



Blackwood Parent Notes



October 2009

It was great seeing so many parents at our Back to School Nights. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher by phone or e-mail. You don't have to wait until our conferences in November. Good communication between you and your child's teacher is important for your child's success.







If you are on my e-mail list and received a paper copy of this newsletter, please e-mail me so that I can correct our lists. You will continue to receive paper flyers for some things, but I will try to e-mail everyone so you can look for it coming home. If you would like to be added, e-mail me at the address below and I will add you to my list. I appreciate everyone's efforts to help us save paper and improve parent communications.

On Wednesday, September 23rd, I sent an automated message reminding parents about our Back to School Night for grades 3-5. This will be another way that I can communicate and remind parents of school events. If you did not receive a call, please let me know. It is important that you notify us if you change your designated home phone number. This can be your cell phone if you wish, but we must list it as the home phone in our system for you to receive an automated call to that number. This is the number that will be called in case of inclement weather.

Kim Capone

Principal

kcapone@gloucseter.k12.nj.us

-  **Veterans' Day, November 11th** - Schools are open on Veterans' Day, but we will have classroom activities to honor our fallen veterans, those who served and those protecting us today. We would like to invite any veteran or active duty military person to come into our school and meet our children. This may be a relative or friend; we would welcome any member of the military. You don't have to make a speech or organize a program, but meet with our children and answer questions that they may have about military life. You are our heroes and it would be great for our kids. If interested, please contact your child's classroom teacher. You may visit just one class or as many as you have time for.
-  **PTO Meeting-** Please plan on attending our PTO meeting on Tuesday, October 6th at 7 PM. Our meetings usually last no longer than 1 hour. We need your input on decisions for your kids. Please come out and support our hard working PTO.
-  **Interim Reports** - I know it seems like we just started, but the interim reports will come home on Friday, October 9th.
-  **Chuck -E-Cheese** - October 22nd -Please join us for our 1st Chuck-E-Cheese Night fundraiser. The proceeds will go to our school account. 50% will be designated for electronic equipment/supplies and 50% will go towards office equipment/supplies.
-  **SMILE!** - School pictures will be taken on October 13th & 14th - Look for flyer to be sent home.
-  **Red Ribbon Week** - This program is part of our 'Anti-Drugs' education. Each day during the week of October 26th we ask students to dress according to the theme of the day. We will read an anti-drug message each day during morning announcements.

- Monday, October 26th - 'Wear Red Day'.
- Tuesday, October 27th - 'We Have Character, We Don't Do Drugs' -wear favorite cartoon character T-shirt.
- Wednesday, October 28th -'Hats off to Our School for Being Drug Free!' - wear your favorite hat.
- Thursday, October 29th - 'Team Up Against Drugs' - wear your favorite sports team.
- Friday, October 30th - 'Say Boo to Drugs' - our usual Halloween activities.

- **Franklin Institute Parent/Child trips** - October 21st for 4th grade. They are free for parents and children. You will receive a flyer in regards to the grade level trips.
 - October 21st - 4th Grade
 - November 18th - 3rd Grade

- **Algorithm Nights for Parents-** Everyday Math workshops for parents will be offered throughout the district. The dates are listed below. Parents may attend any date and school. Please notify schools so that adequate supplies and rooms can be prepared.

10/1 - GTES
 10/6 - Loring-Flemming
 10/12 - Lilley
 10/13 - Blackwood
 10/21 - Union Valley
 10/22 - Glendora

- **Halloween Parade** - We will be having our indoor Halloween Parade on Friday, October 30th. We will have grade level appropriate activities. Each grade level will have a classroom party and a grade level parade indoors. The parade will be in our school and done within each grade level.

The AM Kindergarten-Pre-School will parade in the morning. The parade for PM Kindergarten-Pre-School and grades 1-5 will be held in the afternoon. We ask that kindergarten and pre-school students wear their costumes to school and grades 1-5 bring their costumes in a bag and change into their costumes.

Costume accessories should not be brought into school. Therefore, children are not permitted as part of their costume to bring to school, toy guns, knives, swords, etc.

I am sorry, but only parents who have been assigned by the classroom teachers as chaperones will be allowed into the school. I hope that you understand that these procedures are in place so that the children can have fun and be safe.

If you do not wish your child to participate in Halloween activities, please contact your child's teacher by letter. Students who do not participate in the Halloween parade will not be able to attend their class party. Instead, they will have an alternative activity in the library.

- **Gloucester Twp. Halloween Celebration** - will take place on Saturday, October 24th from 5 PM to 7 PM at the Gloucester Twp. Recreation Center (Free with a non-perishable food item).

- Trick or Treat for township children will be held on, October 31st. Curfew hours have been established as follows - October 31st - 7 PM. A siren will sound 15 minutes prior to curfew.



Dates to remember...

- October 1st - Math Night K-2
- October 6th - PTO meeting, 7 p.m.
- October 8th - Math Night 3-5
- October 9th - Interim Reports go home
- October 13th & 14th - School Pictures
- October 13th - Algorithm Night for Parents - look for info to be sent home.
- October 13th - Fire Prevention assembly for pre-school
- October 15th - Mother Goose for pre-school
- October 15th - Parent Workshop - Family Law 6:30 PM
- October 16th - Storybook Land field trip for pre-school
- October 20th - Fire Prevention assembly for kindergarten
- October 21st - Franklin Institute Trip - 4th Grade
- October 22nd - Chuck E Cheese Night
- October 23rd - Spirit Day - College Jersey or sports team
- October 23rd - Fire Prevention assembly for grades 1-5
- October 30th - Halloween Activities
- November 1st - Daylight Savings Time ends- set clocks back 1 hour
- November 18th - Franklin Institute Parent/child trip -4th Grade
- November 18, 19, & 20 - Parent conferences
- November 20th - Report Cards go home or time of conference



Establishing a Back to School Bedtime

By Kent Amstutz, D.O. - Boys Town Pediatrics

Summer break is a fun and busy time for many young children. With the longer daylight hours, children are able to extend playtime into the evening. Now that summer is coming to an end, parents may find it difficult to establish a bedtime routine for their little night owl.

Boys Town Pediatrics offer parents a few tips to help ease the transition from summer vacation to back to school:

Start setting boundaries, early. About a month before the first day of school, set a bedtime and wake-up time. Then slowly move this time back in 15 minute increments until you reach the appropriate times for your child.

Get your child use to morning activities. Plan your final summer activities in the mornings and early afternoons. Putting more emphasis on the mornings will help your child become accustomed to doing activities during the day (when they would be in school) rather than at night time.

Keep a routine. Stay consistent with bed time and wake time, even on the weekends. This will help children adjust easier to the new schedule.

Boys Town Pediatrics recommends elementary school children should get 10-12 hours of sleep. Pre-teen through high school youth should get 9-11 hours of sleep. This guide will vary for each individual child, but the most important thing parents can do is be consistent.



Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like clearing the drive before it has stopped snowing.