



Hoover News

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Despite our building undergoing facility improvements the first two weeks of school, we had a very smooth start to the school year at Hoover School. I wish to thank the entire school community for your cooperation in making this happen and particularly our faculty and staff. Starting in mid-October, we will be re-tiling our hallway floors. This work should take about one week.

I wish to thank you for sending your child to school ready to learn and with a positive attitude each day. I have been spending time in your child's classroom getting to know them more this year. Before Open House, I visited all the Kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms to read to the children. Our Hoover students are truly special, and that is a reflection on you!

I hope you had an opportunity to read the red colored Parent Handbook for Elementary School. It contains important information with regard to school procedures, district policies, safety and health, the elementary curriculum and more. I encourage you to visit our school website to learn more about the wonderful happenings taking place at Hoover School as well as other links to important student learning websites. The district email address is www.bergenfield.org. If you did not have an opportunity to attend the Principal's presentation during Open House, I have posted my power point for you on the school website.

Back in June, students in grades K-4 were sent home with a language arts and math packet to complete over the summer. I wish to commend the many students who completed the math packets. There were 129 students in total, and the teachers and I are very proud of them for their hard work and efforts. The children received a certificate of achievement and a special math pencil. Way to go, Children!

Hoover School Honors our Local Heroes

On the morning of September 9, 2011, students and faculty from Hoover School gathered to remember the events of 9/11 and to honor Bergenfield's first responders. The program honored the memories of all the victims and heroes of 9/11 and also served to recognize Bergenfield's finest who protect and serve us on a daily basis. The

program commenced with a moment of silence at 8:46 am to mark the time when the events of September 11, 2001 began to unfold. Students also sang patriotic songs, listened to the Gettysburg address and inspirational remarks from Mrs. Frangis, Hoover's Principal. A highlight of the program was the presentation of certificates of appreciation to honored representatives of the Bergenfield Fire Department, Police Department and EMT's by Hoover students. The school also gratefully accepted a treasured gift from Mr. Robert Kirsch, a Bergenfield EMT, who presented the school with a photograph of the New York skyline prior to 9/11.

Strong Parent Participation at Open House

Our Open House was a success, and I am sure you enjoyed your child's teacher's presentation and had an opportunity to get better acquainted. To ensure a successful school year for your child, I'd like to stress the importance of homework.

Homework is a reinforcement of concepts and skills that have been taught in school. Homework improves study skills and helps build knowledge of factual information. Students become self-directed and responsible learners. Create a space in your home where your child can work quietly and not be distracted by anyone or anything. Be close by whenever possible, so you are able to assist with questions your child may have. Have materials available such as pencils, paper, crayons, dictionary and other materials they may need to complete homework successfully. These items may be stored in a shoebox for convenience and organization purposes. If you are unsure of your child's assignments for the day, visit the district's homework website at www.Homeworknow.com. It's important that we all work together in providing our children the best learning environment possible both at school and home. Together we can make a difference!

OCTOBER 2011

HOOVER SCHOOL

Special dates of interest:

- **October 3**
Spanish speaking
parents orientation
7-8 PM
- **October 7**
RESPONSIBILITY
wear GREEN
- **October 13**
WELLNESS DAY
Parent meeting
7-8 PM Health Barn
- **October 14**
PICTURE DAY!
- **October 24**
BOE meeting 8PM
- **October 27**
Fire Safety House
Parent Conference
5-7 PM
- **October 28**
4 HR. Session
12:30pm dismissal
Parent Conference
1:30-3:30PM
- **October 31**
HALLOWEEN PARADE
1:15 PM
(weather permitting)



News from the Health Office / Mrs. Murphy, CSN

Welcome back!! I wish you all a healthy year. Remember a good night's sleep and a healthy diet is important for your child's success at school. Fall is here and winter is on the way. With these seasons come coughs, colds and the flu. I will be working with the students on learning ways to minimize the spread of germs, such as proper hand washing, covering your cough and sneeze, and keeping your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth. Please reinforce these behaviors at home.

