



The Center Grange Gazette

Open House

Center Grange
Primary School

October 2009

Volume 3, Issue 2

On Wednesday, September 23, 2009, Center Grange hosted its annual Open House. Students and parents visited with the classroom and specials teachers throughout the evening. The school was beautifully decorated with student work samples and art projects. In the cafeteria, the PTA hosted a membership table; Central Valley t-shirts, Smencils and Boscov's coupons were on sale; and the YMCA sponsored an informational table. Delicious refreshments were served for all in attendance. Special thanks to the PTA for providing the refreshments and volunteers for the evening and to the teachers for their hard work in preparing for this event.

Most importantly, we would like thank our students and their families for attending! It was amazing to see how many families came to Open House. Just over 500 students had at least one parent or relative come to Open House—over 92% of our families were present during the evening! That type of interest and involvement speaks volumes about our families' commitment towards the education of the students at Center Grange!

We hope you had a wonderful evening at Open House; we certainly did!

- 10/2—Penguins Black and Gold Steelers Day
- 10/5-9—Fire Safety Week
- 10/8—PTA Fall Fundraiser program and kick-off
- 10/9—Throwback Day (Wear Center and Monaca Gear)
- 10/12—ACT 80 Day—No School for students
- 10/13—Turner Dairy program—Kindergarten
- 10/14—Fire Safety Program
- 10/16—Wear a Hat Day
- 10/17—Market Day pick-up @CHS
- 10/19-23—Bus Safety Week
- 10/23—Wear Red Day (Red Ribbon Week begins)
- 10/30—Halloween Parade and Parties



Fire Safety Week

National Fire Safety Week is October 5—9, 2009. The goal of this week is to promote fire safety awareness for students and adults alike. To do our part to educate the students about the dangers of playing with fire and how to be safe if ever confronted with a fire, we will be having a fire safety program on October 14, 2009. Center Township and Monaca Borough volunteer firefighters and fire safety experts will facilitate the programs for our students. Beyond addressing safety issues, the students will also learn about how to safely identify our local fire fighters. They will also be able to get up close and personal with a couple of fire trucks. In addition to our safety programs, we will run a school-wide fire drill sometimes during this week to practice our evacuation procedures. Please take the time to discuss home fire safety procedures with your child. Your children should know at least 2 escape routes to use to get out of the house in the event of a home fire. Go beyond **STOP! DROP!** and **ROLL!**



Bus Safety Week

During the week of October 19—23, 2009, our students will learn about school bus safety. Grade levels will meet during the week to talk about expectations for behavior on the school bus and at the bus stop so that everyone can have a safe journey to and from school. Parents are strongly encouraged to reinforce appropriate bus riding behaviors with your children. If a student chooses to misbehave on the bus, their bus riding privileges can be suspended as outlined in the Parent—Student Handbook.



Safety in the School Community

The following are some general guidelines for good pedestrian behavior for our students. Please encourage your children to be safe as they play outside and walk around your neighborhood, especially when they are near any streets or roads. Our students need to pay attention for moving vehicles as the drivers may not always be observant.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Look both ways before crossing (left, right, left again) | Walk, don't run across the street |
| Cross only at safe corners, even if you walk farther | Choose the route with the fewest streets to cross |
| Obey traffic signs and signals | Watch for turning cars |
| Keep from walking between parked cars | Refuse to ride with strangers |

Red Ribbon Week

Each year, the week of **October 23 – 31**, has been declared **Red Ribbon Week**, in an effort to encourage students to avoid using drugs and alcohol. It is so important for us to talk with children about the negative impact drugs can have on their lives. During **Red Ribbon Week**, every child will receive a **red** ribbon bracelet to wear as an outward sign that they are saying "No!" to drugs and other illegal substances.



We will have **Wear Red Day** to say no to drugs, alcohol and illegal substances on **Friday, October 23**. Please take the time to talk with your child about the dangers of using and abusing drugs. Your questions and discussions are the anti-drug message that your children must hear.

Healthy Kids News for the Health Office

As we are venturing into the flu season, please keep in mind some rules of thumb for keeping your student healthy and when to keep them home.

1. Remember good hand washing helps prevent the spread of all germs!
2. Teach your child to “cough” into their elbow to prevent the spread of germs since the flu is spread primarily through air born droplets.
3. Dispose of used tissues immediately.
4. Your student must be temperature free for at least 24 hours before returning to school after temperature elevations.
5. Do not send your child to school with a temperature or after vomiting. This just promotes the spread of germs.

Please call the Center Grange nursing staff with any questions.



Halloween Festivities

Amazing to think that October has already arrived. At the end of the month, on October 30, we will have our Halloween party and parade at Center Grange. Our PTA will be taking care of organizing homeroom volunteers to help make this day go smoothly. Below you will find times for the day's scheduled events.

