



THE AFTON EAGLE



1673 Quarry Road, Yardley, Pa 19067
215-321-8540
WatchCare 215-321-8542

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www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Parents,

One of the hallmarks of this time of year is the gathering of family and friends. I would be remiss if I did not comment on the impressive turnout of parents during our annual Open House that took place on November 10th. Open House is truly a "Homecoming" wherein all stakeholders – administration, teachers, parents and students – celebrate our school's successes. A special "thank you" to all parents who were able to attend. I hope you found your stay to be enjoyable and meaningful.

On another note, one of the privileges of being an elementary principal is seeing the children at this time of year. As our school transforms into a showcase of multicultural December celebrations, the children may identify with different holiday symbols, but all are the same in their excited reactions. On behalf of the entire Afton staff, I wish all of our families a joyful holiday season and a healthy, happy new year – enjoy the excitement. My wish for you is to see the holidays through your child's eyes.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Masgai
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

12/12-16 – Holiday Shop
12/21 – PTO Meeting 9:30 AM (café.)
12/21-28 – Hanukkah
12/22 – Holiday Parties 2:30 PM
12/25 – Christmas
12/26-1/1 - Kwanza

12/26-30 – Winter Recess
1/16 – Martin Luther King Day – School Closed
1/18 – PTO Meeting 9:30 AM (café.)
1/24 – End of 2nd Marking Period
1/25 – Teacher Workshop – School Closed

AFTON SCHOOL IS "GREEN"

In an attempt to become more ecologically friendly, Afton continues to enhance our website. PTO and upcoming events, the Afton Eagle and other important happenings, will be highlighted on the website. Visit us at www.Pennsbury.k12.pa.us, tab over to Schools where you can access Afton. In addition, make sure to visit the E-Flyer tab.

WELLNESS POLICY

The following information is provided to keep families informed about the District Wellness Policy, which is in full implementation. As such, the following recommendations will be in place on the elementary level:

1. Metz Services is ensuring the dietary guidelines for school meals (breakfast and lunch) are according to policy.

2. Metz Services will also provide for elementary level a-la carte beverages, which will adhere to the following guidelines. A minimum of 75% of the beverages offered will be:
 - Water with no sugar or artificial sweeteners
 - 100% fruit juice – 3 flavors are available
 - Milk (containers not to exceed 16 oz._ - includes flavored milk but sugar restrictions apply
 - Carbonated beverages made with only juice and water
 - Diet teas are eliminated at the elementary level
3. There will be an introduction of more whole-grain bread items. PBJ and dinners rolls will have a whole-grain option. There will also be some new baked snack items as well.
4. Classroom parties will offer only 2-3 items that contain added sugar as the first ingredient and will offer fresh fruits, vegetables, water, 100% fruit or milk.
5. Teachers may not use food as a reward for classroom or school activities unless the reward is an activity that promotes a positive nutrition message.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ID AND INTERVIEW CLEARANCES

Students photograph, identification, and interviews for all forms of print electronic media occurring inside any Pennsbury school building or on any school premises shall be permissible with approval of the School District.

Parent/guardians wishing to have their child(ren) excluded from such activities must notify the school principal in writing at the start of the school year (each year) or when the child is first enrolled in the School District if this occurs mid-year. Questions concerning this District Photography, ID and Interview Clearances statement may be directed to the Coordinator of Communications at 215-428-4178.

NEWS FROM THE NURSE

- Ms. Giannaula, Certified School Nurse



Please remind children to avoid sharing hats and scarves and combs to avoid any spread of Head Lice. Winter is a common time for lice to spread with head-to-head contact. It is not easy to catch if these precautions are used.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

- Mrs. Gordon, ESL

The students in English as a Second Language classes listened to the story, Turkey Trouble. Then they followed multi step directions in constructing a turkey. After that we brainstormed ideas for disguises that the turkey could use to escape his lot - Thanksgiving dinner for the farmer and his wife. Next students constructed costumes. Lastly they wrote the words that the turkey would say about his plight, in a speech bubble. The students were very creative.

