



# THE AFTON EAGLE



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**www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us**

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Parents,

Throughout the summer recess, the majority of Afton teachers attended district sponsored workshops and every teacher visited the school in preparation for your child's arrival. For the past weeks, I have visited classrooms and have witnessed the unfolding of teachers' efforts. Their planning and passion is evident. Lessons are engaging, challenging, and enthusiastically received by the students. Every classroom evidences a love for learning that is contagious.

Your support of both student and teacher is felt and motivates us in our daily efforts to help students achieve their personal best. The school-to-home partnership at Afton is strong and I was not surprised at the exceptional attendance at Back-to-School Night and the Annual Family Picnic. All parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's education and I urge more parents to attend our monthly PTO meetings where your input is welcomed and valued. As a reminder, our next meeting is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the cafeteria.

To underscore the significance of the home-to-school partnership, I am pleased to share with you the results from the 2011 PSSA that third, fourth and fifth graders were administrated last year. In order for a school to make annual yearly progress (AYP), the state of Pennsylvania requires that 72% of the students proficient in reading and 67% of the students be proficient in math. Here at Afton, the breakdown was as follows:

<b>% Proficient or Advanced</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	93.1	98.0	N/A	N/A
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	90.3	95.2	N/A	94.2
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	86.0	78.9	92.0	N/A

PSSA Parent Reports have arrived and will be mailed mid October. In the meantime, the numbers speak for themselves – our students exceed the current state benchmarks. This success is due to a standards –based curriculum, the use of Best Practices teaching techniques, and the parental support that teachers are extended. The partnership is strong and thriving - the year is off to an awesome start!

Sincerely,  
Joseph P. Masgai  
Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

10/10 – Fire Prevention Week  
10/14 – Picture Day  
10/17-24 – Book Fair  
10/19 – PTO Meeting 9:30 AM (café.)  
10/20 – Afton Night @ Shadybrook 6:00 PM  
10/31 – Halloween Parade 2:00 PM  
11/7 – Teacher Workshop– School Closed

11/8 – Election Day-School Closed  
11/11 – Veterans' Day-School Closed  
11/16 – PTO Meeting 6:30 PM (Lib.)  
11/18 – Picture Re-Take Day  
11/18 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 11:50 AM Dismissal  
11/21 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 11:50 AM Dismissal

NO AM/PM Kindergarten  
11/22 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 11:50 AM Dismissal  
NO AM/PM Kindergarten  
11/23 – Turkey Bowl 10:00 AM  
11/23 – Thanksgiving Break Begins 11:50 AM Dismissal  
11/24 & 25 – School Closed  
11/28 – 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](http://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.

## *READING CORNER*

- Mrs. Munro, Reading Specialist



### **Reading to Learn**

Text books often contain big words, abstract concepts and unfamiliar names and places. Using strategies before, during, and after reading can be very helpful.

**Before** reading skim the chapter to get an idea of what it is going to cover. Pick out vocabulary that may be new and talk about its meaning in the sentence.

**During** reading stop and rephrase the information after reading a few paragraphs.

**After** reading use a graphic organizer to organize the information that has been learned.

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

- Mrs. Knapp, Guidance Counselor

I am excited to be back at Afton after being on a child-rearing leave of absence and a subsequent sabbatical. I am looking forward to interacting with your children in their classrooms, the cafeteria, and out on the playground. I am thinking about starting a grief support group. If you have a child who has experienced a loss in the last year, and think they might be interested in participating, please send an email to [cknapp@pennsbury.k12.pa.us](mailto:cknapp@pennsbury.k12.pa.us). Additionally, I plan on working with Kristen Dobkin, speech therapist, and facilitating a social skills group as well. We are inquiring about specific resources and are hopeful to begin this group in the near future.

Part of my sabbatical studies included education and research in discipline and behavior management. In the Afton Newsletter each month, I will be providing a "tip" for teachers and parents. These tips are directly from the Love and Logic Institute. Love and Logic is a method of working with children that is based on four principles:

1. Maintain the dignity of both the student and parent/teacher
2. Share the thinking whenever possible
3. Share the control whenever possible
4. Use empathy before implementing a logical consequence

### **Tip - Dealing With Power Struggles:**

Power is a major issue between children and adults. While still very young, some children realize they don't have much control over anything. A toddler unconsciously thinks, "I'm the smallest. They tell me what to do, and I don't get to make decisions. I need to find a way to get some control." Then, winning the power struggle becomes all-important more important than making good decisions.

