

WILLIAM S. COHEN SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009



STUDENT-PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2009

Student-Parent-Teacher conferences offer parents the opportunity to find out how their child is getting along with their classmates, in which areas they excel, which areas may be giving them difficulty, and what can be done at home to support the teachers' efforts in building on student strengths and improving weak areas.

Teachers are helped from the conference by getting to know parents and by gaining from them information and insights that can enhance each child's classroom experience.

Following are some suggestions that can make conferences productive:

Be Prepared—Before the meeting, write down pros and cons of your child's experiences to date. Also, bring a list of specific questions you may have, and examples of work he/she has done at home. You should leave the conference with a better understanding of the school's programs and your child's performance in them. View this conference as an opportunity to educate your child's teachers about your child's capabilities.

Be Candid—Tell your child's teachers what is going on at home if you feel it has bearing on his/her behavior at school. Be assured that this information will be held in confidence.

Focus On The Instructional Environment—Remember that the conference is a time to focus on how each child is doing in school and how teachers and parents can work together to enhance or improve classroom performance.

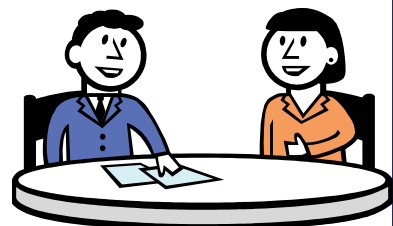
After The Conference—Don't forget about the conference once you leave the school. The most important role for you as a parent is to discuss what was learned with your child. Start immediately with whatever action was decided upon. Did the teacher recommend any books? Did he/she suggest any different study arrangements? Begin at once to follow through with your plan.

Feel free to call the school to discuss your child's progress, or to schedule a follow-up conference if you feel one is needed. Teachers value interest and support from parents. Make sure your child knows that you and the teachers are working together in his/her best interest. Your child should feel that the home and school form a partnership, with the goal of providing him/her with the best education possible. We want your child to grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally. We want them to learn, enjoy school, make friends, and follow rules.

Your child's successes are our successes.

Your child's teachers will be forwarding information to you regarding this year's conferences. There are instances when some students are cross teamed: that is, they have teachers on more than one teaching team. If you are unable to see teachers during Parent/Teacher Conferences that you would like to meet, please call the school for an appointment.

Attached you will find more information regarding this year's conferences.



STUDENT-PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
October 13 & 14, 2009

The Bangor School Department has set aside Tuesday, October 13th and Wednesday, October 14th for parent conferences. The focus will be on student work as part of the conferencing process. Students should attend with their parents to meet with the teachers. Student work and portfolios will be available for parents, teachers, and students to review and discuss. The intent is to provide a more informative, productive, and relaxed atmosphere to discuss student's work.

You are invited to school at a time which best suits your schedule. Evening times are available to accommodate working parents. **Students should attend as a most integral part of the conferencing process.**

Conference Times:

Tuesday, October 13th	12:00-3:30 PM
Tuesday, October 13th	5:00-8:00 PM
Wednesday, October 14th	7:30-12:00 PM

Locations:

Library:

Mrs. Susi
 Mrs. Vose
 Mr. Busque
 Mr. Johnston
 Ms. Maxim
 Mr. Dube

Cafeteria/Bandroom:

Mrs. Ruhlin
 Mr. Stanhope
 Mrs. O'Leary
 Mr. Bilancia
 Ms. Smith
 Mrs. Briggs
 Mrs. Shulman

Other:

Ms. Eames—Music	Room # 115
Mrs. Todorova—French	Room # 118
Mr. Goulette—Technology	Room # 105
Mrs. Lajoie—Art	Room #221
Mrs. Poisson—Spanish	Room #123
Ms. Richards—PE	Gymnasium
Mr. Clark—PE	Gymnasium
Mrs. Bagley	Room # 203
Mrs. Wren	Room # 217
Mrs. Wyman	Room # 213

Grade 6: **Parents of 6th grade students will have scheduled appointments.**

Mrs. Baldus	Room # 218
Mr. Tibbetts	Room # 219
Mrs. Blosser	Room # 226
Mr. Stevens	Room # 228
Mrs. Reid	Room # 234
Mrs. Jamison	Room # 232

GRADE SEVEN/EIGHT STUDENT LED PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Middle school students need to learn to be responsible for their acts and deeds. They are beginning to stretch their wings toward independence and want to take more and more control.

