

ASA PACKER

Asa Packer - Where All Students Achieve

Important Dates

- 10/4 - Volunteer Pictures - Gym (6:00PM)
PTA Meeting (6:30)
- 10/6 - Grade KDG to Unangst Farm
- 10/10 - Fire Prevention Assembly
- 10/10 -14 - Book Fair
- 10/12 -School Closed
- 10/13 - Parent Visitation K-5
- 10/14 - VIP Day
- 10/17 - Grade 4 to Freemansburg Canal
- 10/20 - Shake Out Drill
- 10/28 - Halloween Parade



American Education Week

We look forward to seeing our parents and guardians on Thursday, October 13th, for our parent visitation day. VIP and GrandPals Day is on Friday, October 14th. Please see schedule information at the end of this newsletter.

ShakeOut Drill

We will be participating in a National ShakeOut Drill on October 20th. This drill will help prepare our school in the event of an earthquake.

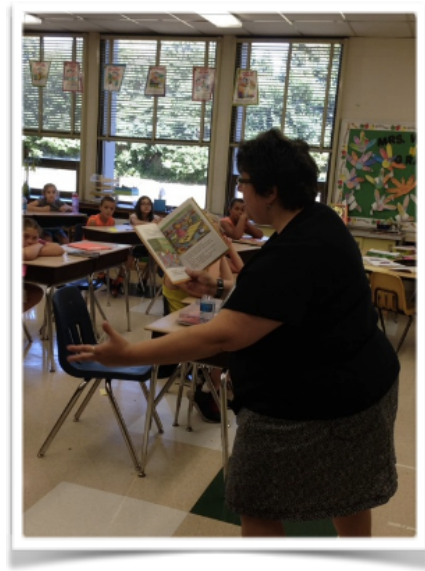


Guidance Goings On!

By: Ms. Birster

Wow, it's hard to believe that we are already in the month of October! I have enjoyed being outside every morning greeting all of our students and families! I have had the opportunity to meet all of our new students K-5!

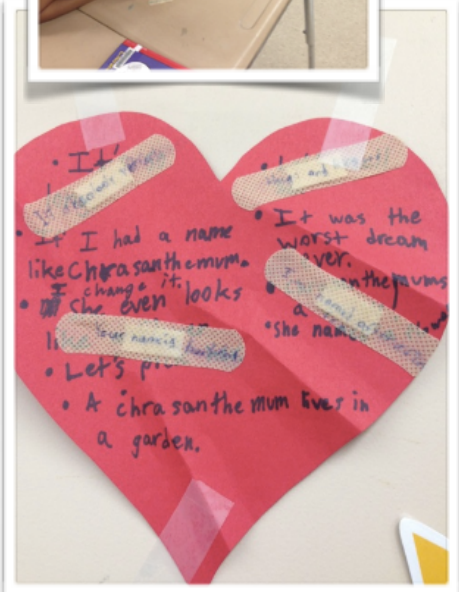
This year, I am excited that I will be adding classroom guidance lessons as part of our school counseling program! Each week, I will be in a different grade level teaching classroom guidance lessons on Character Education, Leader in Me and No Place For Hate. In 4th & 5th grade we read *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes and learn about respecting differences and being a heart mender! In 3rd grade, we read *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein and



determined what a respectful student would do. The students tied this into their writing curriculum and wrote about how they would show respect.



In addition to classroom guidance lessons, I am available to meet with students individually or in small groups. If you should need my assistance for any reason, I can be reached at abirster@basdschools.org or at (610) 865-0660. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children everyday!



#BASD Proud Magnets

We still have #BASD Proud Magnets available for sale. See Mrs. Cressman in the office if you are interested in purchasing one. Magnets will be available during American Education Week.



Asa Athletes

By: Neil R & Robert M



Asa Athletes began on September 12th. We were so excited when Asa Athletes started because every boy loves to run!! When there are rainy days, the teachers lead exercises in the gym and let us play an awesome game called PAC-MAN tag. When we go outside, we focus on building stamina while we run. Our group is going to run a 5K on Sunday, November 6th. We'll be running the course at the Hanover Township Community Center - feel free to join us or cheer us on!!

We have a great group this year - there are 25 fifth grade boys and 9 fourth grade boys participating! Thanks to the outstanding teachers for taking time to exercise with the boys. We love that they run and walk with us! We would also like to thank our parents for supporting us.

