

Our Babylon Elementary Home-School Connection



Upcoming Dates to Remember...

12/7 & 12/9: Breakfast with Santa Ticket Sale
12/8: PTA Executive Board Meeting, 6:00pm @ ES Library
12/8-10: Holiday Fair
12/12: PTA Breakfast with Santa @ ES
12/14: BOE Mtg., 7:30pm @ HS Library



Dear Babylon Elementary School Families,

Volume 7: December 4, 2009

I hope this Home-School Connection finds you and your families well and relaxing after a joyous Thanksgiving Day. On behalf of Mrs. Bocchimuzzo, Mrs. Reynolds, and Ms. Quinn, I would like to thank all of the families who donated food, gift cards and turkeys to our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. We were able to provide a nurturing Thanksgiving dinner and holiday to a number of families within our own community.

As the month of December begins and the hustle of the holidays grows, please know that we are celebrating the holidays in a similar way as we did for Thanksgiving. We will be playing "Santa" for three families within our neighborhood. This year, Ms. Quinn and Mrs. Reynolds are decorating our lobby's Christmas tree with gift tags describing one gift for a child in each of the families. We are inviting you to please come and select an ornament from the tree and then return the wrapped gift with the tag attached, and place it in the bin for the corresponding family. Each bin will be labeled by family number matching the tags: #1; #2; or #3. You can choose a tag beginning Monday, December 7. All gifts need to be returned by Friday, December 18. Please see the "Holiday Gift Drive" announcement that you should also receive today for additional information. This is a wonderful way to help children understand the "giving" aspect of the holiday season.

Please note that the dates for our Spring Parent-Teacher Conference Dates have been confirmed. Since they are not printed on the school calendar, please take a few minutes to write them in. We will have a half-day of school, students dismissed at 11:30am, on Thursday, April 15 and a full day of conferences, no school for students, on Friday, April 16. More information for scheduling with your child's classroom teacher will follow in the months to come.

I would like to follow-up with an ongoing parking issue. I have received a letter from the Babylon Fire Department which I am sharing with you on the back of this Connection. I ask that you read it and carefully consider what is being shared with us. Babylon Village Code Enforcement will be here to help us in our request. Finally, as our last measure, we may be closing off the circle after the new year if the problem persists. I feel that would be an unfortunate measure for all those that have cooperated with us, since the circle provides a number of safe and appropriate parking spots for families and keeps a few additional cars off the street. I ask that you please cooperate each day with this request. Thank you!

There are some wonderful new pictures and links on our district website's school home page at: <http://www.babylonschools.org>. These can be found on the link titled, "Explore Our School," after linking to the Elementary School. Our school's Shared Decision Making Team has also added a piece about our responsibilities and ongoing work. Our archived Home/School Connections can now be found on our website as well. Please check them for dates, events, or other timely information you may have questions about.

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

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

CURRICULUM CORNER

Our Literacy team would like to share the importance of the work classroom teachers do each day. Literacy Collaborative (LC) is the curriculum we believe in and adhere to for our daily practice in English Language Arts, and allows for a Balanced Literacy approach to reading. The Collaborative's intention and belief is the way we present reading and writing to all children despite their present level of ability, prior literary experience, or grade level. It is the steadfast belief and understanding that all children can and will become independent readers and writers throughout their school career; while maintaining a focus on the challenges we face each day when we come to a word we don't know; a story or book we want to abandon; or in editing a story that we just can't seem to have flow from one idea to the next. Each

day our resourceful teachers provide a number of strategies that successfully aide students in some of the many obstacles they face in reading and writing. We invite you to please visit our school home page and go to the "Literacy Collaborative" link. There you will find additional information and useful strategies to help your child at home.

HEALTH OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

The Winter Weather begins! And with the winter weather, arrives colder temperatures, chapped lips, cold sores, and winter woes. Please know that our children **will be going outside** for recess each day as long as the weather is 32°F (including wind chill). Please send your child in with layers of clothing, hats, gloves, and or scarves. Also please remember to label them with his/her name as well .

Any over-the-counter winter weather "medication" including, *lip balm*, needs to be sent to the nurse with a note from a parent/guardian allowing her to dispense as written. Children are not allowed to carry any such treatment with them in school. Similarly, if your child returns to school on an *antibiotic*, a note from your pediatrician must accompany the antibiotic to the nurse's office for her to dispense.



When in doubt, if you have any questions regarding these items, or other health related concerns, please feel free to call the Health Office at 893-7966 from 8:15am-3:15pm. THANK YOU!!!