



Baldwin's Bulletin *October 2015*



Board Corner

Suburban school districts across New Jersey are facing the unanticipated phenomenon of declining enrollment. When the number of students steadily decreases over time, districts must decide on a course of action. Deciding on a course of action that takes into account what is educationally and financially best for our students and our district, however, is a complex process.

As districts like Warren Township wrestle with this dilemma, the Warren Township Board of Education realizes that community input is invaluable in assisting the board as it examines possible scenarios to deal with the declining enrollment. At the September 8 meeting, board members voted to hire the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) as a facilitator to engage the community for input.

According to NJSBA facilitators Gwen Thornton and Charlene Peterson, community engagement facilitation:

- Increases and broadens stakeholder knowledge and understanding of where the district is today;
- Provides stakeholders with the opportunity to provide informed feedback;
- Gives the board actionable feedback and a fuller understanding of the community's thinking and desires;
- Informs what the district should be doing today in order to move to where it wants to be in the future.
- Details about meetings and organizational structure will be made available as the process advances. All input from constituent community members is critical to that process and is welcomed.

Kindergarten - Mrs. DeShields and Ms. McGuire

Our shining Kindergarten stars are off to a wonderful start this year! We have been learning how to make good choices and the importance of teamwork and sharing. Kindergarten is a very important year in a child's schooling and many parents wonder how they can support their child at home. Below are some suggestions to a successful Kindergarten year.

Spend a few minutes each week reviewing alphabet letters and sight words, so your child begins to readily recognize all letters and sight words.

Have your child practice writing his/her name with only 1 capital letter and all the rest of the letters lowercase.

For math practice, ask your child to incidentally count items around them (How many pumpkins are outside? How many crayons do you have?)

Foster independence by having your child practice tying his/her own shoes and zipping their own jacket.

Have your child practice cutting with his/her thumb up and using their opposite hand to rotate the paper.

Thank you for all of your help and support. We are looking forward to the rest of the year and eager to continue on our Kindergarten journey!

A Note from the School Nurse

As the new school year begins, I would like to review some guidelines when determining whether to keep your child home. Please keep your child home if he/she has a fever of 100 or greater. Children may return when fever free without the need for Tylenol and Advil. In addition, if the child has a continuous cough and runny nose (yellow or green nasal discharge), please keep him/her home. Also, if your child has had vomiting or several episodes of diarrhea in the last 24 hours keeping your child home will help keep a healthier school environment.

If your child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease that requires antibiotics, the child may return after being on antibiotics for 24 hours and fever free. PLEASE notify the health office so that notices can be sent out to the classroom.

When calling in an absence or lateness PLEASE DO NOT email the teacher, instead call the absence line and leave a message by 9:15 a.m. Homework requests can be made at the Main Office.

Please do not send in medication through your child's backpack. A parent needs to bring it to the health office. All medications whether prescription or over the counter require MD orders and parent signature. Medication forms can be downloaded on the Health Office district website (www.warrentboe.org).

Flu season begins in October and peaks typically during January and February. Please consider a flu vaccine, especially if your child has other medical conditions, such as asthma. In addition, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, cough or sneeze into a tissue or elbow and throw tissues into the garbage. Avoid sharing cups or utensils with people who are sick; clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs.

Most importantly, please keep your child home when he/she are sick to avoid spreading the germs to others.

Thank you and I look forward to caring for your children this year.
Alexis Sacks, MSN, CSN