When we offer kids a choice instead of making a demand, no power struggle ever begins. When we make a demand, we own the wise choice, leaving the child with only one way to win the power struggle- by making a foolish choice. Given a range of choices, a child has endless opportunities to choose wisely.

Some examples of little choices:

"Would you like to brush your teeth or get dressed?"

"Would you like to go to recess on time, or late?"

"Can you stay here with our group and have quiet hands, or do you need to leave for awhile and come back when you are calm?"

Never give a choice on an issue that might cause a problem for you or for anyone else.

For each choice, give only two options, each of which will be okay for you.

If the child doesn't decide in ten seconds, decide for him/her.

Only give choices that fit with your value system.

Good luck!! I hope you will find that your schedule flows more smoothly when you try giving your children choices. I know this has been a great tool for me personally in my own home. I trust that you will find this helpful as well.

## **NEWS FROM THE NURSE**



- Ms. Giannaula, Certified School Nurse

Here's to a healthy school year! Please remember to keep your children home for a fever or vomiting for at least 24 hrs. Also it is almost time for Flu season so please arrange to get flu shots for your family. All third graders need a Dental exam at some point during this school year so please remember to send the nurse a form when you have this exam done. I will be sending home a reminder if you have not sent that in yet. Feel free to call me with any concerns at (215) 321-8545.

As part of the Pennsylvania State Budget for 2011-2012, the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) will begin charging co-pays for Medical Assistance services for children with disabilities whose family income is more than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (or about \$45,000 a year for a family of four). At this point, DPW is still deciding how to implement the co-pays.

The PA Health Law Project, the PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Disability Rights Network, PA Partnerships for Children, the PA Community Providers Association, and the Mental Health Association of PA are concerned about the financial impact of co-pays on families with children with disabilities, especially those families who already have high out-of-pocket expenses.

In order to give DPW some information about the out-of-pocket costs those families are facing and the other programs that might be affected by co-pays, we have created a short, on-line survey we are asking families to complete. We would appreciate it if you could distribute the link below to families who have a child or children who qualify for Medical Assistance due to a disability and are not on SSI:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S7JLQ88>.

We ask that families fill out a separate survey for each child on Medical Assistance due to a disability. The survey does not collect any information that can be used to identify individual families. We will only share summaries of the information we collect with DPW.

Thank you for your help and for your time. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Ann Bacharach, Special Projects Director, PHLP, at 215-625-3596, x101 or [abacharach@phlp.org](mailto:abacharach@phlp.org).

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

- Mrs. Gordon, ESL

Mrs. Gordon was on a committee of ESL teachers that met several times last year to design an ESL Progress Report for the Pennsbury School District. The WIDA Access test is taken each winter to assess a student's language development. Students who score 5 (Bridging) exit the program. Now parents will have a definitive assessment each marking period of the progress their children are making. The ESL Progress Report will follow the CAN DO descriptors of the WIDA Access test. Students and parents should benefit from this knowledge.

## **PTO NEWS**

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

The leaves are changing colors and the weather is getting cooler, which means the PTO is back in full swing! This fall we have a family fun night at Shady Brook Farm, during school the children get to go to the Scholastic Book Fair, we are selling Cookie Dough and much more to look forward to during the school year!

We have finished our Family Information Drive and look for ways to improve the process in coming years. Although PTO is synonymous with the dreaded "V" word (volunteer) we should all have the same shared goal, which is to help our child(ren) soar beyond the classroom. Please consider volunteering and being a familiar face in the halls of Afton.

Enjoy the autumn weather and don't forget to check out the PTO website frequently for information on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



## **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.

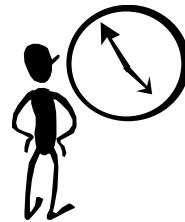
## **VOLUNTEERS**

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.

### **Pennsbury Parent Portal**

We encourage all parents/guardians to register for the Pennsbury Parent Portal. By registering, you will gain access to important information about your child(ren).

For example, if your child is in grades K-5, you will find personal demographic and contact information, attendance data, and report cards. If your child is in grades 6-12, you will find similar information, plus class schedules and marking period grades.