Yankee Candle Sale

😊 FIFTH GRADE FUNDRAISER! 😊

Asa Packer fifth graders are selling Yankee Candles to raise funds for field trips and activities. Candles can be purchased from any fifth grader. Orders and payment are due Monday, October 17th. Candles will be delivered before the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Thanks for helping to make our year great!



Folktale Fun

By: Hadi A. and Riley N.

This year the 5th grade Reading classes are learning about folktales. Some of the folktale types are: fairy tales, fables, myths, legends, and tall tales. All or most folktales have an oral tradition, and the people or person who made the folktale is unknown. These folktales are in every culture that we know of. There is a Chinese Cinderella, an Indian Beauty and the Beast, and so on.

Famous myths come from Greek mythology. For a myth to be a myth it has to have: Gods and Goddesses, it has to explain something that nature did using the Gods and Goddesses, and it also has to have magic, unusual creatures (like satyrs), but most of all: a myth has to teach a lesson. Fairy tales usually have: some sort of royalty, a castle or forest, most of the time there is good vs. evil, and lastly it has to have some magic. Legends usually have everyday people, and animals are usually the main character, again it's about nothing specific, and also again, it explains how or why something in nature came to be (but without the Gods and Goddesses). Legends also have magic and teach a lesson. Most fables should have: Animals doing human things, usually take place outside, only one problem using trickery, and a moral. These are some of the kinds of folktales. So check one out in the library!



School Performance Profile

By: Jonathan Horvath

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will be releasing the 2015 – 2016 School Performance Profile (SPP) scores this month. The scores are based overwhelmingly on the State's standardized test scores and do not align with the BASD's Roadmap goals. In 2015, the new version of the PSSAs was introduced and scores dropped drastically. The results were so unreliable that the state did not even calculate the elementary or middle school SPP scores.

Yes, we are a score, but we are so much more than a score. I want to ensure you that we will continue to strive to educate the whole student. We will continue to complete our community outreach projects such as Cops-N-Kids book donations, food and clothing drives for those less fortunate, Career Day and Pinwheels for Peace just to name a few. We also will continue to expand our after-school programs to include more opportunities for students in primary grades such as a craft club and a primary drama performance. APTV, Fit Club, musical productions, yearbook, dance teams and drama club are just a few of the many after-school activities our building offers.

We will move toward finding the Leader In Me as we learn about Steven Covey's 7 habits of highly effective people. We will continue to support the BASD Roadmap to Educational Excellence and its areas of core learning, stretch learning, student engagement, and personal skill development. In the area of core learning all students will receive instruction in mathematics using the common core via the EnVision text or Investigations kits. Literacy instruction will focus on all students reading at grade level by the third grade; science and social studies will continue to use the present curriculum. Intervention time has been built into the schedule to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed. Intervention time is now called WIN (What I Need) time. Teachers continue to plan for core instruction, stretch learning, and intervention for each lesson that they prepare.

I am including a letter written by Dr. Roy in reference to the PDE's release of the SPP and an informational pamphlet about our school to help show you all of the wonderful and exciting opportunities available at Asa Packer.

I thank you for your continued support and partnership in working toward raising well-educated, well-rounded, responsible students. Thank you for continuing to be an integral part of Asa Packer's recipe for success.



Superintendent Joseph Roy Shares Concerns About State School Report Card - October 2016

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is set to release the 2016 state version of a "school report" card. The current state method to report on school performance is called the "PA School Performance Profile" (SPP).

The Bethlehem Area School District's research-based [Roadmap to Educational Excellence](#) contains four key components (Core Learning, Stretch Learning, Student Engagement, and Personal Skill Development) all of which are critical to school success. We believe that successful schools must offer a wide range of opportunities for their diverse student population to find success.

Unfortunately, the state's School Performance Profile (SPP) is based overwhelmingly on state standardized test scores and does not align with BASD's Roadmap goals. In 2015 due to a new version of the statewide standardized test, scores dropped so precipitously and the results were so unreliable that the state did not even calculate elementary and middle school SPP scores.

Unfortunately, in 2016, with the same state standardized test issues, Pennsylvania chose to calculate SPP scores anyway. As a result, SPP scores for schools across the state and in BASD dropped. It is important to note that the schools did not change, the state's standardized testing program changed.

