

# George D. Steckel Elementary School

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## Newsletter May/June 2011

### Steckelwood Pops

This year marks the 19th annual performance of the Steckelwood Pops. Please join us for a delightful evening of music, Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. You may bring a blanket and your favorite picnic food for a fun gathering before the concert. The hot dog wagon will be set up selling hot dogs and refreshments courtesy of the High School Band Parents Organization.

The performance will begin at 7pm and will include musical selections performed by 2nd Grade Chorus and the 3rd Grade Chorus & Recorder Ensemble. Our dedicated music teacher Mr. Steve Reisteter, has worked hard to assemble a program that will showcase the talents of Steckel students. Since this is an outdoor event, lawn chairs and blankets are recommended. Children are welcome to play on the playground equipment until the start of the concert. For the concert performance, we ask that all children join their parents in the audience. Weather permitting, a special performance will be given for the students of Gockley and Steckel at 9:30am that day. Students should bring along beach towels to sit on the grass for this outdoor performance.



### Spring Open House

Please join us on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> for our annual Spring Open House at Steckel Elementary. Doors open at 6:30pm to celebrate another successful school year. Classrooms will be open and the cafeteria will be alive with a basket raffle, information tables, face painting, PTO spirit clothing sale and refreshments like the new PTO hot dog "table" selling Philly soft pretzels & candy!



## Nurse's Notes

Vision screenings have been completed for the year. Since uncorrected vision disorders can affect learning potential, it is important to have your child evaluated by an eye care specialist. If you were sent a vision referral for your child and your child has seen the eye specialist for a further exam, please return the "Vision screening referral" paper to the school nurse as soon as possible.

School dental exams have also been completed for this year. All 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students (and students who have transferred to Steckel) whose parent had selected to have a school dental exam were seen by the school dentist on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Parents received a letter through the mail only if your child had any dental concerns. The state law requires a dental exam for all students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. So that parents have ample amount of time to complete this requirement, we recently sent home dental choice letters to students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. We ask that you return the form indicating your choice of "family or school dentist exam" to the nurse as soon as possible. \*Completed dental exams may be returned to school at any time or mailed to the school over the summer months.

To parents: If you are spring cleaning and find any unwanted girls/boys shorts or pants (preferably those with an elastic waistband), the nurse's office would appreciate any donation that you could offer. Our supply is low and we are in need of these items.

**ATTENTION PARENTS:** Please send in any new phone # changes to the main office, (especially cell #'s). These updates help us to contact you quickly when your child becomes ill during school. Please remember that you can always add to their emergency pick up list at any time. Just send in a note with the names and phone numbers that you would like us to add.

With the warm weather approaching and summer vacation around the corner, we'd like to remind everyone about the importance of using sunscreen when outdoors. Though the risk is greatest for fair-skinned people anyone can develop skin cancer. Researchers recommend protection from the sun's rays starting in early childhood. So remember... when you're enjoying the outdoors, even on a cloudy day, a sunscreen with at least an SPF of 15 should be applied every 2 hrs for your protection from the sun's damaging rays and wear a hat for even greater protection. Also, since many of us use sunscreen when we're swimming, remember pool safety and never swim alone!

When you're hiking, camping or just enjoying the outdoors, please check your child for ticks, especially their hair.

Summer is the time when many fruits and vegetables are homegrown and in abundance. So when you're enjoying nature's good foods, remember, you are also helping your body stay healthy.

Have a happy and safe summer!

## Reading Round-Up

Summer vacation is almost here and along with it come many opportunities for you and your child to share new discoveries in reading. While many children may see summer as a chance to be away from school, it is also a good time to help your child understand the value of reading in everything we do. There are a variety of summertime activities that you and your child can share together that will help reinforce the skills learned in the classroom as well as stimulate many positive experiences with reading. Here are some suggestions.