PTO NEWS

- **Mrs. Stephanie Bissol, PTO President**
ptoadmin@gmail.com

With Thanksgiving behind us we now need to prepare for the cold winter months ahead. The Afton PTO is working on some wonderful indoor activities for your children to enjoy. We will have guest authors and in school assemblies to help enrich your child's academic experience over these cold winter months ahead.

PTO means Parents, Teachers and staff coming together to increase the experience your child receives at Afton. ALL families are a part of the PTO so nothing is too little that you could contribute to the PTO because **YOUR** child will be the one to benefit.

Best Wishes for a safe and happy holiday Season.



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

As winter approaches the prospect of emergency school closings or delayed openings of school becomes more likely. The most up-to-date and accurate information regarding closings, delayed openings or early dismissals can be gained by:

- ❖ Connect ED automated calling system
- ❖ Web: www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us
- ❖ Hotline: 215-425-4100, option 8
- ❖ Watching the Pennsbury Channel – Channel 28 on Comcast and Channel 42 on Verizon Fios

Parents are **ENCOURAGED** to follow these steps. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

Delayed openings of school will *always* be two hours. That is, school will begin at 11:00 AM (instead of 9:00 AM). Kindergarten AM session will be canceled on days of delayed opening. In the case of an emergency early dismissal, Kindergarten PM session will be canceled.

It is **CRITICAL** that your child be aware of an alternative plan if he or she is not to be going to the usual destination on an emergency closing day. Keep this in mind, as it will be virtually impossible for all parents who have concern to communicate to the school over the phone lines during emergency dismissal. **YOUR CHILD MUST BE AWARE OF THE ALTERNATE PLAN.**

BE PREPARED FOR OUTDOOR RECESS



As much as possible throughout the winter months, students will continue to participate in outdoor recess weather permitting. As such, please make sure that your child arrives to school in proper winter attire. This includes coats, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. Students enjoy these 30 minutes outdoors and we want to ensure that they are proper attired for the elements.



MORNING DROP – OFF REMINDER

Doors open at 8:45 AM – Children should **NOT** be dropped off before this time. Students who participate in the before school breakfast program may arrive at 8:40 AM. Please help us ensure the safety of all of our students and plan your morning so your children do not arrive at school before 8:45 AM.

To drop off your child at the front entrance, please stay in one lane of traffic as you move up to the front of the line. Remind your child to exit the vehicle **ONLY** on the passenger side. Please make sure your child has his/her backpack, lunch, etc. and is ready to exit the car when you move to the front of the line.

If your child gets out of your car before you have moved up to the front of the line, **PLEASE STAY IN THE LINE OF TRAFFIC**. Cars pulling out of line and passing on the left are a safety hazard to both students and other vehicles.

To ensure the safety of all Afton students and keep traffic flowing smoothly during morning drop off time, please make sure to follow these recommendations. We ask that you **DO NOT DOUBLE PARK IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING** if you are coming inside the building. Please find a parking spot in the lot. Students are expected to be in their desks and ready to learn by 9:00 AM.

VOLUNTEERS

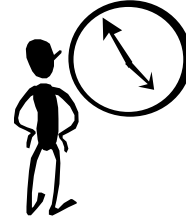
It is a pleasure to have so many volunteers willing to serve the school community. Volunteers are requested, however, to leave pre-school children at home so that all may focus on the task at hand. After signing in at the office and taking a visitor pass, we ask that you go directly to the classroom that you are visiting and not stopping along the way at any other classrooms. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

VISITORS

The following rules are in effect:

- ALL VISITORS MUST PARK IN THE PARKING LOT OR IN THE GRASS FIELD, BETWEEN AFTON AND QUARRY HILL, NOT IN THE FIRE LANE ALONG THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING.
- ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE.
- No parent/guardian will be permitted to escort their child to or pick up their child from the classroom.

- Parents/guardians will only be permitted in the building once they have signed in and obtained a visitor's pass. If the parent does not have a scheduled appointment with a staff member, the office will check to see if they are available.
- At the conclusion of the visit, visitors must sign out of the building.
- VISITORS WILL BE PERMITTED **ACCESS ONLY** TO THE AREA OF THE SCHOOL DESIGNATED AT THE TIME OF SIGN IN. PLEASE RESTRICT YOUR VISIT TO THE LOCATION YOU INDICATED.



