



WEDNESDAY BULLETIN

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

GO FAMILIES! SELL CHEESECAKES!

IMPORTANT!!!!: Several members of our community as well as Green Woods and SCEE personnel, have witnessed parents and guardians doing speeds well in excess of the posted speed limit, not only on the driveway leading into the school but on the roads directly surrounding the school. We must insist that regardless of what time you are arriving on the premises that you obey all traffic laws and posted speed limits at all times. Please drive safely for yourself as well as others.

Cinderella Cheesecake Sale: That's right folks. It's that time of year again. Time for those delicious Cinderella Cheesecakes that we wait all year for. These cheesecakes are perfect for the holidays and they freeze really well. Order forms were sent home in the student's backpacks. To help support our school we are asking that each family sell at least one cheesecake. If you have never had a Cinderella Cheesecake, find out what you have been missing. Each cheesecake costs \$17.00. Orders are due back to school by **Monday, October 26th** with a delivery date of Tuesday, November 3rd. Because of the size and weight of the cheesecakes we cannot send them home with the children. Pickup will be Tuesday afternoon, November 3, 2009 between 4:00p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

PICTURE DAY: Picture day has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2009. Picture day will also be a dress down day. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for the guidelines on dressing down. Please complete the order form for the package you would like to order with your payment of cash or check made payable to "Tipping School Pictures". Order forms should be sent in to school with your child on that day. Picture day will take place, rain or shine.

FALL FESTIVAL: This year for our annual "Fall Festival" the children will be enjoying a hayride, receiving a small pumpkin in celebration of fall and participating in special activities in their homeroom class. Teachers will contact parents directly with details regarding each class's particular activity and possible volunteer opportunities on that day. For insurance purposes, siblings who are not currently enrolled in Green Woods cannot participate in the hayrides. The hayrides scheduled for our "Fall Festival" are for currently enrolled GWCS students only. We appreciate your understanding. Space on hayrides is limited for adults as well. Your classroom teacher will be in touch if space is available for parents.

PLEASE PLAN AHEAD: In the event that your child should become sick at school, please have arrangements in place to have your child picked up from school within **one hour** of contact from the school. We are limited on space and have multiple students daily that need to be seen in the health room. Your cooperation is truly appreciated.

CHANGES: Please note that the board has changed their board meetings for the month of Nov/Dec. The community is always invited to attend.


Wednesday, November 4, 2009	7:00 p.m. (work session)
Wednesday, November 11, 2009	7:00 p.m. (board meeting)
Wednesday, December 2, 2009	7:00 p.m. (work session)
Wednesday, December 9, 2009	7:00 p.m. (board meeting)

BJ's Fundraiser: ENDS TOMORROW 10/22/09! BJ's Wholesale is offering Green Woods a \$5.00 donation for every application! Whether you are an existing member or would like to start a new membership! Extend your existing membership for **\$35.00 for 15 months** plus receive a free household member card. Fill out an application today and receive a letter with a pass to use tomorrow! If you interested in applying please contact the front desk for an application.

Calendar Change: The half day Staff Professional Development Day listed on our school calendar for November 13, 2009 has been changed from a half day to a full day off for students.

Community News: Houston Park will be hosting a free Hallo ween Costume Parade this Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. All ages are welcome. Bring a tasty treat. For more information please contact Bill @ 215-685-2597.

International Ballet Exchange presents The Nutcracker at George Washington High School on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 @ 10:15a.m. This is a special matinee for children. Tickets are \$6.00 for children and there are complimentary tickets available for chaperones and teachers. Tickets are on a first come first serve basis. For more information please contact Elaine Cohen @ 215-694-4564.

 **8th Grade News:** The next 8th grade parent meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Science Trailer. We hope to see everyone there.

Friendly Reminder: Please see attachment from the 2009/2010 Parent Student Handbook regarding our Attendance/Lateness policies.

Upcoming Events:

- HSC Meeting – Thursday, October 22, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. – Science Trailer
- Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 28, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8th Grade Parent Meeting – Wednesday, October 28, 2009 – 6:30 p.m. – Science Trailer
- Fall Festival – Friday, October 30, 2009

Attachments:

- Excerpt from 2009/2010 Parent Student Handbook – Lateness/Attendance Policy
- YMCA Flyer
- Reading Connection

Green Woods Charter School Attendance/Lateness Policy

At Green Woods Charter School, it is imperative that our students will attend school every day and in a timely manner. Such attendance is not only mandated by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but it is also essential to student learning. The educational curriculum at Green Woods Charter School requires the presence of our students for continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance will be strictly enforced and irregular attendance shall not be permitted. Violations of this policy may result in a student being removed from the rolls of Green Woods Charter School.

I. Attendance

Regular school attendance is a legal requirement and is essential if a student is to make full use of the educational experiences and opportunities at Green Wood Charter School offers. Parents, guardians, or those having legal custody or control of students are responsible for their children's school attendance.

Due to safety concerns regarding the student's well being, parents must call the school office at (215) 482-6337 by 8:30 a.m. when a student will be late or absent. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and dental appointments outside of regular school hours. It is the **responsibility of the student** to approach the teacher and make up all work that is missed due to lateness or absence.

A. Excused Absences

An excused absence is when the parent(s) or guardian(s) presents a doctor's note or a note signed by the parent the first school day immediately following the absence explaining the nature of the emergency or illness. Absences may be excused for:

1. illness of student,
2. bereavement,
3. quarantine by the administration,
4. impassable roads, or other exceptionally urgent reasons,
5. (a) observation of the student's religion upon written parental request and in accordance with the policies of the Board of Trustees and (b) upon written parental request, to attend classes for religious instruction totaling not more than 36 hours per school year, provided that the parent/guardian has notified Green Woods Charter School in advance of the need for the absence due to religious observation or of the need for the absence due to religious instruction.

Reasons such as car trouble, personal business, heavy traffic, and the like while understandable, are not acceptable excuses and will be listed as unexcused.

If a student child is absent for 3 or more consecutive school days due to illness, then a doctor's note **must** be presented to the teacher when the child returns to school. The note must indicate the date of absence, have a brief explanation of the reason for the absence and an indication of when the child is permitted to return to school. A stamped doctor's signature with dates absent filled out by a medical assistant or secretary at the doctor's office is not acceptable. If such a note is not presented, then the absences will be considered unexcused/unlawful.

For any student who is absent without lawful excuse for three or more school days, Green Woods Charter School is required to report the student's absences to the student's school district of residence.

As required by 22 Pa. Code 11.24, students absent for 10 consecutive school days shall be disenrolled from Green Woods Charter School unless prior to the absence the student's parent/guardian has provided the School with evidence that the absence may be legally excused or compulsory attendance prosecution is being pursued.

Under compulsory attendance laws, the parents/guardians of a student who has accumulated three unlawful absences are to receive notice stating any subsequent unlawful absences will result in a citation being filed with a court of competent jurisdiction.

B. Unexcused Absences

Any absence that is not excused in strict accordance with the procedure set forth above will be deemed unexcused and unlawful.

For any student who is absent without lawful excuse for three or more school days, Green Woods Charter School is required to report the student's absences to the student's school district of residence.

Under compulsory attendance laws, the parents/guardians of a student who has accumulated three unlawful absences or their equivalent will receive notice stating any subsequent unlawful absences will result in a citation being filed with a court of competent jurisdiction. In addition to any sanctions that could apply by way of the court system, Green Woods Charter School reserves the right to subject a student to discipline as set forth in this policy.

C. Educational Tours and Trips

Green Woods Charter School will not excuse a student from school attendance for tours or trips of any kind. Vacations should be scheduled during the time school is not in session, and will not be excused absence time. If a student is absent from school because of a trip, teachers are not required to provide assignments in advance or assistance to the student for the missed school work. The student, however, shall be held accountable for the missed work and will receive credit for major tests, papers and homework which are to be

completed and submitted to the teachers only if presented within 3 days after returning to school. Extended time will be granted at the discretion of the individual teacher.

D. Excessive Absences

If a student accumulates more than ten total absences in a year (excused or unexcused, but not including absences due to disability or religious observation), then in order for any additional absences to be considered "excused", the absence must be either (a) supported by a doctor's note, (b) caused by the student's disability or (c) necessitated by a bona fide religious observation.

