

DISNEYWORD

200 Lakeside Drive North, Levittown, PA 19054 ~ 215.949.6868

Fay Manicke, Principal

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

Inside this issue:

Change of Address/ Phone Number	2
Holiday Sing Visiting Author	2
Emergency Closing	2-4
Parent Conferences Report Cards	4
School Closings Custody Agreements	4
AIDS Instruction DARE Program	5
Book Fair Family Fun Night	5
Winter Safety	6
Special Education Parent Meetings	6
Around the School Class of the Month New Students	7
Camp Invention 5-Day Rotation Schedule	8
PTO Happenings	9
Tools for School	10

“Everyone can learn because everyone can try”

From the Principal:

Happy New Year to the entire Walt Disney School community. I hope everyone had a very relaxing and joyous holiday season. Best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2012!



ITBS/CogAT

January 6 through February 10, students in 2nd grade will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). Tests measure student achievement and academic aptitude as compared to a representative national sample. We urge all parents to discuss the testing program with their children and to communicate the importance of these tests. Encourage your child to get adequate sleep, eat a good breakfast, follow test directions, ask questions and do his/her best. Testing schedules will be sent to 2nd grade parents in a letter.



PSSA Testing

The PSSA Testing window for grades 3, 4, and 5 will occur from March 12

through May 4 (including make-ups). Specifically the schedule will be:

PSSA Reading/Math ~ Grades 3, 4, 5
March 12-23

PSSA Writing ~ Grade 5
April 16-20

PSSA Science ~ Grade 4
April 23-27

Make-ups ~ Reading & Math
March 26 - 30

Make-Ups ~ Science/Writing
April 30—May 4

We urge all parents to discuss the testing program with their children and to communicate the importance of these tests. Encourage your child to get adequate sleep, eat a good breakfast, follow test directions, ask questions, and do his/her best. Individual grade level testing schedules will be sent to parents in the upcoming months.

Artmobile Visits Walt Disney School

We are delighted to announce that the Artmobile will once again be visiting the Walt Disney School from January 12th through 17th thanks to the generosity of the Walt Disney PTO. The theme of the 2011-12 Artmobile exhibit is “Tree to Form” which will explore the use of wood as a medium for creative expression and make important connections to the heritage of acclaimed woodworking artists such as George

Nakashima, Mira Nakashima Yarnall, Robert Whitely and Mark Sfirri. The exhibition will feature more than 50 objects made by local, regional and international artists and will highlight the nature of wood—the distinctive qualities of different species and where they originate. Woodworking techniques such as turning, carving, burning and painting will be examined for their expressive qualities. Be sure to ask your child about his/her visit to the exhibit in January.

The deadline for the next issue of



is February 22nd!

E-mail:

bkent@pennsbury.k12.pa.us



Change of Address - Phone No:

In the event that you should change your address or telephone number, it is very important to notify the school office. It is very difficult to contact parents in the event of a school closing or injury/illness if we do not have accurate information regarding your address or telephone number. No information regarding your address or telephone number is released from the school without your permission.



Appointments

A reminder to parents: if at all possible, please schedule doctor's appointments and other activities outside the school day so as not to interrupt your child's educational program. We thank you for your cooperation.

Holiday Sing

Along with Mr. Doris and Ms. Haas, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! All grade levels are ringing in the new year with more singing, composing, and music reading as the snow begins to fall. The Holiday Sing on December 22 was a hoot! Everyone—even the staff—shared songs and dances to celebrate the season. Each grade level did wonderfully along with the 4th & 5th grade chorus, 5th grade strings, and 5th grade band. All fourth and fifth graders are beginning to prepare for the Spring Concert on Thursday, May 10. The band, orchestra, and chorus will be showcasing all the hard work they put in this year. In March, selected fifth graders will join the Pennsbury Honors Choir, Orchestra, and Band as students from all over the district come together to rehearse and perform with guest conductors. We had a great 2011. Here's looking forward to an even better 2012!

