



THE BEAR FACTS

October 26, 2009

October 2009							November 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

Mark Your Calendar!

Oct 26-30..... Fall Book Fair
 Oct 27..... Family Night, 5:30–8:30pm
 Oct 28..... Special Breakfast, 8-9am
 Oct 30..... Halloween Parade & Parties
 Nov 17.....HSA Meeting
 Nov 18.....Parent Conferences, no school
 Nov 19 & 20...Parent Conferences, half day, no kindergarten
 Nov 26 & 27...Thanksgiving, no school!

HSA Meeting Schedule

Nov 17th @ 9:15 Apr 21st @ 9:15
 Feb 17th @ 9:15 May 19th time TBA
 Mar 17th @ 9:15 June 9th @ 9:15

*all meetings are held in the large group room
 *HSA meeting minutes will be available, for you to view, in the HSA file folder in the main office, on the HSA website, and on the HSA bulletin board in the lobby.
 *For those of you who have volunteered, or are considering it, the district "Guidelines for Volunteers" will be in the HSA file folder in the main office for you to look at!
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575 Beaumont Road •Devon, PA 19333
 Office: 610-240-1400
 HSA Website: www.beaumonthsa.org

District Hotline: 610-240-1970
 District Website: www.tesd.net

Hello Beaumont Families,

Time is flying by! I can't believe it is already the end of October and we are starting to plan our Winterfest! I would like to thank those of you that have been busy organizing our fall fundraisers. Our school store had some great new Bear Gear and had a successful first opening. Look for the on-line store to open again before winter break for any holiday shopping you may want! The wrapping paper sale is closing this week. Thanks for supporting this fundraiser again this year. We had our first ever Family Fun Walk/Run and it was very successful! The kids loved meeting the guest runner "The Beaumont Bear". Everyone had wonderful evening! It was a huge success. Another new and successful event was the Halloween Costume Sale. We have so many committed parents at Beaumont that help make all of our events the best they could possibly be! Thanks to everyone! Our Beaumont community would not be half as successful as it is without the time and support of all our families!

As always, we have many great events coming in the next few months! Keep on eye out for information on Winterfest! This is fun shopping experience for the kids! Our Parent Social is on November 7th! We are looking forward to our first fall social. Come out and meet some new parents as well as catch up with your old friends. It will be a very enjoyable evening.

Remember to check out the Beaumont HSA website (beaumonthsa.org). It is an easy way to get connected to what we are doing at Beaumont. Any flyer, order form or important information is on the website.

Thank you for being an important part of our Beaumont community.

Warmest Wishes,
Sherril Gartner

HSA President
 On behalf of our HSA Board

Included this Month

Carpool letter from Dr. Demming	2	T/E School Board Curriculum Study	16-18
Sign-up to receive the Bear Facts via email!	3	Keystone Exams Alert (formerly known as GCA's)	19-20
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Fall Book Fair	5	Menu and Calendar	
Parent Social	6		
Build - Planning for the Future	7	November School Calendar	22
Winterfest - for Crafters and Businesses	8	November Lunch Menu	23
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Water bottle order form	15		

NEXT BEAR FACTS: November 30, 2009 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 23
 SUBMISSIONS TO: bearfacts@beaumonthsa.org CONTACT: Kate McAllister, Editor

Beaumont Elementary School

Carpool Routine Reminder



- All student drop-offs should occur in the carpool circle when your car is near the school's double door entrance. Please do not drop off students in the bus lane, at stop signs, or at other curb-side areas. Appropriate supervision is scheduled at the school's carpool entrance.
- Please continue to move your car up as the carpool line progresses.
- While in the carpool line, we have appropriate staff scheduled to greet your child and guide them into the building. This system keeps the carpool line moving more quickly. We request that you do not get out of your car.
- While in the carpool line, please do not get out of your car to walk your child to the door. This causes other cars to wait and backs-up the line. If you need to enter the building, please park in a parking space.

Thank you very much for following our carpool guidelines. They are designed to ensure the safety of our students and keep the line moving efficiently.

Please call if you have any questions, 610-240-1400.

Many thanks!
Stephanie Demming
Principal

GET *THE BEAR FACTS* ONLINE!

In our continued efforts and commitment to reduce paper waste, we began moving towards email delivery of The Bear Facts monthly newsletter beginning last year. Last year, about 100 families signed up for this great service! Those families will continue to receive The Bear Facts electronically and will not receive a paper version. If you have signed up previously and your email has changed, please notify us.

