

Middle School Guidance



February 2005

P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment

Volume 2, Issue 7

The P.S.S.A. (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) Writing Assessment has been revised from the 2002 - 2003 school year. School Districts across Pennsylvania did not have to administer the P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment last school year (2003 - 2004). The assessment will no longer be given to sixth grade. Students in grades five and eight will now take the P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment. The assessment window is from February 14, 2005 through February 23, 2005. Tentatively at this point, Berlin Brothersvalley Middle School will be taking the writing assessment on Tuesday, February 15, 2005. Monday, February 14, 2005 has been set aside as a snow day for students in the Berlin Brothersvalley School District. Students will be given a prompt (persuasive

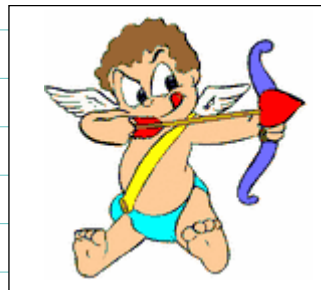
or informative) and allowed approximately sixty minutes to write towards that particular prompt. In addition to the writing prompt, students will also answer ten multiple-choice questions on the writing assessment. There are several assessment taking tips that parents should try to follow to ensure that their child achieves the best score possible: (1) Try to be present at school on the day of testing, unless you are ill. (2) Eat a well-balanced breakfast on the morning of testing. (3) Get plenty of rest/sleep the night before testing. (4) Approach the assessment with the attitude of doing your best work possible. If you would like more information on the P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment, please visit the following Pennsylvania Department of Education web sites:

<http://www.pde.state.pa.us>

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/a_and_t/lib/a_and_t/WritingHighlights2005.doc

Quote of the month

"Be like a diamond precious and rare, not like a stone found everywhere." (Unknown Author)



Happy Valentine's Day

Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging in to the Logic House Parent Portal.
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at: <http://www.bbsd.com/bullying>

Contact Mr. Smith

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Webpage - <http://www.bbsd.com/ms/faculty/marksmith>

Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

February 9, 2005 - Fourth six week grading period mid-term.

February 10, 2005 - Early dismissal at 1:30.

February 11, 2005 - Snow Day.

February 12, 2005 - Berlin Brothersvalley Middle School Valentine's Informal-Social.

(6:00 - 8:00)

February 14, 2005 - Happy Valentine's Day! Snow Day.

February 14, 2005 - February 23, 2005 - P.S.S.A. Writing for fifth and eighth graders.

February 15, 2005 - Eighth graders to take the P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment.

February 16, 2005 - Fifth graders to take the P.S.S.A. Writing

Assessment.

February 22, 2005 - Eighth grade Career Fair registration for Career Fair at Seven Springs.

March 4, 2005 - End of the fourth six week grading period.

Good Luck Mountaineers!