Visting Author, Kevin O'Malley

On December 7th, Walt Disney Students were visited by Kevin O'Malley, children's book illustrator and author of popular books such as 'Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude', 'Cinder Edna', and the 'Miss Malarkey' books. Students in all grades were treated to lively assemblies by Mr. O'Malley in which he spoke about his life as an author and illustrator. He talked about his ideas for writing good stories and explained to kids how to use their imaginations to re-write and re-tell well-known fairy tales.

Reminder

This is a reminder that students are not allowed to return to school for homework, books, etc. after 4:15 PM. We thank you for your cooperation. The night custodial staff and Kids-care staff have been instructed not to allow anyone access to the classrooms.

Emergency Closing

Who is watching the weather?

School administrators maintain a careful watch of the weather during the snow season. The extent which snowfall affects the operation of school and bus transportation varies with the amount of snow and ice that accumulate. The time of day snow occurs and the weather conditions after a storm are also factors that must be considered.

Where do they get their information?

School District personnel listen to the same weather forecasts you do. Our sources of weather information are radio and television broadcasts. The local police are contacted regarding road conditions.

What factors go into making the decision to close schools?

- Weather forecasts from radio and television
- Local police information on road conditions
- Assessment of road conditions and accessibility to buildings by the Director of Transportation and Director of Physical Plant and Facilities
- Time snow starts/ends
- Amount of snow and ice
- Expected impact on traffic
- Weather conditions expected after the snow



Who makes the decision?

The Superintendent is responsible for the final decision. The decision is based on the information received from the sources noted and the recommendations of the Director of Transportation, the Director of Administrative Services and the Director of Physical Plant and Facilities.

When is the decision made?

The decision to close school must be made by 5 A.M. so that radio and television stations can be notified.

**PENNSBURY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
PHILADELPHIA RADIO
EMERGENCY CLOSING
NUMBER
"747"**

Emergency Closing con't

How is the public notified?

The following radio stations will announce “The Pennsbury School District is Closed” or other pertinent information about the schools

RADIO STATION	DIAL NUMBER	AREA/ LOCATION
WBCB	1490 AM	Levittown
KYW	1060 AM	Philadelphia
WPST	94.5 FM	Princeton

Philadelphia radio stations will make announcements using Pennsbury’s code number (747).

ABC-TV CHANNEL 6-PHILA., CBS-TV CHANNEL 3-PHILA., FOX-TV CHANNEL 29-PHILA. and NBC-TV CHANNEL 10- BALA CYNWYD will also announce information about school closings, as will Comcast Cable Channel 28, Verizon FiOS Channel 42, and the Pennsbury Web site.

Delayed Opening of School

Weather conditions may be such that a delayed opening of two or three hours will be necessary.

Notification of a delayed opening will be communicated in the same man-

ner as a school closing.

Buses will arrive at stops either two or three hours later than usual and school will begin either two or three hours later.

Pennsbury High School.....	9:20 or 10:20 am
Middle School.....	10:10 or 11:10 am
Elementary School.....	11:00 am or 12 pm
AM Kindergarten.....	will be cancelled
PM Kindergarten.....	regular time



What happens if the weather becomes severe during the school day?

It is possible that snow will begin and accumulate to several inches while students are in school. This may result in the dismissal of students according to the schedules that appear below:

EARLY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE “A” (Lunch served at all levels)

<u>Level</u>	<u>Approximate Time of Dismissal</u>
AM Kindergarten.....	11:50 a.m.
PHS.....	12:30 p.m.
Middle Schools.....	1:15 p.m.
Elementary Schools.....	2:00 p.m.
PM Kindergarten.....	cancelled

EARLY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE “B” (Lunch schedules altered - No Lunch at PHS)

<u>Level</u>	<u>Approximate Time of Dismissal</u>
PHS.....	11:00 a.m.
AM Kindergarten.....	11:50 a.m.
Middle Schools.....	12:45 p.m.
Elementary Schools.....	1:30 p.m.
PM Kindergarten.....	cancelled

EARLY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE “C” (No Lunch at Elementary) (No Lunch at Secondary)

<u>Level</u>	<u>Approximate Time of Dismissal</u>
PHS.....	10:15 a.m.
Middle Schools.....	11:00 a.m.
AM Kindergarten.....	11:50 a.m.
Elementary Schools.....	11:50 a.m.
PM Kindergarten.....	cancelled

The above schedules should be considered as tentative, depending on weather and road conditions. The rationale for these schedules of dismissal is so that older students will be home to care for younger brothers and sisters as they arrive at home. Safety will always be our prime consideration.

