



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

www.dsbn.org/Schools/PineGrove

JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM MRS. SMITH'S DESK

Thank you to our families and friends who have supported us this past school year. Your endless hours of driving to sports activities, photocopying, helping supervise on class trips, hot lunches, fund-raising activities, etc. are just samples of how you touched the lives of our children at Pine Grove Public School.

Our staff is getting ready to pack for our upcoming renovations taking place in July and August. We will be coming back to a new look at Pine Grove in September with seven brand new fully enclosed classrooms, a brand new library and computer lab. Our new classrooms will be equipped with new cabinetry and white boards. Some classrooms will also have updated technology such as SMART boards.

The last day for both staff and students will be on Wednesday, June 29th. Staff will be working at the Education Centre on Thursday receiving training on SMART boards and Open Office. We are very excited about our "extreme makeover" this summer!

We hope that you and your family have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. We look forward to seeing you in our newly renovated school in September!!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR MAY 2011

Congratulations go out to the Students of the Month who were chosen by their teacher for May. The students were excellent role models for their peers on our Character Education Trait this month on Caring.



Teacher	Academic	Effort	Character Trait
Mrs. Nowell	Brianna	Cameron	Jordan
Mrs. Dyck	Morgan	Evelyn	Sydney
Mrs. Nowell	Gabriel	Gabriela	Kylee
Ms. Delahunt	Kira	Aidan	Lily
Mrs. McConnell	Connor	Owen	Samantha
Mr. Wiebe	Meghan	Niya	Emma
Mrs. Meleskie	Kasia	Peter	Sydney
Ms. Whitesell	Cole	Anna	Warren
Ms. Kond	Hannah	Halle	Samantha
Mr. Leighton	Olivia	Dennis	Celina

Mrs. Nowell's afternoon kindergarten class will be hosting our Student Recognition Assembly on Tuesday, June 21st in the gym at 2:30 p.m. During this time we will be recognizing our June Student of the Month recipients. Please mark this date on your calendar!!!

CHARACTER EDUCATION TRAIT FOR JUNE

Our Character Education trait for June is **Self-Discipline**. Being self-disciplined means being responsible for yourself. This means that you are in charge of all the things you say and do. You could call it your "self control." When you are in control, you can make choices that are healthy, safe, kind and respectful to others.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Friday, June 10th is a P.A. Day at the DSBN. There will be no classes for students on this day. Please make note of this on your calendar.

DSBN IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR



DSBN Important Dates
2011/12

- September 6: 1st Day of School
- September 23: Early Release Day
- October 5: World Teachers' Day
- October 7: PA Day
- October 10: Thanksgiving Day
- November 11: Remembrance Day
- December 26 - January 6:
Winter Holiday Break
- January 20: PA Day
- February 2: Kindergarten Open House 4-6
- February 20: Family Day
- March 9-16: March Break
- April 6: Good Friday
- April 9: Easter Monday
- May 18: PA Day
- May 21: Victoria Day
- June 8: PA Day
- June 28: Last Day of School

 www.dsbno.org

GRADE 6 GRADUATION

Grade 6 graduation will be taking place on **Thursday, June 23rd at 2:00 p.m.** in the gym. We look forward to the families and friends of our graduates attending our ceremonies. Congratulations to Ms. Kond's and Mr. Leighton's grade 6 students for such a wonderful year at Pine Grove School! We wish them all the best as they move on to Grade 7 in September.



REPORT CARDS



Term 2 report cards will be coming home on **Friday, June 24th**. Please complete the Parent Response form, and return it to your child's teacher on **Monday, June 27th**.

PIZZA & HOT LUNCH THANKS!

June's pizza lunch dates are **Friday, June 3, 17 and 24**. A huge thank you to all of our parents and grandparents who have helped out with pizza lunches this year!

Hot lunches will continue in June on **Wednesday, June 1, 8 and 15** with a **special BBQ lunch on June 22**. Mrs. Lockhart would like to extend a big thank you to the Grade 6 students who helped to make this school fundraiser a success!



ARE YOU MOVING?

Are you planning on moving over the summer? If you are moving out of the Pine Grove Public School area, please notify Ms. Boyle in the office as soon as possible. This information is needed to accurately establish our numbers for the 2011 - 2012 school year. We will also be pleased to assist you with any new school arrangements that need to be made too.

YEAR END SCHOOL TRIPS



Just a reminder of our upcoming year end trips. Please ensure your child arrives at the time indicated on the trip permission form so our buses can depart promptly...