As required by 22 Pa. Code 11.24, students absent for 10 consecutive school days shall be disenrolled from Green Woods Charter School unless prior to the absence the student's parent/guardian has provided the School with evidence that the absence may be legally excused or compulsory attendance prosecution is being pursued.

E. Lateness/Early Dismissal

The following guidelines will apply to a student's late arrival or early dismissal

Tardy - 8:16 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

Half Day Absence - Arrival between 10:00 and 1 p.m., departing school building for any reason and does not return by 1 p.m. or

Full Day Absence - any student that arrives after 1:00 p.m. Included are those students who leave school for any reason (i.e. illness) prior to 9:25 a.m.

Classroom teachers, working with the Administrative Office Staff, will be responsible for maintaining the record of attendance, including excuse notes.

Lateness may be excused for any reason for which an absence may be excused, provided that the parent/guardian provides GWCS with a note as would be required in the event of an absence.

In order for a student to leave school early, a note or phone call from the parent/guardian is necessary. In order for such absences to be excused, the standards applicable to absences apply. For the safety of all students, parents are not permitted to pick students up directly from the classroom. Parents must come to the office to pick-up the student and sign the student out.

II. CONSEQUENCES

Green Woods Charter School takes attendance and punctuality very seriously because students must be in attendance to learn. The following disciplinary actions will be upheld for lateness and absences:

When a student is unexcused late 5 times or absent without lawful excuse for one day the classroom teacher will notify the CEO or his/her designee and the CEO/designee will mail out a warning letter emphasizing the importance of getting to school or getting to school on time and outlining the consequences in Green Woods Charter School's Discipline Policy under Academic Conduct LEVEL I. In addition, the parent(s) or guardian(s) may be requested to meet with the CEO regarding unexcused lateness and absences. The notice will include the contact information for the individual that the parent(s)/guardian(s) can contact for assistance regarding the student's attendance issues and the legal penalties for unlawful absences.

When a student is unexcused late 8 times and/or is absent without lawful excuse for two days, the classroom teacher will notify the CEO or his/her designee and the CEO/designee will send a notice outlining the number of times the student has been late and/or absent and the consequences outlined in Green Woods Discipline Policy under Academic Conduct LEVEL II. Attached to this notice will be penalties for violation of compulsory attendance requirements as they pertain to both the student and the parent/guardian. The parents/guardians will be required to meet with the CEO.

When a student is unexcused late 10 times or is absent without lawful excuse for three days, the classroom teacher will notify the CEO/designee and the CEO/designee will send a third notice of excessive lateness or unlawful absence by certified mail providing "official notice of child's excessive lateness or third illegal absence," notifying the student and the parent/guardian of penalties for violation of the requirements and advising that any additional unlawful lateness or absence will subject the student or the parent/guardian to penalties without further notice. If appropriate, the CEO may require an additional meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s). The student or parent/guardian shall be liable, without further notice, and subject to the consequences outlined in the Green Woods Student/Parent Discipline Policy under Academic Conduct LEVEL III.

Any additional unexcused lateness and/or absences without lawful excuse, will result in the administration notifying the student's school district of residence of the unlawful absences so that appropriate truancy proceedings may be initiated. Additionally, the Administration will recommend a hearing before the Board of Trustees to permanently exclude the student from school either immediately or at the conclusion of the then-current school term. If such a hearing is scheduled, the parent will be notified of the time and place of the hearing, as well as other due process rights associated with the hearing.

Students who are habitually and without justification truant from school while subject to compulsory school attendance and the Green Woods policies are also subject to referral to the Department of Human Services for an assessment to determine if there is a need for general protective services. Children shall not be referred to the Department of Human Services for assessment until after the School has made a formal effort to involve the family and child in resolving the cause of the truant behavior.

