



CARES UPDATE for PARENTS

Focus is on the "S" in CARES - "SAFETY"

The character education program at Copper Beech is "**CARES**" – **C**ooperation, + **A**ttitude, **R**espect, **E**mpathy & **S**afety. Everything we do at Copper Beech reinforces and recognizes "CARES" behavior. Soon (November 1-5) we will celebrate "CARES" school-wide via our annual Peace Week activities and assembly.

The purpose of this "CARES" update is to give parents an overview of how **SAFETY** is of utmost importance at Copper Beech. We continually monitor our safety practices and make revisions/additions as needed. Safety, at Copper Beech, is a combination of team work which involves school personnel, students, and parents. Please join us in making sure that "CARES" is everywhere. Thank you.

Jan Z. Kline, Principal
James S. Eten, III, Assistant Principal

BUILDING SAFETY – The District Emergency Plan and Copper Beech Safe Schools Plan are reviewed and revised periodically with staff. During school hours, the only entrance is via the "electronic" entry way located in the office. Visitors sign in and passes are obtained in the office. Children travel with a buddy throughout the school and use the center staircase, unless escorted by an adult. Communication is enhanced via walkie-talkies, email, classroom phones, classroom televisions, and a school-wide intercom system. Although many daily safety procedures are in place, the key to safety is alertness. Please don't be offended if you are questioned as to your purpose in the building. Parents should not be entering the building to walk children to classrooms. Remember to have your visitor's pass and **to always report to the office to enter the school.**

All aspects of building safety are discussed with children with developmental needs in mind. "CARES" is reinforced daily.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL – The Beech Patrol (safety patrols) will begin to assist students at arrival and dismissal beginning in November. You can recognize the patrols easily due to their orange safety belt. Faculty sponsors are Mr. Falcone and Mr. Perlman.

Twice a year we conduct a lockdown drill. Prior to the first drill, a flyer will be sent home to explain the procedure.

FIRE SAFETY – Fire Prevention Month is October and we had a visit from our friends from Weldon Fire Company. Fire safety was also a topic of discussion at all grade levels. Copper Beech has a state-of-the art sprinkler system and fire alarm. It is so sensitive that even dust has set off the fire alarm at times! Fire drills are conducted once a month.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY – Teachers and aides discuss the use of the playground and equipment with children and specific procedures are reviewed as needed via teachers and CB-TV. Throughout the year, students are reminded of three important rules:

- Remain with your grade level
- Demonstrate "CARES" behavior at all times
- Go to an aide when needed (Aides are easily seen by the fluorescent vests they wear.)

BUS SAFETY – All parents who attended the Copper Beech Kindergarten Tour in August met an Abington School District bus driver and were taken on a brief bus ride to learn about bus safety procedures. Abington School District bus drivers, along with the AAA, are instrumental in talking to all students about bus and bicycle safety. Recently, a bus evacuation drill was conducted so that all students would know what to do in case of an emergency.

Parents can support bus safety by reminding children of the following:

- **Respect (the "R" in "CARES") is very important while riding the bus. Demonstrate respect for others, especially the driver, by talking in a soft voice to those near you, and never get up when the bus is in motion.**
- **Bring any sport balls to school in a bookbag or bag. Never carry items where it is visible and could roll away from you.**
- **Cooperation (the "C" in "CARES") is demonstrated by listening to the bus driver, sharing seats with others willingly, and being courteous.**
- **Bookbags, instruments, or school projects must be held in your lap or they will not be allowed on the bus. No items may be placed in the aisle.**
- **Keep your body inside the bus at all times and never litter by throwing trash out the window.**

Riding the bus is a privilege and can be revoked if one's behavior interferes with the safety of himself/herself or others.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY – Our annual school parade is almost here! While planning children's costumes, please remember that a mask may impair vision for young children and long, cumbersome costumes may make it difficult to walk in the parade. **As always, school appropriate costumes are expected. Costumes should not be offensive to one's ethnic background, religion or race, and please, no accessories that could be unsafe. The parade begins promptly at 2:00 PM on October 29.**