- Keep reading with your child. Let your child know that summertime also means reading time, too.
- Take trips to the library. Many libraries have special summer programs designed just for kids.
- Provide your child with some quiet reading time. Set aside fifteen or twenty minutes each day for your child to relax and curl up with a good book.
- For those occasional rainy days, have some reading games on hand. Games such as Scrabble, Spill and Spell, Boogle, and Sentence Cubes all emphasize reading skills.
- When planning a trip, involve your child as much as possible. Encourage your child to read about the places to be visited, map out possible routes, or design a special scrapbook to record events.



### **Counselor's Corner**

During the month of April, students learned about cooperation. Guidance classes focused on solving conflicts and how to work well with others. Student's also learned the importance of helping and supporting others. The character trait for the month of May is Honesty. Guidance classes will focus on being truthful and keeping promises.

The guidance department began the Banana Split's group for children from divorced or separated families. The Banana Split's group will provide children the opportunity to communicate with other student's about their experiences. Some topics to be covered are that the divorce is not their fault, re-marriage, step-families, and etc. Parents of students already enrolled in this group have received the invitation letter and permission slip. If you would like your child to participate in any future counseling groups, please contact Mrs. Bisignani x. 1321.

### **ANONYMOUS TIPLINE**

Please note that the school district anonymous tip-line has changed to 610-435-4638.

### **PTO Book Fair**

The PTO Spring Book Fair will take place at Steckel from May 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13th. A special evening session will be available on Thursday night May 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 during the Steckel Open House. Check out the book fair website at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/steckel> to browse the selections.

### **PTO Fundraising**

Our PTO continues to provide tremendous support to our school through financial support of programs like the Jonathan Sprout concert and field trips like our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade trip to see Charlotte's Web and our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip to the Ice House for the Mock Turtle Marionette Theatre. The PTO will continue to fund raise in May with refreshments and spirit clothing sales at our open house on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

The spirit sale clothing pick-up is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Steckel from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

The PTO sponsored walk-a-thon papers were sent home a few weeks ago, it is not too late to send in the walk-a-thon paperwork and a pledge. Walks are scheduled during gym classes the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Third-Grade Tournament Day**

On Tuesday, June 7th third-grade students will participate in our annual Tournament Day. Jen Simoes, our physical education teacher, organizes this fun day as students compete against each other in various athletic events. Highlights include volleyball, kickball, and the traditional tug-of-war. This all day event celebrating Steckel's "senior" class as they prepare to end their final year at Steckel. The day of fun and games culminates with an ice cream party for all participants in the cafeteria.

Students are recommended to wear/bring:

Sneakers—All students MUST wear sneakers for safety in the playground area, water bottle, beach/bath towel, sweat shirt for cool morning games, hat, sunscreen, gloves (recommended) and cleated shoes (as desired) for the tug-of-war event.

## May is Better Speech and Hearing Month

Communication is an important part of a healthy life. The month of May is "Better Speech and Hearing Month". The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit is sponsoring its annual coloring contest for grades kindergarten through three and a poster contest for grades four and five. The theme of this year's contest is "Communication--The Shortest Distance Between Two People". Students who are enrolled in the Speech and Language Support program with Speech/Language Therapist, Mrs. Victoria Mullen, are eagerly participating in the county-wide contest. All entries will receive a participation award. Trophies will also be awarded at each grade level!

## Library Links- Kids & Books – a Great Combination!

Three opportunities are planned for bringing children and books together this month and next. Since 1919, **Children's Book Week** has been celebrated nationally in schools, libraries, bookstores, and any place there are children and books together. This annual celebration takes on May 2-8, 2011. Visit the website for word searches, puzzles, and a chance to "vote" for a favorite book: [www.bookweekonline.com](http://www.bookweekonline.com).

Our hard working PTO will sponsor a **Scholastic Book Fair** at Steckel, May 9-12, 2011. Each class is scheduled to attend with the opportunity to purchase from a wonderful variety of books. The Book Fair will also be open during **Open House** on May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Plan to visit the Steckel Library as well. Located in the center of the second floor, our library is a treasure of exciting books in all genres. Come and see our world of children's books.