Schools around the world, business leaders in America, and communities across the country are rejecting repetitive state standardized testing and its narrowed curriculum common during the NCLB Era. **Instead, the emphasis is on the whole child, creativity, and a variety of knowledge and skills that resemble our Roadmap.** The state's reporting is out of step with this focus on educating the whole child.

Here are specific concerns with the School Performance Profile:

- The PA Department of Education has fabricated a single score that simply cannot capture the true all-around performance of a school (the Building Level Academic Score).
- **Reducing a school's performance to a single composite number based largely on state standardized tests in one area of school performance is misleading because it ignores or minimizes other measures and other key components of school performance.**
- In BASD Roadmap language, the state puts nearly **90%** of the fabricated single school score in Core Learning and **less than 5%** in Stretch Learning, with **zero percent** in Student Engagement and **zero percent** in Personal Skill Development.
- Mixing different test instruments with different scoring scales and converting it all to a 100-point scale raises questions about the reliability and validity of the Building Level Academic Score.
- The School Performance Profile does absolutely nothing to try to quantify or mitigate the effect of poverty, transiency, and language proficiency in making its determinations of school quality. Nor does the SPP measure equity efforts on the part of districts to overcome racial and socioeconomic success gaps.

There are useful parts to the new School Performance Profile:

- Compiling various measures of school performance in one location called the School Performance Profile is a positive step. Unfortunately, fabricating the single school score from these measures undermines this effort to provide a more robust picture of school performance.
- Although not new, the PA Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS) is a useful tool for measuring student growth and guiding instructional improvement and curriculum alignment. BASD has used PVAAS since it was first provided by the state a number of years ago.
- The School Performance Profile does include some measures beyond the state standardized tests including scores from trade/industry exams, Advanced Placement and SAT scores.

Conclusion:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should drop the fabricated single score for schools because that number is meaningless and misleading. The PDE should focus on expanding the measures of school performance included in the school profiles- including additional academic measures, adding participation measures and adding other measures that address the education of the whole child.

All Students Achieve

Asa Packer is a diverse learning community that fosters student development and success in a safe and challenging environment. Our goal is to empower children to become life-long learners who then grow into responsible and respectful citizens. We celebrate with **PRIDE** the unique talents and qualities of each student.



Contact Us!

We invite you to visit us. Call us to schedule a tour of our building to get a first-hand look at educational excellence in action.

Jonathan C. Horvath

Principal

AnnMarie Birster

Guidance Counselor

Lorie Cressman

Administrative Assistant

ASA PACKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

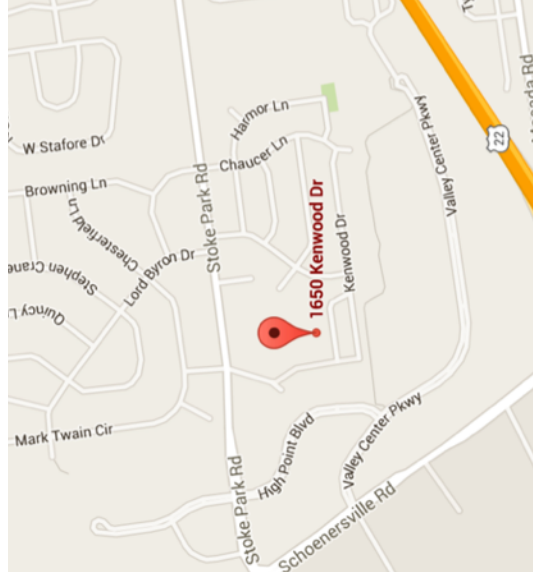
1650 Kenwood Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-865-0660

CHILD CARE

610-849-1823

Follow us on Twitter [@AsaPackerBASD](https://twitter.com/AsaPackerBASD)
www-ap.beth.k12.pa.us/Site/Home.html



Asa Packer Elementary School

Bethlehem, PA

610-865-0660



Annual School Events

Events are for all grades unless otherwise noted.