- JK/SK to Grade 3 will be heading off to Cave Springs Camp in Beamsville for the day on **Monday, June 27th**.
- Ms. Whitesell's Grade 4 class and Ms. Kond's Grade 5's will be travelling to Medieval Times in Toronto on **Friday, June 24th**.
- Mr. Leighton's class will be going to Niagara Falls overnight; going to Marineland on **Monday, June 27th** and participating in Adventure City and Imax attractions on **Tuesday, June 28th**.

Permission forms with detailed information have been sent home.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you haven't registered your child yet, or if you know of someone in your neighbourhood who has a school aged child, please come into the office to register as soon as possible. Our enrolment numbers are needed to help us staff and organize for the 2011-2012 school year.



CLASSES FOR SEPTEMBER 2012



Class lists for the upcoming 2011 - 2012 school year will not be finalized until the first week of September. Class lists will be posted on the back door of the school at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

Letters will be sent home in July regarding September placement for our Junior and Senior Kindergarten students. We will be having a staggered entry on Tuesday, September 6th and Wednesday, September 7th for our Junior Kindergarten children only. Classes will begin on Thursday, September 9th for our Senior Kindergarten students.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Our lost and found is overflowing! Please take the time to stop in and check for any missing items. All items will be donated to a local charity at the end of the year.



TRACK AND FIELD



Congratulations to all students who participated in Pine Grove's Track & Field Meet on May 13th. The following students represented Pine Grove at the Zone Track & Field Meet on May 24th:

Atom Boys - Quinton, Nicky, Ryan D., Karan, Favour, Cameron, Jordan R.
Atom Girls - Alyssa J., Taylor, Anna, Alysa E., Margo, Emma T., Niya
Pee Wee Girls - Cailen, Ajah, Laurene, Kate, Hannah H., Rachel
Pee Wee Boys - Tyrell, Harry, Sean, Daniel, Ronan, Josh R., Jake, Josh B., Jack

Congratulations and good luck to Tyrell, Ajah, Niya, Nick H., Anna and Alysa E. who will be representing Pine Grove at the DSBN Track and Field Meet on Monday, June 13th. Way to go Pumas!

SUN SAFETY

On sunny days, students are encouraged to take precautions against sunburn and sunstroke. Children are encouraged to limit their physical activity and remain in shady areas. They are encouraged to wear clothing that covers most of their body, wear a hat and sunscreen. We also encourage children to have a water bottle available at school. ***Please remember to ensure that your child comes to school dressed in appropriate clothing on warm days.***



DRESS CODE

All Pine Grove School members are expected to dress appropriately for an academic setting and contribute to an overall positive image of our school. Short shorts, miniskirts, cut-offs, or t-shirts with inappropriate messages are not acceptable. Straps on student tops must be at least two to three fingers wide with no undergarments showing. Students will be asked to change if clothing is inappropriate.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of electronic devices at Pine Grove is becoming an issue. While we realize that some students carry cell phones for walking to and from school, students need to turn the equipment off, and keep these cell phone in their backpacks. At no time should electronic devices such as cell phones, MP3 players or IPODS be in class or out on the school yard. Students that do not follow these rules will have equipment confiscated by staff and returned at the end of the day.



HEALTHY KIDS

It's that time of year again when hay fever and allergies are becoming more prominent. That means runny noses, sneezes and coughs. While we can't prevent students or staff from getting sick, we can all do our part to make sure that germs don't spread to others. At Pine Grove Public School we will continue disinfecting our desks, door handles and commonly used areas every day.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR "SUMMER ADVANTAGE" BOOK YET!



There is still time to get your "Summer Advantage" book. This 192 page, fully coloured, activity book is designed to maintain children's academic learning over the summer months. **There is one activity book per grade level from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7.** Each grade level book contains major units aligned with the Ontario curriculum expectations and 3 summer fun units. The books have parent information pages, evaluation forms; follow up activities and a family focus. In addition to the summer the books can be used all year long from September to the following June. The cost of each book is \$19.05 plus GST.

