

Albert Schweitzer Gazette

Principal's Message...



September, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to school! It is so exciting to know that your children will be back at school in just a few short weeks. We thought about them all summer and hoped that they were reading wonderful stories, writing in their notebooks, and finding math problems to solve! We try hard, as I know you do, to foster the idea that learning is everywhere and that no day should go without learning something new.

Our first day of school for students is Monday, September 9th, and the building will be *sparkling clean* and ready to receive our students and staff. I would like to thank Mr. Brian Sutter and our fabulous summer custodial staff for the first-rate job they have been doing getting our school ready for the start of school. I would also like to thank our office staff, Mrs. DiPaolo and Mrs. Donaldson, for their support and hard work during the summer. I am grateful to everyone who helped to make the first day of school a successful one for our students and staff.

As part of the final stages of technology upgrades in the district, our school is scheduled to have Smart Boards installed in kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms, as well as the library. All 2nd through 5th grade classrooms had Smart Boards installed over the past two years. We expect the installation to be completed by mid-September. We also will have classroom sets of *Netbooks*, *laptops*, and, at least one set of *iPads* for student use.

Additionally, we purchased six *iPads* with the money that was collected at our "Tech Trot" last spring. Thank you to Mr. Krauss and the PTO for spearheading the fundraiser. We look forward to making it an annual tradition at our school!

I am not sure if you heard about our school being awarded a \$15,000 grant for technology! Congratulations to our primary life skills teacher, Mrs. JoEllen Exner, for writing an exceptional grant application that secured the technology for our students. We will be receiving a Smart Table, Smart Board and other technologies to support student learning.

We will continue to foster C.A.R.E.S. behavior at our school and follow the same school-wide positive behavior system. In addition to that, we will be adding another layer to our positive behavioral theme: "*Attendance Matters. Get Here, Get Smart.*" We know that we have our best opportunity to provide your child with a consistent, exceptional education when they are at school every day. However, we certainly understand that children get sick, so please adhere to the school nurse's recommendations regarding times that it would be prudent to keep your child home from school.

As I noted in my last newsletter, we had four teacher retirements last year: Mrs. Notwick, Mrs. Murdock, Mrs. Scherf and Mrs. Warwick-Canning. We also received word that Ms. Gabage, our general music and choral teacher, accepted a position in her home district. We will miss them, but we wish them well in their new endeavors. I have spent a good deal of my time interviewing teachers this summer and will announce the names of our new art and music teachers as soon as we receive school board approval on August 27, 2013.

I know that you and your child are anxiously waiting to know their classroom assignment. You can start accessing your child's classroom assignment, bus information, etc., via "Home Access" on the website. The system should be open for your convenience at the end of the month. If you have misplaced your access information, please call our office and we will provide you with the password.

Our Back-to-School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 26th from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will be an opening session with the PTO, followed by two sessions with classroom teachers, and a final session with special area teachers, such as: art, music, library, and physical education. We all look forward to seeing you that evening.

Finally, I would like to invite all of you to join our PTO this year. We can all do something, big or small, to help make a difference at our school. Our PTO president, Mrs. Claudia Phillippe, and members of the executive board, will be joining us at our Kindergarten and New Student Orientation on August 27th. They will also be doing a presentation at 6:45 p.m. at our Back-to-School Night. Please inquire about ways you can support the events that have been planned for your children this year!

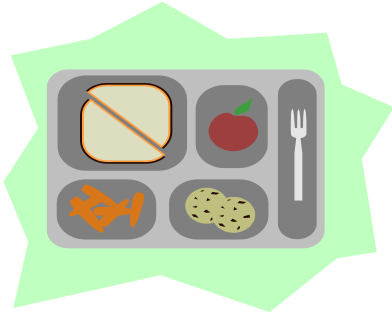
We look forward to seeing you on September 26th at Back-to-School Night!

Warm Regards,
Ms. Brewster



Cafeteria

News....



Our school cafeteria provides breakfast and lunch daily.
Breakfast costs \$1.00 - Lunch costs \$2.25
(Snacks are extra)

We have a wide variety of choices that include hot breakfast sandwiches, cereal, breakfast bars, fresh fruit, juice and milk.

Students on the Free program are entitled to breakfast and lunch daily.
Students on the Reduced program are entitled to breakfast for .30 cents and lunch for .40 cents.

Breakfast is held from 8:50 am to 9:10 am. If your student's bus is late, the cafeteria will provide a "Bag and Go" breakfast that they can take to their classroom.

Any questions, please feel free to call our Cafeteria Manager, Teresa Martin, at 215-809-6227.

Have a great school year and thanks for your patronage! !

News from the Nurse....

Important Reminder....

All Kindergarten and new students need to turn in to the School Nurse's Office a Physical and Dental Exam Form (dated for the 2013 calendar year).

Third grade students also need to turn in to the School Nurse's Office a Dental Form (dated for the 2013 calendar year).



Counselor's Corner Mrs. O'Driscoll

I am excited to welcome everyone back to a new school year. As in past years, I am available to meet with you regarding any concerns you might have about your child. I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you any issues your child might be experiencing in the areas of academics, social, emotional or behavioral health.

I will again be providing skill development groups focusing on various topics, such as relational aggression, social skills, anger management and self esteem building. It is important for children to have a set of skills to assist them in dealing with issues that arise on a daily basis. Please contact me if you are interested in having your child participate in one of these groups.

ST. MARY'S PARENTING CENTER: St. Mary's has partnered with Neshaminy School District to provide a parenting program, free of charge, to our parents. Please contact me if you are interested in more information.

HOLIDAY HELP: If your family is in need of help for the holidays, please contact me **NO LATER THAN October 31, 2013.**

WINTER COATS: Please let me know if your child/children are in need of a winter coat.

I am, once again, looking forward to working with you, as you travel on your journey of parenting your children. I can be reached at 215.809.6385 or bodriscoll@neshaminy.k12.pa.us

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ASSEMBLY



On Tuesday, September 17th, a special assembly will be held for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students (only) at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Students will be given the opportunity to view a variety of instruments. Both Orchestra and Band instruments will be presented. Students who are interested in taking lessons will receive paperwork explaining the program, along with an order form to rent a musical instrument/music books through the Music and Arts Program.

Eagle Industrial Hygiene Associates

"Neshaminy School District has engaged Eagle Industrial Hygiene Association, Inc., to fulfill the requirements of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40 CFR Part 763, Subpart E. This law requires that each Local Education Authority (LEA) engage EPA accredited individuals to initially inspect and subsequently re-inspect every three years all student and staff accessed areas for the presence of both friable and non-friable asbestos containing materials (ACM) and to develop and Asbestos Management Plan from the information developed from the building inspections. All areas of our facilities were inspected for asbestos-containing materials.

The Management Plan provides a description of the amount, type, location and condition of all ACM found in these areas. The Plan also contains a detailed schedule of responses and activities for handling the ACM. The Management Plan is available for review by interested parents, faculty and staff in all school offices during business hours.

Barbara Markowitz, Business Administrator

Principal's 200 Club - Mystery Motivator

We will be kicking-off our C.A.R.E.S. Behavior Program for the 2013-2014 school year !

We expect every member of our Schweitzer community to be
Cooperative,
have a positive **Attitude**,
be **Respectful**,
show **Empathy**
and always be **Safe** !

Who will be the winner of the next
Mystery Motivator???

**MASTER YOUR MATH FACTS....
and sign the
Math Fact Fluency Wall !!!**



PTO/SCHOOL EVENTS

- 9/2/13 LABOR DAY - District Closed
- 9/5/13 & 9/6/13 Rosh Hashanah - No School for Students
- 9/9/13 All students report to school
- 9/10/13 PTO Kids Stuff Fundraiser Kickoff
- 9/11/13 PTO Meeting - 6:00 pm - Library
- 9/12/13 Mad Science Presentation (during school lunches)
- 9/12/13 PTO Back to School Picnic 6:00 - 7:00 pm
- 9/17/13 Instrumental Recruitment Assembly - grades 3,4,5
Carl Sandburg Auditorium - students only
- 9/25/13 Market Day Fundraiser
- 9/26/13 Back to School Night - 6:45 pm
- 9/27/13 SCHOOL STORE



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