- Arts Day
- Author Visit
- Biography Fair (grade 3)
- Career Day
- ESL Power Olympics
- Field Day
- Field Trips
- Ice Skating Night
- International Dinner
- Kellyn Foundation Healthy Eating Program & Garden (grades 3-5)
- Lehigh University COACH Program & Women's Basketball Game (grades 3-5)
- Patio Party
- Roller Skating Night
- Spelling Bee (grades 1-5)
- Spirit Days
- Talent Show
- Track Meet (grade 5)
- Walk-A-Thon

After School Activities

- APTV (student-run TV program)
- Book Clubs (various grade levels)
- Box Tops Club
- Fit Club
- Girls on the Run
- Spring Musical Production (grades 4 & 5)
- Volleyball
- Yearbook

Parents as Partners

Parents are our partners in the broad education of our children. Our active PTA supports our initiatives in instruction, technology, as well as athletics and the arts.

Family Events

Asa Packer hosts family events including roller skating & ice skating nights, an international dinner as well as Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom breakfasts.

Leader In Me

We are a Leader in Me school, committed to developing students as leaders in all aspects of their lives. *Leader in Me* is based on Stephen Covey's 7 Habits.

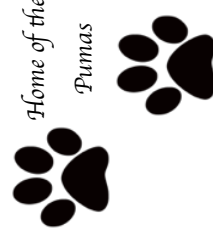


Appreciating the Arts

- Arts Day
- Bach Choir visit (grade 3)
- Band & Orchestra concert
- Dance Club
- Drama Club
- Flutophone Concert (grade 2)
- Fourth & Fifth Grade Program
- Glee Club
- Instrumental music lessons & concerts
- Vocal Winter & Spring concerts

Student Leadership

- Classroom leadership roles
- Cops 'n' Kids
- Food Drives
- Leader In Me
- Peer Leadership
- Recognition Assemblies
- Safety Patrols (grade 5)
- Student Ambassadors (escorts for visitors and special events)
- Student Council (grades 1-5)



From the PTA

Autumn is here and our PTA is in full swing, offering fun times and fund raisers, and looking forward to providing exciting events for our awesome Asa Packer students.

Asa Packer families have been hard at work selling KidStuff Books and beautiful Fall Mums, and their efforts have been very successful.

Our annual walk-a-thon was also a great success, raising approximately \$7000 in funds to support our school, and the best part is that the students had a blast doing it!!

Families also enjoyed yummy and refreshing Menchie's frozen yogurts together last month, with a portion of the proceeds also going to support our fundraising efforts. Book fair is here, and students once again have the opportunity to choose from a great selection of books to add to their home library, all while raising funds to help expand our Asa Packer Library.



Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Our PTA will be putting these hard earned funds to good use by providing several awesome events for our students, such as Author Day, Arts Day, Patio Party and so much more!

We are also very excited to share that Asa Packer PTA has a new Web-site. Our goal is to streamline the membership and volunteer process for all of our parents/volunteers, and to provide a central point for information distribution and communications. Check us out, and check back often as we continue to build and grow our new resource for you!
 You can find us at: <http://asapackerpta.digitalpto.com/>



Finally, we are very happy to welcome our members, new and returning, to the Asa Packer PTA family.

PTA is about working together and volunteering to support and enhance our children's educational experience and you are all valued members of our team.

We look forward to volunteering with you!

~ Asa Packer PTA ~



Main School Account - @AsaPackerBASD

Mrs. Story - @mrsstorystars
Miss Moeller - @missbmoeller
Mrs. Lyons - @TamLyons517
Miss Murphy - @MeganMurphy611
Mrs. Hintosh - @JennaHintosh
Miss Truchan - @MissTGrader1
Mr. Philibotte - MrP_BASD

Mrs. Sherman - @MrsSherman29
Mrs. Conrad - @MrsConradMusic
Mrs. Scmillio - @MScmillio
Ms. Birster - @ambplay
Miss Jordan - @MissJordanAP
Ms. Esposito - @AsaArtRoom

September Highlights from Twitter and our school: Pinwheels for Peace, Sign Leaders and picture day.



The Leader in Me

Our school is in the first year of implementation for the Leader in Me. Please see below for a list of the Seven Habits that students will be learning throughout the year.

Habits 1–7



Habit 1: Be Proactive®

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind®

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.

Habit 3: Put First Things First®

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win®

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. When conflicts arise, I look for a win-win solution.

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood®

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoint (paradigm). I listen to others without interrupting. I listen with my ears, my eyes, and my heart. I am confident in voicing my ideas.

Habit 6: Synergize®

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas because I know that by teaming with others, we can create better solutions than what any one of us could alone. I look for Third Alternatives.