Please, if you have not already done so, sign up soon!

How does it work? You will receive an email with a link to the newsletter online, letting you know that the issue is available on the website. Please add bearfacts@beaumontsa.org to your address book to ensure delivery to your inbox.

To receive *The Bear Facts* notification by email, complete the tear-off below and return to the school office. Alternatively, send an email to website@beaumontsa.org with the following information:

- Parent or Guardian Name(s)
- Child(ren)'s Name(s)
- Child(ren)'s Grade(s), Teacher(s), and Room Number(s)
- Email address
- Your phone number

All the above information must be in the email in order to be processed. Your phone number is needed for any questions regarding sign-up.

TO: HSA Website Coordinator

Yes, I would like to receive email delivery of The Bear Facts!

Parent's Name(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Child(ren)'s Name(s)/Grade(s): _____

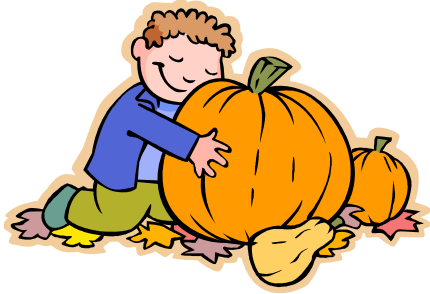
Check One:

- ☐ Yes, include me on the email list for other HSA communications *
- ☐ No, do not include me on the email list for other HSA communications

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please direct questions to Jeanne Dechiario at jeanne@beaumontsa.org or 610-647-4692

* The HSA has not yet sent communications via email, but plan to roll out this form of communication during the 2008-09 school year.



HALLOWEEN PARADE & PARTIES REMINDER FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

The Halloween parade will begin at **2:00 PM** for all students in grades 1 -4 and PM Kindergarten. The students will parade in the car pool circle behind the school. Please do not park your cars in the car pool circle so we can have enough room for all parents to see the parade. There is extra parking available across the street at Hilltop Park. Parents who are helping with party or parade preparation may arrive at **1:30 PM**. The parties will begin immediately following the parade. Parent volunteer dismissal will be at 3:10 PM to clear the hallways for our student dismissal which begins at 3:20 PM.

The morning Kindergarten students' parade will begin at **9:30 AM**. They will parade through the hallways of the school and in the car pool circle. Their party will begin immediately following the parade.

Remember when choosing costumes please avoid costumes that include:

1. gory subjects - costumes depicting monsters, blood, death, horror creatures, controversial political figures, or other frightening characters.
2. weaponry - items resembling guns, swords, rifles, knives, or other weapons
3. avoid full face coverings - material or masks that inhibit vision or breathing or cause students to be unrecognizable. Latex masks are not allowed.



Read Around the World!

AT THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

DATE: OCT 26TH—30TH

TIME: 8:30 AM—3:00 PM

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO VISIT WITH YOUR CHILD DURING THEIR CLASSROOM VISIT.

GO TO WWW.BEAUMONTHSA.ORG TO SEE THE SCHEDULE.

★ SPECIAL EVENTS ★

FAMILY NIGHT—TUE OCT 27TH 5:30—8:30 PM
ENJOY REFRESHMENTS AND SPECIAL STORIES READ BY
DAVID GERBSTADT AND DR. DEMMING.

SPECIAL SOMEONE BREAKFAST—THU OCT 28TH 8:00-9:00 AM
BRING A GRANDPARENT, PARENT, OR SPECIAL FAMILY MEMBER
TO ENJOY BREAKFAST WHILE VISITING THE BOOK FAIR.



Don't delay...

Get your money in today!

**The Beaumont "Beef and Beer" Parent
Social is Nov. 7, 2009**

\$40.00 per person

RSVP by Nov. 2, 2009

Questions? Call Dawn Poeta: 640-4284 or

Monique McQuaid: 695-6401



B.U.I.L.D.

(Better Understanding of Individuals with Learning Differences), Tredyffrin-Easttown School District
Invites you to:

Planning for the future:

Estate Planning for Special Needs Students

Presented by: Randy Hope Steen, JD

Director of Estate & Business Analysis, Karr Barth

Associates/AXA Advisors

7:00 p.m., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009
VALLEY FORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL (Audion)

105 West Walker Road, Wayne

Randy Hope Steen has over 17 years of experience as a creative estate planner and tax strategist. As the parent of an 8 year old girl with special needs, she is eager to share her knowledge and recent experience of drafting a special needs trust for her.