Announcements pertaining to early dismissal will be available on Comcast Cable Channel 28, Verizon FiOS Channel 42, and the Pennsbury Web site.

What happens to activities?

When schools are closed due to weather conditions, all community activities scheduled for that day or evening will normally be cancelled. These activities include but are not limited to: adult school, recreation programs, extra-curricular activities, athletic practices and contests. All activity buses will be cancelled.

If schools are closed due to weather conditions on the last day before a weekend, the weekend activities may still be held if weather conditions permit. Listen for broadcast announcements.

Unexpected delays

A severe winter storm could develop unexpectedly during the school day. Despite an early dismissal schedule, weather conditions and resultant traffic problems could result in children arriving home well past their normal time.

If this type of situation should occur, the School District will, through our principals, local radio stations and cable broadcasts, keep parents apprised of the time when they can expect their children home.

School bus drivers maintain radio contact with the bus garage.

Emergency Closing

con't

How can parents be ready?

Parents should be prepared for an early dismissal by having identified a neighbor's house where their child can go if they cannot be at home.

The name, address, and telephone number of this person should be on file with the principal of your child's school.

In case of an early dismissal, it is requested that parents do not drive to school to pick up children who normally ride the school bus. The additional traffic that this creates around the school and on local roads only makes the safe transportation of students to their homes that much more difficult.

How to Access

- *www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us*
- *Announcement Hotline: 215-428-4100, ext. 8*
- *Comcast Cable Channel 28
Verizon FiOS Channel 42*
- *Local Radio & TV stations*

The next PTO meeting will be Thursday, January 24th, at 6:30 PM in the Walt Disney School library.



January/ February School Closings

Monday, January 16, there will be NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King's Birthday, and **Wednesday, January 25** there will be NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workshop. **Monday, February 20th** there will be NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day, and **Tuesday, February 21st** there will be NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workshop.

Report Cards

Since the midpoint of the school year is fast approaching, **parents should be aware that report cards are due to be sent home to all children in grades one through five on Wednesday, February 8, 2012.**

The report card is the teacher's assessment of your child's academic and social progress. Both the primary (1-3) and intermediate (4 & 5) level report

cards contain a checklist that identifies learning processes that are observed across all curricular areas.



So that the communication process can be more complete, parents are requested to sign and return the envelope provided after discussing it with their child. As always, should you have concerns regarding your child's progress, please call the school.

Custody Agreements

If you have a custody agreement that prohibits contact with your child by a parent or other family member, it is imperative for us to have a copy of that agreement. Please indicate to us in writing who is and is not permitted to have contact with your child. It is important that this information be updated yearly. Situations change and it is your responsibility to inform us.

Valentine's Day!

Valentine Candy Grams will be on sale from February 7th—9th for \$1 each. Each student is allowed to purchase a maximum of 4 candy grams. Student Council will be delivering the candy grams to each homeroom on Feb. 14th!

Valentine Day Parties



Valentine Day Parties will be held Tuesday, February 14 at the discretion of the teacher and the homeroom parents. Please contact your child's homeroom parent for more details.

Reading Olympics

This year's Reading Olympics are well on their way. Team members are busy reading and becoming experts on a variety of fantastic books! The Reading Olympics competition will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2012.

DARE Program

The DARE (Drug Awareness and Resistance Education) Program will be underway in February at Walt Disney School under the direction of a Falls Township Police Officer. DARE is a 10-session course of study for fifth graders in which the Officer will teach students to resist negative peer pressure, develop ideas for alternatives to drug and alcohol use, build self-esteem and develop decision making skills.

