

Our Babylon Elementary Home-School Connection



Upcoming Dates to Remember...

11/20: ES Coffee Hour, 10:00am, café

11/25: 15 Minute Early Dismissal (2:40pm)

11/26-11/27: Thanksgiving Recess, Schools Closed

12/1: Fall Photo Re-take Day

12/4: Kindergarten Family Breakfast, 8:15am

12/8: PTA Meeting, 6:00pm, at ES



Dear Babylon Elementary School Families,

Volume 6 : November 16, 2009

Many thanks for each person responsible for the planning; design; set-up; implementation; and clean-up of the Fall Festival on October 30. Your dedication to the students and overall community are so greatly appreciated. We were quite fortunate to have the number of moms and dads help us before, during and after the evening's events. A huge "thank you" is greatly deserved and your work is very much appreciated!

This Friday, November 20 is our first ES Coffee Hour beginning at 10:00 in the café. This hour together will allow us to discuss facts, questions, or concerns about the H1N1 virus. Mrs. Bagdanoff and I will have a great deal of information and can hopefully put some of your greatest worries aside. However, if you cannot join us, we have included some quick facts below in "Health Office Highlights."

Our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is underway. We will be collecting items until this Friday, November 20. Ms. Quinn and Mrs. Reynolds, classroom teachers, sent a letter home asking families to generously donate boxed or canned foods to make up three healthy and fulfilling meals for Babylon families who may need some additional assistance during the holiday season. As mentioned in the last Home-School Connection, we understand that the state of the economy is one in which asks each of us to examine our daily living expenditures. Please only choose to contribute to the food drive in which your own family can do so. This year that may be in the way of a friendly and hopeful letter to another family in the community. Perhaps we are each in a slightly different place in our lives than we were a few years ago. I would like to express great thanks to those families who have already generously donated items.

Each family at Babylon Elementary School has received an invitation from Patken Photographers who will be hosting our Family Photo Night on Monday, November 23. As they generously did last year, Patken will be sharing a portion of the proceeds from this event back to our PTA and school to help offset the cost of future successes. We are quite fortunate to have this wonderful opportunity again. Please call Patken Photographer's at 888-0065 to set up an appointment on that evening between 4:30-9:00pm.

If you haven't done so lately, take some time to look at our district website's school home page: <http://www.babylonschools.org>. The site is continually updated with new school stories and pictures. Our recent Halloween parade pictures are now on the site. We all look quite more "treated" than in a "fright." These can be found on the link titled, "Explore Our School," after linking to the Elementary School. Our archived Home/School Connections can now be found on our website for dates, events, or other timely information.

As always, if you have any questions, brainstorm or concerns, please let me know via phone, e-mail or in person. I am always willing to take time to hear your thoughts and reach a helpful solution.

With respectful appreciation and thanks— *Dana M. Spincola*

****I wish each of your families a most joyous Thanksgiving with one another!**** *You are in my thoughts this holiday since I am extremely thankful for each one of you!***

HEALTH OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

Due to the amount of students and staff that we have had out, we would like to review the basic facts regarding the symptoms for H1N1 and seasonal flu. Please find the following information helpful, especially if you cannot attend Friday's Coffee Hour. If your child is not feeling well, please answer the following questions..."Does my child have?" A fever of 100 or more; cough; sore throat; vomiting; and/or diarrhea? Additional signs may also include: skin rash; body aches; increased fatigue; decreased appetite; pale appearance; glassy eyes; dark circles; and lack of energy.



Helpful preventative measures include: frequently washing hands; staying home until we no longer feel sick and have been fever free for 24hours without using fever-reducing medication.

For further information on H1N1 Flu, please visit our district web page at www.babylonschools.org.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Health Office at 893-7966 from 8:15am-3:15pm.

CURRICULUM CORNER

Buddies are Beginning

During our Superintendent's Conference Day on November 3, the teachers in grades K-5 met with one another to make preliminary plans to meet-up with one another's classes. This year, our teachers have also been paired with new buddies themselves. The Cross-Grade Level Buddy Project was designed to be a powerful way to help all children experience positive social relationships and enjoy a fresh perspective about themselves as learners. Buddy partnerships allow the students to experience themselves as worthy of special attention and kindness. The partnership that two buddy teachers model for their classes has a way of strengthening the adult community in a school as well. The Buddies Program complements a District-wide commitment to building a "sense of community" by varying children's learning experiences. Please contact your child's classroom teacher for more information. There are some wonderful plans already in place for the year.