RSVP by November 10th to: Wendy Brooks:

wenobrooks@aol.com, Michele Lynch: lynch610@verizon.net

or Susan Peterman: shpeterman@yahoo.com

**Save the date! Tuesday, December 1 for a presentation on
Therapeutic Horseback Riding by Marie Lewis and Mark
Comyns of Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy**

WinterFest

Thursday, December 3, 2008, 6 -8 p.m

Attention Business Owners and Crafters!

Beaumont Elementary School Home and School Association would like to invite you to be a part of our Winterfest holiday shopping celebration. We have reduced the rate and are introducing a new way to gain exposure in our community in hopes of making the event an even bigger success for everyone involved. This year's event takes place on December 3 and runs from 6-8pm.

There are three ways for local businesses & crafters to get involved:

Table at event - \$25 per 8' table

Ad in Holiday Shopping Guide - \$20

Combination of Table and Guide - \$40

The event is a family oriented holiday extravaganza that includes a parent shopping section and a children's shopping section. There is also an ice cream social, movies and crafts to keep the children entertained while parents shop. This year's event also features an opportunity to sell your gold and silver.

At the event vendors can sell product, take orders and are encouraged to distribute coupons or offers at the event to encourage shoppers to visit their store or website before the holidays.

The Shopping Guide is a publication that will be distributed in all student's backpacks and will enable businesses to have a brief description of their product. They can also make a special offer for Beaumont parents to encourage shoppers to visit their store or website.

Thank you for your time and consideration! Space is limited and will be offered on a first come, first served basis. The HSA reserves the right to remove product deemed inappropriate for elementary school aged children. To reserve your space, kindly return the form below with your check made out to the Beaumont HSA no later than Friday, November 20. E-mail questions to katemcallister01@gmail.com.

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

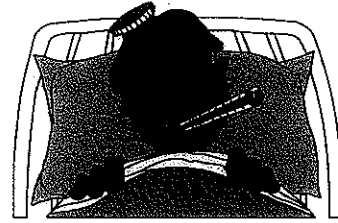
Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ Event (\$25/table) ☐ Shopping Guide (\$20) ☐ Both (\$40) TOTAL: _____

Description of Product: _____

PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Beaumont Elementary School - 575 Beaumont Road – Devon – PA - 19312



COLD OR FLU ?

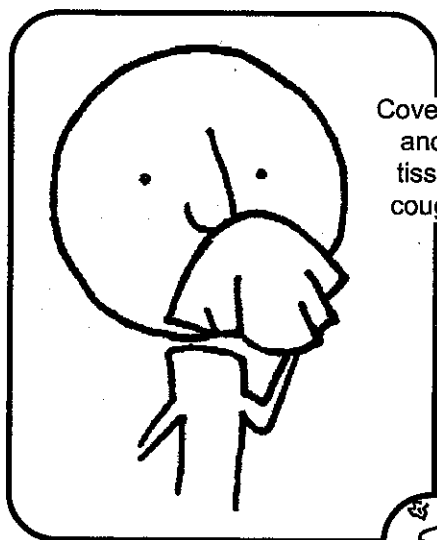
Colds and Flu are common winter upper respiratory infections caused by viruses. These viruses spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing. People may become infected by touching an item contaminated with a virus, and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Most people are able to infect others beginning one day **before** symptoms develop and **up to 5 days after** becoming sick. **Because you are able to pass on a virus before you know you are sick, good hygiene habits are always important.**

The following table from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is a guide to distinguishing between them. Both illnesses should be treated with bed rest, fluids, and fever reducing medications. Consult a physician if the symptoms become worse or prolonged.

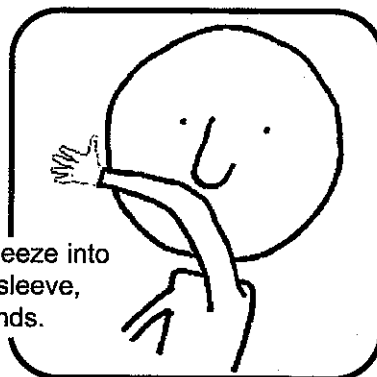
SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Fever	Rare	Yes (102 – 104 degrees F, Sudden onset, lasts 3-4 days)
Headache	Rare	Prominent
General aches & pains	Slight	Usual, Often quite severe
Fatigue & weakness	Quite mild	Extreme, can last 2-3 weeks
Prostration	Never	Early & prominent
Runny, stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate, hacking cough	Common, can become severe

