

MONTHLY MEMO

SEPTEMBER, 2011

Bobbie Behnke, Superintendent/Principal
Ron Pettie, Curriculum Director
Administration Office 461-1905
Pearson School 461-1976
Walnut Street School 461-0874
School Closing Number 677

STAFF CHANGES

Delanco Public School has several new/changed staff member for the 2011-2012 school.

Emily Smith- New Kindergarten Teacher
Kim Minimi – PS moved from 1st grade teacher to 2nd Grade Teacher
Dawn Schroff – PS moved from Kindergarten to 2nd Grade teacher
Fran Borden – PS moved from 5th Grade to 4th Grade
Ron Pettie – WSS Curriculum Director
Christina Gentile – WSS Math Teacher

NJ ASK TEST

Following are the dates for Spring 2012 ASK testing. Please avoid scheduling vacations on your child's testing dates.

April 23, 24, 25, 26, 2012	NJASK Test for grades 7 & 8
April 30, May 1, 2, 3, 2012	NJASK Test for grades 5 & 6
May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2012	NJASK Test for grades 3 & 4

EXCARE (Extended Day Child Care)

The Delanco School District operates its own Before and After School Care Program. Complete information about the program can be obtained in the Pearson School Office or The Board of Education Office.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Students have brought home a school calendar for 2011-2012. Please keep it in a handy place for future reference. It lists all vacations and notes the days when schools are closed or open on a half-day schedule. Please also check the calendar for a detailed listing of special events scheduled throughout the year. We hope this will help you with your personal planning.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

In the event that schools have to be closed due to harsh weather conditions or other emergencies, our emergency school closing number, **677**, will be broadcast over most Philadelphia radio stations. Please listen for the number when there is a possibility of a closing. The District also uses its automated phone system that will call each home in case of a closing or late opening.

ATTENDANCE

State law requires all students between the ages of 6 and 16 to attend school all the days and hours that school is in session. The only legitimate excuses for missing school are: personal illness, death in the family, court subpoena, other excuses approved in advance by the building principal.

Absences for reasons other than those stated may result in legal action.

Any absence has a detrimental effect on a child’s learning. Parents are urged to oversee their children’s attendance and make certain that it remains regular.

ABSENCE PHONE IN PROCEDURE

This year, we will be continuing the highly successful absence phone-in procedure. Whenever your child will be absent or late for any reason, you are asked to call and inform the school. The number to report an absence from the **Pearson School is 461-1976**; from the **Walnut Street School 461-0874**. This is our way of maintaining an accurate account of your children’s whereabouts for their safety. Please cooperate by phoning in all absences or tardiness by 8:45 AM daily.

CROSSING GUARDS

The township of Delanco provides crossing guards at the following intersections:

- Burlington Avenue and Hazel Street
- Burlington Avenue and Walnut Street
- Burlington Avenue and Cooper Street
- Burlington Avenue and Lilac Lane
- Burlington Avenue and Union Avenue

These guards are provided for your children’s safety. Please remind them to cross Burlington Avenue only at the guarded locations.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required by state law to participate in physical education each year. It is advised that students be sent to school on gym days with appropriate clothing and shoes for the activities. Any excuses from participation must be with a note from the physician.

BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED AT BOTH WALNUT STREET SCHOOL AND PEARSON SCHOOL AT 8:10 AM

<u>STUDENT BREAKFAST</u>	<u>(WSS & PS)</u>	<u>REDUCED SCHOOL LUNCHES</u>
<u>(WSS & PS)</u>		
BREAKFAST	\$1.00	REDUCED LUNCH \$.40
REDUCED BREAKFAST	\$.30	
	MILK \$.50	

(Lunch can be purchased daily or tickets can be purchased in increments of 5)

<u>STUDENT LUNCH</u>	<u>Daily</u>	<u>5 Lunches</u>	<u>10 Lunches</u>
Pearson School	\$2.75	\$13.75	\$27.50
Walnut Street School	\$3.00	\$15.00	\$30.00

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents are urged to keep informed about their child's progress in school. If you ever have any questions about academic standing or behavior, please do not hesitate to call the teacher or the Principal. However, if you wish to come in for a conference, please call first for an appointment. Teachers are not permitted to leave their classrooms unattended to meet with parents on an impromptu basis. Formal parent conferences are held on a series of three afternoon sessions following the receipt of the first and third report cards.

BOOK FAIR

This year's book fair will be held September 23 – September 30. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact Sue Hoffman (856) 461-2951.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

9/16	Welcome Back Dance Grades 6, 7, 8
9/20	Pearson School Back to School Night
9/22	Walnut Street School Back to School Night
9/23-9/30	Book Fair - Pearson School

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Brochures for the purchase of accident, life and dental insurance will be sent home to parents which explain the offerings and the method of purchase. If interested, please return the completed application along with proper payment and mail it in the envelope provided. **DO NOT RETURN TO THE SCHOOL.** The application must be mailed directly.

8TH GRADE NEWS

The 8th Grade Advisors will be Mrs. Farley and Mrs. Zacher. This year will be especially busy for our 8th graders, with fundraising for the class trip, graduation party and most importantly studying for the ASK Tests. Our yearbook features 8th graders' baby pictures and we would like you to send one in any time between now and March 1st. Be sure to put their name on the back of the photo. They will be returned.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Although we try our best, there are times when someone is dissatisfied with our schools, teachers or administration. We welcome constructive criticism and invite citizen complaints as long as they are channeled through proper levels as designated in board policy. The chain of appeal is as follows: teacher - principal - superintendent - board of education - county superintendent - state commissioner of education.

INSPECTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Federal and State laws require that parents have access to their children's school records. Anyone wishing to review his child's records must request such an inspection in writing. The inspection will be conducted at a time and place designated by the chief school administrator. He or his designee shall be present during the period of inspection to provide the interpretation of data and prevent their alteration, damage or loss.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The officials whom you have elected to serve on the board of education are constantly making decisions which affect the lives of your children and the taxes you pay. Your opinions and ideas are of great value to them. Come out and show your support of the system while providing personal input into the decision-making process by attending their monthly board meeting scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 PM in the Pearson School cafeteria.

VIOLENCE & VANDALISM MEETING

The Delanco Board of Education will meet with the public on Wednesday, October 12th at 7:15 PM in the Walnut Street School auditorium to report on Violence and Vandalism.

TITLE I PARENT INFORMATION

Since our school district receives funding through the Federal Government via No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, we are required to notify parents that, upon request, the following information is available:

- * Whether teachers have met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught;

- * Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional license or whether licensing criteria have been waived;

- * What is the teacher's degree major and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the discipline of the degree or certification; and

- * Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessional, and if so, their qualifications.

Parents with children in any school receiving Title I funding (Delanco Schools qualify) are entitled to inquire about the credentials of their child's teachers. This may be done by contacting the Superintendent's office at 461-1905.

ASBESTOS IN THE SCHOOL

Years ago, most of the asbestos was removed from our schools. Today, the small amount which still exists is periodically monitored and maintained so that no fibers are released into the atmosphere.

Complete written reports are on file and available for inspection.

RADON IN SCHOOLS

Both district schools have been tested for radon levels and found to be well within acceptable levels as set by the DEP. Test results are available at both schools and available for public inspection upon request.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ASSURANCE

Delanco Township Schools, in accordance with Title IX of the Amendments of 1972 and New Jersey Administrative Code 6:4, guarantees each student equal education opportunity regardless of physically handicapping condition, race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, or social or economic status.

In addition, all persons shall have equal access to all categories of employment in the public education system of New Jersey.

Mr. Ron Pettie, District Director of Curriculum, is the Affirmative Action Officer for the district. Any person having a complaint with regard to discrimination should write to him at Walnut Street School 411 Walnut Street Delanco, NJ 08075 or call him at (856) 461-0874.

CONSOLIDATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Delanco Board of Education has developed and adapted a pest management plan which utilizes as many non-chemical methods as possible to control and to eliminate a variety of unwanted pests from school facilities. In the event that spraying of chemicals becomes necessary, it will be done when students and staff are not present in the building and parents will be given advance notification of the chemical being sprayed and when the application will occur. Specific questions should be directed to the superintendent.

BULLYING POLICY

The Board of Education has recently adopted Policy #5512.01 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. We are required to make this policy available to all parents. To accomplish this, the policy has been posted on the District Website – www.delanco.com. Anyone with Internet access may get a copy of this (or any other) policy by contacting the Superintendent's office.

PTO NEWS

Box Tops for Education

Please continue to save the Box Tops for Education throughout the year. A fall contest will be coming soon! This is an easy way for the PTO to make money to pay for assemblies and field trips throughout the year for Delanco students. Last year we raised over \$1,600. Thank you for your support.

Kids Stuff Coupon Books

The Kids Stuff Coupon Books will be coming home with each student on Friday, September 9th. Please take time to look over these books. They have some great savings for places like Shoprite, Acme and Kohls. The cost of the book is \$25 and \$12.50 of that money comes back to the school. If you choose not to purchase the book please send it back to the school. Last year the schools made a profit of \$2,500 on this fundraiser.

Membership Drive

The Delanco PTO membership drive will begin on Monday, September 12th. The cost of the membership is \$3 per member, and all of the money stays here with the school. Please join and show that you support our schools.

Fall Fundraiser

Our Fall Fundraiser will begin on Friday, September 23rd. We will be using a new company called Gifts-N-Things. They have a great variety of holiday gifts and wrappings as well as magazines and candies. The PTO will make 40-55% of the total sales.

Back to School Bingo Night

Back to School Bingo and Ice Cream Night will be on Friday, September 30, 2011 at 7 pm. Tickets will be \$2.00 per person and no tickets will be sold at the door. More information will come home through school in the next few weeks.

Website

Please visit the new PTO website!!! Go to www.DelancoPTO.org for upcoming events, important information and to purchase "Delanco" gear!

"Delanco" Gear

The PTO is selling "Delanco" cinch sacks and stadium cushions. Please visit our website to view photos and purchase the new "Delanco" gear. These items will also be available at the Back to School nights at both Pearson and Walnut Street Schools. The cost is \$5 per item. You can also purchase them by emailing THamlin@DelancoPTO.org.

PTO Meeting

The first PTO Meeting will be on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Pearson All-Purpose room. Please come out and show your support and hear all the plans we have for the year.

Susan Hoffman/Kathy Haines - Co-Presidents
(856) 461-2951/(856) 461-9434

Jaime Nucifora - Vice-President
(856) 461-3999

Ruth Esposito – Treasurer
(856) 764-2154

Tracey Hamlin – Secretary
(856) 824-9009
THamlin@DelancoPTO.org

www.DelancoPTO.org