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw®

I eat right, exercise, and get enough sleep (body). I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school (brain). I spend time with family and friends (heart). I take time to find meaningful ways to help people (soul). I balance all four parts of myself.

Parent Visitation Day

Visitation Schedule

When multiple sessions are listed, you are welcome to attend all.

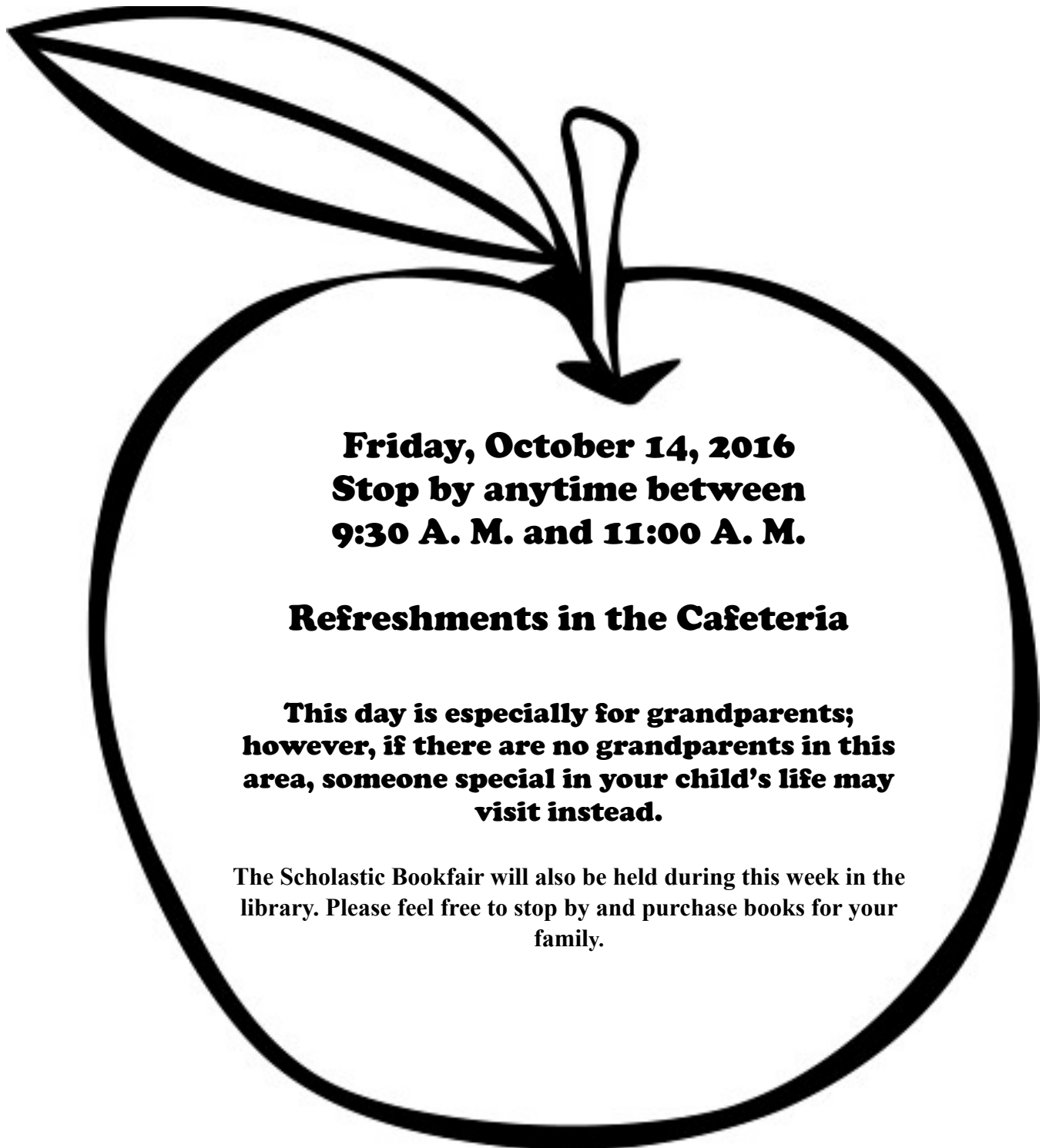
Visitation Day – Thursday, October 13th

Kindergarten
Session #1 – 9:45 – 10:15 (ELA) Session #2 – 2:15 – 2:45 (Math)
Specialists Session #3 – 1:30 – 2:15 Academic Integration – Mr. Pizzuto Library – Mrs. Mertz Music - Mrs. Rhode
Grade 1
Session #1 – 10:00 – 10:45 (ELA) Session #3 – 1:45 – 2:20 (Math)
Specialists Session #2 – 12:40 – 1:25 Academic Integration – Mr. Pizzuto Library – Mrs. Mertz Music - Mrs. Rhode
Grade 2
Session #1 – 10:15 – 11:00 (ELA) Session #2 – 1:15 – 2:00 (Math)
Specialists Session #3 – 2:45 – 3:30 Academic Integration – Mr. Pizzuto Library – Mrs. Mertz Music - Mrs. Rhode

Grade 3
Session #2 – 10:15 – 11:00 (Math) Session #3 – 1:00 – 1:45 (ELA)
Specialists Session #1 – 9:15 – 10:00 Academic Integration – Mr. Pizzuto Library – Mrs. Mertz Music - Mrs. Rhode
Grade 4
Session #1 – 9:45 – 10:30 (Math) Session #2 – 1:45 – 2:40 (ELA)
Specialists Session #3 – 10:35 – 11:20 Academic Integration – Mr. Pizzuto Library – Mrs. Mertz Music - Mrs. Rhode
Grade 5
Session #1 – 9:40 – 10:30 (Block1) Session #2 – 10:30 – 11:20 (Block 2) Session #3 – 2:00 – 2:45 (Block 3)
Specialists Session #4 – 11:20 – 12:00 Academic Integration – Mr. Pizzuto Library – Mrs. Mertz Music - Mrs. Rhode

Friday, October 14th
VIP Day – See Flyer

You are invited to
Grandpals/VIP Day
at
Asa Packer Elementary School



Friday, October 14, 2016
Stop by anytime between
9:30 A. M. and 11:00 A. M.

Refreshments in the Cafeteria

This day is especially for grandparents;
however, if there are no grandparents in this
area, someone special in your child's life may
visit instead.

The Scholastic Bookfair will also be held during this week in the library. Please feel free to stop by and purchase books for your family.

ASA PACKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Bethlehem Area School District
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

October, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Asa Packer's Halloween Parade and parties will take place on Friday, October 28, 2016. In order to ensure a productive and enjoyable day, the following schedule will be implemented.

