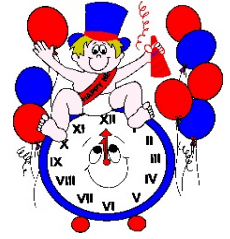




PINE GROVE SCHOOL
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www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/schools/pinegrove



Newsletter

January 2010

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH

The staff of Pine Grove wish you a Happy New Year and hope that 2010 is a prosperous and healthy one for each of you. We are looking forward to working with your children and celebrating their accomplishments with you. As always, we strive to make Pine Grove a safe and positive place to learn. Our main message to all students is that we treat everyone, students and adults, with respect.

Looking Back With Thanks

Thank you so much for your support the past year at Pine Grove School. There are many people that we would like to thank for helping out our students...

- parents and friends who supported our many fundraising activities...pizza, hot lunch and fruit kabob days, greeting cards and cookie dough, dance-a-thon, graduation, gingerbread houses, Silent Auction and Trivia Night, etc.
- our volunteer drivers who drove to trips and sporting activities
- parents and grandparents who helped supervise trips
- parents, college and high school volunteers who worked with our students in the classroom



CHARACTER EDUCATION TRAIT FOR JANUARY

Compassion is our Character Education Trait for January. Compassion is something we show for others. When someone shows compassion, he/she shows that they care about how others feel. A person can show compassion by being kind to others, helping those in need and doing good deeds without expecting anything in return. Our kind and caring actions can not only help others and make them feel better, but will make us feel proud of our good deeds.

Mrs. Nowell - Jordan, Jessica

Mrs. Dyck - Koby, Emma for Honesty; Grace, Aidan W., Marcus for Improvement

Mrs. McConnell - Alyssa, Raymond

Mrs. Shepard - Emma, Aiden, Owen, Megan

Ms. Delahunt - Tim, Gavin, Carter, Michael

Mrs. Meleskie - Ryan, Iain, Cole

Ms. Whitesell - Samantha, Jordan, Kate, Rachel, Gunther, Josh

Ms. Kond - Emma, Aryezon, Vanessa

Mr. Leighton - Tyler, Lukas, Matt

Mrs. Shepard's class will be hosting our Student Recognition Assembly on January 29th at 9:00 a.m. in the gym.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER



Honesty was the Character Education Trait we focused on during December. The following students were recognized during our December Student Recognition Assembly by their teachers for always being

honest at Pine Grove School:

PINE GROVE GETS A "MAKEOVER"!



It is with great excitement and anticipation that we announce that Pine Grove will undergo some significant construction over the summer of 2010. Upon the students return in the fall, they will be greeted by seven brand new

fully enclosed classrooms, a brand new library and computer lab. As the plans are finalized, we will share in much greater detail the full extent of the construction.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Please join us for our next School Council meeting on **Monday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m.** in the staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend our meeting!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

February is Kindergarten registration month at all District School Board of Niagara schools including Pine Grove School. 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 who has not attended Junior Kindergarten, they will be registered for Senior Kindergarten.

It is not necessary to register children who are currently in Junior Kindergarten at Pine Grove 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 School are blended JK/SK classes.

If you know of any families who are new to our area or have younger children, please help us out by sharing this information with them. Please note that copies of proof of age by birth certificate, your child's immunization card and health card are required for registration.

Our Junior Kindergarten Open House will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2010. More information will follow closer to the date.

PIZZA / FRUIT KABOBS/ HOT LUNCHES

Thank you to all the parents who support our fundraising initiatives through our lunch programs. **Fruit kabobs / hot lunches will be offered on Wednesdays during the month of January with pizza lunches each Friday.** Order forms for the first hot lunch/pizza day went home in December however, it is not too late to pick up an order form for the rest of the month. Please remember that order forms **must be back by the due date** to give us time to do the ordering.

PUMA PRIDE DAY - BACKWARDS DAY

Friday, January 22nd will be Backwards Day at Pine Grove. We encourage all students, staff and parent volunteers to wear their clothing items backwards on this day.

