

UNION VALLEY NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2009

The staff at Union Valley welcomes all new and returning families for the 2009-2010 scholastic year. We look forward to another successful year working together and appreciate your continued cooperation and support.

Calendar 2009-2010 - You will note that there is significant information made available in this calendar. The first half pertains to calendar dates. The second half offers data pertaining to school hours, school closing information, school marking periods, registration information, special student programs, plus curriculum and policy data. It is the hope of the Gloucester Township School administration that you will use this calendar as a guideline throughout the school year.

WORD OF THE MONTH - Manners - Do you use good manners?

NJ ASK RESULTS - Test results from this past spring will be sent home with fourth graders (NJ ASK 3 results) and fifth graders (NJ ASK 4 results) sometime in September. More information will be shared at Back to School Night for grades 3-5 on September 24th.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH - Students who were eligible for free or reduced meals in June are still eligible for September. New applications should be completed and returned ASAP to assure continued eligibility.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM - Union Valley offers the option of breakfast at school to our students. Upon their arrival to school at 8:25, students opting to eat breakfast at school report directly to the cafetorium. Each day, a breakfast selection will be offered (\$1.50 for paying students, .30 cents for those who qualified for reduced meals last June and free for students who qualified for free lunches) that is consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Juice, cereal, milk and assorted pastries will be included. After eating breakfast, students will join their homerooms by 8:45 to resume their class schedule for daily activities.

BORROWING LUNCH - Please be advised that we will be implementing the same system as last year when a student must borrow to pay for a school lunch. First offense: receive regular, full lunch and a reminder to bring \$2.75 the next day. Second offense: receive regular, full lunch but a warning that the next time they will get *peanut butter & jelly and that they now owe \$5.50. Third offense: peanut butter & jelly and milk for \$2.75 ... all subsequent offenses get peanut butter & jelly and milk.

*Cheese substitute if child is allergic to peanut butter. Once a child repays the money he/she owes, they get a clean slate and the entire process can begin again. Report cards will be held until all debts are paid.

LUNCH ACCOUNTS - The cost of 10 meals for all elementary schools is \$27.50 or \$4.00 for those who qualify for reduced lunch. The account has no expiration date and is good until used. The lunch account eliminates students losing daily money, makes the line move faster and assures that students are eating lunch. Send your check payable to "**GTPS Food Services**" with student's name and teacher's name on check or envelope.

SIX DAY SCHEDULE - All Gloucester Township Elementary Schools will continue operating under a six day schedule during 2009-2010. Instead of Monday through Friday, think of a cycle of Days 1 through 6. Thus, if your child has Physical Education on Day 1, their class will have Physical Education on whatever day of the week Day 1 falls. We will keep track of each day's number and post it in our lobby while announcing it during the morning message (8:52 am). We will "refresh" all parents about our six day schedule at this month's BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT programs.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING - Monday, **September 21st**, 7:00 pm at the Administration Building.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT - Thursday evening, **September 17th** for grades Preschool - 2nd and Thursday evening, **September 24th** for grades 3rd - 5th. Please note on this evening our general session will begin at **7:00 pm** in the cafetorium (rear of building). Our first classroom session will start at **7:30 pm** and our second session at **8:15 pm**. We look forward to seeing all parents in attendance.

SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY - Friday, **September 25th** is School Spirit Day. Requesting students and staff to wear school spirit wear and/or our school colors of light blue and black.

PTO FALL FUNDRAISER - Please look through the Cherrydale packet that will be sent home with your child in September. This is our largest and most important fundraiser of the school year and it will begin this year in September. Profits from this sale allow the PTO to do great things for every child here at Union Valley. Please, safety first! NO DOOR TO DOOR SALES. Thank you in advance for your support!

STUDENT DROP-OFF - Please do not drive in the bus lane directly in front of the building. All students are to be dropped off in the parking lot adjacent to the bus lane. Please plan on arriving by **8:35 am** so your child can get to his/her classroom by **8:40 am**.

REMINDER - Please put your child's name on his/her clothing, especially jackets/coats, backpacks and lunch boxes.

UNION VALLEY PTO MEETING - The first Union Valley PTO meeting will be Thursday, **October 1st** at 7:00 pm in the Media Center. We hope you can join us!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION - The PTO will be continuing this program again this year. This has been a very successful program at Union Valley and we look forward to your continued support!