The design of the student led conference begins with the teacher and student accumulating the quarter's work into a portfolio. They may have journals, grade graphs, corrected papers, etc. within the portfolio. The student is responsible for looking through the portfolio and reflecting on what he/she has accomplished over past weeks. Where were the strengths? What are some areas that need additional attention? Students may practice a conference using their portfolio. Some teachers may even have students practice introductions so that they are comfortable introducing parents to teachers.

On conference day, parents arrive with their student. No schedule is needed. **Parents are bringing the leader of the conference with them.** The students find a comfortable spot and collect their portfolios from their various subject areas. They then go over each portfolio with their parent, focusing on strengths and areas of weakness. Many times, students will bring out the fact they need help in a particular area that the parent was unaware of. For example, with six low vocabulary scores in a reading portfolio, the student will recognize that as an area of weakness. Often, the student led conference may lead to parent awareness that such tasks as the vocabulary assignment are due each week. This awareness may initiate a suggestion to work with the words the night before or simply a reminder each week that the assignment is due. In this way, parents are able to see the program over time and offer the help and support that each child seeks. The time for student led conferences ranges from thirty minutes to over an hour. Teachers are available to participate in the discussions, and to offer insights and suggestions. The main idea of the student led conference is for students to recognize strengths and weaknesses, and to develop a plan for improvement with the support of the parent. Self-reflection leads to growth.



Student led conferences have been held for several years, with many positive comments from students, teachers, and parents. They offer new information for teachers and parents, and provide avenues for students to take responsibility for their work, while enlisting help and support.

PARENT BOOSTERS MEETING DATES

The Parent Boosters will meet on the following dates in the WSCS library. Meetings are always the first Monday of the month.

Monday, October 5th	6:30 p.m.
Monday, November 2nd	6:30 p.m.
Monday, December 7th	6:30 p.m.

Come Join Us!

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

William S. Cohen School takes the responsibility of the care and safety of your child very seriously. Because of this, our school policy insists that all students who are in the building or on school grounds be under the direct supervision of a staff member. It is our hope that the following information will help you make transportation arrangements for your child to ensure that he or she does not arrive at school or stay after school, beyond the established hours of supervision.

During the morning hours, we assign a duty teacher to supervise the school grounds from **7:50 to 8:10**. This 20 minute window allows for buses and parents to drop off students, as well as for walkers to arrive. **Due to liability reasons, no student should be dropped off, or arrive on school grounds prior to 7:50, when our first teachers go on duty**, unless they are participating in our a.m. music programs. In this case, music students would report directly to their teacher in the building.

At the end of the day we assign a duty teacher in our activity room Monday through Friday from 2:30 to 4:00. At 4:00 the activity room closes and an activity bus is available to transport students home. Once again, due to liability reasons, all students must leave the building and school grounds when the activity room closes, unless they are in a supervised activity, or practice that extends beyond 4:00. They may not make transportation arrangements to be picked up after this time.

NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS

“MOM.....HELP!!! I FORGOT MY GYM CLOTHES!”

Every day our school secretaries, Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Wilson, are deluged with requests to deliver items that our students forget to bring to school. We ask that all parents examine their situations. If you feel that dropping off the forgotten item helps your child, please bring it to you find your-stantly your child in tions, perhaps wittingly enaher to develop ble behaviors. times when a sequence is kids. If you ragged because dren often their gym clothes, trumpets, homework assignments, etc., perhaps you are inadvertently teaching your children that they don't have to be responsible and that you will wait on them.