We hope you agree the new Pennsbury Parent Portal will help streamline our two-way communication and also assist you in staying up-to-date on your child(ren)'s educational progress in Pennsbury.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Pennsbury School District's Information Technology Department at 215-428-4100 extension 10034.

# SPECIAL AREA HAPPENINGS

## ART NEWS

- Miss Bertman, Art Teacher



Welcome back to another wonderful school year in the art room! I would like to introduce myself to the Afton Community. My name is Miss Bertman and I am coming to Afton after teaching a full year at Quarry Hill last year, where I taught 1st, 2nd and 4th grade art. This is my second time substituting for Mrs. Baesher, as she is on maternity leave. I am thrilled to be part of the Afton community and I am so excited to work with your child/children, introducing them to new artists, ideas and projects. We've started off the school year discussing shapes, colors, self-portraits, positive and negative shapes, line designs, name patterns and silhouettes. Ask your child/children what they've created so far. I've seen many amazing and talented artists!

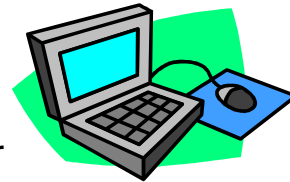
Everyone in 4th and 5th grade is excited about creating a three-dimensional piece, which we will be starting soon, so be on the look out!

I look forward to a GREAT school year!

Keep Drawing!

## COMPUTER NEWS

- Mrs. Priore, Computer Teacher



Welcome to the Computer Lab! I am very excited to tell you that over the summer we received 30 new laptops in the lab. The students are really enjoying them. I have enjoyed meeting all the students here at Afton this school year and look forward to working together to integrate technology into our curriculum. Below is a brief summary of what we have been reviewing:

K: Getting familiar with the lab and the way our computers work as well as Starfall, they are very excited to learn the alphabet.

Levels 1 and 2: Logging on, Dance Mat Typing, reading and vocabulary review.

Level 3: Dance Mat Typing, math skills, reading, spelling and vocabulary review.

Levels 4 and 5: Google searches, math skills, reading and vocabulary review.

## LIBRARY NEWS

- Mrs. Moyle, Librarian



Welcome to the Afton Library!

A new year is starting in our library. With that new year comes new ideas, new names to learn, and new books. Over the summer the library has received many new books to add to its collection, from the easiest picture books to some new reference materials.

Here is some basic information about Afton Library and library class:

- Mrs. Moyle is our full time librarian and Mr. Roberts, our itinerate librarian from Walt Disney, is here one day a cycle to assist teaching Mrs. Jones' classes and Mrs. Kelly/McDonald's class.
- The library currently holds 14,328 copies.

- All students have a scheduled library class. Kindergarten students have a 35 minutes while first through fifth grade have a 40 minute class each week.
- During class time, students will engage in a set curriculum based upon the Pennsylvania State Standards and AASL Common Core Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner. Curriculum topics range from developing listening skills and literature appreciation to research and general library skills.
- At the end of each library class students are allowed to borrow materials from the library for one five-day rotation. Students are responsible for the safe return of their materials each library day. Damaged books will effect students' grades.
- Students in grades one through five will receive a library grade the second and fourth marking period. Students will be graded on listening skills, library citizenship, skills being taught and book return. A specific rubric for grading will be coming home with students.
- The library is looking for volunteers to help out with daily library duties. If you have a two-hour block in the morning or afternoon, please contact Mrs. Glatzer, our PTO Coordinator for the Library, at [vglatzer@infostweb.com](mailto:vglatzer@infostweb.com) .

***Celebration books*** are a way to celebrate your students' special day. The Afton PTO pre-purchases over 100 exciting and interesting hardcover books for the library. On the month of your student's birthday, they will be invited to purchase one of those books in honor of their birthday. Their name and age are displayed in the front of the book and the student takes that new book home first to enjoy it. When they are done reading it, they return it to the Afton Library and it becomes a permanent part of our collection and a wonderful way to remember your student's special day. Look for more information about *Celebration Books* to come!

Want to encourage your students to read more? Visit the Yardley/Makefield Public Library! Here are some great things that are happening at the Yardley/Makfield Public Library in the upcoming month.