As well, Summer Advantage will provide attraction discount coupons to numerous attractions including Wonderland, the CN Tower, Ontario Place, Medieval Times, Wild Water Kingdom, Wings of Paradise, Centreville, South Simcoe Railway, Pucks farm, Zooz, Bowmanville Zoo the Hamilton Civic Museums and more. **Orders are due back to your child's teacher by Friday, June 4th.**

SUMMER SKILLS

One of the most exciting things about summer is all the time children have to pursue their interests, such as sports, summer camps and time with friends. Even though they're on break, the summer offers many opportunities for students to practice their reading skills and work on math concepts. For instance, have the whole family read together each day. Take turns reading out loud, and talk about what you read. Ask children questions about the characters, why might they be acting in a certain manner, or how might they solve a problem or a dilemma they are facing. Questions like "why" and "how" encourage children to think about what they are reading and help them to answer questions about the text, and provide their rationale and evidence for those answers.

You could also find ways to make hobbies educational. A child who loves to collect baseball cards, for instance, could practice penmanship and literacy skills by writing fan letters to players. He/she could also work on math skills by tracking players' statistics or by visiting educational websites such as coolmath.com.

Do you have a child between the ages of 4 and 6?

If so, please take a moment to ensure that your child's immunizations are up-to-date and that he/she has received a:

- booster dose of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio (DPTP/Quadracel) between the ages of 4 and 6; **and,**
- second dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

If your child has not yet received these vaccines, he/she can be immunized free of charge at:

- One of our regular immunization clinics. Please call 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 for more information and/or to schedule an appointment. OR
- Special 'catch-up' immunization clinics are also held across the Niagara region in late August, specifically for children and teens (4 to 18 years of age) that need to get caught up on their immunizations prior to school starting. Visit www.niagararegion.ca for a copy of this schedule.

You can also call your child's doctor to make an immunization appointment or visit a local walk-in clinic. Once your child has received his/her immunization(s), please report this information to Niagara Region Public Health using ONE of the following:

INTERNET: www.niagararegion.ca

TELEPHONE (Immunization Report Line): 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7459

FAX (a copy of your child's Immunization Record): 905-688-8225

If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to immunize your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with a legal exemption document (i.e., a statement of medical exemption, or a statement of conscience or religious belief affidavit).

SUMMER SURVIVAL FOR PARENTS

From Leanne Hasenack, Pine Grove School Youth Counsellor

As the school year ends and kids are gearing up for the summer break, parents/caregivers often find themselves wondering how they will keep their kids busy and keep their own sanity.

Planning short periods of "fun" time together each day helps kids feel connected to their family and they will be less likely to get bored. Bored kids will often act up or make poor decisions with their time. Kids love to see their parents/caregivers "play". Take some time and run through the sprinkler, chalk on the side walk or go down the slide at the park. Your kids won't often ask you to do this but they will love it, and you, if you just do it.

Here are some other helpful tips that I got from "Triple P", a positive parenting program offered here in the Niagara Region.

TOP 10 TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. When your child wants to show you something, stop what you are doing and pay attention to your child.
2. Give your child lots of hugs, cuddles and holding hands...smile warmly at your child.
3. Talk with your child about things THEY are interested in and share parts of your day with them.
4. Give them lots of clear praise when they do something you want to see more of. Ex. "Thank you for doing what I asked right away".

5. Give them healthy ideas as to what they can do with their time.
6. Teach your child new skills by first showing the skill yourself. Give them chances and opportunities to learn the skill in a positive way.
7. Set clear limits on their behaviour. Teach them the rules and consequences of not following the rules through a positive conversation as a family.
8. If your child misbehaves, stay calm and give clear instruction to stop and tell them what you want them to do instead. Praise them if they stop, follow through with the determined consequence if they don't.
9. Have realistic expectations. All kids misbehave at times and it is expected that you will have some discipline problems. Trying to be the perfect parent can set you up for frustration and disappointment.
10. Look after yourself. It is hard to be a calm, relaxed parent if you are stressed, anxious or depressed. Take a little time for yourself on a regular basis.

For more information on this program you can call the Parent Talk Information Line at 905-688-8248 or log on to www.tripleontario.ca or www.beagreatparent.com

Remember, in all you do be calm, clear and consistent.

PLANNING TODAY TO ENERGIZE EDUCATION TOMORROW - FROM THE DSBN

During the 2009/10 school year, the DSBN engaged in a system-wide review of our school buildings which enabled trustees to gain an overview of how our facilities are being used, and to identify potential areas for growth and revitalization in the future.

The majority of school boards throughout Ontario are facing the challenge of declining enrolment because of changing demographics. Parents are having fewer children later in life, which reduces the number of students starting Kindergarten each year.

