

THE PUMA PINNACLE

Pine Grove Public School
690 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 4J5
905-935-1901

www.dsbnschools.org/Schools/PineGrove



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

FROM MR. GLAUSER'S DESK

We have had a fantastic first three months at Pine Grove so far this year. While the school continues to grow, I have been impressed with how the students have settled into their routines and are working hard to achieve all of their personal goals.

Our Pine Grove gym has been bustling with activity this fall with both our Junior and Intermediate Volleyball teams doing exceptionally well. Thanks to Mr. Leighton, Miss Clarke, Mrs. Doiron, Ms. Buck and parent/coach Mrs. Purnell for their coaching efforts and congratulations to all the players. Our Intermediate Boys' Volleyball Team were just crowned DSBN Champs this past week. Way to go Pumas !

A friendly reminder that school starts at 8:40 a.m. With the winter weather approaching there may be days when students are arriving late to school. If your child is late, or has an appointment, they are to report to the office and we will make sure that they get to their classes safely. If you have an appointment with a teacher, or are volunteering in the school, please stop by the office and sign in. After signing in, please make sure you are wearing a visitor badge. Thanks in advance for your cooperation with our safe school routine.

Also, please be aware that Simpson Rd., behind the school is not a designated drop off area for students. It is not monitored, and I have received some complaints from neighbours and parents that this is at times an unsafe area, with parents u-turning on the street, and at times on properties along the street. Thanks for your cooperation in using our kiss and ride area and keeping our students safe.

On behalf of the staff and students, we wish you all the best in the holiday season! We are looking forward to a great 2018 here at Pine Grove.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER

TEACHER	INDIVIDUAL AWARD	LEARNER AWARD	COMMUNITY AWARD
Mrs. Halfyard	Ty D-G	Caleb M.	Brad H.
Ms. Delahunt	Cameron R.	Isabella G.	Isla C.
Ms. Quiquero	Kennedy B.	Sophie X.	Emily F.
Ms. Dowds	Radley G.	Callan N.	-----
Mrs. Meleskie	Roan H.	Lucy P.	-----
Mrs. Snider	Tina W.	Alex G.	Dhyan P.
Mrs. Whitesell	Cayden S.	Aydan Rose M.	Josh O.
Ms. Clarke	Emir E.	Josh H.	Gwen A.
Ms. Kond	Liz M.	Belal H./Qasim H.	Shyann C.
Mr. Leighton	Anna H./Rhylenn P.	Casey C.	
Ms. Convery	Sydney R.	Maya J.	Jordan S.
Mrs. Mazzuca	Aaron E.	Pauline R.	Jazlyn S.
Mrs. Crane	-----	-----	-----
Ms. Snider	Sera L.	Mahum J.	Panut O.
Mrs. Penlington	Lucy L.	Chance L.	Ellie F.



CARING is our Character Education Trait for December. A caring person is someone who shows kindness, compassion, and friendship towards others; someone who forgives others and is always ready to help people in need.

**Winter Break begins Monday, December 25th and runs until Friday, January 5th, 2018.
School starts again on Monday, January 8th, 2018 at 8:40 a.m.**

POINSETTIA SALES

Just a reminder that poinsettia orders will be ready for pick up after school on **Friday, December 1**. Thank you to everyone who took part in our Sixth Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser. What a great way to get into the holiday spirit!



HOLIDAY CONCERTS

On **Tuesday, December 19th**, at 1:30 and 6:30, students in Grades 1-3 will be presenting the Christmas musical "Jingle All the Way". Friends and families are welcome to attend. We encourage those who can attend the afternoon performance to do so as seating for the evening performance will be at a premium. Doors will open at 6:00 and students are asked to go to their home room at that time. It is important for students to be at the school at 6:00 so that we can get them organized. Students who are actors will be provided with a costume that will be kept at school (They will be notified individually). Those who are in the chorus are asked to wear red and green and festive headwear (antlers, Santa hats, etc.). We expect that all primary students will be performing in the evening show. A note will go home to confirm your child's attendance at the evening performance. We are looking forward to a fantastic show.



The Primary Division

SPIRIT DAYS

Dec. 8 – Joy Day/Red & Green Day
Dec 20th – Crazy Christmas Sweater/Mix It Up
Dec 22rd – Pajama Day



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Our Pine Grove School Council is planning a Holiday Luncheon for Wednesday, December 20. It will be served during the 2nd nutrition break to all students who order it. The cost to students is \$5 & is available on School Cash Online. The balance of any additional costs will be covered by school council. The meal will include turkey (with or without gravy) mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and a roll. The Holiday Luncheon will be catered by Antipastos. This is also wear your Crazy Christmas Sweater or Mix It Up Day!!

RAFIKI

The Me to We Club will be selling Rafiki bracelets to raise money to build a school in a Third World Country. Rafikis are bracelets that are handmade by women in impoverished nations as a form of income. In Swahili, the word for friend is *rafiki*. We have holiday rafikis as well as rafikis with empowering messages. They sell for \$10 and make great gifts and stocking stuffers!