**Yardley: Comedy, magic, and balloons with John Cassidy! (Registration Required)**

**Date:** 10/15/2011

**Start Time:** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Description:**

Guinness Book of World Records® documented him as the world's fastest balloon sculptor. Currently John's record for Most Balloon Sculptures Completed in One Hour stands at 747 inflated and twisted within the course of a mere sixty minutes. John holds three additional balloon speed sculpting Guinness World Records®. Free, family event. Please register each family member attending.

**Toddler Storytime (Registration Required)**

**Date:** 9/21/2011, 9/28/2011, 10/5/2011, 10/12/2011, 10/19/2011

**Time:** 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

AND

**Date:** 9/22/2011, 9/29/2011, 10/6/2011, 10/13/2011

**Time:** 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**Description:**

Enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays especially for children ages 18 months to 3 years. Instill a love of reading in your child as he/she develops early literacy skills.

**Spooky Tales (Registration Required)**

**Date:** 10/26/2011

**Time:** 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

**Description:**

Pumpkins and Ghosties and Bats, Oh, My! Join us for some spooky fun with stories and songs to scare yourself silly. Costumes welcome.

**Pumpkin Patch Tales (Registration required)**

**Date:** 10/27/2011

**Time:** 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**Description:**

Seasonal fun for the wee ones. stories, songs and fingerplays. Costumes welcome.

Visit the Bucks County Library online at <http://www.buckslib.org> for information about these activities and more activities for the whole family and how to register.

**Library Report Card Rubric  
Adopted September 2005**

Area	What it Means	4 Advanced (+)	3 Proficient	2 Basic (-)	1 Below Basic (-)
<b>Listens attentively</b>  <b>AND</b>  <b>Follows directions</b>	Demonstrates listening skills through eye contact and body language; participates in group discussions.  Completes tasks as directed	Demonstrates superior listening and participatory skills.  Always completes task as directed with no reminders	Demonstrates quality listening skills; participates appropriately in group discussions  Completes task as directed with few reminders.	Missing important elements of quality listening skills; limited participation in group discussions.  Seldom completes task with frequent reminders	Fails to show quality listening skills; rarely participates in group discussions  Fails to complete task as directed.
<b>Returns materials on time and in good condition</b>	All materials are returned each library visit; all materials are returned in satisfactory condition.	Always returns materials on time in good condition (0-2 misses per marking period**)	Returns materials on time and/or in good condition (3-4 misses per marking period**)	Returns materials late or in poor condition (5-6 misses per marking period**)	Returns materials late or in poor condition (7 or more times per marking period**)
<b>Shows library citizenship</b>	Demonstrates knowledge of library procedures and rules; respects others	Follows the rules and policies with no reminders and acts as a model for others	Follows the rules and policies with few reminders	Needs frequent reminders to follow the rules and policies	Fails to follow the rules and policies
<b>Shows understanding of the library skills being addressed</b>	Demonstrates a clear understanding of the library skills being addressed	Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the skills and evidence of application	Demonstrates an understanding of the skills	Limited understanding of the skills	Lacks understanding of the skills

**MUSIC NEWS**

- Mrs. Adamczyk, Music Teacher



Afton students began the new school year by learning and reviewing several patriotic songs that were sung together on September 9 "Red, White, and Blue Day". Sixteen fifth grade students volunteered to lead the whole school in singing. What a wonderful way to celebrate the beginning of the year for our school and country! One of the special songs that have become a tradition to sing at Afton on this day is "Teach Me About My Freedom", which the children performed with words and sign language. Thank you all for your participation and beautiful singing voices! We are off to a great start this year!

All fifth grade students are members of the Afton Elementary Chorus, which will begin at the end of September. They will practice about once a week this year to prepare for the Spring Concert, which is on Thursday evening, May 10. Fifth level parents, please mark your calendars now for this important 5<sup>th</sup> grade event! Also, thank you all for returning the signed information letter concerning 5<sup>th</sup> grade participation in the concert. If you have not

returned this paper, please have your child see me for another copy that I will send home for your signature. I look forward to working with your children to prepare them to perform for you!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS**

- Mrs. Scammell, Physical Education Teacher

### 1. DID YOU KNOW.....

The Pennsbury School District is in its sixth year of the "Student Wellness Policy" which was approved by the school board in November 2006. This policy is federally and state mandated and addresses all areas of fitness and nutrition. Topics that are addressed are "healthy classroom parties", strict guidelines for types of foods used as fundraisers by school groups and PTO's, non-food items used as rewards by teachers and time spent in physical activity. A "Healthy Celebrations" booklet outlining some of these guidelines is available in the PE office.

