

Family Engagement Newsletter



P.S. duPont Middle School

Winter Edition

Volume 2, Issue 2

January, 2014

Letter From the Principal

Greetings P.S. Parent(s) and Guardian(s)!

Happy New Year! January is always about fresh beginnings and positive change. I love the promise of the New Year and all the possibilities that exist for our students at P.S. duPont Middle School and their futures.

We hope that you are staying warm this winter. So far, this winter has been aggressive and we have missed a lot of school days due to the snow and cold weather. In order to continue keeping our students focused on their learning, we strongly encourage you to have your child do an academic activity on their days off. Please read the article, "Academic Snow Day Activities" to find some easy and fun activities for your children.

As the new year begins, we as a staff, are ready to make 2014 a year filled with success through hard work and dedication. We plan to do this by providing students with daily opportunities to grow. The hard work is the responsibility of us all - staff, students, and families. As a team, I know that we can make learning an exciting adventure.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy New Year! May 2014 be a year filled with much joy and success!

Sincerely,

Lewis Cheatwood

P.S. duPont Middle School Principal

It is the directive of the Board of Education that the Brandywine School District shall not discriminate in its employment practices or its educational programs and activities of students on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, domicile, marital status, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any legally protected characteristic. All policies, regulations and practices of the District shall be guided by this directive.

Education Corner

This section provides educational information for P.S. Families.



Snow Day Academic Activities

Snow days can sneak up on a family and can cause an interruption in a family's schedule. However, each academic day that is missed can cause a student to fall behind on his/her work. For this reason, there are helpful academic activities below that will stimulate your child's mind, but also keep him/her from being bored while snowed in.

1. **Cooking A Meal:** Cooking with your child is not only a time for you to bond with each other, but it also teaches your child to measure ingredients and follow cooking directions.
2. **PBS Kids:** PBS Kids has a lot of great educational games for students. These games are for all ages. The website is www.pbskids.org
3. **Education.com:** Education.com has educational activities for all ages. The activities range from arts and crafts to a cooking lesson. The website is: <http://www.education.com/activity/>.
4. **Scholastic.com:** This website has activities that you can do with or without supplies. It provides activities for all age groups and all subject areas. The website is: <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/activities-and-printable>.
5. **Read:** Reading can stimulate a child's mind and increase his/her comprehension skills.



Brandywine School District's Parent Resource Center

The Parent Resource Center, located at Claymont Elementary School, exists to provide parents and caregivers with resources and support as they work in partnership with schools to meet their child's learning needs. Our goal is to help families understand the important role they play as part of the educational team. For more information, please contact Marisa Wilson at 302.762.3847 or at marisa.wilson@bsd.k12.de.us.

The Parent Center is a place where you can...

- Find resources to help you increase your child's reading skills
 - Find resources to help you increase your child's math skills
 - Find resources to enrich your home life
 - Receive English Language Learner support
 - Participate in parent education classes and workshops
 - Learn how to navigate the BSD education system
 - Borrow books, access computer and fax services
 - Connect with community-based resources
 - Meet other parents / caregivers like yourself
 - Have your concerns heard and be valued as a parent or caregiver
- ...and much more, all at no cost to you!

Winter Schedule for Parent Resource Center

Hours of Parent Resource Center

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Thursday: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
(workshop nights)

Student Corner



Thank you P.S. Student Council!

On behalf of the P.S. duPont Student Council, we would like to thank you all for their support of this year's Adopt-a-Family Holiday Drive. Thanks to the efforts of all of the homerooms (as well as other staff members), we collected enough items and monetary donations to buy gifts for about 50 children in our community! All of the children received at least 2-3 presents ranging from clothes and shoes to toys.

Thanks again,

Lauren, Cynthia, and the P.S. Student Council

Letter From An Adopted Family



Thank you P.S. Families!

To the Students and Parents of P.S. duPont Middle School,

I have several children and I was unable to purchase holidays gifts for them this year. Unfortunately, I have health problems and I am unable to work. Myself and my children feel so blessed to receive a gift card to Target and a bag of clothes this past holiday season!

I saw the Facebook photo of all the kids involved with this holiday gifting effort and I was moved! It is such a beautiful thing to see children showing compassion and kindness to those in their community.

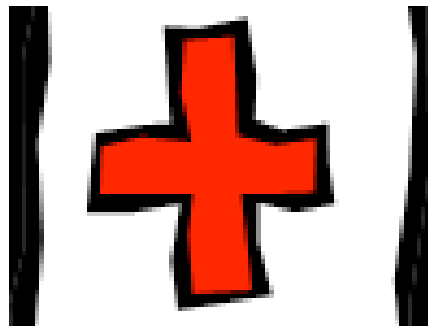
Again, I express much gratitude for your kindness!

Sincerely,

The parent of several BSD students

Need to Know News

This section provides important information about activities for P.S. families.



