



Pine Grove Public School
 690 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 4J5
 905-935-1901
www.dsbn.org/Schools/PineGrove



DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH

We have had a fantastic first three months at Pine Grove so far 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 busy 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! The last day of school before the winter break is Friday, December 23rd. School resumes on Monday, January 9, 2012.



STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR NOVEMBER

November's character education trait was INTEGRITY. The following students were chosen for the month of November:

TEACHER	ACADEMIC	EFFORT	GREAT WORK	CHARACTER TRAIT
Miss MacKenzie	Wolfgang	Khaled	Omar	Janae
Mrs. Dyck	Ayden	Brogan	Fabia	Braedon
Mrs. Shepard	Emma	Rebecca	Anson	Gwen
Miss Palcso	Kaitlin	Jayden	Max	Ava
Mrs. McConnell	Emma	Morgan	Miss Noble	Kieran
Mrs. Delahunt	Abby	Cecilia	Stephie	Joseph
Mrs. Meleskie	Emma	Jaeden	Jazlyn	Aidan
Ms. Whitesell	Payton	Amy	Parham	Ryan
Ms. Kond	Niya	Cydney	Nick	Riley
Mr. Leighton	Tracy	Alex	Samantha	Josh

The Character Education Trait for December is HONESTY. Honesty means being a sincere, truthful and trustworthy person who accepts responsibility for their own actions and doesn't blame others. You are being honest when you tell a friend the truth, keep a friend's secret or admit you made a mistake,

Mrs. Meleskie's class will be hosting our December Student Recognition Assembly on Friday, December 23rd at 9:00 a.m. in the gym. All parents are welcome to attend.



DECEMBER FAMILY NIGHT

Our "December Family Night" will be held on Tuesday, December 20th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. We will be having an open house where we will celebrate different holiday traditions throughout our school and enjoy presentations in the gym. We look forward to you and your family spending the evening with our Pine Grove family.



"ANNIE" PERFORMANCE TIME CHANGE

There has been a TIME CHANGE for our trip to see the performance of "Annie". We will now be attending the 9:30 a.m. performance rather than the 12:30 p.m. performance. All students and parent volunteers must be at school by 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14th to give us time to take attendance and get organized to board the buses promptly by 8:45 a.m. Students will return to the school by approximately 12:15 p.m.

PIC POINSETTIA SALES

Just a reminder that Poinsettia orders will be ready for pick up the week of December 12th. Information will come home with the actual delivery date soon. Thank you to everyone who took part in our First Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser. What a great way to get into the holiday spirit."



Have questions or comments about what the Parent Involvement Committee is about? Contact us at pgschoolcouncil@gmail.com or come check out a meeting. Our next meeting is on **Monday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Pine Grove staff room. All parents are always welcome.



GINGERBREAD HOUSES



Our Pine Grove PIC will graciously be donating gingerbread men and houses for our students to decorate on **Wednesday, December 21st 1:35 p.m.** Our children in junior and senior kindergarten will be decorating men and our older students in grades 1 to 6 will be decorating houses.

at Miss MacKenzie and Mrs. Dyck's morning classes will be decorating their gingerbread men starting 9:15 a.m.

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.

We are still in need of parent volunteers to help with baking gingerbread pieces and "whipping" up some icing. More information will be coming home shortly. Please let us know if you are able to help out by letting your child's teacher know or contacting PIC directly at pgschoolcouncil@gmail.com. Don't miss out on this fun annual event with your child.



PINE GROVE AMBASSADORS

In October, two students from each class in grades 1 to 6 were chosen to be their class "Ambassador". Miss Mazachowsky and Mrs. Halfyard have been working with the group each week. The purpose of the Ambassadors is to promote school spirit, foster leadership skills in each of the students, broaden their ideas of volunteering and public service, and to act as a liaison between our group and their class. The Ambassadors are asked to share with their class after each meeting to let the class know what we have been discussing and working on. The month of December will be a very busy month. The Ambassadors have chosen to do a number of fundraising challenges. They have chosen the following organizations to support- Wells of Hope, Community Care, and The Humane Society. Please check the December calendar to see how you and your family can support our fundraising efforts. Thanks for all your support! Ambassador members are, Sydney, Coen, Olivia, Matthew, Emma M., Will, Joyce, Shadab, Emma J., Riley, Tracey, and Sam, Miss Mazachowsky, Mrs. Halfyard



ILLNESS AT SCHOOL



To prevent the spread of germs, we encourage all children to wash their hands frequently during the school day. If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please do not send him/her to school. Normally, we call home to parents regarding an illness if a child has a fever or is throwing up. Here are some helpful guidelines to consider when deciding whether to send your child to school. It is advisable to keep your child at home if.....

- ✓ he/she has been up during the night due to illness and, as a result, has not had adequate sleep
- ✓ your child has had a fever or was throwing up the night before
- ✓ he/she has gone home from school the day before with a fever or other illness
- ✓ he/she has an unidentified rash not yet seen by a physician
- ✓ your child may pass on an illness or virus to another classmate or staff member
- ✓ your child is unable to participate in the regular activities of the day such as physical education, regular classroom assignments or outdoor recess
- ✓ your child has an untreated case of head lice or has nits remaining in his/her hair



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

Please make sure you have an emergency plan in place, that your child is aware of, should it be necessary to close the schools for inclement weather. Here are some very important things to remember...