8:55 AM - 1:20 PM	Regular Academic Schedule
1:25 PM - 1:45 PM	Students change to their costumes.
1:45 PM - 2:30 PM	Students and faculty parade through neighborhood, weather permitting. (See parade route below.)
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Halloween parties in classrooms
3:33 PM	Regular dismissal

For the parade route, we will leave Asa Packer through the East exit and head down the bus ramp toward Kenwood Drive. We will follow Kenwood Drive until we meet Chaucer Lane. We will then turn north on Chaucer Lane to Harmor Lane. At Harmor Lane, we will go west to Lord Byron Drive until we come to Kenwood Drive which will lead us back to the school. Barricades will be placed at major intersections close to the beginning of the parade and will be removed as the parade ends. If you live in the involved area, please try to notify your neighbors about this. With the emphasis on healthy eating, we ask that you do not throw or give candy to the students as they pass by your house. A friendly wave will be welcome!

On the day of the parade, please have your children bring their costumes in bags with their names on them. Since children will be changing to their costumes at school, costumes that fit over their school clothes will be most appreciated to minimize the time and effort needed to change.

Our school district and our school are concerned about safety. We ask your cooperation by providing a costume that does not encourage or focus on violence. As per the Student Code of Conduct, weapons, or replicas of them, are not permitted.

Students, who for religious reasons do not celebrate Halloween, will be invited to stay in the school library with alternate activities and supervision from 1:20 PM until 3:15 PM.

Please do not send goodie bags with edible treats to school for distribution on Friday.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Horvath
Principal





SCHOLASTIC FALL BOOK FAIR

October 10-14, 2016

All children will attend during school hours.

All books are \$4 and up.

Please donate your spare change to vote for Mr. Horvath's

Halloween Costume.

All proceeds go to buy more books for the Asa Packer library!

You may also purchase books at the Online Book Fair

October 7-14 2016

Please contact Tracy Luisser (tluisser@aol.com) or Linda O'Brien (obrienlmc@aol.com) with questions or concerns.