



Issue 72

September 2009

## Changes to 2009-2010 District Calendar

After the Baldwinsville Central School District's 2009-2010 calendar went to print, the New York State Department of Education issued new dates for **ALL** state assessments (ELA, math, social studies and science) for the 2009-2010 school year.

Changes to the state assessment dates have affected the district's November elementary parent-teacher conference days as follows:

### ∨ **November 16 and 17**

∩ NO PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES - Full days of school for students in grades 1-12.

∩ AM and PM kindergarten will attend school as usual.

### ∨ **November 24**

∩ Half-day of school for grades 1-5 for parent-teacher conferences.

∩ PM kindergarten will attend in the morning, AM kindergarten will not attend.

∩ Dismissal time for K-5 is 11:30 a.m.

∩ Full day of school for grades 6-12.

### ∨ **November 25**

∩ Half-day of school for grades 1-5 for parent-teacher conferences.

∩ AM kindergarten will attend school in the morning, PM kindergarten will not attend.

∩ Dismissal for K-5 will be at 11:15 a.m. for a state-required sheltering drill.

∩ Full day of school for grades 6-12.

∩ Dismissal for grades 6-12 will be 15 minutes earlier than normal dismissal time for the state-required sheltering drill.

The state assessment testing dates are as follows:

\***Nov. 16 & 17** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade social studies assessment

\***April 26** – ELA testing, grades 3, 4, and 6

\***April 27** – ELA testing, grades 3-8

\***April 28** – ELA testing, grades 4-8

\***May 5** – Math assessment, grades 3 & 4 and grades 6-8

\***May 6** – Math assessment, grades 3-8

\***May 7** – Math assessment, grades 4 and 5

\***May 24** – Palmer Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade science performance test

\***May 25** – Elden Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade science performance test

\***May 26** – Van Buren Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade science performance test

\***May 27** – McNamara Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade science performance test

\***June 1** – Reynolds Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade science performance test

\***June 7** – Grades 4 & 8 science written assessments

\***June 14 & 15** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies assessment

If you have any questions regarding the testing dates, parent-teacher conferences, or the sheltering drill, please contact your child's school.

## Security systems in village schools

This school year there are new security systems in place in the district schools that fall within the boundaries of the Village of Baldwinsville. Due to a federal COPS grant (Community Oriented Policing Services) that the district, in partnership with the Village of Baldwinsville, was awarded in 2007, security systems were installed over the summer in Baker High School, Durgee Junior High School, Elden Elementary School and Van Buren Elementary

School. The grant only covers the schools located within the village.

The system at each building features electronic door access controls and security cameras, as well as an intercom system. At all four schools, all exterior doors, including the main entrance, will be locked. In order to enter the buildings visitors must be granted access by office staff members. Security cameras enable staff to visually screen any visitors at the door. Once allowed inside, a visitor

must proceed to the office to obtain a visitor's badge and to sign in.

In December 2008 voters approved a capital project that included the installation of security systems in the district schools located outside of the village – Palmer Elementary School, McNamara Elementary School, Reynolds Elementary School, and Ray Middle School. The district expects to have the security systems in place in these schools by the end of 2012.

## Literacy camp sharpens skills

For the twelfth year, Baldwinsville students entering the second and third grades in the fall had the opportunity to attend the district's Literacy for Young Learners Reading and Writing Camp in July. The camp, made possible because of a donation from M&T Bank, was held in two daily sessions for a week at each of the district's elementary schools. The annual program provides students with reinforcement and enrichment in reading and writing.

At Palmer Elementary School, teaching assistant Sue Kratochwill leads students in an exercise to reinforce their reading skills. The boys are (clockwise) Zachary Moore, Davis Weakley, Evan Bohman, Aaron Sprague, and Keaton Spindler.



## District trivia contest

On October 1 the district will begin a monthly trivia contest. A trivia question pertaining to the district will run on the district's electronic sign located on the main campus at 29 East Oneida Street. Local historian Bonnie Kisselstein will be helping to develop the trivia questions.

Each month, the first five people who call school infor-

mation officer Kelly Cary at 638-6180 with the correct answer will have their names published in a future issue of the district newsletter. Each month's question will run every day on the sign until answered correctly, after which we will run the answer. This contest is open to everyone.

## Upcoming BOE meetings

Board of Education meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are usually held in the cafeteria of Durgee Junior High School. Please check with the superintendent's office at 638-6043 to verify the meeting location. All district residents are welcomed to attend meetings. Below are the dates for several future meetings:

September 21 ∨ October 5 ∨ October 19 ∨ November 2 ∨ November 16

## Athletics department on the move

The athletics department has moved from the district office to Baker High School. The office is located on the ground floor of the high school. The department's phone number remains the same - 638-6053.

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