Listen to local radio stations for information concerning the District School Board of Niagara school closings:

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



- follow the **In Case of Emergency** link on the Pine Grove School website for up to date information.
- make an Emergency Action 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 a parent or an emergency contact.
- please remember that there may be times when the DSBN cancels transportation only to schools. Unless you hear otherwise, schools will remain open when transportation is not available to students living in bussed areas.

The final decision as to whether or not to send your children to school during severe weather conditions is ultimately yours! However, if you do choose to keep your children at home, please remember to call the school and let us know; our answering machine is on 24/7.

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.



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.



PIZZA LUNCHES

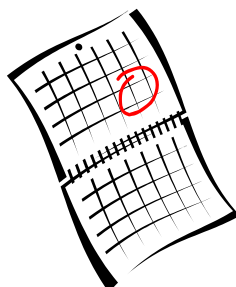
Thank you to all the parents who come in to help us with our pizza days.

Pizza days in December will be **December 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd**. A pizza order form for December and January was sent home at the end of November. If you missed it, there is one available on the school website or stop in at the office to pick up another.



HOT LUNCHES

Our Pine Grove PIC is offering hot lunches every Wednesday in December beginning **Wednesday, December 7th**. Order forms for December were sent home with students in Grades 1 to 6 the last week of November. Order forms are also available on the school website. **Parents, please make sure that you mark down the dates your child is getting a hot lunch on your December school calendar and let your child know.**



STOCKING STUFFERS

What a great time for a school supply stocking! These items can be purchased at the Dollar Store. The stocking can be filled with essentials: pens, pencils, erasers, glue sticks, protractors and calculator. Remember to label items in case they are lost.



VOLLEYBALL UPDATE

Congratulations to our boys' and girls' volleyball teams for another great season! Both teams are currently in the playoffs. We are so proud of the sportsmanship and enthusiasm demonstrated by both teams. A big thank you to the parents for driving our teams to their away games and for coming out to support our teams. Thank you as well to our hard working coaches, Miss Frenette, Mrs. McConnell and Mr. Leighton and Mr. Malyk.



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.



PINE GROVE WEBSITE

Just a reminder to check out our school website on a regular basis. We are continually upgrading it, posting hot lunch and pizza forms, sports schedules, our monthly calendar, as well as classroom links.

Have a look at www.dsb.org/Schools/Pinegrove.



PINE GROVE SCHOOL NIGHT AT THE ICE DOGS!



Bring your family and friends to see the Ice Dogs on Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 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 5:00 to 5:50 p.m. before the game. More details about this great family night to follow in January.



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 than 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.



FROM THE NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary?

Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- ✓ Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day
- ✓ Encourage children and youth to play outdoors
- ✓ Play outside with your children:
- ✓ Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing
- ✓ Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide
- ✓ Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects



For more information go to www.activehealthykids.ca or www.participaction.com

WOODEND NEWSLETTER



The New Woodend Website!

The Living Campus has a new website. To find out what's happening at Woodend The Living Campus and to Donate visit us at: www.DSBN.org/Woodend

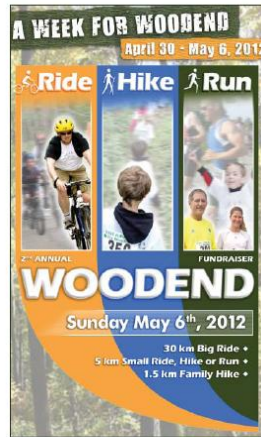


DSBN-ETFO Trivia Night!

ETFO Niagara is hosting a Trivia Night on February 10th with all proceeds going to The Living Campus. So, grab a team of 10, start honing your Trivia skills and join us for a night of fun and fundraising for The Living Campus! For more information visit DSBN.org/Woodend and click on the "Events" button.



A Week for Woodend... Come On Out and RIDE, HIKE or RUN!



Help us celebrate The Living Campus by participating in the *Week for Woodend* from April 30 - May 6, 2012. During this exciting week schools will be involved in fundraising activities to help raise awareness and funds for The Living Campus. The week will end with the 2nd Annual DSBN Ride-Hike-Run for Woodend on May 6th. **Online Registration Opens on January 12 at DSBN.org/Woodend.** More details to come. We hope to see everyone there!



Thank You TV Cogeco For Generously Supporting The Living Campus!

TV Cogeco was at the Living Campus last week to present DSBN Director Warren Hoshizaki, Chair of the Board Kevin Maves and Vice-Chair Dale Robinson with a cheque to help support the creation of The Living Campus. Thanks to support from our community partners The Living Campus will *Bring Learning to Life* for our students and community.

Welcome John McCall MacBain

A Huge Thank-you and welcome to the McCall MacBain Foundation, the newest members of The Living Campus' Founder's Club! Through their generous support we are one step closer to providing a new and innovative Outdoor, Environmental Education Centre for our students and community - a *real Living Campus!*



Support Us with Your Purchases!

Metafore and Acer have partnered with the DSBN to help us reach our fundraising goals! A portion of each Laptop or Tablet you purchase will go directly to The Living Campus, helping create a place for generations of students to come. Click the "Donate" button on DSBN.org/Woodend for more information and access to [metafore](http://metafore.com) Metafore's website.



By supporting Woodend - The Living Campus you are providing children with a place that *Brings Learning to Life* by engaging them in hands-on learning and discovery through play. To find out how you can support the children of Niagara visit us on our website, on Facebook and our blog: