



BRECKNOCK ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2012

DR. MARYELLEN KUENY, PRINCIPAL

MRS. EILEEN BRUMBACH,

SECRETARY

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY

- 1-4 Science PSSA Make-up Tests (grade 4)**
- 1 PTO Friendly's Night
- 2 PTO Meeting – library clrm. – 6:30 p.m.
Elementary Instrumental Spring Concert
(Show and Tell Concert for Beginners) –
GMIS – 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Market Day Pick-up – Cumru cafeteria –
7:00-8:00 p.m.
- 4 '12-'13 Kindergarten Orientation (sessions
to be announced)
- 7-8 DIBELS Testing (kindergarten-grade 4)
- 7 Board of School Directors Work/Property
Meeting – EC – 7:00 p.m.**
- 8 Field Day (kindergarten, grade 1 & 2) –
9:30-11:30 a.m. and (grade 3 & 4) – 1:00-
3:00 p.m.
- 9 Mid-quarter (tentative)**
Field Day (rain date)
- 11 Garden Day
- 15-17 4 Sight Testing Window, Q4 – Reading &
Math – grades 3 & 4
- 15 Deadline for Summer Snippets Newsletter
- 18 Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) Book
Distribution #2
- 19 PTO Reading Phillies Night
- 21 Board of School Directors
Voting/Curriculum Meeting – EC –
7:00 p.m.**
- 22 Grade 4 Choral Performance – 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Author Tea – cafeteria – 9:30 a.m.
- 24 Grade 4 Colonial Day
- 25 Full Day Act 80 Day (tentative) or
Emergency/Snow Make-up Day (No
School)**
- 28 Memorial Day Holiday (No School)**
- 29 Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Program –
cafeteria – 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Grade 1 Choral Performance – 6:30 p.m.
- 30 Grade 4 Field Trip to Landis Valley
Museum – 9:10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Summer Aquatic Programs Registration –
GMIS pool lobby – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

- 31 Market Day Pick-up – Cumru cafeteria –
7:00-8:00 p.m.
Sprint to Spring (rain date 6-1-12)

JUNE

- 1 Sprint to Spring Walkathon rain date
- 4 Board of School Directors Work/Property
Meeting – EC – 7:00 p.m.**
- 6 PTO sponsored Summer Reading Book
Distribution
- 7 Moving-up Day
- 8 Last Day of School (K-11) – Elementary
Dismissal 11:20 a.m.**
School-wide Meeting (flag raising) – 9:10
a.m.
- 18 Summer I Community Aquatic Lessons
begin @ GMIS pool and Shillington
pool; Monday through Friday; times
TBA, a.m. (ends 6/29/12)
**Board of School Directors
Voting/Curriculum Meeting – EC –
7:00 p.m.**
- 19 Summer IV Community Aquatic Lessons
begin @ GMIS pool; Tuesdays &
Thursdays; times TBA, p.m. (ends
7/19/12)

JULY

- 2 Summer II Community Aquatic Lessons
begin @ GMIS pool
and Shillington pool;
Monday through
Friday; times TBA,
a.m. (ends 7/12/12)
- Board of School Directors Work/Property
Meeting – EC – 7:00 p.m.**
- 14 Summer III Community Aquatic Lessons
begin @ GMIS pool and Shillington
pool; Monday through Friday; times
TBA, a.m. (ends 7/26/12)
- 16 Board of School Directors
Voting/Curriculum Meeting – EC –
7:00 p.m.**



(all dates are subject to change)

**IMPORTANT!!!!
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

Friday, June 8, 2012 is the last day of school for the 2011-2012 school year. Elementary dismissal is at 11:20 a.m. for pick-ups and 11:30 a.m. for students riding the bus.

Everybody's Gone Surfin'....

Not really. But some days that is how it may look at Brecknock School when the weather gets warm. This is a good opportunity to remind everybody that our school and district does have a dress code. It is found in your Brecknock School Handbook on Page 22. The purpose of our dress code is to ensure the safety and well-being of our students but it also serves to promote a sense of school as a special place with special considerations for our appearance.

Clothing for Brecknock children must be appropriate for the active day of our children. This means it should suit boys and girls running, climbing, hop, skip and jumping! It should also be comfortable for them to sit quietly in their classrooms. These considerations include footwear. Proper shoes is probably the one rule that is violated most often.

For your convenience, I have listed the clothing and footwear items that are not allowed below. Please refer to your Handbook for further explanation or give me a call if you have questions about these policies. You can expect that if these guidelines are violated, you would be contacted about supplying an alternative for your child to wear that day.

I thank you for your cooperation and support of our education programs and for teaching your child the importance of proper dress at school.

■ Dr. Kueny

Dress Code

Students must wear casual clothing that is appropriate for play. During the early spring, it is best to dress in layers. It is cold in the mornings and can get warm by recess time. Sneakers are the best footwear and are always required on gym days.

Not allowed are the following:

- Flip-Flops
- Sandals with no back strap
- Any type of shoes with high heels
- Footwear with wheels
- Clogs
- Spaghetti strap tops
- Halter tops
- Shirts with offensive text or pictures
- Shirts, skirts or pants that expose the midriff
- Low rise pants or shorts that expose the lower back inappropriately
- Shorts or skirts that are higher than the fingertips when hands are at side



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

by Mrs. Kimberly Maddaloni
School Nurse

PLEASE! Remember to apply sunscreen to your child whenever they are going to be out in the sun. A full day in the hot sun can result in a severe case of sunburn. Tips on protecting your children from the sun are listed below.

Play It Safe in the Sun: A Guide for Parents

Choose Your Cover

Hey Moms and Dads! Not all sun protection comes in a bottle. There are lots of ways to protect your child's skin all year long. Here are five you can try.



1. Hide and Seek. UV rays are strongest and most harmful during midday, so it's best to plan indoor activities then. If this is not possible, seek shade under a tree, an umbrella or a pop-up tent. Use these options to prevent sunburn, not to seek relief once it's happened.



2. Cover 'em Up. Clothing that covers your child's skin helps protect against UV rays. Although a long-sleeved shirt and long pants with a tight weave are best, they aren't always practical. A T-shirt, long shorts or a beach cover-up are good choices, too—but it's wise to double up on protection by applying sunscreen or keeping your child in the shade when possible.



3. Get a Hat. Hats that shade the face, scalp, ears, and neck are easy to use and give great protection. Baseball caps are popular among kids but they don't protect their ears and neck. If your child chooses a cap, be sure to protect exposed areas with sunscreen.



4. Shades Are Cool. And they protect your child's eyes from UV rays, which can lead to cataracts later in life. Look for sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100% of both UVA and UVB rays as possible.



5. Rub on Sunscreen. Use sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and UVA/UVB protection every time your child goes outside.

Sunscreen Scoop

Sunscreen may be easy, but it doesn't protect your child's skin completely. Try combining sunscreen with other "Choose Your Cover" options to prevent UV damage.

Sunscreen comes in a variety of forms—lotions, sprays, wipes, or gels. Be sure to choose one made especially for kids with:

- Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher
- both UVA and UVB protection

For most effective protection, apply sunscreen generously 30 minutes before going outdoors. And, don't forget to protect ears, noses, lips, and the tops of feet which often go unprotected.

Take sunscreen with you to reapply during the day, especially after your child swims or exercises. This applies to "waterproof" and "water resistant" products as well.

Keep in mind, sunscreen is not meant to allow your kids to spend more time in the sun than they would otherwise. Sunscreen reduces damage from UV radiation, it doesn't eliminate it.

The American Academy of Pediatrics now advises that sunscreen use on babies less than 6 months old is not harmful on small areas of a baby's skin, such as the face and back of the hands. But your baby's best defense against sunburn is avoiding the sun or staying in the shade.