Ebooks and Audiobooks on DSBN Destiny

This Winter there is no need to head out into the cold weather to find a good book, students can access our entire DSBN digital library collection from home! Simply go to <http://destiny.dsbnet.edu.on.ca/> and find Pine Grove Public School. The students should then login to the Destiny page using their school username and password, click on catalog and then Follett Shelf. Once here, have fun browsing the DSBN collection of Ebooks and Audiobooks! Don't forget to take advantage of Bookflix as well using the username: DSBNIAG and password: dsbn3401.

Chess Club

Chess Club will be kicking off in December to prepare for the big DSBN tournament at the end of March! Practices will take place before and after school as well as during some breaks. Chess Club is open to students in grades 3-8.

Hour of Code

During the week of December 4th to the 8th Pine Grove and many other schools in the DSBN will be participating in Hour of Code where each class will take turns coding for one hour during that week.

What is coding?

Coding is what makes it possible for us to create computer software, apps and websites. An internet browser, the apps on your phone, Facebook, and any website – they're all made with code.

Why is it important?

Developing computational skills is important for modern learning. Coding calls for problem-solving, Creativity, visual-spatial skills and communication. By nurturing these skills, we will grow more confident, competent students.

Ask your son or daughter to show you one of the neat coding websites they explored after that week. Mrs Dowds, Miss MacCrimmon and Ms Q also look forward to kicking off Coding Club with students from grades 2-8 during select Fitness and Nutrition Breaks at this point.

Book Clubs & Forest of Reading

We look forward to kicking off our Blue Spruce, Silver Birch and Red Maple book clubs in December. Red Maple and Silver Birch members meet once every cycle to read books that have been selected to win a Canadian award. Towards the end of Spring, those students who have read 5 books and voted on their favourite are invited to a conference. Silver Birch Club is open to students in grades 5-6 and Red Maple is open to students in grades 7 and 8. Blue Spruce books are read during class time in the Learning Commons for all primary aged students. Miss MacCrimmon and Mrs Brooks



MCDONALD CUP VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



The tradition continues! The Grade 6 class will be hosting a Charity Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament - **"THE MACDONALD CUP"**. Twelve years ago, the class hosted it to raise money to send a Veteran back to Korea for some closure to an emotional time of his life. Sadly, Mr. Macdonald passed away 2 years ago. His wife, June, will be on hand to present the Cup to the winning team. We will honour him that day and for years to come by continuing to raise awareness and funds for our local veterans. The money raised this year will be donated to the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry.

Candy Can Fundraiser – Spirit of Giving

The Pine Grove *Me to We* club will be organizing the 2017 Candy Cane Fundraiser. Since the club is focusing on random acts of kindness, this year your candy cane purchase will be double the fun! Candy canes will be priced at 2 for \$1.00. When you purchase your 2 candy canes, one candy cane will be given to a person who you name on your order sheet and the second one will be given to another member of the Pine Grove Community, randomly selected by the *Me to We* club. All money raised will go to support the *Me to We* "Build a School" campaign. The *Me to We* club will be visiting each classroom in order to explain the details of this exciting campaign before order forms go home. Order forms will be sent home on Monday, December 4th & orders will be accepted until Monday, December 11th. Deliveries will occur the week of December 18th.

Please ensure to do the following:

- Enclose the order form and money in an envelope/Ziploc bag
- Place a separate order form for each sibling
- Enclose the exact change (any extra will be considered a donation)

Please return the form with your payment.

Orders will be accepted until Monday, December 11th. No late orders will be accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms C. MacCrimmon or Mrs. J. Mazzuca.

Thank you, in advance, for your support.



COMMUNICATION

Pine Grove can be a busy place at times with many activities and opportunities for our students. In order to make sure nothing is missed, we just want to make sure everyone is aware that **most of our communication is now done on-line**. For current events, our school calendar and newsletter are posted every month on the school website. As a reminder, we are going to send an email indicating when these have been posted.

For school trips, lunches, permission forms, fundraisers, etc. DSBN schools are all moving towards using "Cash On-Line." If you have not yet signed up for "School Cash On-Line" it is important that you do so ASAP. One of the nice features of School Cash On-Line is the option for an email reminder to be sent to you every time something new is posted. We recommend that everyone checks this option so that nothing is missed. You can access this through your Smartphone, Tablet, or home computer. Our goal is to have 100 percent of our families signed up. If these options are not available for you, please contact the office so that alternative arrangements can be made.

The majority of events will be communicated through School Cash On-Line and on our website. However, we still want to ensure all of our Pine Grove parents are aware and up-to-date on all events that are constantly happening in the school on a timely basis. Therefore, information is also posted on the school sign by the entrance of the school, our Facebook page, Twitter, and through individual classroom devices such as D2L, Remind app, and/or student agendas. At times, we also use a program called Synervoice to send you a voicemail to your home phone. If you have any questions/concerns about communication at Pine Grove, please contact the office.