AFTER HOURS POLICY

All too frequently, unauthorized visitors have been observed in hallways and classrooms after school hours. Measures are in place to preclude that activity including the locking of the lobby entrance door. Under no circumstances will visitors to the school be permitted access to classrooms after 4:00 PM. This includes students who may have forgotten homework assignments. Afton's custodial staff has been directed not to permit entrance to classrooms after 4:00 PM. Students' and parents' understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

SPECIAL AREA HAPPENINGS

LIBRARY NEWS

- Mrs. Moyle, Librarian



It's been a world of numbers here at the library the past couple months. Fourth and Fifth grade students have been locating and using the Dewey Decimal System to find books. Fifth has also adopted a non-fiction shelf to take care of. Next we will be working on some more specific research skills and finding information using our library skills. Third grade starting researching Community Helpers and will be working on practicing alphabetical order so we can get into researching using the dictionary and encyclopedia. Second grade is starting a unit on Skippyjon Jones and then on to a unit on chapter books! First grade is starting a unit on Snow! Kindergarten is continuing our "Stories through the Alphabet" unit and also our Mother Goose book.

Want to encourage your students to read more? Visit the Yardley/Makefield Public Library! Great things are happening at the Yardley/Makfield Public Library in the upcoming months. Check out their web site at <http://www.buckslib.org/>.

Celebration Books

We're celebrating new books and lots of special occasions at the library this month. These people have donated books to the Afton Library in celebration of a special moment in their lives.

Robert in Mrs. Corbett's class

Daniel in Mrs. Mullin's class

Max in Mrs. Foster's class

Jack in Mrs. Pfluger's class

Harrison in Mrs. Fleishman's class

Congratulations and thank you to all those students. If you would like to donate a book to the library, please send a check made out to Afton PTO for \$14.00 in with your child on their library day. They will then be able to choose a book to donate from a wonderful array of pre-selected books. The student's name and reason for celebration will be written in the front of the book and then they get to take the book out first.



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

FIRST GRADE

The first graders had a wonderful time getting ready for Thanksgiving! To go along with the Social Studies curriculum, the children learned about Thanksgivings from the past. They read about the first Thanksgiving with the Native Americans and the Pilgrims. As a culminating project for this learning experience, the first graders joined together for a Thanksgiving feast! The children in Mrs. Hauben's and Miss Chalker's rooms were the Native Americans and made headbands to wear. The children in Mrs. Pfluger's and Mrs. Corbett's rooms were the Pilgrims and they made special hats and collars. The Natives and the Pilgrims got together, sang a song, shared what they were thankful for, exchanged friendship bracelets that retold the story of the first Thanksgiving, and enjoyed a tasty feast. This was a wonderful way for all of the children to learn the history of Thanksgiving!

FOURTH GRADE

Fourth Grade News... All fourth graders participated in a holiday community project called "Wrapping Presence". The students decorated large white shopping bags with bright colored markers. The bags will be distributed to 20 local nursing homes. Donated gifts will be on display in each nursing home and the seniors will be able to "shop" for gifts for their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. The service project was thought of by Marne Dietterich in 1995 when both of her parents were in a nursing home and unable to get out to shop for the holidays! Marne came to Afton and spoke to all fourth graders and then the children went to their homerooms to decorate the bags. Everyone had a good time and the bags were bright and beautiful!!

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth Graders are having a fundraiser called Principal for a Day. The proceeds will help fund the Fifth Grade Field Trip. All students will have an opportunity to buy a chance for the drawing. Ticket sales will be December 8th and 9th and will cost \$1 per chance. There is a five-ticket limit. The drawing will take place on December 9th at the end of the day and the winner will be announced. The winner will shadow Mr. Masgai for a day, have a pizza lunch with Mr. Masgai and three friends, and even have their own office with his/her own phone!! Fifth grade thanks all who participate!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS