in the site's Main Office. Exemptions to this notification include disinfectants and antimicrobial products; self-containerized baits placed in areas not accessible to students, and gel type baits placed in cracks, crevices or voids; and swimming pool maintenance chemicals.

If you have any questions, please contact the Facilities Office at 215-809-6250.



Albert Schweitzer Elementary School
30 Harmony Road
Levittown, PA 19056
215-809-6380



**If March comes in like a lion,
will it go out like a lamb?**

With March being such a changeable month, in which we can see warm spring-like temperatures or late-season snowstorms, you can understand how this saying might hold true in some instances. We can only hope that if March starts off cold and stormy it will end warm and sunny, but the key word is hope! What do you think will happen?

We're on the Web!
www.neshaminy.k12.pa.us

Even in March, Snow and Ice Still a Concern

Since there is still a potential for snow and ice, please make sure you take a few minutes to review and discuss your "Emergency Dismissal Plan" with your child. On days of early dismissal, it is important for children in all grades to know what to do and where to go.

Also, please do not call the school for closing information. Closing information is posted on the District website and will be posted on the Schweitzer website as soon as it is made available to us.

In addition, as many of you already know, if school is in session and it is extremely cold outside or other weather issues present themselves, our children will have indoor recess. The district policy is to keep students inside when the temperature falls below 20 degrees or with a wind chill that makes it feel below 20 degrees. While it is important to get students outside for a break, keeping our children warm, safe, and healthy is even more important!

And don't forget to make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. Even if you drop off and pick up your child, they will still go outside for recess on most days. Students without proper outside gear will stay inside.

Thanks again for your help!