One way school boards can address the issues of declining enrolment and aging facilities is through accommodation reviews. Through this process, education can be rejuvenated by building some new schools, consolidating some schools, renovating some schools and closing some schools.

At their most recent meeting, Trustees passed a Facilities Planning report which examines how to provide optimal learning spaces for students by initiating three phases of accommodation reviews beginning in September, 2011. Phase one accommodation reviews will undertake an in-depth study of central and south St. Catharines and Thorold secondary schools as well as elementary schools in Fort Erie.

Over the coming months, Board staff will begin to assemble an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the two reviews. Each committee will undertake an in-depth study of the school planning areas and provide recommendations that will help guide Trustees in their decision making. Each ARC will include a business community member and/or a municipal representative, parents, a trustee, and DSBN staff. All ARC meetings will be open to the public, and the public will also have an opportunity to provide feedback during specially scheduled public meetings.

Moving forward, our goal is to continue serving students with excellent programs. The accommodation review process will ensure that funding is spent on enriching the educational opportunities for students

The full report, along with information about accommodation reviews is available at www.dsbn.org/arc.



SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

School newsletter inserts for your consideration

ELEMENTARY

PROPORTIONAL REASONING - QUESTIONS FOR KIDS/FUN WITH NUMBERS

Try these questions to help children get a sense of the size of the numbers.

Primary/Junior

- Choose two whole numbers less than 100. One should be really big and the other pretty small. Tell how many of the small numbers it would take to make the big one. How do you know?
- Twice a number is really big. What do you know about the original number?
- Cameron has 7 coins that he says have a value of 17 cents. What could the coins be?

Junior/Intermediate

- Choose two fractions less than five. One should be really big and the other pretty small. Tell how many of one fraction it takes to make the other one. How do you know?
- How many 2's are in 30? How many 3's are in 45? How can this be? Explain.
- A store is having a sale. Is it more helpful for you to know that an item is \$10.00 off or 10% off?

*From Math Gains: Proportional Reasoning

VORACIOUS READING

Fluency is the ability to read, speak, or write smoothly and with expression. The best way to become a fluent reader is through reading. The amount a child reads has a huge impact on their success in becoming a fluent reader. The strategy of voracious reading is one used with students to increase vocabulary and fluency. Students are taught that voracious means to do a lot of something and still want more of it. They know that by reading, reading, and more reading, they will become smooth readers that are enjoyable to listen to. This will lead to increased comprehension and broadened vocabularies.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Encourage your child to read more at home. Start by adding a few minutes to their regular reading time and go from there.
2. Model this strategy for your child by taking out a book of your own and reading.
3. Have your child show you what he/she is reading. Ask the following questions:
 - Does this book interest you?
 - Are you able to read most of the words?
 - Do you understand what you are reading?

Your child should be able to say "yes" to all three questions if he/she is reading a good book to improve fluency and become a voracious reader.

4. Find a genre or style of book your child is interested in. Visit the library or bookstore to provide more books or stories in this area of interest. Tapping into a reader's interests creates voracious readers.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

Ideas and strategies are taken from : The CAFE Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser

ECO-CORNER

Active Transportation and Taking Time for Nature: June is just around the corner and with this month brings opportunities for all of us to spend more time outdoors enjoying nature and what it provides to us. There are many benefits to getting outside, especially when paired with some active transportation (walking, biking, jogging, etc.). There's a large body of research that indicates that both taking time to connect with nature and increasing active transportation positively affects our health and the development of youth.

I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are.

-Fourth Grade student

Youth of this generation need to spend more time experiencing and playing outdoors or else they may fall prey to a new disorder 'N.D.D.' (Nature-Deficit Disorder)
-Richard Louv (from his book: Last Child in the Woods)

Suggestions for you and your family to explore:

- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) manage over 30 Conservation Areas all around Niagara including their new Centre for Conservation located at Ball's Falls. <http://www.npca.ca/>
- Cycling around Niagara, whether you are looking for a short quick trip or more of an adventure on 2 wheels, check our Niagara Cycling for a great listing of maps and routes. <http://www.niagaracycling.ca/>
- Hiking: - Short Hills Provincial Park <http://www.friendsofshorthillspark.ca/trailframe.htm>
- Bruce Trail (<http://www.niagarabruce-trail.org/>),
- Niagara Parks and Gorge <http://www.niagaraparks.com/nature-trails/niagara-glen-whirlpool.html>

Visit the DSBN Environmental Sustainability Committee website (www.dsbn.org/esc/) to share some of your own creative ideas.