A workshop for parents of fifth graders will be announced and conducted, after

the program begins, to fully explain the DARE Program and offer parents drug awareness tips that will better enable them to support their children. All fifth grade parents will be encouraged to attend.



Look forward to reading, hearing and learning more about DARE

in the coming weeks.

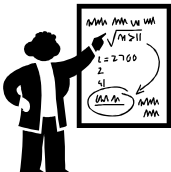
Recess

Unless the temperature/wind chill is extremely low or the weather is in-

clement, students do go outside for recess. Recess is a regular part of the school program and children need to be prepared to take part. Please do not request that your child stay indoors during recess time unless you are able to provide a note from your doctor. Make sure your child comes properly dressed (hat, gloves, coat) for outside recess. It is helpful if you put your child's name on all articles of clothing. **Remind your child not to exchange hats or coats with other students.**

AIDS Instruction

Instruction regarding Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is required in all public schools as mandated by the State Board of Education. The Pennsbury School District, in complying with state mandate, provides a program of instruction about AIDS and related issues to students in grades 5, 7, 9, and 12.



AIDS instruction for our 5th graders will take place May 14-17 and will be

conducted by Mrs. Schwartz, our school nurse and Mrs. Martel, the nurse from Oxford Valley. All fifth grade parents will receive a letter outlining the curriculum.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair will be at Walt Disney from January 17-20th. The children will be able to shop during their recess time, and also at our special Family Fun Night on January 19th. This will be our only book fair this year; come and check out our biggest selection ever. When you purchase books for



your child, you not only build a love for reading in your home, you also help raise funds to provide the teachers with books for their classroom libraries.

Family Fun Night

Join the Walt Disney community on January 19th for a fun night of stories and cookies. Listen to many of your favorite teachers read books from the Scholastic Book Fair, enjoy a snack, and shop with your family for a new book to read on cold winter days. Look for more details on backpack Thursday.

Stay Safe & Warm This Winter

Winter means a variety of new, fun outdoor activities for children. After one evening of snow fall, backyards and neighborhoods can be blanketed by a child's winter wonderland for several months. Sneakers and wind breakers are replaced with boots and down jackets. Scarves, gloves and earmuffs are pulled out from the deep, dark corners of attics and closets.

There are many ways to have a great time outdoors in the winter while being aware that snow, ice and cold can be unpredictable hazards.

Parents and caregivers should review winter safety tips at the beginning of each season and take appropriate precautions so that their child has an active, fun and injury free winter.

The following suggestions are offered to keep children safe, warm and happy this winter:

- **Frostbite:** A key element needed to keep children happy and safe in the snow and cold is warmth. Exposure to cold without adequate protection can result in frostbite.



Help children stay safe and warm when playing outside.

Parents should take the following precautions:

Dress children warmly. Clothing should consist of several thin layers including thermal long johns, one or two shirts, pants, sweater, coat, warm socks, boots, gloves or mittens and a hat or scarf.

- **Set reasonable time limits on outdoor play.** Call children in periodically to warm up with warm drinks such as hot chocolate.
- **When possible, avoid taking infants outdoors when it is colder than 40 degrees.** Infants lose body heat quickly. If a child complains of numbness or pain in the fingers, toes, nose, cheeks or ears while playing in the snow or if their skin is blistered, hard to touch or glossy, parents and caregivers should be alerted to the possibility of frostbite.

Take the following steps:

- Take the child indoors
- Consult a physician
- Tell the child to wiggle the affected body part(s) to increase blood supply to that area
- Warm the frozen part(s) against the body (Hold fingers to the chest, for example)
- Immerse frozen part(s) in warm (not hot) water.

Frozen tissue is fragile and can be damaged easily. Also avoid warming with high heat from radiators, fireplaces, or stoves and avoid rubbing or breaking blisters.

- **Skating:** Annually over 18,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in emergency rooms for injuries related to ice skating. But with extra care, even children as young as 3 can enjoy the sport, as long as they are steady walkers. Remember to:

- Skate in the same direction as the crowd.