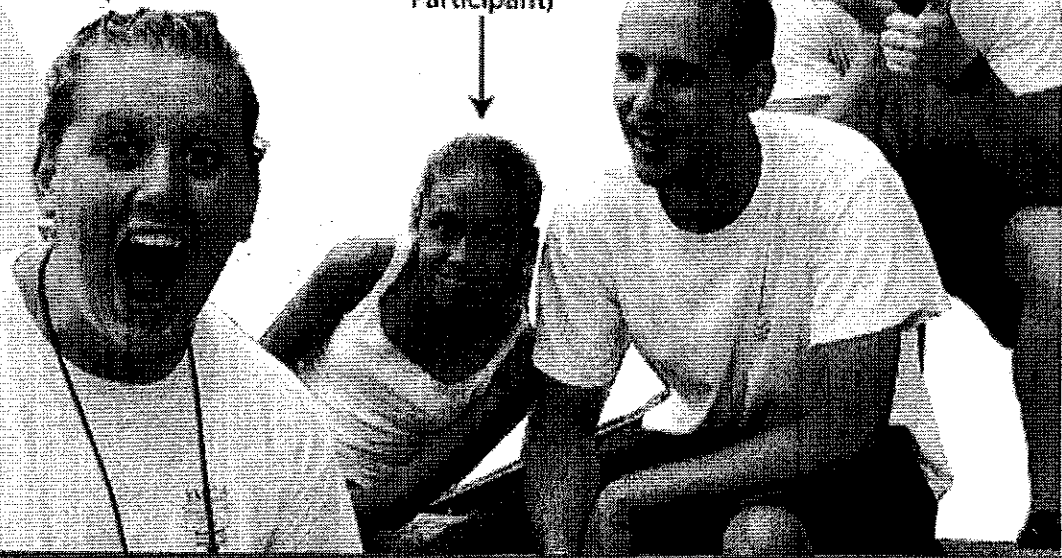
This is a Dramatization.
The following adults
are not actual parents.

If I was
a parent and my kid was
between 5 and 12 years old, I'd wonder,
"Where are they going to go when
they don't have school?"

HEY! You know
what? If I had a kid, I
would LOVE to send them
to the YMCA when they
had days off of school
and half days!

I would
totally send my kid to the YMCA.
If I had one.

(Actual School Age
Participant)



The Roxborough YMCA offers days of care from 6:30am until 6pm on days that public schools are closed and from 12pm to 6pm on public school half days. For parochial, charter, & private schools, you can request days and with 6 or more committed participants, we will hold a day for your children to attend!

Please contact us with inquiries:

Jennie Stolzer, Advanced Program Director
215.482.3900 x 2131 jstolzer@philaymca.org

Nya S. Jacobs, Assistant Program Director
215.482.3900 x 2127 njacobs@philaymca.org

Or come in to pick up a registration packet!

Roxborough YMCA
7201 Ridge Ave.
Philadelphia PA, 19128

Y SCHOOL AGE
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

Green Woods Charter School
Jean Wallace, Academic Director / Chief Executive Officer

Book Picks

■ *The Million Dollar Kick*

Whisper once humiliated herself while playing soccer. Now she can't stand the game. Faced with a contest to win a million dollars with a single kick, can she regain her self-confidence and win the cash? Readers will find out in this tale by Dan Gutman.



■ *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*

Granny Torrelli does more than make soup. When Rosie and her best friend, Bailey, have an argument, Granny shares stories of her own life to help Rosie learn how to solve her problems. A heartwarming tale of family by Sharon Creech. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *A Collection of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories*

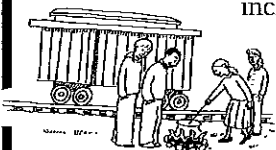
How did the camel get its hump? Why do kangaroos hop? Where did the rhinoceros get his skin? Readers can explore the fanciful answers to these and other questions in eight classic fables by Rudyard Kipling. Beautiful illustrations by Christopher Corr and others make this volume a delight to look at as well as to read.



■ *The Boxcar Children Cookbook*

Fans of the Boxcar Children series will eat up this title by Diane Blain. The book gives simple recipes for foods eaten by the Alden children during their adventures. Most recipes

include an excerpt from one of the Boxcar Children books.