In order to fight the obesity epidemic in this country, Afton parents are encouraged to present healthy choices of food for their children: low-fat, low-sugar, high-protein meals with vegetables and fruit, no soda, more water, 100 % fruit juice, or low-fat milk.

The U.S. Surgeon General has stated that this generation of children may not out – live their parents due to their lack of exercise and high fatty diets! There are already documented cases of 10 year-old children diagnosed with high blood pressure and high cholesterol due to unhealthy lifestyles. Our First Lady, Michelle Obama, has started a "Let's Move" campaign to address this serious issue.

Afton students have been taught that "HEALTHY FOOD IS BRAIN FOOD". Students should be eating fruits and vegetables for snack in school to increase their "brain power" and save the cake and ice cream for after dinner.

Children need breakfast to jump-start their day. Research shows that eating breakfast may decrease behavior problems and absences from school. Eating breakfast has also shown to improve achievement on tests.

Metz & Associates, Ltd. (our food service company) is offering a healthy alternative to the "cupcake/donut" birthday party. For as low as \$.75 per student, you can order various nutritional snack, fruit, cheese, veggie or pretzel trays that comes complete with a balloon and a card.

### 2. "AFTON NUTRITIONAL FIT-KID PROGRAM"

Afton students are invited to participate in an eight-week nutrition and exercise program beginning October 16<sup>TH</sup>. Students will be encouraged to eat healthier and exercise more by filling out a daily chart at home. All students who complete the program will be awarded a "AFTON HEALTHY HEART" toe token and will be eligible for a "fitness fun pack" raffle (if they earn 160 points or more). ALL "FITKID" CALENDARS ARE DUE THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>. Why not try to follow the calendar as a family and become an "AFTON FIT-FAMILY"?

### 3. PHYSICAL FITNESS SCHOOL RECORDS

Every Day #2, fourth and fifth grade students have the opportunity to try and break an existing school fitness record. This is a totally OPTIONAL program. The records are the six physical fitness tests of the President's Challenge from the President's Council on Physical Fitness. The tests are :

- a) curl-ups (measures abdominal strength – 1 minute)
- b) pull-ups (measures upper body strength)
- c) flexed arm hang ( " " " " )
- d) sit and reach (measures flexibility)

- e) shuttle run (measures speed and agility)
- f) one mile run (measures cardiovascular endurance)

To date, no one has broken an existing school record.

#### 4. ROADRUNNERS

The Afton Roadrunner Club will meet every Day #1 at lunch/recess for all interested fourth grade students. Students are encouraged to walk/jog/run one-half mile or a full mile during this time. Toe tokens will be awarded to every student after logging 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 miles.

#### 5. FIFTH GRADE BASKETBALL

The fifth grade basketball program will be held every DAY#5 at lunch/recess for all interested students. The first scheduled game of the season will be held on October 14th.

#### 6. PE REQUIREMENTS

All Afton students have physical education once in the five-day rotation. To ensure safety of ALL students, Pennsbury School District requires that sneakers be worn during physical activity. Also, fourth and fifth grade students are asked to wear elastic waist shorts or pants to increase comfort levels while exercising. Medical excuses over one week require a Doctor's note stating the injury and date to return to physical activity.

#### 7. PE NEWS REPORTS

In order to integrate reading and writing into all curriculum areas, students in fourth and fifth grade will be required to write TWO reports (one each semester) as a part of their PE grade. The report should be one half page in length, written in the student's "own words", dealing with any aspect of SPORTS, DANCE OR EXERCISE. The report should be attached to a piece of construction paper and a related picture, drawing or magazine article should appear on the front. PE NEWS REPORTS are due on the following dates:

SQUAD #1	Sept. 23, 2011	&	Feb. 3, 2012
SQUAD #2	Oct. 7	&	Feb. 24
SQUAD #3	Oct. 21	&	March 9
SQUAD #4	Nov. 4	&	March 23
SQUAD #5	Dec. 2	&	April 13
SQUAD #6	Dec. 16	&	April 27

#### 8. "Turkey Bowl"

Every year, fifth grade students learn the fundamental skills of flag football in physical education class. They then apply those skills in a culminating activity playing against the teachers in Afton Annual "Turkey Bowl". This year's event is scheduled for Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. REMEMBER: KIDS RULE, TEACHERS DROOL!!

## CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

### KINDERGARTEN

We are off to a great start in Kindergarten! During our first month together, the children became acquainted with their new school and their new classroom. We all started to get to know one another through many community-building exercises and through our daily morning meeting. The students even had the chance to meet some important people at Afton over the past few weeks. In addition, the classroom rules and guidelines were created and discussed, so that each student could become

familiar with his or her new learning environment.

On Monday, September 26th, we celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day in Kindergarten. All of our stories and projects on that day will relate to Johnny Appleseed and his life. We are truly looking forward to this special day!

## **FIRST GRADE**

First grade is settling in nicely. We've discussed classroom rules and routines. Students have had morning meetings, started centers, and begun Writer's Workshop. The students have begun to bring home books to read every night! In Social Studies students have been learning about the people around them in their communities. In Science, we have started to discuss weather. The children were excited to celebrate Johnny Appleseed Day with graphs, crafts, and homemade applesauce!

## **SECOND GRADE**

Second Grade students are off to an awesome start! Since nobody wants to see the summer end, we kicked off the school year with a special writing project to keep those memories alive! Each child wrote and illustrated their own postcard so that our Afton friends and teachers would know about our favorite summer activities. This was the first project in a series of notes, letters and additional postcards we will be writing throughout the year.

On Constitution Day we learned lots about the best country in the world...the beautiful U.S.A.! We were reminded of how fortunate we are to live in a place where we're treated fairly and have the freedoms that we do. Without the U.S. Constitution, things might be a lot different!

We are very busy with Reading, Writing and Math but we just can't pass up the opportunity to talk about what we are doing in Science. The unit we're working on now is called Balancing and Weighing. We are very proud of the mobiles we created based on the art of Alexander Calder, also known as the Mobile Man! In addition we have built our own beam balances and equal arm balances and look forward to lots more discovery!

## **THIRD GRADE**

The Third Graders have begun an exciting year since moving upstairs! As third graders, we have begun the adjustment of changing classes for both math and science while taking on the challenge of remembering everything that we need to bring along on our travels from class to class. Two very exciting upcoming events will include our Fun Friday Scrabble and a Pig Day Celebration at the conclusion of our Fractured Fairy Tale unit.

## **FOURTH GRADE**

This year all fourth grade students will be utilizing the Accelerated Reader Program to encourage a home-school reading connection. They will be reading self-selected books which are found on the Accelerated Reader shelves in each fourth grade classroom. This program is intended to foster reading independence and personal accountability for all fourth graders. These books will be read at home and parents will be signing daily reading logs, while students will be responsible for completing journal entries about the books they have selected. Upon completion of each book, the children will utilize classroom technology to complete an online quiz specific to the novel they have read. This is an exciting endeavor that both students and teachers are looking forward to this year.

## FIFTH GRADE

The fifth grade has had an exciting start to the school year! Student Council elections were held on September 16<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria. Each of the 28 candidates prepared a poster and a speech to convince others that they were the right choice for office. The positions that the children ran for were President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The students that were chosen will have a lot of responsibility this coming school year. They will be running meetings, reporting to the PTO, arranging fundraisers and doing community service. We would like to congratulate our new Student Council Representatives. Way to go! It will be a great year for Student Council!!

**HALLOWEEN PARADE  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2:00 PM  
WEATHER PERMITTING**



**Costumes that support the themes of war, violence and aggressive behavior are not appropriate and will not be permitted on school grounds. Likewise, costume accessories that could be construed as or used as weapons should not be part of your child's costume. With your support, we hope to provide an atmosphere that produces and emphasizes fun. For safety and security of all students please be aware that only parents who are on our list to be party helpers will be allowed into the building BEFORE or AFTER the parade. Please be sure students are able to dress into their costumes without parent assistance.**

**Parents, family members, and friends  
are welcome to watch the parade  
as it passes the front of the building.  
Thank you for your cooperation.**

**Hope to see you there!**