Important Links:

Website: pinegrove.dsbm.org

School Cash On-Line: www.dsbm.org/schoolcash

Twitter: @PineGrovePS

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Pine-Grove-Public-School



Intermediate Boys Volleyball

On November 23, in the bustling metropolis of Welland, the Intermediate Boys Volleyball team played their Gold Medal match against Quaker Road. The boys really came together and played as a team and supported one another when the pressure was on. Leading the team with amazing sets and serving was Captain Adigun, who, along with John, played their final game as a Puma. Owen Cooper saved his "best for last" and lead the team in serving.

Mr. Leighton was very proud of the boys and we all enjoyed a victory team party at Boston Pizza after the game. Let's do it again next year boys! Go Pumas!

Junior Boys Volleyball

The Junior Boys Volleyball team played a Marathon Match at Lockview. It went 5 sets and lasted well over an hour. The boys went in the 4th seed while Lockview was number one and the favourite. There were so many amazing rallies and great serving. All of the boys gave it their all and came up just short in the fifth and final set, losing 26-24. So close!

The coaches are so proud of the boys for their commitment to improving over the weeks and the sportsmanship they showed. Just wait till next year, boys! Mr. Leighton says to sign up for Spikes Program and Beach volleyball in the spring! Well done Pumas!



LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Please encourage your child to check the lost and found 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 before the winter break.



SNOW SAFETY



At Pine Grove School, students are aware that snow must be enjoyed in a safe manner. Snowballs and/or ice may not be thrown at any time. Children may not slide on the ice. All snow forts and snow people are community structures and must be inclusive. Students are also aware that what we build at Pine Grove; we don't destroy. Snow forts and structures must be respected.

The children are not allowed to throw snow on school property. Snow throwing jeopardizes the safety of other students and announcements will be made often throughout the season about snowball throwing.

We take this rule very seriously and every student has been made aware of it. Any snow throwing will be regarded as deliberate defiance. Consequences for the first offence will be a loss of recess privileges and a note or phone call home. Repeat occurrences will result in a school suspension. Tough measures are warranted when the safety of all school members is at stake.



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 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



INFORMATION ABOUT COLD WEATHER ALERTS AT DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities. Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region (www.niagararegion.ca) are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.
- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots are a must to keep their feet warm and dry in the snow.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.
- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website www.dsb.org, or contact your school principal.





Pine Grove YMCA Child Care

- High-quality care for children 3.8 years to 12 years in a safe, stimulating environment
- Fully licensed centre with qualified, caring staff
- Stimulating learning experiences to enhance your child’s social, intellectual, physical and emotional development
- Programs based on the YMCA values of caring, honesty, responsibility, respect, inclusiveness and health
- Open Monday to Friday, 7:00 to 9am- 3:00 to 6:00 pm, except statutory holidays
- Competitive rates and Regional fee subsidy available to eligible families

Phone #: 905 934 9091

Email: pg-mjb@ymcaofniagara.ca

To be placed on the waiting list, go to:

www.niagararegion.ca/childcare

For more information on YMCA Child Care, go to:

www.ymacofniagara.org



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...

Websites:

www.dsbn.org
www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:

DSBN Facebook or Twitter

Phone:

Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines
WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton
CHML (900 AM) Hamilton
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton
Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines
CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines
CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie
K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland



- 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.



Kindergarten Open House

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

DURING YOUR VISIT YOU WILL:

See a
Kindergarten
classroom

Meet the
Kindergarten
Team

Register for
school

Get a fun
goodie bag
with learning
resources



★ KINDERGARTEN ★
KICKSTART

Thursday, February 1, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Is DSBN Academy a good fit for your child?

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6 to Grade 12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university.

The faculty and student body are committed to excellence and the belief that, with hard work, they can achieve their dreams. Come learn how our unique program prepares students to succeed at college and university and how your child can benefit from the opportunities offered at DSBN Academy. All families are invited to attend a parent information session in your community. Please see below for dates, times and locations.

Parent Information Sessions

January 15, 2018	<u>Harriet Tubman, St. Catharines</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 16, 2018	<u>Diamond Trail, Welland</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 18, 2018	<u>Valley Way, Niagara Falls</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 23, 2018	<u>Dewitt Carter, Port Colborne</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 25, 2018	<u>Senator Gibson, Beamsville</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 30, 2018	<u>Peace Bridge, Fort Erie</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
February 6, 2018	Open House at DSBN Academy	6:30 - 8:00pm

Admission Requirements

DSBN Academy recruits and enrolls students from all 12 municipalities within the Niagara Region. Eligible applicants must meet the following requirements, both at the time of application as well as at enrollment:

- Student must be entering Grades 6, 7 or 8 in September.
- Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university program. If a sibling of the student has attended a post-secondary institution but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a First Generation Student.
- Student must be achieving current grade level expectations or just below.
- Student has demonstrated the potential for achieving "good" or "excellent" learning skills, particularly initiative, independent work and responsibility.
- Student must be willing to attend a school location that may be out of his/her community.
- Student understands that there is a mandatory after-school program which includes enrichment opportunities and academic supports.
- Families must understand that it is a single track pathway beginning in grade 9 (Academic Level Only).
- Families understand that there is a parent engagement requirement of 15 hours each year.
- Applicants must submit a **completed** application to their current school by February 9, 2018