

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I hope you had a most-pleasant and relaxing summer with your child. It is with much enthusiasm that I look forward to beginning what is sure to be a successful and enjoyable year for everyone in the William Penn community.

This Summer was a very busy one at William Penn. It is with great pride that I inform you of the many happenings in curriculum, facilities, technology, assessment, wellness, instructional programming, and personnel that occurred over the past two-and-a-half months at our school:

- ❖ **Personnel**- With the departure of staff members for purposes of retirement, transfers, etc., I am proud to introduce the newest members to our William Penn family:
  - **Mrs. Jamie Ferris (Kindergarten and IST)**
  - **Mrs. Jackie Carr (Academic Support Teacher substituting for Mrs. Addie Krisfalusy)**
  - **Danielle Puhatch (Occupational Therapist)**
  
- ❖ **PSSA scores and AYP**- Last year's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders did another EXCEPTIONAL job on the PSSA exams! For the eighth straight year, our school not only met, but exceeded, state expectations in making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Reading and Mathematics. Furthermore, 100% of our students scored "Advanced" or "Proficient" on the Science PSSA! BRAVO to our young readers, mathematicians, and scientists!
  
- ❖ **Technology**- This Summer, the Bethel Park School Board generously provided new Dell computers to all elementary computer labs. Our computer lab at Penn has 30 new computers which will allow the students to work more efficiently on curricular software and web-based programs. Furthermore, the computers from the last year's computer lab have been moved to the individual classrooms (2 or 3 per/classroom) which will allow the students to have access to additional curricular and web-based programs.
  
- ❖ **Wellness**- Last year, William Penn, along with the other four elementary schools, was the recipient of a \$50,000 Highmark Healthy High Five Grant (\$10,000 for each elementary). With these funds, we purchased a variety of exercise equipment which will continue to be implemented throughout the school year in Physical Education classes and other classroom activities. Proudly, and again this year, each elementary has received another \$10,000 Highmark Healthy High Five Grant which will be used to encourage our students to develop healthy habits from a young age. Stay tuned for more details!
  
- ❖ **New Physical Education Curriculum and Materials**- This year will mark the induction of a new Physical Education curriculum complete with new equipment and other instructional materials. Mr. Stock is excited to share new ways that students will be learning and playing to promote physical well-being!
  
- ❖ **Facilities**- Our building has received significant improvements, both inside and outside, which have added to the functional and aesthetic value of our school including:
  - \*A new curb and sidewalk in the circle
  - \*Parking stops in the bottom lot have been realigned and painted
  - \*A new storage loft on the stage
  - \*New student chairs in both 1<sup>st</sup> Grade classrooms
  - \*Landscaping in front of building (A big THANK YOU to Charlie Davis and his helpers for providing over 250 man-hours. Charlie took this on as an Eagle Scout project, and we are very proud of how beautiful our school looks!)
  
- ❖ **Olweus Bully Prevention Program and Character In Action (CIA) Program**- Last year, students in all grades were educated in the Olweus Bully Prevention program to help make our school completely bully-free. Again this year, students will continue their weekly program to help promote a bully-free school. To further promote this message, students in all grades will participate in the "Character In Action" program. More details of this exciting program will be shared by your child's teachers as well as through an informative meeting at Open House on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stay tuned for more details!

On behalf of the entire staff of William Penn, we look forward to your partnership and support during the upcoming school year as we work together to continue an environment that promotes the best in learning and happiness for our students!

Educationally Yours,

*George N. Spalaris*

-Principal