When parents drop off items there are limitations to what we can do with your requests. We cannot interrupt classes. If the item is dropped off before 10:00 a.m., we can call the child to the office during student break. If the item is delivered to the school after break we will not disrupt a class to call the child to the office. Children in these situations will be called to the office when school ends at 2:30.

Thank you for your understanding.

Attendance & Tardiness



Regular attendance at school is essential for a student to achieve success and to derive the greatest benefit from the school experience. State law also requires regular attendance. When students are absent from school, we request that parents call the school prior to 9:00 a.m. Students to be dismissed from school must receive permission and sign out in the office. A note or phone call in advance is required from parents in order for a student to be dismissed.

IC PARENT PORTAL

WILL BE OPENING OCTOBER 9TH.

REPORT CARDS

According to the Policy I.C.A., the 2009—2010 school calendar, report cards will be issued on:

1st Quarter
2nd Quarter
3rd Quarter
4th Quarter

November 16
February 1
April 12
*June 28



*The final rank card will be sent home through the mail.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENT—FEDERAL SURVEY FORMS

Every year at this time we send home Federal Survey forms. These are extremely important and we are required to get one from every student. They are sent home on **October 1st** and are to be made out by the parents and returned to school by **October 5th**.



NURSE'S NOTES: Jackie Ireland, RN

- **MEDICATION POLICY**— The Bangor School Department has adopted a policy for those students who require medication. **In general, medication should be given at home whenever possible.** Generally, school personnel should not become involved with the administering of prescriptions or over the counter medications. However, upon specific written order of a physician, and with the parent's permission, medications may be taken under the supervision of a designated school employee. In this case a medical permission form, available from the main office, must be filled out, signed by your physician, and returned within 24 hours of the beginning date for the medication.
- Students who are responsible for independently medicating themselves while at school should do so, but shall bring no more than one day's supply to school. The exception to this shall be for those students who carry multi-dose inhalers or asthma or allergies. A form (available in main office) is necessary for students who self-administer medication. The form needs parental completion and also physician signature for a prescription medication. A copy of the complete policy on medications is available for review upon re-

A MESSAGE FROM THE CUSTODIAL STAFF

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 school year. We hope your summer was awesome. My name is Peter Shirland. I am the head custodian at WSCS. We also have three custodians who do the majority of the cleaning during the school year. Their names are Gary Clewley, Joe McNeil and Elroy Morgan. I am the first person who comes into the school at 6:00 a.m. and the night crew stays until 10:30 to secure the building at night. Many people are unaware that we work through the summer months, preparing for the upcoming school year, cleaning and repairing our school from top to bottom. We all take great pride in this beautiful school and hope you will do the same. Just by throwing your trash in the waste basket and picking up after yourselves gives us extra time to do the many unseen duties we have as custodians. So please help us in any way you can to keep WSCS the cleanest, safest school in the Bangor system. Remember "Pride in Excellence" is our school motto. Work hard and have a great year!!!



CROSSWALKS & BUSES

At our school 7:55 to 8:15 a.m. and 2:30 to 2:45 p.m. are very crucial times for students who are coming to and leaving school. It is also a crucial time for parents and buses that are trying to be on time to pick up those students.

Please try to remember that not only does the pedestrian have the right of way to use the crosswalk, but that drivers must yield. A driver failing to yield to a pedestrian at a crosswalk faces an infraction offense, with a fine of up to \$160.00. The Bangor Police Department and the William S. Cohen School thank you for your cooperation concerning this safety issue.

A reminder to parents and/or friends of Cohen students who drop off/pick up children at the school. As most of you know, buses drop off students in the closest lane to the cafeteria doors. Those people driving past busses in that lane while emergency lights are flashing are in violation of passing a stopped school bus. Please be cautious, wait for the lights to stop, and wait to be waved by, or use the next lane over when dropping off or picking up your children.

Thank you,

Detective Cliff Worcester
School Liaison Officer
Bangor Police Department.