In an effort to keep all our students and staff healthy, please keep your child home if the following symptoms are present:

- fever of 100 degrees and higher, vomiting or diarrhea in the preceding 24 hours
- pink eye (red eyes, accompanied by discharge and not

associated with allergies)

- Severe cold and cough
- Persistent sore throat
- Undiagnosed rash

Some Quick Reminders:

-All 4th grade students are required to have a physical exam performed by either your private physician or the school physician. Please complete and return the forms sent home. The deadline for private physicals is within 60 days of entrance into school.

-All 5th graders are required to have 2 vaccinations upon entering 6th grade – Meningococcal and Tdap. Please keep this in mind if your child is having a physical done during this school year.

Kindergarten / Mrs. Schultz



Welcome to Kindergarten! September was a wonderful first month of school. We were busy making new friends and learning the rules of our classroom. We learned about the season of Fall. We celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday by eating 3 different colored apples. We then made a bar graph of our favorite apples. What yummy fun! We learned our numbers 1-10 and almost our whole alphabet. We've learned many word wall words too! What wonderful students we are!

In October, the learning will continue! We will learn about our community helpers and maps. We will continue to talk about apples and also pumpkins! We will keep on learning new word wall words and begin learning our letter sounds. We will work on shapes and our "teen" numbers in Math.

We are really enjoying being in school all day and learning so much! Hooray for Kindergarten!



First Grade / Mrs. Cleary

First Graders – Ready to Learn

Mrs. Cleary's first grade students have eagerly begun exploring the many new topics of first grade study. They began their journey by stepping down the reading path with reading activities including reading short stories, working with letters and sounds and learning to form written letters correctly. They have embraced their work in Writer's Workshop where they

wrote about important small moments in their lives. They were able to enhance, publish and share their most favorite moment. Along the path they have been encountering math activities that include counting, writing numbers, comparing numbers and telling time. They have even begun to explore science concepts including examining and comparing rocks. All the students are looking forward to an eventful year filled with many wonderful learning experiences.

Second Grade / Mrs. Mendler



We have been very busy during the month of September. Having put the lazy days of summer behind us, we have been getting acclimated to the routines and responsibilities of being a second grade student. We have learned how to work independently and in small groups. We are working diligently in all aspects of Balanced Literacy and having lots of fun. Our reading gets better every day. We have begun our Writer's Workshop. Each month we will focus on one aspect of writing. September saw us composing many personal narratives. We wrote and wrote, then we wrote some more. We picked our favorites and revised and edited them. Finally

we illustrated, published and shared our stories. We have learned that to be a better writer, we have to write every day.

We have been reviewing our math facts. We are excited about all the interesting topics that we will be studying this year. We have been using Math in a Flash on the computers to help us gain mastery over our addition and subtraction facts.

We are keeping a daily Reading Log to keep track of what books we are reading, share important facts about them and to explain how much we enjoyed them. So far second grade is awesome.



Second Grade / Mrs. Bonifazio

Welcome back to another year at Hoover School! I am very excited to have a new bunch of "SUPER" second graders. During the month of September we learned about the character trait "Respect". We learned many ways to show respect to our friends, teachers, and property. We also learned our routines and responsibilities that will lead us to a successful year.

We are eagerly learning many new concepts and reviewing some old ones. In math, we are continuing our Everyday Math Program and learning new games. Please practice basic

addition and subtraction facts at home every day.

During writing workshop this month our unit of study was personal narratives. We wrote each and every day for 25 minutes. On day 10 we chose our favorite story and "fancied" it up. Then we were able to share our PUBLISHED book with Mrs. Cleary's first grade class. We celebrated our hard work with an Author's Celebration. We LOVE writing workshop.

Third Grade / Mrs. Katsalidas & Mrs. Roth

It is hard to believe that September has already come and gone! This month went fast, but we have accomplished so much during the first month of school! Our third graders are exploring the way our bodies work. We are also reviewing all of our math skills so we can use them as building

blocks for the future. We are learning how to collect and develop our ideas into well written pieces, like our narratives! So far, we are very proud of the steps we have made so far, we are very excited for the year to come!