The Nurse's Corner

The winter is upon us. So is the flu season. The influenza (flu) virus can attack both young and old. Common symptoms are fever, coughing/sneezing, aches, pains and the lack of energy. Treatment should include drinking plenty of liquids, following your doctor's recommendations and rest. Relapses are common for those that try to return to their pre-illness routine before their bodies are ready. If your child is exhibiting any of these symptoms please keep them at home until their fever is normal for over 24 hours (without the use of medications) and they are able to remain awake for a full school day. If in doubt, ask your physician.

Is it a cold or is it the flu? That's a question often asked of school Nurses by parents. The following comparison chart may be of some help to differentiate between the two.*

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Fever	Rare	Characteristic, high (100-102 degrees F); lasts three to four days
Headache	Rare	Prominent
General Aches, Pains	Slight	Usual; often severe
Fatigue, Weakness	Quite mild	Can last up to two to three weeks
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Early and prominent
Stuffy Nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes
Sore Throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest Discomfort, Cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can become severe
Complications	Sinus congestion or earache	Bronchitis, pneumonia ; can be life-threatening
Prevention	Good hygiene	Annual flu shot or FluMist
Treatment	Only temporary relief of symptoms	Antiviral drugs (Tamiflu or or Relenza) within 24-48 hours of onset

HELPFUL HINT

I cannot stress enough the importance of eating breakfast. This provides the body with the needed nutrition to get the day started as well as reducing problems associated with early morning stomachaches, low energy levels and feelings of fatigue. Please set the example, encourage your child to eat a balanced breakfast every morning, in order to have the best possible start to their day.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 762-7147 or email at robin.collins@bsd.k12.de.us.

Transition Series



Brandywine School District Presents: 3rd Annual Transition Series

Come to the 3rd Annual Transition Series to see what the future holds for you and your student. Each school will present their programs, policies, procedures, clubs, and activities. A tour of the schools and other important information will be provided.

Transition Series Dates

All events begin at 6:00pm

Concord High School ~ **Tuesday, March 25th**
Brandywine High School ~ **Thursday, March 27th**
P.S. duPont Middle School ~ **Tuesday, April 1st**
Mt. Pleasant High School ~ **Wednesday, April 2nd**
Springer Middle School ~ **Tuesday, April 8th**
Talley Middle School ~ **Wednesday, April 9th**

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Antonia De Luz, Family Liaison.
Please RSVP a week before the scheduled event. (302) 762.7146 ext. 1158 * antonia.deluz@bsd.k12.de.us

P.S. duPont Food Pantry



P.S. now has a Food Pantry. P.S. duPont and the Food Bank of Delaware are teaming up to bring P.S. Families a Food Pantry. This pantry is available for all P.S. families who are in need of groceries. For more information, please contact Antonia De Luz-Roane at 302.762.7146 ext. 1158 or at antonia.deluz@bsd.k12.de.us.

Backpack Program



The Food Bank of Delaware's Backpack Program provides food to children in need for weekends and holidays when school is not in session and federal school meal programs are not available. They are distributed on Fridays or the last day before a holiday or vacation in a discreet manner at sites where children normally congregate after school. For more information, please contact Antonia De Luz-Roane at 302.762.7146 ext. 1158 or at antonia.deluz@bsd.k12.de.us.

P.S. Weekly Tutoring



Tutoring is occurring! Tutoring will be every Wednesday (Reading) and Thursday (Math) from 3:00-4:20pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lynn Scanlan at lynn.scanlan@bsd.k12.de.us.

Important Dates to Know

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Last Teacher Day

January	1	No School, New Year's Day
	20	No School, MLK Day
	23	End of 2nd Marking Period
	24	Staff Professional Work Day
	31	Report Cards Distributed
February	3-7	PTA Candy Gram Sale
	11	Kids & Cash Workshop
	13	Suicide Prevention Workshop
	14	No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences
	15	Longwood Gardens Field Trip
	17	No School, President's Day
	19	PTA Monthly Meeting
	25	Health Care Act Workshop
	26	Interim Ends, Grades 6-12
	March	4,11,18
6		Interims Distributed Math Scavenger Hunt Worksho
13		No School, Professional Dev.
20		ELA Parent Night
25		Transition Series: Concord H.S
27		3rd Marking Period Ends Transition Series: Brandywine H.S.
28		No School, Professional Dev.
April		1
	2	Transition Series: Mt. Pleasant H.S.
	4	Report Cards Distr, Grade 6-12
	8	Transition Series: Springer
	9	Transition Series: Talley
	18-25	Spring Break
May	6	Interim Ends
	23	Anti-Bullying Fashion Show
June	26	No School, Memorial Day
	2-6	Final Exams (Half Day)
	6	Last Student Day

For more important dates and information, please visit P.S. school calendar and website at www.brandywineschools.org/psdupont