LIBRARY NEWS

The library will be open after school from 2:45—3:45 Monday through Friday. Students come to the Library-After-School program on their own initiative to read, find books, study, do homework or do research.

The library is the quiet alternative to the Activity Room.



STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is off to a great start. New officers have been elected. We're beginning our plans for fundraising, and community service. Meetings are at 7:30 am in the Art Room, every other Friday. Our next meeting is October 9th. Any student may still join the council.

The WSCS Student Council is collecting empty cartridges and old cell phones. (No EPSOM please!) Any questions please contact Sheila Krautkremer, Advisor, at 941-6230.



The council is also collecting BOX TOPS for Education and Campbell's Soup and other labels. We will collect these all year, each year!

ADD/DROP PROCEDURE FOR ACCELERATED COURSES

The courses in our accelerated programs are designed to offer a rigorous challenge requiring students to be highly motivated, focused, and regularly and conscientiously committed to completing all homework assignments.

The purpose of this article is to notify the parents of all students who enrolled in an accelerated level course of our add/drop procedure.

Any student has the opportunity to transfer from an accelerated course with a grade of B until Parent /Teacher conferences. Following the conclusion of this add/drop period, a student may drop an accelerated course, but will then carry the actual grade earned into the new course.

This opportunity is extended in order to assist students and parents in considering appropriate class placement following a review of student performance after the first several weeks of school. While we encourage students to attempt accelerated coursework, we also desire to support decisions that are in the best interest of each student.

We encourage you to discuss progress to date with your child and his/her teachers during the upcoming teacher conferences scheduled on October 13th and 14th.

The end of the add/drop period is Friday, October 16th. Our guidance of process drop requests with date.

Our entire staff stands ready to assist in any way possible.



MARVEL! Maine's Virtual Library—A MARVEL!ous Research Source

MARVEL! is an electronic source of information that is available to all Maine schools, libraries, businesses and homes where millions of magazine and newspaper articles and reference books are now freely available 24/7. You only need a computer with Internet access and the following address: <http://www.maine.gov/marvel/>. MARVEL! is the result of collaboration between the Maine State Library, the University of Maine, the State Legislature, and MTEAF (Maine Telecommunications Educational Access Fund). MTEAF funds the state-wide licensing of these resources for every library and resident of Maine is a truly cost-effective service that can benefit every Maine citizen.

Why MARVE!?! There is valuable information to find on the Internet but there is much misinformation too. Even to the experienced Internet user, it is not always easy to determine if the information is from a reliable source. MARVEL! is the resource for credible, authoritative, reliable information. With MARVEL! the user is accessing magazines, encyclopedias and reference books, not web sites. MARVEL! goes beyond a search on the World Wide Web and reaches what is sometimes referred to as the "deep web". These results would not be found using search engines.

WSCS students are urged to use MARVEL! As their first stop when pursuing their Internet searches. MARVEL! offers user guides, guides to basic searching techniques, online virtual tours of several of the databases and bibliographic resources. MARVEL! truly is the "one stop shopping" of Internet searching.

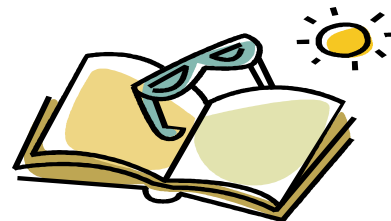
CTY TALENT SEARCH 2009-2010

ATTENTION GRADE 6 PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

All qualifying grade six students are welcome to participate in the CTY Talent Search 2009-2010, sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University Center for talented Youth. The purpose of the Talent Search is to identify, assess and organize the academic abilities of highly able students.