Fourth Grade / Mrs. Dunnigan & Mr. Corcoran

The students have been thoroughly engaged in both the writing workshop and balanced reading initiatives that have been implemented. These additions to the curriculum have aided our understanding and enjoyment of the reading and writing processes. Thank you Bergenfield Board of Education and Dr. Dime for encouraging the integration of these programs and a tremendous thanks to Mrs. Dunnigan who helped write the month by month plans for the fourth grade throughout the district.

The fourth graders have been using all their supplies and resources to construct, draw and identify various polygons and other geometric

figures. Times tables are very important so please practice these with your children and encourage them to use the district's technology such as Study Island and Everyday Math.

The study of weather has been the topic of study in science and we can predict weather based on the type of clouds we see in the sky. Our focus will soon shift to the materials that make up our planet.

Please encourage your children to read every night because a good reader helps create a good writer. Have a successful and joyful year.

Fifth Grade / Mrs. Bolt & Ms. Switzer

Welcome back! We are going to have such a great year! It was nice meeting all of you at Open House.

We have really jumped back into our studies. September is the time we use to get back into the routine of our classroom. You should also have a routine at home for homework. If your child has a special place and time for homework they will feel more secure in doing it. Remember, you are your child's best teacher. The attitude you have towards

homework will be reflected on them. Homework is given to reinforce the concepts we have learned in school. Without that reinforcement your child may start to fall behind.

School is back in session for you, too. Please remember to check your child's homework folder for notes. You should also check HomeworkNow.com for homework, projects, and other important information.

We look forward to a successful year for all!

Reading Specialist / Mrs. Gussen

I can't believe September flew by so quickly. Thank you to all of the students who completed their Summer Reading Packets! Certificates will be presented later in the year. Remember to read and write everyday and to visit The Bergenfield Public Library to pick up new and exciting books. The weekend is a great time to relax with a good book. Let me know about the wonderful books you are reading.



ESL / Mrs. Long & Ms. Gutierrez

The English language learners have been busy since the beginning of the school year learning, discussing, and exploring many topics. The **kindergarten** students are working on naming classroom objects, learning their birthdays, and acquiring vocabulary associated with autumn. The **first grade** is exploring the theme of "Families:" sharing who makes up their family, activities they do for fun with their families, and what makes their family special. The **second grade** is discussing what makes up a group, what it means to be a part of a group, and describing the groups they belong to. They are also identifying the people, places, and things that make up our Bergenfield community. The **third grade** is becoming acquainted with farm life and the

importance of farms for our livelihood. The **fourth grade** is working on the theme of "The West." They are learning the names of the states that make up this region and about the kinds of jobs and products that come from that part of our country. The **fifth grade** is brainstorming all about autumn and associated topics (weather, changes in our landscape, sports, feelings, holidays, etc.). They will write an essay entitled "Thoughts of Autumn." We invite everyone to take a look at our bulletin board and read our students' autobiographical poems under the heading "Who's Whoooo in ESL?"

Resource Room / Miss Bozzo

Welcome back! We are all ready to start another school year. In Resource Room the students have just finished their personal narratives for Writer's Workshop. You should read some of the amazing experiences they have decided to share solving word problems by looking for words that give us clues. Our spelling skills are off the charts! Every student has been working hard on their spelling packets

and getting A's on their spelling tests! Keep up the good work! You may notice our bulleting board "Reach for the Stars" in the hallway. Each student made a hand that helped us get to know them better and also wrote about their goals for this year. Now we are all set for Fall because we read about why leaves change colors and even made some of our own leaves.

Guidance Department /JoAnn Vazquez, LCSW

On Monday, October 3rd, we had a meeting for the Spanish-speaking parents of Hoover School. We talked about the special programs in place for the children this year, and addressed the importance of being bilingual through the ESL department. Aile Guttierrez and Ashley Totten presented and discussed some of the things

that Guidance will be doing with and for the children. We had a good parent turn-out and plan to have several more meetings throughout the school year.