While the Steckel Library begins to wind down for the summer, two nearby public libraries are moving into high gear for a summer of fun-filled activities to keep kids reading all summer. The theme is **One World, Many Stories @ Your Library**, and both libraries are planning adventures with books. Don't let those reading skills go on vacation, but visit the public library regularly for story times, games, crafts, rewards, and prizes. Activities are planned for school age kids, and you won't want to miss the excitement this summer.

### *Happy Vacation and Happy Reading Everyone!*

Whitehall Township Public Library  
3700 Mechanicsville Road  
Whitehall, PA  
610-432-4339  
[www.whitehall.lib.pa.us](http://www.whitehall.lib.pa.us)

Coplay Public Library  
49 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Coplay, PA  
610-262-7351  
[www.coplaypubliclibrary.wordpress.com](http://www.coplaypubliclibrary.wordpress.com)

## Suggested Summer Websites

During the summer months, all students should work to keep their skills sharpened, especially in the critical areas of reading and math. Regular visits to the library and favorite book stores will not only keep reading skills sharp, but will continue to improve them...We all become better readers by reading!

Below is a list of teacher-suggested websites for math practice:

- [www.coolmath4kids.com](http://www.coolmath4kids.com)
  - [www.multiplication.com/interactive\\_games.htm](http://www.multiplication.com/interactive_games.htm)
  - [www.aplusmath.com/flashcards/multiplication.html](http://www.aplusmath.com/flashcards/multiplication.html)
  - <http://www.khanacademy.org/>
- <http://www.xtramath.org/>

Study Island will continue to be available throughout the summer. Study Island provides practice in both reading and math skills and is aligned with state assessment standards. [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)

For more sites, google elementary math and elementary reading.

## **What's Coming Up at Steckel**

Mon-Fri	May 2-6	Teacher Appreciation Week
Tuesday	May 3	Teacher Appreciation Day
Wednesday	May 4	Aces Day 10am (all children exercise simultaneously)
Friday	May 6	Jonathan Sprout Assemblies
Tues-Thur	May 10-12	PTO Book Fair in PIT
Mon-Fri	May 9-13	PTO Walk-A-Thon – during P.E. classes
Monday	May 9	Pool Wildlife- Kusko and Strauss – students pack their own lunch
Tuesday	May 10	Pool Wildlife- Traupman and Todorovac - students pack their own lunch
Thursday	May 12	Open House 6:30-8:30
Friday	May 13	School is Open Snow Make-Up Day Whitehall Night at Dorney Park
Friday	May 13	Last day that email with the @cliu.org ending will work
Monday	May 16	Pool Wildlife- Depotter and Nicklas- students pack their own lunch
Monday	May 16	Marton to LV ZOO- students pack their own lunch
Tuesday	May 17	Pool Wildlife- Greiss & Ruggeri- students pack their own lunch
Tuesday	May 17	PTO Meeting at WCMS 7pm
Wed & Fri	May 18,20	DIBELS Testing Grade 3 Wed AM, Grade 2 Fri AM
Thursday	May 19	Pool Wildlife- Gantz, Sabo, and George -students pack their own lunch
Friday	May 20	Safety Town Assembly in gym
Mon-Fri	May 23-27	Spirit Week at Steckel
Tuesday	May 24	Pool Wildlife- Chamberlain and Jarvis - students pack their own lunch
Wednesday	May 25	Steckelwood Pops 7pm
Friday	May 27	Sheckler POD to LV Zoo - students pack their own lunch
Monday	May 30	Memorial Day- Schools Closed
Wednesday	June 1	Bernhard POD to LV Zoo- students pack their own lunch
Friday	June 3	PTO's Children's Day
Tuesday	June 7	Tournament Day - Grade 3 PTO Meeting at Gockley 7pm
Wednesday	June 9	Public Library Assemblies
Friday	June 10	Filipovits POD to LV Zoo- students pack their own lunch
Monday	June 13	School Board Meeting
Tuesday	June 14	Early Dismissal Noon
Wednesday	June 15	Early Dismissal Noon
Thursday	June 16	Early Dismissal Noon
Friday	June 17	Student's last day Report Cards Issued Early Dismissal 10am

*Have a safe and happy summer!*

*See you September 7th, 2011*