- Avoid darting across the ice.
- Throw away chewing gum or candy before skating onto the ice.
- **Sledding:** About 32,600 children ages 14 and under were treated in emergency rooms for injuries related to sledding annually. Parents and caregivers should look for:
 - **Terrain that is free of obstacles and far from traffic.** Check carefully for snow-covered hazards such as rocks, tree limbs, and stumps that could endanger sledders or skiers.
 - **Sturdy and safe construction of equipment.** Avoid equipment with sharp or jagged edges.
 - **Secure handholds.**
 - **Easy steering, nonjamming mechanisms on sleds and toboggans.**
 - **Gently sloping terrain.**



Around the School



the City of Hope.

Crazy Hat Day we collected many canned goods to donate to the Red Cross Homeless Shelter

Pajama Day we collected over 140 pairs of gloves for the Salvation Army!

Cupcake Day raised almost \$100 for Student Council.

We would also like to thank everyone for their participation in our Turkey Raffle, Holiday Pencil Sale and Donut Day Sales! With the funds raised, we are able to make many contributions to our school and other charitable causes. Our next Donut Day will be in February!

Congratulations to our Turkey Raffle Winners! The following three students brought home a \$15 gift card to help fill up their table on Thanksgiving: Emlyn Robles from Room 7, Julianna Grantham from Room 8 and Devisree Tallapeneni from Room 15.

Upcoming Events

Valentine Candy Grams will be on sale from February 7th—9th for \$1 each. Each student is allowed to purchase a maximum of 4 candy grams. Student Council will be

delivering them to each homeroom on February 14th.

Trenton Thunder Family Fun Night!

Our Trenton Thunder game is scheduled for **Saturday, May 12th**. The Student Council would like to invite everyone to this special event as our 4th and 5th graders will be singing "The Star Spangled Banner" before the game begins! Tickets will be on sale beginning in March! All students will be coming home with an order form. Be sure to mark your calendars!

From 5th Grade

Beginning the night of the Scholastic Book Fair (January 18th) and ending at the Winter Carnival (February 3rd), the Fifth Grade will be displaying and selling tickets for their annual Gift Basket Raffle to raise money for their upcoming trip to New York City. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. There will be many great baskets including a candle basket, candy, chocolate lovers, hair salon, movie basket, pamper me, video game system, Phineas and Ferb, Trader Joes, gift wrap, Angry Birds and many more! Look for order forms to come home with your child the week of January 23rd. The Fifth Grade thanks everyone for their support.



New Students

We extend a warm welcome to the following new students:

- ◇ Eddie Sawkenas - Mrs. Barish's 4th grade class
- ◇ Zach Brown - Mr. Costanzo's 4th grade class
- ◇ Hunter Roberson - Mrs. Caiazzo's 3rd grade class
- ◇ Brooke Barlow - Mrs. Barish's 4th grade class
- ◇ Kieph Valentine—Mrs. Sandora's 2nd grade class

From Student Council

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Student Council would like to thank everyone for participating in all of our dress down days to help support our local charities. Here is just a short list of all the wonderful contributions we have been able to make so far this school year!

Think Pink Day raised over \$150 for

Class of the Month

From Mrs. Moratti

Mrs. Morris/Mrs. Hadley's 2nd grade class was November's Class of the Month; and Mrs. Hadley's 3rd grade MG class was December's Class of the Month. Congratulations to both classes! As the winter weather sets in and children are looking for things to do indoors, check out Mrs. Moratti's Staff Page on our school website for some sites that are educational, safe, and kid-tested fun!

From Mr. Roberts

Congratulations to the following classes for being chosen Library Class of the Month:

November: Mrs. Speers' PM Kindergarten **December:** Mrs. Barish's 4th Grade

Great job!!!

From Ms. Duncan

The ESL Student in the Spotlight for the first marking period is Alexa Ramos! Alexa is always listening and paying attention! Great job, Alexa!

From Mr. Van Demark

Our students at Walt Disney have been busy swinging from ropes, climbing the rock wall, performing tumbling skills and flying around the gym in our Star Wars game. The November Class of the Month was Mrs. Schorn's 1st grade class and December's was Mr. Costanzo's 4th grade class. I'm looking forward to our volleyball, hockey and fitness unit coming up!