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

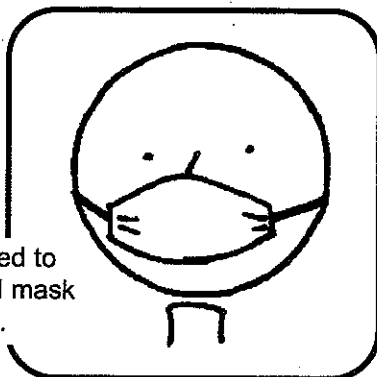
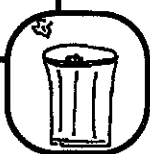
Cover your Cough



Cover your mouth
and nose with a
tissue when you
cough or sneeze
or
cough or sneeze into
your upper sleeve,
not your hands.



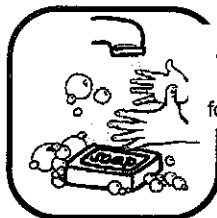
Put your used tissue in
the waste basket.



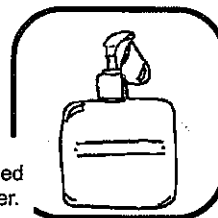
You may be asked to
put on a surgical mask
to protect others.

Clean your Hands

after coughing or sneezing.



Wash hands
with soap and
warm water
for 20 seconds or



clean with
alcohol-based
hand cleaner.



Minnesota Department of Health
717 SE Delaware Street
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-676-6414 or 1-877-676-6414
www.health.state.mn.us



Minnesota
Antibiotic
Resistance
Collaborative



20 TIPS FOR COLD AND FLU PREVENTION



Although there is no cure for the common cold or flu, there are preventive measures you can take to decrease your chance of getting either this season.

1. **WASH YOUR HANDS.** This is still the best way to prevent colds and flu! Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 15 seconds.
2. **USE A TISSUE INSTEAD OF A HANDKERCHIEF.** Wipe or blow your nose and immediately throw the tissue away. Handkerchiefs continually spread germs to your hands and face.
3. **DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE.** Touching your eyes, nose or mouth is a fast way for germs to get into your body.
4. **COUGH AND SNEEZE AWAY FROM OTHERS.** Instead of coughing or sneezing into your hands, turn away from others, cough or sneeze into your sleeve or use a tissue.
5. **WATCH THAT MOUTH.** Avoid placing objects such as pens or pencils into your mouth. Also avoid licking your fingers when sorting papers.
6. **TAKE CARE AT WORK.** Clean your work area and phone often. Wash your hands after using the bathroom, lunchroom, copy/fax machine, and any other space that is used by others. Some germs can survive on objects for hours or a few days.
7. **BE AWARE OF COMMUNITY SPACE.** Doorknobs, light switches, refrigerator doors, bathroom and kitchen counters, telephones, and remote controls are all places germs can reside.
8. **USE HAND SANITIZERS.** Keep liquid or gel hand sanitizers or anti-bacterial wipes handy.
9. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN.** Children are very susceptible to colds. Teach them to wash their hands often with soap and warm water. Saying the ABCs while washing their hands assures they wash long enough (at least 15 seconds).
10. **DON'T SHARE CUPS.** Use paper cups in the bathroom and kitchen.
11. **DON'T SHARE FOOD OR UTENSILS.** This may be difficult for parents to do, but it is important so germs aren't passed back and forth.
12. **USE DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS.** Germs can live on cloth towels and sponges for hours, so use paper towels in the kitchen and bathrooms or wash bathroom hand towels often. Disinfect sponges by running them through the dishwasher and replace them frequently.
13. **DON'T SMOKE.** Smoking can irritate the nose and lungs when you have a cold or the flu, making symptoms worse.
14. **PRACTICE GOOD HOUSE CLEANING.** Frequently clean living areas and wash bedding (especially children's) and towels.
15. **KEEP TOYS CLEAN.** Regularly wash children's toys in warm, soapy water.
16. **VENTILATE.** When weather permits, open up doors and windows to let fresh air in to circulate through your home.
17. **EXERCISE.** About 30 minutes three or more times a week can help strengthen your immune system.
18. **EAT HEALTHY.** Getting all your daily vitamins and nutrients can help ward off colds and flu.
19. **RELAX.** You're more likely to get sick when you're under stress. Get eight hours or more of sleep per night and remember to relax!
20. **IF YOU DO GET SICK.** Stock up on cough drops, tissue and other products you use in case someone in your family becomes sick.

This topic sheet is for general information only, and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care.



Visit our Healthy Living page at www.HealthNetFederalServices.com

PROVIDED BY HEALTH NET FEDERAL SERVICES ♥ Preventive Care Services



HealthNet
Federal Services
OCT05.018 (10/05 P90)

Head Lice Information

There is a confirmed report of head lice at school. You should watch for signs of head lice within your own family. One telltale sign is a persistent itching of the scalp, often accompanied by scratch marks. The person inspecting the head should look for tiny, gray-white, oval eggs called nits, glued to the hair shafts near the scalp, at the back of the head and behind the ears. Eggs may masquerade as hairspray droplets or dandruff; but these are easily dislodged and brushed away, while nits remain firmly cemented in place. Live adult lice are seldom seen. They are tiny, quick, protectively colored and relatively few in numbers.

Although, classrooms are a possible source, other high risk areas for getting head lice are the home, after-school care, play groups, church groups, dance class, scouts, and sports events. Head lice are usually spread from one person to another by direct contact with personal items such as combs, coats, hats, brushes, towels and bedding. We urge you to advise your children not to share these items with others.

If you suspect that your child has head lice, consult with your physician or pharmacist and purchase the proper insecticide shampoo. It is very important not to treat family members who do not have head lice. The special shampoos are a strong insecticide and may produce toxic effects if used unnecessarily. Also, the lice may become resistant to a frequently used product. It might be a good idea to wear mid-length and long hair tied back with barrettes, ribbons or rubber bands.

It is very important that you notify the school nurse as soon as possible if your child has head lice. She will be glad to answer any questions that you may have regarding handling the problem. The nurse will also need to check your child's head before he or she returns to class.

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the school nurse in your child's school.

Do not treat family members who do not have head lice. The shampoos used are strong insecticides that may produce toxic effects if used unnecessarily. In addition, lice may become resistant to a frequently used product. Family pets should also not be treated. Head lice are not transmitted between animals to humans.

After treating the child, the following actions will help to prevent infestation of other family members and re-infestation of the individual:

1. Check all family members each day for two weeks.
2. Launder all clothing (including coats and sweaters), bedding towels which the child used before treatment. Because heat kills lice and their eggs, many articles can be disinfected by machine washing in hot water and/or drying using the hot cycle of the dryer. Eggs are killed after five minutes at 125 degrees, or 30 minutes at 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Adult lice die at slightly lower temperatures.
3. Personal articles of clothing, bedding, and cloth toys that cannot be washed can be dry cleaned or placed in a plastic bag for a period of ten days. Head lice die in about 48 hours without a blood meal, and nits kept at room temperature for ten days do not hatch.
4. Combs and brushes which cannot be replaced can be disinfected by soaking for one hour in a 2% Lysol solution or by heating in a pan of water to about 120 degrees Fahrenheit for five to ten minutes.
5. Discard or wash any articles used in the hair such as head bands, ribbons or barrettes.
6. Vacuum thoroughly floors, carpets, car seats, and upholstered furniture that have been recently used by the infested individual. Dispose of the contents of the vacuum cleaner collection bag carefully.
7. Fumigation of living areas is not suggested. The use of chemical aerosols has not been proven to affect the transmission of lice and may result in allergic reactions to toxic chemicals.



Health and Fitness News

From the T/E Elementary Physical Education Department



Get Smart! We all know exercise is good for us. But recently, researchers have added a startling new perk to its long list of benefits--it may make you smarter and help you stay that way as you age. According to neuroscientists, exercise increases blood flow in the brain, encourages activity between the neurons, and even promotes new neurons to grow, which plays a major role in memory and learning. Turns out, exercise boosts brainpower regardless of age, which is why you, no matter what age should get moving!!

Brain Boosting Foods

Avocados, banana, broccoli, brown rice, whole grains, brussel sprouts, cantaloupe, cheese, chicken collard greens, eggs, flax oil, legumes, oatmeal oranges, peanut butter, salmon, spinach, tuna, wheat germ, yogurt, olive oil, omega 3 fatty acids, almonds, walnuts

LET'S TALK TREATS!!! CUT DOWN ON CANDY

Most popular candies have a high fat content and hurt your nutritional fitness. The candies that have the **highest** levels of fat are chocolate candy, peanut brittle fudge, butterscotch and caramel. You should limit these. Better candy choices are jelly beans, licorice, hard candy, gummy bears, gum drops, junior mints, peppermint patties, tootsie rolls ... although remember that you should eat even these candies sparingly.