Too Much Sun Hurts

Did you know that just a few serious sunburns can increase your child's risk of skin cancer later in life? Kids don't have to be at the pool, beach, or on vacation to get too much sun. Their skin needs protection from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays whenever they're outdoors.



Turning pink? Unprotected skin can be damaged by the sun's UV rays in as little as 15 minutes. Yet it can take up to 12 hours for skin to show the full effect of sun exposure. So, if your child's skin looks "a little pink" today, it may be burned tomorrow morning. To prevent further burning, get your child out of the sun.

Tan? There's no other way to say it—tanned skin is damaged skin. Any change in the color of your child's skin after time outside—whether sunburn or suntan—indicates damage from UV rays.

Cool and cloudy? Children still need protection. UV rays, not the temperature, do the damage. Clouds do not block UV rays, they filter them—and sometimes only slightly.

Oops! Kids often get sunburned when they are outdoors unprotected for longer than expected. Remember to plan ahead, and keep sun protection handy—in your car, bag, or child's backpack.

Parents, help your children play it safe in the sun and protect your own skin as well. You're an important role model.

For more information about protecting your family from skin cancer, contact the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER for information about all cancers, including skin cancer.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Protecting Children from the Sun – Skin Cancer*. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/children.htm

**BRECKNOCK NIGHTS
OF MUSIC**
by Mrs. Andrea Street
Music Teacher

There will be two music programs presented during the month of May.

The first is the 4th grade program. The 4th grade students will be performing a musical review called "Lighten Up". Get ready to laugh – lots of funny songs, jokes and skits. This will take place **Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**

The second program is the 1st grade program. The program is a showcase of songs, skills and activities learned during music class. We just call it "The 1st Grade Music Showcase". This will take place **Tuesday, May 29th at 6:30 p.m.**

Please mark these dates on your calendars. Both evenings promise to be memorable!!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY
by Mrs. Virginia Hart
Librarian

We are proud to announce the names of the Brecknock students who were winners in the Reading Public Library's Young Poets 2012 contest.

This year, two of our students won Honorable Mention for their poems. Adriana Lepera in Mrs. Lichy's third grade was recognized for her poem entitled ***Pillow Fight***.

Nautica Bourland, from Mrs. Charnoff's fourth grade, was honored for her poem entitled ***Ice Skating***. I congratulate these girls for their hard work, and their creative results.

Brecknock had 45 entries in this year's county contest! It isn't easy to write good poetry, so I congratulate **all** of our hard-working Young Poets.



FROM THE PTO
by Mrs. Pam Progansky
Secretary

As the school year begins to wind down, the PTO seems busier than ever! May is going to be a busy month – there are many events to look forward to! Starting with Friendly's Family Fun night May 1st, then, we are hoping for nice weather for the Reading Phillies Game on May 19th, followed by Colonial Days for 4th grade on May 24th, and Sprint to Spring (really Sprint into Summer!) on May 31st! Wow! Lots of fun to be had for the end of the year! As always, if you have your clearances and are able to help with any of the events, please contact the PTO, we would be happy to meet you!

Also, as the school year comes to a close, so does my time as secretary. I have truly enjoyed my time with the PTO and Brecknock. I encourage you all to get involved with a great group of people who make these events come to life for your children.

The last PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd, 6:30. We hope to see you there!

GUIDANCE OFFICE NEWS
by Mrs. Kimberly Potcovaru
Guidance Counselor
Specialized Camp Information

If your child or teen has experienced the death of a loved one, two weekend overnight camps are being offered to children in our area. These camps are free of charge and are held in the month of June. For children ages 6-12, Camp Chimaqua, a children's bereavement program of the PATHways Center for Grief & Loss in Mount Joy, PA. is offered as a service of Hospice of Lancaster County (717) 391-2413 and Camp Dragonfly, for children ages 6-12 and teens ages 13-15 is offered as a service of Hospice of Central Pennsylvania 1-866-779-7374. If interested, I have brochures about both.

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