THE MACDONALD CUP

Mr. Leighton's Grade 6 class would like to thank everyone for their support cheering on the team and purchasing snacks and goodies. We also want to thank the parents of our class for donating the treats and assisting us on a great day! We raised \$755.95 for local Niagara veterans who have been wounded serving in Afghanistan and for sending care packages to soldiers who are currently there.



The team played fantastic and showed great sportsmanship. Unfortunately, we came up a little short and this year's winner was Princess Margaret. Congratulations!

PINE GROVE SCHOOL'S NIGHT AT THE ICEDOGS



Bring your family and friends to see the Niagara IceDogs take on the Kitchener Rangers on Thursday, **January 14, 2010.** We have been invited to participate in a free family skate from 5:30 to 6:20 p.m. before the game. The hockey game begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. For more information, visit our school website.

SCROOGE

Thank you to Mrs. Nowell and the choir members who performed at the Niagara Performing Arts Centre on Thursday, December 15th. You did an outstanding job being the choir for our school's visit to the performance. Our choir members were Cailen, Alexis, Hannah, Dahabo, Emily, Aryezon, Halle and Matt.

PEANUT/NUT SAFETY



We would like to remind you that Pine Grove 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 come to the office to pick up an Emergency Action Plan as soon as possible.

MARY'S COLD



Mary had a little cold, but wouldn't stay at home,
And everywhere that Mary went, the cold was sure to roam;
It wandered into Mary's eyes and filled them full of tears,
It jumped from there to Bobby's nose and then to Jimmy's ears,
It painted Anna's throat bright red, and swelled poor Jenny's head,
Dora had a fever, and a cough put Jack to bed.
The moral of this little tale is very quickly said
Mary could have saved a lot of pain; with just one day in bed.

If your child is not feeling well, especially if he/she has a temperature, please keep him/her home for the day. If your child is well enough to come to school, then it is expected that they are well enough to go outside for first and second fitness breaks.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

We would like to remind our parents that it is best that you wait outside your child's exit doors at the end of the day. In the primary grades, we are trying to encourage independence in dressing and organizing personal belongings and the hallways outside of the classrooms can become quite congested during bell times. If you would like to speak with your child's teacher, please write a note in your child's agenda. If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, please write a note in your child's agenda to advise the teacher. Please then come to the office and we will get your child from class and ensure they are properly signed out of the building. Thanks you for your continued support and co-operation.

KISS AND RIDE

Our Kiss and Ride area can become quite congested with cars and especially with snow. When we have a snowfall, we unfortunately lose valuable parking spaces at Pine Grove School. If you are picking up your child in the Kiss and Ride area, please keep driving through until your child comes out of the building. Too many parents are parking and waiting in this area. The designated area is a quick drop off and pick up area only. Please do not hold up traffic by stopping for your child outside the designated area. This is not safe for your child and the other children in the building. If you prefer not to use the Kiss and Ride area, then please find a parking spot and meet your child at his/her exit doors. We are trying to keep all Pine Grove School members safe.



DRESSING FOR PLAY/ SCHOOL

Please make sure that your child comes to school dressed for the weather. The children go outside for twenty minutes during our first break and thirty minutes during the second break unless we are advised by the Niagara Regional Public Health Department of an extreme cold weather alert.

As well, please make sure that your child has a pair of indoor running shoes for physical education class. Due to health and safety regulations, children without running shoes will not be allowed to participate in gym classes.



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



The playground equipment will be out of bounds during the snowy, winter weather (including before, during and after school). Winter conditions can make the equipment slippery and unsafe. Let's keep Pine Grove a safe place for our children!

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING



Another reminder about making sure you have plans in place if the school should be closed for the day or close early due to inclement weather. Here are some 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 the office of any address or telephone changes as soon as possible so we can update your children's information.

As far as sending your children to school during severe weather conditions, the final decision is yours!

SNOW STAYS ON THE GROUND

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.

Please talk to your child/ren about the seriousness of snowball throwing on school property. Pine Grove's staff thanks you for your continued support.