Activities in the Area

October 3rd- River City 5K Run www.rivercity.org

October 10th- UMLY Halloween Hike

October 11th- Radnor Steeplechase Run , Malvern

October 11th- Delaware County Run for Heroes 5K

October 25th- Alex's Lemonade Stand (Annual

PE Family Homework

The elementary PE department challenges you as a family to stay healthy and active together. Your family homework for the month is to do at least two of the following activities as a family!

- Have a football catch in the backyard after dinner.
- Take a bike ride together in your neighborhood or nearest park.
- Go bowling together as a family.
- Learn a new sport or physical activity together.
- Go outside and rake the leaves!
- Participate in one of the activities in the area we suggested.

Quote of the Month

It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that things are difficult"

Healthy ReciPE of the Month

This is a quick and easy-to-make after-school snack. Try adding ham or chicken as a topping for added protein!

- Preheat the broiler.
- Place wholegrain English muffin on the serving sheet.
- Spread tomato sauce over the muffin
- Top with cheese
- Sprinkle fresh basil and tomato on top
- Boil until sauce is bubbly and cheese is

Order your water bottles NOW!

What a great way to reduce plastic water bottle waste and show your Beaumont Pride! The perfect water bottle for:

- On the go
- Sports & activities
- Lunch boxes

Strong stainless steel construction with twist cap, 25 oz and BPA free, with a sporty Beaumont “B” (actual product artwork may differ in sizing than shown in this example). Bottle measures approx. 8-1/4” in height and 4” in width.



\$12 for one
\$10 each for two or more

Your Name _____

Child's Name _____ Room # _____

Quantity _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

** \$12 for one bottle; \$10 each for two or more bottles ordered **

Please make checks payable to Beaumont HSA. Any questions, contact Pam Albertson at pamalbertson@comcast.net or 610.647.0124



Curriculum Study: Looking Ahead

The T/E School District is in the process of examining its curricular program in order to consider program changes to meet the strategic planning goal of preparing students with the skills and knowledge to be leaders and contributors in the 21st century.

Possible Program Modifications. During the 2009-2010 school year, the District will review the current 7th and 8th grade programs to consider changes that would better equip students with essential skills. The social and emotional well-being of 7th and 8th grade students will continue to remain the paramount focus in any discussion about middle school program change. If the middle school program can support revisions that would enable students to earn high school credit for successful work, additional opportunities will open for these students as they progress through high school.

The District will also study whether Conestoga students are better served with a 7 period schedule, resulting in increased time per instructional period, or through the current 8 period day with increased opportunities for small group mentoring or instruction. A review of the high school schedule is needed to determine the degree to which it can facilitate new learning environments and opportunities.

The District middle school program was implemented for grades 5-8 in 1993, and the current high school schedule was implemented for grades 9-12 in the fall of 1992. While the schools have evolved to incorporate new educational research, federal and state mandates, and District strategic initiatives from 1996, the essential design of the middle school and high school schedules has remained intact since 1992-1993. An examination of each program structure is essential to determine whether or not the current programming can address emerging needs.

In addition, all non-mandated programs, including Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) and the world languages program, will be studied to determine the degree to which the initial goals of the programs have been achieved. The District will also discuss opportunities for incorporating science and other special area subjects into the elementary school day. As with any potential program modification, the District will review the financial implications of the changes as part of the decision making process. However, the recommendations from these studies will be based on District strategic initiatives and options for students that will best prepare them for college and the workplace of the future.

These considerations are the result of three factors: strategic planning initiatives, new electronic learning environments and state testing requirements for student proficiency.

Strategic Planning Process. In 2008, the T/E School District completed a strategic planning process that created a mission for the District to inspire a passion for learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence and social responsibility in each student. The plan emerged after approximately 900 instances of involvement of students, parents, community members, Board members, teachers and administrators through planning committee work, brainstorming sessions, focus groups, interviews, and action teams. The Committee recognized the importance of preparing students for anticipated and unanticipated challenges that lie ahead through the development of 21st century skills and creative learning experiences. These 21st century skills and experiences center around global and community partnerships, social responsibility, and boundary-less classrooms that use technology for creating problem-solvers, critical thinkers, self-directed learners and collaborative workers.

