



Pine Grove Public School

690 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 4J5

(905)935-1901

www.dsbni.edu.on.ca/schools/pinegrove



FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM MRS. SMITH'S DESK.....

FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH

Kindergarten Countdown

5 Visit www.dsbni.edu.on.ca or call 905-641-1550

4 Go to February Open House

3 Register at school

2 Attend Kindergarten Orientation

1 Get ready for first day

Blast off to school!



February is Kindergarten registration month. If you have a child who will be 4 years of age by December 31, 2010, he/she will be eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten beginning in September 2010. If you have a child who will be 5 years of age by December 31, 2010, and has not attended Junior Kindergarten, he/she will need to be registered for Senior Kindergarten.

It is not necessary to register children who are currently in Junior Kindergarten at Pine Grove Public School and who will be attending Senior Kindergarten in September 2010. These children will automatically be added to our Senior Kindergarten lists for September. Our classes at Pine Grove are blended JK/SK classes.



If you know any families who are new to our area or have younger children, please help us out by passing this information along to them. Please note that

copies of proof of age by Birth Certificate, your child's Immunization Card and Health Card are required for registration.



Junior Kindergarten Open House will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2010

Ms. Delahunt- Michael, Ryan, Emma & Emily



Congratulations go out to the students who were chosen by their teachers for the month of January. The students were excellent role models for their peers on our Character Education trait, Compassion.

Mrs. Meleskie - Samia, Taylor, Warren, Raymond

Ms. Whitesell - Angelica, James, Jared, Emily, Hannah

Ms. Kond - Lauren, Jessica, Sean, Daniel

Mrs. Nowell - Lily, Jocelyn

Mr. Leighton - Austin, Evan, Nadine, Robyn

Mrs. Dyck - Faith, Kira, Abby

Mrs. McConnell - Isaiah, Alex

Mrs. Meleskie's class will be hosting February's Student Recognition Assembly on Thursday, February 25th at 9:00 a.m. Please mark this date on your calendar!!!

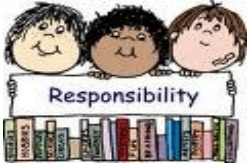
Mrs. Shepard - Madyson, Katharina, James

DANCE-A-THON

Wednesday, February 10th, we will be holding our annual Red, White & Pink Dance-a-thon. Hopefully everyone is getting lots of pledges. It will be a great activity to come out and watch some staff and students "boogie" to the tunes and at the same time, help raise some extra money for our school.



CHARACTER TRAIT FOR FEBRUARY



Our trait for February will be **RESPONSIBILITY**. A responsible person knows that he or she has many jobs to do and often others are counting on him or her to get the job done. When you try your best and work hard to do what you are supposed to do, you show responsibility.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Pine Grove School Council? If so, plan on attending our get together at Boston Pizza on Ontario Street on **Monday, March 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**



PIZZA LUNCHES



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

Pizza days in **February will be the 5th, 19th and 26th**. If you are available to help us with our lunches, please make sure to complete the section on your child's order form. We thank you for your continued support with our pizza lunches.

PINE GROVE BABYSITTERS

We have some Grade 6 students who have successfully completed a babysitting course. These students are available for babysitting services for your convenience. Please contact Mrs. Smith for further information.

EARLY RELEASE DAY & FAMILY DAY

Friday, February 12th is an Early Release Day with the District School Board of Niagara. Students will be dismissed at 11:55 a.m. for the day. There will be no afternoon JK/SK class with Mrs. Dyck.

As well, there will be no classes for students or teachers on Monday, February 15th due to Family Day. This is provincial statutory holiday.

MEDICALERT'S "NO CHILD WITHOUT" PROGRAM

The "No Child Without" program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 and their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership:

- give emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the 24 Hour Emergency Hotline
- communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the Hotline
- allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information, visit www.nochildwithout.ca.

If your child is already part of the No Child Without program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, please call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220, Ext 1.

SPEECHES

Our Junior Speech Competition will be taking place on Monday, February 8th at 9:00 a.m. in the gym.

MAD SCIENCE



Mad Science is coming to Pine Grove School! Their mission is to spark the imagination and curiosity of children by providing them with fun, entertaining and exciting activities that instill a clear understanding of what science is really all about and how it affects the world around them.

A kick-off assembly will be held on Monday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m. The Mad Science Club will be held on Thursdays during the second nutrition/fitness break on March 25, April 8, 15, 22, 29 and May 6th.

