



**PINE GROVE SCHOOL**  
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[www.dsbnet.edu.on.ca/schools/pinegrove](http://www.dsbnet.edu.on.ca/schools/pinegrove)



## Newsletter

December 2009

### A MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH



We have had a fantastic first term at Pine Grove this year. Both the staff and students have worked hard in achieving positive results in academics, sports, music, drama and character education.

December is a short month with a lot of exciting activities at Pine Grove. On behalf of the staff, students and community, we wish you all the best in the holiday season! School resumes on Monday, January 4, 2010.

### PRIMARY CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

The children in grades JK to Grade 3 have been busy preparing for our Christmas presentation on **Wednesday, December 9th**. They will be presenting "**December In Our Town**" in the gym at 2:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The play will last for about one hour. Please remember to make a note on your calendar to attend our Christmas activity. The children are really excited about sharing their many talents with you!!



**Donations of non-perishable food items** will be gladly accepted at the door and given to Community Care to help others less fortunate at this special time of year.

### CHARACTER TRAIT FOR DECEMBER

**HONESTY** is our Character Education Trait for December. Whether at home, school or on the playground, an honest person always does his or her best to tell the truth. An honest person knows that not telling the truth is wrong and can hurt a friend's feelings. Truthful words and truthful actions are important parts of honesty.

Mrs. Dyck's class will be hosting our Student Recognition Assembly on **Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.** in the gym.

### STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER

November's trait was **INTEGRITY**.

The following students have been selected as our Students of the Month for November for their classes:



Mrs. Nowell - Ava, Manara, Sydney

Mrs. Dyck - Kieran, Maya

Mrs. Shepard - Jayden, Connor, Samantha, Katelyn

Ms. Delahunt - Quinton, Alyssa, Taia, Emma

Mrs. McConnell - Ethan, Niya

Mrs. Meleskie - Karan, Andrew, Cameron, Anna

Ms. Whitesell - Sam, Jack, Tracy, Hannah

Ms. Kond - Lauren, Tyrell, Cailen

Mr. Leighton - Noah, Jillian, Alanna

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

As indicated on the DSBN school year calendar, **Friday December 4<sup>th</sup>** is a half-day Professional Activity Day for the afternoon only. Regular classes will be held in the morning with a dismissal time of 11:55 a.m. There will be no 11:15 a.m. bus for our JK/SK students on this day.

## REPORT CARDS/STUDENT LED CONFERENCES



Term 1 report cards will be coming home with students on **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. **Student Led Conferences** will be held on **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and on **Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Conference confirmation notices will be included in your child's report card. If you are unable to make the scheduled time, please contact your child's teacher to make alternate arrangements.

**Please remember to bring your child with you for your conference time.**

## "SCROOGE"



On **December 15<sup>th</sup>** in the morning, students in Grades 1 to 6, along with parent volunteers, will be travelling by bus to Niagara Falls to enjoy the Silvermist production of "Scrooge" at The Niagara Centre for the Performing Arts, featuring nine of our own students performing in the choir. We look forward to seeing Hannah H., Dahabo, Emily L., Halle, Alexis, Cailen, Aryezon and Matt B. on stage proudly representing Pine Grove School. Thank you to Mrs. Nowell for practicing with these students to prepare them for the show.

## PIZZA LUNCHES

Thank you to our parents who helped count and record our pizza orders for November's pizza days, as well as coming in on Fridays and handing out the pizza and milk to the children.



Mrs. Smith will be providing two free pizza lunches to all students in Grades 1 to 5 on

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** and **December 18<sup>th</sup>** as a thank you to all parents who continue to support this fundraising initiative.

Each student will receive two pieces of pizza. Milk will be for sale on both pizza days at a cost of .75. Monies raised so far this year have purchased the fruit kabobs for each student for Playday, paid for our Grades 3 to 6 to see Eric Walters at Sheridan Park School and will be subsidizing the costs for our Grades 1 to 6 students to see "Scrooge" on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## HOMEWORK REQUESTS FOR ABSENT CHILDREN

When your child is absent from school, we are more than happy to collect their homework should you wish to pick it up. However, we ask that you request your child's homework when you call in his/her absence in the morning. The office needs to get the request to the child's homeroom teacher before the 8:45 a.m. bell. Please keep in mind that our teachers are in the classroom all day and it is very difficult for them to gather homework with short notice. We are able to meet these requests more effectively when given sufficient time. All requested homework can be picked up at the office at 3:15 p.m.



In the event that you do plan a family vacation during the school calendar year, please do not expect your child's teacher to provide detailed homework assignments. Parents are encouraged to plan activities such as daily journals, travel logs and reading activities.

## EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING



It's that time again when we have to think about snow and plan for the possibility of school closures. It's better to have plans in place and be prepared. Here are some very important things to remember...

- ✓ Listen to the radio stations for information concerning the District School Board of Niagara closing and reopening:

CHCH TV Hamilton  
105.7 FM St. Catharines  
610 AM St. Catharines  
1120 AM St. Catharines

- ✓ Follow the **In Case of Emergency** link on the school website for up to date information
- ✓ Make an emergency plan with your children to ensure a common understanding for arrangements in the event that schools close early
- ✓ Please do not call the school for information nor expect your child to call home. All our phone lines will be necessary as we will not dismiss a student until we have contacted either parents or an emergency contact.

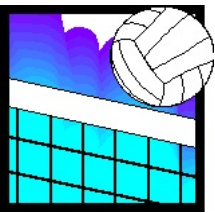
Please remember that there may be times when the District School Board of Niagara cancels transportation. Unless you hear otherwise, schools will remain open when transportation is not available.

Please advise Ms. Boyle of any address or telephone changes as soon as possible so she can update your children's information.

In regards to sending your children to school during severe weather conditions, the final decision is yours!

### PINE GROVE VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

#### Girls



The junior girls volleyball team had a really fun season! The girls worked hard at developing their volleyball skills and playing as a team. They displayed great sportsmanship and were great representatives of Pine Grove at all

of their games. Mrs. Shepard and Mrs. McConnell are very proud of the team for their great attitude and hard work!

Well done: Jane, Nicole, Ajah, Mackenzie, Celina, Cailen, Areyzon, Kate, Emily, Isabel, Hannah, Jillian, and Leanna!

#### Boys

The Junior Boys Volleyball Team had an amazing season! With such a "young" squad, they surprised many of their opponents (and even their coach!) by winning the League Title with the best season record. They beat Meadowvale in the Semi Final and came up just a little short in the Championship game to Parnall. Mr. Leighton was immensely proud of

their commitment, dedication and sportsmanship throughout the season. He'd like to thank the Practice Squad members who gave up their recess time to help with the drills: Jordan, Ryan, Josh and Matt. Also to Hailey and Emma who volunteered their time with score keeping at all the home games of both boys and girls. The future of volleyball at Pine Grove looks very bright indeed!

Team Members: Matt, Austin, Matt, Malcolm, Tyrell, Jared, Ronan, Harry, Warsame, Sam, Sean Daniel, Colin and Jake.

### CHANGES IN THE WEATHER

Please make sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the upcoming weather changes...boots, warm jackets, hats, mittens/gloves, snow pants, etc.



### MACDONALD CUP VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

On Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Grade 6 Class will be continuing on a tradition that started 4 years ago. We will be hosting a Charity Volleyball Tournament - "The Macdonald Cup". Four years ago, the class raised money for a Korean War Veteran to go back to Korea, the place where he served our country. This year's class wants to "keep it going". We have invited 4 other teams from our community to participate in a fun, sportsmanship-filled day. All money raised will be donated to the Korean Veterans Association. Feel free to drop in and cheer our team on!

### GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Our School Council will graciously be donating gingerbread men and houses for our students to decorate on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 p.m.

Our children in grades JK - 1 will be decorating men and our older students in grades 2 - 6 will be decorating houses. Each child is responsible for bringing in his/her own candies for decorating. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PINE GROVE IS A PEANUT/NUT SAFE SCHOOL. Please make sure that whatever your child brings in is peanut/nut safe.



## LOST AND FOUND ITEMS



Our lost and found bin is overflowing! Please encourage your child to check the bin for any lost items. Parents are invited to come in and check for any lost items too!! These items will be

donated to a local charity prior to the Christmas break.

## PINE GROVE SCHOOL NIGHT AT THE ICEDOGS!



Bring your family and friends to see the Ice Dogs take on the Kitchener Rangers on **January 14<sup>th</sup>** at **7:30 p.m.** at the Gatorade Garden City Complex!

You are also invited to participate in the Pine Grove Public School Family Skate taking place from 5:30 to 6:20 p.m. before the game. More details about this great family night to follow shortly.

## PARENTING TIPS

- offered by Leanne Hasenack DSBN Youth Counsellor

The "Anger Rules" that I encourage at school are: It's okay to be angry but - don't hurt others, don't hurt yourself, don't hurt property - **DO TALK ABOUT IT.**

Remember that anger is usually a second emotion to cover up other feelings like pain/hurt feelings, disappointment, embarrassment or frustration.

## **WHAT CAN ADULTS DO WHEN A CHILD IS ANGRY?**

1. Don't retaliate
2. Model the behaviour you want a child to learn.
3. Let the child know you understand how they are feeling. Validate their reality.
4. Leave explaining another point of view until the anger has been expressed.
5. Ask what they would like to do to improve things.
6. Acknowledge what they say. Reaffirm the feelings and help look at options.
7. Forcing a child into apologizing when they don't feel sorry may be forcing them to bury their anger and be teaching them to be hypocritical.

## **IF TWO CHILDREN ARE ANGRY WITH EACH OTHER:**

1. Reflect what you see happening.
2. Separate the children if need be for safety's sake.
3. Give them both a way of venting their anger.
4. Find out what they each need.
5. Find out what they are concerned about.
6. Ask for some solutions and be prepared to offer some.

## **KEY CONCEPTS:**

- \* Children learn how to behave from adult models.
  - \* Children learn more from what adults DO then what they say.
  - \* Good listening helps to dissipate anger and increase a child's self esteem.
  - \* Anger is often a "mask" to cover up another feeling.
- May your time spent with your child(ren) this holiday season be filled with warm, happy and meaningful moments.

## IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER

- 1 Joy Day - PM
- 2 First Term Report cards go home
- 3 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. - Student Led Conferences
- 4 Afternoon P.A. Day - early dismissal at 11:55 a.m.  
Student Led Conferences - 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.
- 8 Primary Christmas Concert dress rehearsal - PM
- 9 Primary Christmas Concert "December In Our Town" - performances at 2:15 and 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Gingerbread Houses - 2:30 p.m.
- 11 MacDonal Cup Volleyball Tournament  
Free Pizza Lunch for Grades 1 - 5
- 15 Grades 1 - 6 to see "Scrooge" - AM
- 16 Student Recognition Assembly - 2:30 p.m.
- 17 Wetlands Presentation for Grades 3 - 6
- 18 Last day of school before Christmas holidays  
Carol sing - all parents are welcome to join us  
Free Pizza Lunch for Grades 1 - 6
- 21 - Jan. 1 Christmas Vacation

**School begins again on  
Monday, January 4, 2010**