New Electronic Learning Environments. With each passing year, new technologies create exciting opportunities to learn in ways that transcend classroom walls. Electronic learning courses promote education that does not only take place within the walls of a school or during an eight-period day. Chronicle Research conducted a poll of colleges about on-line learning. One-third of respondents predicted that by 2020, students will be taking up to 60% of college coursework on-line. The state of Michigan currently requires an on-line learning experience as a high school graduation requirement.

Learning environments without physical boundaries present great opportunities for students in the 11th and 12th grades. Currently, Conestoga students have the opportunity to participate in an exploratory on-line coursework pilot for courses that would otherwise have been canceled. In the near future, students may have the additional opportunities to gain experiences in areas that may include, but are not limited to:

- Expanded opportunities to earn college credit on university campuses, at Conestoga or electronically.
- New opportunities to take electronic courses for high school credit.
- Independent study. Students develop a topic to research or study and work with a teacher to meet learning goals.
- Expansion of established internship programs and the addition of year or semester long career explorations. Students could gain work experience and earn credit through established partnerships with local businesses.
- Service learning projects. Students could design and deliver community service initiatives to earn high school credit.
- Entrepreneurships. Students could work with a teacher to develop a business plan and manage a self-started business to earn credit.
- Other experience-based learning opportunities discovered by teachers and students.

Many programs such as these are already in place in schools across America. For students to take advantage of these enriched opportunities, they will need to demonstrate proficiency in core academic subjects in grades 7-10.

State Testing Requirements. In August 2009, the State Board of Education voted to approve final regulations that will change high school graduation requirements for Pennsylvania students. These regulations introduce a new series end-of-course tests called Keystone Exams. The regulations are in the final form pending approval by the State. If these new requirements are enacted, students will be tested for proficiency in 10

courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Biology, Chemistry, World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government, and 2 exams in English Literature and Composition. Passing scores must be earned in six of these courses to qualify for a high school diploma. Many of these required courses are administered to students prior to 11th grade.

For years, middle school students have experienced success in courses with high school rigor. For example, a majority of students in the T/E School District take Algebra 1 while in middle school. In addition to math courses, all students study two years of world languages in middle school and are able to begin studying high school curriculum in the third year of language instruction. Beginning as soon as the 2010-2011 school year, many of these students will take an exam required for graduation while in middle school.

Looking Ahead. On September 21, 2009, Superintendent Dan Waters addressed the School Board and the community during a presentation on District Goal 1: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. In his presentation he stated, "If we continue to do things in the same manner... I don't think we will be doing [students] a service in preparing them for the 21st century. We are at that decision point at this time."

The curriculum study and possible recommendations will be discussed at School Board Education Committee meetings. Please visit the T/E School District web site at www.tesd.net for upcoming meeting dates, agendas and updated information. An eleven minute video of Dr. Waters' presentation on Goal 1 from the September School Board meeting is also available on the TESD web site at www.tesd.net/goal1.htm.

As part of a global community, T/E students must attain and develop skills that allow them to participate in collaborative relationships within and beyond our community. We will work to prepare our students for jobs that demand critical-thinking skills, problem-solving skills and the ability to adapt to new experiences and new technology. We invite your comments as we study our curricular program and look ahead to building a 21st century learning environment.

TREDYFFRIN/EASTTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

*****ALERT*****

Please review the following letter written by the school board concerning information on the Keystone Exams formerly known as Graduation Competency Assessments (GCAs). This letter is on their website www.tesd.net where the links for the sample letters and regulations can be accessed.

Our children at Beaumont will be affected by this regulation if it is passed.

Please spread the word.

Dear Parents:

On August 13, the State Board of Education voted 14-2 to approve final regulations that will change graduation requirements for Pennsylvania students. Part of these reforms includes end-of-course tests called Keystone Exams in 10 subject areas: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Biology, Chemistry, World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government, and 2 exams in English Literature and Composition. Students will be required to pass six end-of-course tests to earn a diploma.

In addition, schools that use these Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement will be required to count the exam score as one-third of the final grade for the course. Students who fail the exam by scoring below basic shall be awarded a zero for one-third of the final average, which will have a negative impact on the student's grade point average. While the regulations do permit the development of local assessments for these courses, the path toward approval is challenging and, as of yet, undefined.