Look for further information coming home after the kick-off assembly.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The playground equipment will continue to be out of bounds for the winter season due to icy and unsafe conditions. This includes before, during and after school times.

The children will be notified when the playground equipment will be available to them. Let's keep Pine Grove Public School a safe place for our students!

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

HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI

Thank you so much for your generous book donations that supported our fundraising activity for Haiti.

We were able to raise \$700.00 to donate to the Canadian Red Cross for their earthquake relief effort in Haiti.

Our students and staff would like to thank everyone who supported this activity.

PEANUT/NUT SAFETY ALERT



We would like to remind you that Pine Grove Public School continues to be a nut safe environment where all nuts (peanuts, walnuts, almonds, cashews, etc.) and products containing traces of nut oils are not permitted at school.

Please help keep our school safe and respect the safety of our children who do have this severe allergy. Also, we are a heart healthy school and are promoting healthy life styles with the children. Thank you for continuing to send in healthy snacks, lunches and drinks with your children. If your child has had any changes in his/her medical health condition with regards to peanuts/nuts, please see Mrs. Smith or Ms. Boyle for some Emergency Action Plan sheets as soon as possible.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

In severe weather conditions, please make sure that you are listening to the following radio stations for school closure information.....

CKTB 610 AM, CHTZ 97.7 FM, CHRE



105.7 FM, CKEY (River) 101.1FM, Spirit 91.7 FM. As well, CHCH television in Hamilton does go into storm watch mode during inclement weather days or you can check the Board website for closure information at www.dsbns.edu.on.ca.

SUPERVISION ON THE PLAYGROUND

Please remember that there is no supervision outside on the playground before 8:30 a.m. and after 3:20 p.m. Please do not send your child to school early unless he/she has a practice, a previously scheduled meeting or are arriving for the Y Daycare. All daycare children must enter through the daycare doors.

As well, once your child is dismissed at 3:15 p.m., he/she must walk straight home or wait with Mrs. Smith at the gated Kiss and Ride area. There is no supervision on the playground equipment and its surrounding area after school hours. Please remember that the playground equipment will remain closed for the winter.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Smoking anywhere on school property including sitting inside a vehicle could cost you \$305.
- Selling, supplying or sharing cigarettes with anyone under 19 can result in a minimum fine of \$365.

This law applies to:

EVERYONE: Staff, students, parents, visitors

ANYTIME: 24/7

ANYWHERE: Including school parking lots, cars in the parking lot, sports fields, driveways and courtyards

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act is designed to reduce the number of youth who start smoking and to protect Ontarians from second-hand smoke. Know the law and protect yourself!

Questions?

Call the Tobacco Hotline, 905-688-8248, ext.7393, or 1-888-505-6074.

THE PARENTING CORNER

from your schools Youth Counsellor - Leanne Hasenack

Talking to Kids about Tragedy

(ideas for parents with help from Carleen McGuinty - Policy Advisor/Child Protection at World Vision Canada)

Talking with children about tragic situations is often a difficult job for parents. Ideally, it would be great if our children did not have to cope with hearing about or seeing images from devastating situations such as this, but, they do and they need our guidance in managing this kind of information. They have questions we need to try and answer. The following 8 ways may help make your job a little easier.

1. Start by listening with your ears and heart. Find out what your child already knows. You can then respond in an age appropriate way. The goal is not to worry them with devastating details, but to protect them from misinformation or too much information that they may have heard from friends or disturbing images they may have seen on T.V. or computer.
2. Provide clear, simple answers. Limit your answer to the question asked and use simple language.
3. If you don't know the answer, admit it. Try and sort out the answer together.
4. Follow media reports or online updates privately. Children are not developmentally ready to cope with horrifying details of tragic situations. Young children in particular are easily traumatized.
5. Concentrate on making them feel safe. Extra family time (game playing, reading a story) will help reassure your child.

Also being aware of and placing themselves in the situations of victims (such as in Haiti) is not all bad - it is a sign of empathy, an essential life skill, but watch for signs of excessive and on going worrying.

6. Give children creative outlets. Some children may not be prepared to speak about what they have heard, but may deal with their emotions and stress by drawing or engaging in other creative activities. Their artwork can be helpful starting points for conversation as well.

7. Model involvement and compassion. You are your child's most important and influential teacher!

8. Give your child a chance to be involved. Many schools are helping you with this by having the students involved in some sort of fund raising.

Contributing to a "family" gift/contribution will help relieve some of their anxiety. Empowerment/pay it forward is a great coping skill.