



From the Dean of Student's Desk... McConnellsburg Elementary School Mrs. Billie Jo Beatty

Tips for Helping Children Prepare for the PSSA Tests

The next several months are crucial at school in the preparation for and the administration of annual high stakes testing. The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be taking the Pennsylvania State System of School Assessment (PSSA) or the Pennsylvania Alternative School Assessment (PASA). These tests show how your child and all the students in the school are doing toward becoming proficient in the areas of math, reading, writing and science.

Parents play an important role in getting students ready for tests. Some suggestions are provided for how you can help your child prepare for these tests.

Info taken from PA Parent Information & Resource Center

- *Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the nights before testing.
- *Make sure that your child eats a healthy breakfast the days of testing.
- *Make sure your child wears comfortable clothing.
- *Let your child know that he or she should take the test seriously and do his or her best.
- *Talk to your child about what to do while taking the test, including:
 - Paying attention to directions
 - Asking questions about the directions if they are not clear
 - Reading each question carefully

-Eliminating wrong answers right away, then concentrate on the remaining choices.

-Checking over answers and looking back in the story or problem for the correct answers

2008-2009 Testing Calendar

Writing—5th Grade

February 9—February 12

Math and Reading—3rd, 4th, 5th Grades--March 16—20

PASA—Alternate Assessment

February 16—March 27

Science—4th Grade

April 27—May 1

PASA—Alternate Assessment

May 4—May 29

Central Fulton School District

January, 2009

Reminders for Parents

- ☉ Please DO NOT drop children off in the morning before 7:30 am. No school personnel are available to supervise children.
- ☉ Any calls to change busing or dismissal arrangements MUST be made prior to 2:00 that day.
- ☉ Any parent requesting permission for an educational trip must do so **PRIOR TO** the absence for the trip.
- ☉ Parents picking up elementary aged students, including kindergarten, are reminded that students **MUST BE** picked up at the end of the day at the lower cafeteria entrance. Please **DO NOT** go to the classroom.
- ☉ Also, as a waiting parent of walking children, please **NEVER** abandon your car. It causes great congestion at our pick up area.
- ☉ If your child is a walker, you need to pick them up by 3:00 p.m.

When is a child too sick for school?

Cold and flu season is here. School attendance is important and sometimes it is hard when children are not feeling well, but are still well enough to go to school. When your child complains that he doesn't feel well, how do you decide when he is too sick to go to school? Dr. Steven Parker, Director of Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center, suggests the following guidelines to help you decide whether your child should stay home or go to school.

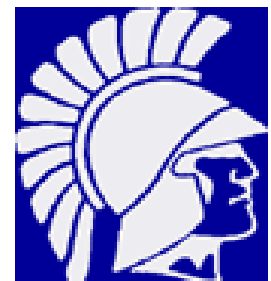
*Fever of 100 degrees or higher

*A bad cough

*Diarrhea or vomiting

*A severe sore throat with white spots

Dr. Parker also advises that parents should call their child's doctor when they are not sure.



Are you missing any articles of clothing at home?

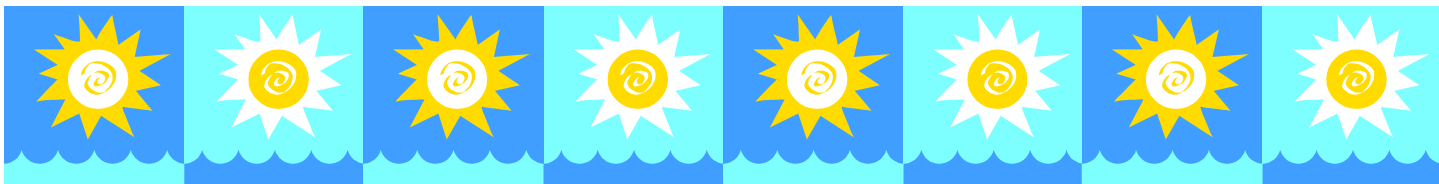
The Elementary Office maintains a lost and found area for misplaced student articles. Currently, our lost and found box is overflowing. We have displayed the items over the morning announcements for the students to claim; however, we still have a large pile of clothing, including coats, sweatshirts, hats, jackets, lunchboxes, etc. If you are aware of an item that your child may be missing, please feel free to visit our lost and found area or to send a note to your child's teacher.

Giant Bonus Card Rewards

earn money for
student rewards

As of December 31, 2008, McConnellsburg Elementary School has earned approximately \$1975 in Giant Bonus Reward Points. We are so appreciative of this program supported by our community and the local Giant.

Thanks for your continued support!



Some Upcoming Events

February 9, 2009—PTSO Meeting 3:30 pm

March 27—Magic Show

February 9—February 12—5th Grade PSSA Writing

March 31, 2009—End of 3rd marking period

February 13, 2009—No School

*Possible make-up day

February 16, 2009—No School

If you have a child that will turn 4 or 5 years old by the first day of school, please call now for a registration appointment for them on the week of March 26th—31st.

March 16, 2009 PTSO Meeting 3:30 pm

The registration papers that you are required to bring with you are their birth certificate, social security card, immunization records, and insurance card.

March 16–20 Reading & Math PSSA testing for 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders

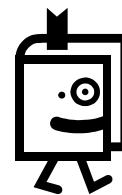
March 23–25 Mobile Dentist

March 26–29, 2009 4K/5K Registration

If you have any questions please call Stacy at 485-4438 ext. 244.

March 26—Art, Science and Literacy Fair 6:30—8:00

Your 4th and 5th grade child can practice their mathematic and reading skills at home. Sign on to www.studyisland.com.



Math Measures UP!

Encourage your youngster to practice measuring at home. Look for ways he or she can use a tape measure, a thermometer, or scales. Example: "Why don't you help me measure the window? Will new curtains fit?"

<<<RECIPES FOR SUCCESS>>>

Attention, please

Having trouble getting your children's attention? Here's an idea teachers often use in the classroom. Instead of yelling, talk softly or even whisper. Chances are, your youngsters will quiet down to hear what you're saying.

"Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew." Cicely Tyson