The following represent key elements of the state plan:

- End-of course testing in 10 subject areas and the elimination of the existing 11 th grade PSSA tests.
- Withholding of diplomas for students who do not demonstrate proficiency in six of these courses.
- Curricular review to consider changes to current course offerings and content to ensure alignment with Keystone Exams.
- State expenses that will exceed \$201 million to develop and implement the new tests during a fiscally challenging budget environment.
- District expenses that threaten to draw resources from other program areas.

The current assessment system provides schools needed information about students who need assistance, and the state has failed to demonstrate how the proposed system will improve student achievement without increasing dropout rates and creating barriers to college entrance.

What can be done?

The final form of these regulations has been sent for the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) for approval. If the IRRC approves the regulations, they will take effect as written. The state legislature may also still act to block Keystone Exams or to withhold implementation funds. If you wish to express an opinion about Keystone Exams to the IRRC or to your local legislators, you will find contact information and sample letters below. Please note that the sample letters for the legislators and the IRRC differ in focus to address concerns specific to each recipient's work. Thank you.

Summary of the New Regulations:

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stateboard_ed/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=149712

Revised Final Form Regulations:

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stateboard_ed/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=127158

Sample Letters

Note: there are two different letters, one for your senator and representative and one for the IRRC. The letters may be downloaded, completed and mailed via U.S. mail to one of the addresses below. Alternately, the content of the letters may be copied and pasted into an email. For ease of sending your comments via email, the senators' and representatives' email addresses as well as the email address for the IRRC have been provided below as well.

[Letter to Senators and Representatives](#) (Microsoft Word)

[Letter to Senators and Representatives](#) (fill-in PDF; complete form then print)

[Letter to IRRC](#) (Microsoft Word)

[Letter to IRRC](#) (fill-in PDF; complete form then print)

U.S. Mail and Email Addresses:

Senator Andrew Dinniman (Tredyffrin)	Senator Ted Erickson (Easttown)
One North Church Street	5037 Township Line Road
West Chester, PA 19380	Drexel Hill, PA 19026-4821
andy@pasenate.com	eerickson@pasen.gov
Representative Paul Drucker (Tredyffrin)	Representative Duane Milne (Easttown)
922 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 909	18 E. Lancaster Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087	Malvern, PA 19355
pdrucker@pahouse.net	dmilne@pahousegop.com
Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)	
333 Market Street	
14th Floor	
Harrisburg, PA 17101	
Fax: (717) 783-2664	
Email: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us	



Pioneer Quix Stix is the ultimate lacrosse program
for girls in grades 3 through 8 living in
Tredyffrin/Easttown.

**The 2010 Spring Season
Registration is online only
starting Oct. 1st!**

Please visit our website at
<http://www.PioneerQuixStix.com>
to register and receive additional information!



NOVEMBER 2009



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>2</p> <p>8:00 Orchestra 3:30-4:30 2nd Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 5</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3:30-4:30 3rd Grade Sports 3:30 - 4:30 Readers Theater</p> <p>Day 6</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 Cultural Arts Tony Vacca 3:30-4:30 4th Grade Sports 3:30 - 4:30 Jr. Math Club</p> <p>Day 1</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00 Chorus 3:30 - 4:30 Math Club 3:30-4:30 Science Explorers</p> <p>Day 2</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3:30 - 4:30 Jr. Math Club</p> <p>Day 3</p>
<p>9</p> <p>3:30 - 4:30 2nd Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 4</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 Orchestra 3rd Grade to Pennsbury Manor 2nd Grade to Academy of Natural Science 3:30-4:30 3rd Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 5</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 - 1:00 Picture Retakes 3:30-4:30 4th Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 6</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 Chorus 3:30-4:30 Science Explorers</p> <p>Day 1</p>	<p>13</p> <p>3:30 - 4:30 Jr. Math Club</p> <p>Day 2</p>
<p>16</p> <p>3:30 - 4:30 2nd Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 3</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:15 HSA Meeting 10:45 & 12:45 Kindergarten Harvest Feast 3:30-4:30 3rd Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 4</p>	<p>18</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Conferences</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00 Chorus 8:00 Orchestra 1/2 Day Conferences</p> <p>Day 5</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1/2 Day Conferences</p> <p>Day 6</p>
<p>23</p> <p>3:30 - 4:30 2nd Grade Sports 2:00 Fall Music Concert</p> <p>Day 1</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:30-4:30 3rd Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 2</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:30-4:30 4th Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 3</p>	<p>26</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>30</p> <p>3:30 - 4:30 2nd Grade Sports</p> <p>Day 4</p>				