Active read-alouds

Reading aloud with older children can be a great time for talking, relaxing, and just being together. Here are several ideas to get a read-aloud discussion going:

- Help your children check their understanding of what they're reading. Try asking, "Does that make sense to you?" or commenting, "This part sounds important. I'm going to read it aloud again."
- Encourage your youngsters to think about what they read with questions like, "Do you think that could really happen?" or "What do you think the author wants us to learn?"
- Finally, value your children's comments. You could say, "That's what I was thinking!" or "Now I see what you're saying."



Flights of fantasy

Fantasy literature does more than stretch your youngster's imagination. Fantasy books also teach...

Science

Artificial intelligence, lasers, and space travel are just a few of the topics covered in science fiction. Titles like Rebecca Rector's *Tria* and *the Great Star Rescue* encourage your child to explore the world of science.

Geography

Maps in fantasies like *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin help the reader trace the characters' paths. Your youngster will work on map skills as he enjoys the stories.

Foreign languages

Some fantasies, like J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, introduce made-up languages. Figuring out the new words can help your child develop an interest in learning another language.



Write about you!

Writing an autobiography is a fun way for a child to talk about himself and practice his writing skills at the same time.

Begin by discussing what an autobiography is—a story you write about your own life. (A biography, on the other hand, is your life story written by someone else.)

How should your youngster get started on his own story? One easy way is for him to write down



possible topics. Here are several examples:

- my earliest memory
- my favorite things to do
- the most important people in my life
- the most exciting thing I've ever done

You could show your child his baby book, along with photos of him growing up. Also, talk about things that happened in the family when he was little. He can make notes as you go.

Encourage your youngster to add drawings to illustrate his story. When he's finished, he can make a cover out of construction paper and staple the pages together. Then, have him read it aloud to the entire family. ■

Q&A Vocabulary practice

Q My son has a tough time with vocabulary quizzes. What can I do to help?



A Try sneaking in a little extra vocabulary practice. The more your youngster uses the words, the easier it will be for him to remember them.

▲ **Do puzzles.** You can turn vocabulary words and their definitions into simple crossword puzzles at <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>. Select "Criss-Cross" from the puzzle menu in the middle of the screen.

▲ **Hunt for treasure.** Encourage your child to find and circle vocabulary words in newspapers and magazines and to read the sentences aloud. Seeing the words used in context will help him learn their meanings.

▲ **Use synonyms.** List your youngster's vocabulary words. Then, beside each one, have him write words with similar meanings. He can use a thesaurus from the library (try Scholastic's *Children's Thesaurus*, or search at www.wordsmyth.net). Hang the list on the refrigerator where he can review it. ■

Other Picks

GAMES

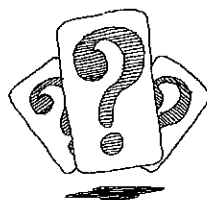
■ Hit or Miss

This list-making game is never the same twice. Players have 45 seconds to write as many words as possible in a given category. Then, they guess which of their words is the most popular—or the most original. *Gamewright*

■ Loaded Questions Junior

Test how well you know your opponents by guessing how they answer questions. This game contains 300 conversation-sparking questions in four categories that make it fun for the whole family to play together.

All Things Equal



WEB SITES

■ Kids Web Japan

Tour Japan to learn about its people and culture. Read about technology like electronic paper, discover what goes into kids' lunch boxes, and even learn how to write Japanese letters. A travel section lets youngsters take 11 different online trips through Japan.

<http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/index.html>

■ Netsmartz Kids

Encourage your children to learn about Internet safety at this fun site. They'll enjoy playing games, listening to songs, sending e-cards, downloading screen savers, and watching videos. Topics include instant messaging, e-mail, and computer viruses.

www.netsmartzkids.org



Parent 2 Parent

Family reading fun

Last year, my daughter Emma came up with a great idea for beating the winter blues—a family reading party.

She called it a Fiction Freeze-Out and invited all of us to bring books having to do with winter. On party night, we pitched in to make popcorn and hot cocoa. Then,

we snuggled in sleeping bags and took turns reading our favorite winter stories to each other.

Emma's Fiction Freeze-Out was such a success that we have made it an annual tradition. We've even decided to add a summer version! In a few months, look for us sitting on beach towels, sipping lemonade, and sharing books about summer fun. ■



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

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