

Elementary Schools Offer a Variety of Enrichment Activities

Citizens For Education recently surveyed elementary school principals and PTO presidents to determine the range of enrichment activities, trips, and clubs offered at each school. A table with these activities identified is shown at our website: www.citizensforeducation.com => Supporting Data for 2013 Spring Newsletter.

Students have a wide variety of enrichment and club offerings, many of which are available at every elementary school. Some of these include choral and instrumental groups, bingo night, science fair, Reading Olympics, Student Council, some version of mother/daughter/father/son events, and after school sports for 5th and 6th graders. Many, but not all, of the elementary schools offer art clubs, back-to-school picnics, book fairs, carnivals/spring fairs, chess clubs, family math nights, field day, before-school foreign language classes, geography bees, garden or botany clubs, homework clubs, Halloween parties and parades, Kids Vote, newspaper clubs, roller skating parties, Secret Shop, 5th/6th grade school plays/talent shows, and Trenton Thunder or Phillies trips.

Other enrichment activities organized at several, but not all, elementary schools are broken down by grade level including:

- Kindergarten: Solly Brothers Farm trips
- First Grade: First grade play; Honey Hollow trips
- Second Grade: A wax museum-like display, where students dress up as characters within a certain theme; insect-related play or field trip; dinosaur show; patriotic show
- Third Grade: A wax museum-like display; trips to a rock gym or Lost River Caverns, or a rock/mineral show; a multiplication show; Rotary Dictionary Day, where students receive a free dictionary courtesy of the Rotary Club; trip to the National Constitution Center
- Fourth Grade: Trips to Pennsbury Manor and Churchville Nature Center; state fair trips; visit to the Kimmel Center; Electricity City Night where students display their lighted construction projects
- Fifth Grade: Humanities dig trip; a wax museum-like display; trips to Pennsbury Manor, historic Philadelphia, or Washington Crossing State Park
- Sixth Grade: Dances; trips to Penn Museum, Citizens Bank Park, or the Philadelphia Zoo; various spirit activities

Some events are only held at one or two schools, such as bracelet club; donuts/breakfast with Dad; dog walk; knitting club; May BBQ; Odyssey of the Mind; pumpkin decorating night; walking club; coat drive; Young Author's Days, where students read their works aloud for a small audience; and College Settlement, an overnight trip which consists of team building and wilderness activities on a 234-acre site in Horsham, PA.

CFE commends the elementary school staffs, the PTO leadership, and the many PTO volunteers for their efforts in providing a wide variety of fun and enriching activities for students. Sharing of successful programs between schools is recommended as a great way to spread the fun while not having to "reinvent the wheel." Updates to the table can be forwarded to Citizens4Ed@yahoo.com .