AM Kindergarten

Parade—Begins at 10:15 AM Party—follows parade and ends by 11:30 AM

PM Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades

Parade—Begins at 1:45 PM Party—follows parade and ends by 3:00 PM



The children will parade outside if weather permits. The parade route will be in the bus lane located in front of the school. Parents may stop by to the costume parade for those timeless pictures. Plenty of viewing space exists along the bus lane. Parents are asked to stay on the parking lot side of the bus lane. The students will parade with their classmates.

In the event of inclement weather, the children will parade in the gym and in the main hallways. *Students should not wear costumes to school.* Time is scheduled for the students to quickly put on and remove their costumes for the festivities. Students that choose to dress for the parade should bring their costumes to school in some type of bag. Students WILL NOT be permitted to wear their costumes home on the buses.

Please remember—plastic knives, swords or look-alike weapons are not permitted in school.

Appropriate refreshments and healthy choice snacks are being provided by the PTA and the homeroom parents. Please do not send loads of sweet treats to school. The children will get enough of those when they go out Trick-or-Treating.

Mother Goose Visits Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a place for discovery, wonder, and interactive learning. Our kindergarten students have had many opportunities already this year to learn in new ways. They have entered a world where nursery rhymes come alive. Through imaginative rhymes the students gained skills needed to prepare them to read. (The rhymes help the boys and girls begin to understand the relationship between sounds and words.) The children were very excited to meet Mother Goose, on September 28, 2009. She spent time with the classrooms throughout the day. Mother Goose told stories and encouraged the students to learn how to read. A special thanks to Mother Goose for bringing her amazing stories to life for our Kindergarten students!



Turner Dairy Program

As the Kindergarten students continued to explore sounds, they began learning about farms. They discovered what farmers do, how plants grow, and why we need farms. The students have made wonderful crafts and learned new songs. A special visitor from Turner Dairy will be coming to see the classes on October 13, 2009, to teach them about cows and how a dairy farm operates. The children enjoy seeing and touching the food cows eat. The girls and boys will continue to learn about the farm this month, as their teachers prepare to introduce them to letters and sounds. Remember parents, animals have names and make sounds, and so do letters!

PTA Meeting

The Central Valley PTA meeting was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. **The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2009**, at Todd Lane Elementary School. Before the general meeting session, Halloween Party planning meetings will be held so that the homeroom parents can prepare for the Halloween parties on October 30th. Please join us to learn more about how you can help support our schools through the PTA. We would love to see more new faces at every meeting!



Webkinz Contest

The Central Valley PTA would like to thank all of the students that participated in the fall Webkinz contest. The students collected Box Tops, Campbell's Soup labels, Tyson labels and ink/toner cartridges during this contest. For every 25 items that were submitted, a student was eligible for a chance to win a Webkinz. For the student that submitted the most entries, a grand prize of 2 animal Webkinz, a Webkinz outfit and many school supplies was up for grabs.

The following students had their names selected as winners of the grade level prizes.

- Kindergarten—Dylan Greggs
- 1st Grade—Taylor Yerdon
- 2nd Grade - Alexis Cain

The GRAND PRIZE winner at Center Grange, which went to the student that submitted the most eligible entries, was Alexia Woods.

The next contest is the Zhu Zhu Pets Contest which is currently underway. It will end on December 11, 2009. Students have a chance to win a Zhu Zhu Pets hamster or even the grand prize of a Zhu Zhu Pets hamster PLUS a \$25 gift certificate for submitting the most eligible entries. Good luck to all!





October 2009



Center Grange Primary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 B	2 C Pittsburgh Penguins Black and Gold Day	3
4	5 D Fire Safety week begins	6 E	7 A	8 B	9 C Throwback Day—Wear Center or Monaca Gear	10
11	12 ACT 80 Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	13 D Turner Dairy program—Kindergarten PTA meeting @ Todd Lane 6:00 PM	14 E Fire Safety Program	15 A	16 B Wear a Hat Day	17 Market Day @CHS cafeteria
18	19 C Bus Safety week begins	20 D	21 E	22 A	23 B Wear Red Day (to kick off Red Ribbon Week)	24
25	26 C	27 D	28 E	29 A	30 B Halloween Parade and Parties	31

Center Grange Primary School

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School Spirit Days

Be sure to wear your Spirit Day gear
on the following dates!

Penguins Black and Gold Day – 10/2

Throw back Day (Center/Monaca gear) – 10/9

Wear a Hat Day – 10/16

Wear Red Day – 10/23

Halloween Party Day – 10/30

PTA Fall Fundraiser

On October 8, 2009, the Central Valley PTA will meet with the students to kick-off its annual fall fundraiser. Students will be asked to help sell "Warrior Cards" to their friends and family members. Sale incentives and other important fundraising information will be covered during this brief program. "Warrior Cards" can be used to earn discounts at a variety of businesses in the local communities. Please help the PTA with this endeavor. Look for the informational flyers to come home with your children on Thursday, October 8th. Thanks for your help in advance!



PTA Central Valley Spirit
Gear Sale is coming...