To qualify for the Talent Search, your child must have scored in the 95th percentile or higher on their most recent **Terra Nova Achievement Test**. Students who have scored in the 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, or 99th percentile in the following Mathematics (M). Verbal (V) and/or composition © categories are qualified:

M	-	Mathematics: Concepts
M	-	Mathematics: Problem Solving
M	-	Total Mathematics
V	-	Reading Comprehension
V	-	Total Reading
C	-	Total Complete Battery



Qualified students who apply to the Talent Search will receive registration materials for the PLUS test, which is used as an above grade level test, one designed for older students, to better assess the mathematical and verbal reasoning abilities of highly able sixth graders. The Talent Search offers a variety of services and opportunities for students after they test. More information can be found by visiting CTY's web site: www.cty.jhu.edu The decision about participating is strictly up to you; we are notifying you of this opportunity because it is our policy to inform parents about the programs that may help meet the special educational needs of their children.

If you would like to have your child participate in the Talent Search, please fill out the online application at www.cty.jhu.edu

William S. Cohen School code: 0440153

Any questions please contact Paul Butler, Director of G/T, 992-4172

BANGOR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT STUDENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

The Bangor School Department provides computers, networks and internet access to support the educational mission of the schools and to enhance the curriculum and learning opportunities for students and school staff. The School Committee believes that the resources available through the internet are of significant value in the learning process and preparing students for future success. At the same time, the unregulated availability of information and communication on the internet requires that schools establish reasonable controls for lawful, efficient and appropriate use of this technology.

Student use of school computers, networks and internet services is a privilege, not a right. Students are required to comply with this policy and the accompanying rules (IJNDB-R). Students who violate the policy and/or rules may have their computer privileges revoked and may also be subject to further disciplinary and/or legal action.

All Bangor School Department computers remain under the control, custody and supervision of the School Department. The School Department reserves the right to monitor all computer and internet activities by students. Students have no expectation of privacy in their use of school computers, networks and internet services.

As a result of the requirements mandated by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Bangor School Department will use the centralized content filtering program provided by the Maine School and Library Network to filter internet access to all computers in the school system. This filter complies with the CIPA. It is designed to prevent access to materials that are obscene, contain pornography or are otherwise harmful to minors.

While reasonable precautions will be taken to supervise student use of the internet, the Bangor School Department cannot reasonably prevent all inappropriate uses, including access to objectionable materials and communications with persons outside of the school, in violation of the School Committee policies/procedures and school rules. The School Department is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information that students obtain through the internet.

Students and parents shall be informed of these policies and procedures on an annual basis through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent.



The Superintendent shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and the accompanying rules and for advising the School Committee of the need for any future amendments or revisions to the policy or rules. The Superintendent may develop additional administrative procedures or rules governing the day-to-day management and operation of the School Department's computer systems as long as they are consistent with the School Committee's policies and rules. The Superintendent may delegate specific responsibilities to building principals and others as he/she deems appropriate.

Cross Reference: GCSA—Employee computer and Internet Use
IJNDB-R— Student Computer and Internet Use Rules

Attention: 6th Grade Parents!

How to Help Your Child Have A Successful Year from the Sixth Grade Team and Guidance Office

It was wonderful to meet with a large number of you at Open House on August 27th, and for you, much of what you will read here is review of our auditorium session that evening. But if you are anything like us, having the written word is important in addition to hearing the information. And since some of you were unable to attend, this serves to provide you with the same clear, consistent expectations that your students, all sixth grade teachers, and parents have received.

This year the Sixth Grade Team has developed two intertwined programs to help students improve their organization, time management, goal setting, and relationship skills. Knowing the critical role each of these plays in academic success, we have designed the "Give Me 5" and "7 Habits" programs for consistent use with all 6th graders.

First, the "Give Me 5" Program. Every teacher who has your child, whether it is art, English or math, will have clear, consistent expectations that he/she will:

1. Come to class with the Agenda Book
2. Will bring a writing instrument
3. Will bring the appropriate book or materials for the subject
4. Will bring completed homework
5. Will write the assignment and due date or NH for No Homework in that class period.



the Agenda Book for

Classroom teachers record student performance on these 5 expectations on a weekly time frame, and students who are 100% successful are recognized via a positive consequence. This may take the form of a small treat, a fun activity, a ticket toward a monthly drawing, or a certificate at a quarterly assembly.