From Mr. Kolar

The Music Class of the Month is Mrs. Sandora's 2nd grade class!

From Ms. Wismer

The following students have been named Artist of the Month:

December

- ✘ Serenity Long - 5th Grade
- ✘ Magnolia Sagolla - 4th Grade
- ✘ Sean Paulson - 3rd Grade
- ✘ Delaney Gardner - 2nd Grade
- ✘ Emlyn Robles - 1st Grade
- ✘ Jordan Driver - Kindergarten

January

- ✘ Chuck Anderson - 5th Grade
- ✘ David Seibert - 4th Grade
- ✘ Riley Silverman - 3rd Grade
- ✘ Ian Miller - 2nd Grade
- ✘ Cara Medina - 1st Grade
- ✘ Angel-Marie Cruz - Kindergarten

Rotation Schedule After Emergency School Closing

When school is closed for weather conditions, the five day rotation will not be affected. When children return to school, the rotation day will be the next day in order, i.e., Monday-Open, Day 1; Tuesday-Closed; Wednesday-Open, Day 2. Implementation of this procedure will allow the schedule to run consistently through the year so that the final five days of school are Days 1 through 5 and provide for continuity of program for our special area teachers.

Typing Speed Test Race Winners

Mrs. Moratti would like to congratulate Mrs. Lafferty's 5th Grade for winning the Typing Speed Test Race! It was a very close race with equally balanced teams; but, Mrs. Lafferty's class won with an overall average of 18.5 WPM. Breanna Murphy won Highest Average and Most Improved with an average of 46.8 and an improvement of 33 WPM! Mrs. Fitzpatrick's Highest Average winner is Jake Feher with 28.4 WPM and Most Improved goes to Summer Friel with an improvement of 28 WPM! Congratulations and keep practicing!



Camp Invention is coming back to the Pennsbury School District this summer! At Makefield Elementary, June 18 - 22, 2012 and at Edgewood Elementary, June 25 - 28, 2012. More information will be available soon!

Great news from the Tools for School Committee!



We have purchased \$50,000.00 of playground equipment this month!

Don't forget to keep using our paper retriever bin and sending in Shop Rite receipts. Every little bit helps us towards our goal of more new playground equipment!

Thank you for your support of this project!

Save the Date: March 31st is Walt Disney Day! More information will be coming home soon.

Trenton Thunder Game

Mark your calendars! Our Trenton Thunder Game is scheduled for **Saturday, May 12th!**

Student Council would like to invite everyone to this special event as our 4th and 5th graders will be singing "The Star Spangled Banner" before the game begins! Tickets will be on sale beginning in March! More details will be coming home soon, but be sure to mark your calendars!

Help save the sight of others!

Simply bring any usable eyeglasses to school and drop them off at the nurses' office. Any eyeglasses are accepted, child or adult.

G-L-A-S-S-E-S

Giving Lenses At School to Save Eye Sight



Lions Clubs International

PTO HAPPENINGS January 2012

The PTO would like to thank everyone that attended, helped, & made crafts/donations for the Holiday Bazaar. A great time was had by all. We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday!

Also, a BIG thank you to everyone who took part in the Kids Stuff Fund-raiser and the Chic-Fil-A Spirit Night.

Important Upcoming Events:

January 17th—20th: Scholastic Book Fair

January 19th Book Fair Evening hours 6pm-8pm

January 24th PTO Meeting 6:30pm in the Library

February 3rd Winter Carnival 6:30pm—8:30pm

Boxtops for Education

Keep clipping those box tops! A new contest will be announced in January. You can also sign up on-line at BT4E.com to enter your box tops.

Scholastic Book Fair 2012

A Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school from Tuesday, January 17 to Friday, January 20, 2012. A Book Fair Family Event will be held on Thursday, January 19 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. You may shop on-line for an expanded book selection. You can find all the information you need on our homepage: [Http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/waltdisneypto](http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/waltdisneypto)