By now, we are sure you have had a chance to look through the Agenda Book, and share our belief that it is a wonderful resource for our program. With the William S. Cohen Handbook, the calendar pages, and all the reference material in the back, students and parents have a wealth of information at their fingertips. They also have the foundation of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, the second part of our program for this school year.

Represented by a tree, the 7 Habits are simple common sense guidelines for personal growth and healthy relationships. The first three form the roots of the tree, the next three the trunk, and the last the canopy of leaves. The 7 Habits are:

- *Be Proactive—Take responsibility for your life
- *Begin with the End in Mind Define your mission and goals in life
- *Put First Things First—Prioritize, and do the most important things first
- *Think Win-Win-Have an everyone-can-win attitude
- *Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood—Listen to people sincerely
- *Synergize—Work together to achieve more
- *Sharpen the Saw—Renew yourself regularly

These habits are also reinforced in the agenda books and at www.premier.us/discover.

There are additional strategies in place to help students stay organized and in control of their learning. Students may schedule after school time with teachers for additional instruction if necessary or may access a quiet study location, the library, five nights a week after school.

You can help your child in a number of ways:

Key 1— Review the Agenda Book. Support our expectation that an assignment or the words "no homework" will be written in for every class every day, and help your child find the most effective way to be organized and complete homework.

Key 2— Talk about the assignments written there. Take an interest in what they are learning, ask them to tell you more about a topic, look for real world connections to make to what they are learning.

Key 3— Use the Agenda Book as your primary means of communication with school whenever possible, and respond

To teacher comments written here. The Agenda provides a record of the successes and concerns over the course of a year. If you need to speak with a teacher, write a note to request a phone call or meeting with a list of the best times to call.

Key 4— Encourage your child to be involved in after school activities, whether it is completing homework in the library, attending activity room, a sport, or a club. It's a great way to develop personal interests and learn about other people as well..

Key 5— Attend upcoming Parent /Teacher Conferences and other school events.

Key 6— If you didn't have a chance at Open House, stop by and complete a survey to help us address your concerns about student success.

In closing, the Sixth Grade Team thanks you for your support of the important work we all do for our students, and look forward to meeting with you at Parent-Teacher Conferences in October.



our

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Helen Keller

HEALTH ALERT MESSAGES

- Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE): **What can you do to prevent getting infected? Prevent mosquito bites!** Adults and children participating in outdoor activities for a significant amount of time when the temperature is greater than 50 degrees are encouraged to: **Cover up** by wearing long sleeves, socks, and pants; and/or use an effective **insect repellent** containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus on exposed skin and/or clothing. The repellent/insecticide permethrin can be used on clothing and be effective through several washes. Always follow the package directions. Avoid outdoor evening activities when mosquitoes are most actively biting (starting one hour before sunset) if the temperature is over 50 degrees, or make sure to cover up with clothes and/or insect repellent.
- Repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out. Get rid of unnecessary standing water that can serve as mosquito breeding sites. Examples include: empty standing water from flower pots, buckets, barrels and other containers; drill holes in tire swings so water drains out; and keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.
- **CDC recommends that people with influenza like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 F (37.8 C), or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.**

WANTED

PARENTS TO JOIN OUR COHEN BOOSTERS CLUB

We need willing and able parents to be involved in the various support activities for our school. Some of the ways you can help are: **Serving as chaperones, selling concessions at games and meets, being parent aids for special events, making phone calls, baking or donating food items for activities.**

Please fill out and return the bottom of this form if you can help in any way. Thank you for your support.

Parent Name: _____ Student Name & Grade: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Best times I can help are: _____

I would like to join Boosters: _____ Yes _____ No

I would like to be an officer: _____ Yes _____ No

I am available for basketball concessions: _____ Yes _____ No

Call/E-mail me about the first meeting: _____ Yes _____ No