FSL UPDATE AT DSBN

French as a Second language programs at DSBN, Core French and Late French Immersion provide opportunities for students to engage in another language. Speaking both of Canada's official languages enhances experiences and opens doors to the future in a bilingual country.

French Immersion is growing...

Grade 5 students across the DSBN have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Canada's two official languages. The following sites will offer Middle Entry French Immersion Grade 5 for September 2011 where Math, Science, Social Studies and Français are taught in French.

Grimsby: Lakeview Public School and Central Public School

St. Catharines: Alexandra Public School, Dalewood Public School, and Oakridge Public School

Niagara Falls: Prince Philip Public School

Welland: Princess Elizabeth Public School

Port Colborne: McKay Public School

In addition, the St. Catharines' sites will offer entry in Grade 7 for French Immersion until September 2012. By September 2013, the French Immersion program entry level will be available only in Grade 5 across the DSBN.

French Immersion Secondary sites continue to offer French Immersion programs at Grimsby Secondary School, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School, A.N. Myer Secondary School, and Centennial Secondary School.

We are proud to be the only board across the Niagara region to offer French Immersion. If you have any questions please call Kelly McDonnell at 905-227-5551 ext. 52402 or Lorraine Gower ext. 52220.

SUMMER CAMPS FOR CHILDREN

Summer day camps are an excellent way for children to continue to stay active, learn and make new friends through the summer months. Most local municipalities offer camps and so most local museums and other community organizations. The following are a short list of some of the opportunities that your children might enjoy. Please contact your local municipality if you would like information about the many opportunities in your community.

Lincoln and West Niagara

Town of Lincoln -- Summer Adventure Camp

<http://www.lincoln.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?PageID=141>

Town of Grimsby – a variety of summer camps for children of all ages

<http://www.town.grimsby.on.ca/Leisure-Guide/-/Publications/>

Township of West Lincoln

<http://www.westlincoln.ca/recreation/2010-programs>

City of St. Catharines

<http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/playin/resources/SCR0124-LeisureGuideSS11-1.R.pdf>

Carousel Players – summer camps and theatre school

<http://carouselplayers.com/>

Brock University – Badgers Sports Camps

<http://gobadgers.ca/2011BadgersSportsCamps>

Niagara College – Niagara Kids College Camps

<http://www.niagaracollege.ca/content/ContinuingEducation/NiagaraKidsCollege.aspx>

YMCA of Niagara – a variety of camps and programs in all of Niagara's communities

<http://ymcadaycamp.ca/>

City of Niagara Falls – summer camps

http://www.niagarafalls.ca/city_hall/departments/parks_recreation_and_culture/leisure_guide/pdf/Leisure-Guide-Full.pdf

City of Welland

<http://www.welland.ca/Leisure/Guide.pdf>

Boys and Girls Club of Niagara

<http://www.boysandgirlscubniagara.org/userfiles/file/SUMMA.pdf>

Niagara Children's Museum – summer art camps

http://www.niagarafallsartgallery.ca/0_flyers/stc.pdf

Rodman Hall Summer Camp

<http://brocku.ca/rodman-hall/education/studios>



The Niagara Symphony's acclaimed Summer Music Camp offers children a chance to explore music making - and have fun! Junior and Senior Sessions have classes for all ages and skill levels in instrumental and choral programmes. Full information and registration forms are available at www.NiagaraSymphony.org or call the Niagara Symphony at 905-687-4993 ext. 223.

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of Summer Music Camp!

NIAGARA
SYMPHONY

SHAW SUMMER CAMP

July 18-22 or July 25-29

Presented by The Shaw and Carousel Players

For ages 10-14

Explore characters and scenes from the play *THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON* or the musical *MY FA LADY* and then perform for family and friends. Includes a day at The Shaw with a tour, workshop, matinee, and post-show chat. Classes held at Carousel Players in St. Catharines.

\$210

Register at **Carousel Players 905-682-8326 x26** or email info@carouselplayers.com

(Prices do not include tax).

THEATRE PROGRAMS FOR
YOUTH SUPPORTED BY:





Celebrate Summer

at the St. Catharines Public Library!

Add a splash of reading to your summer by joining the children's or tween/teen reading club starting June 25. Reading clubs are a fun way to improve reading skills over the summer and to win fabulous prizes. Check out our Summer Programs Flyer for details on how you can beat the heat this summer at our sizzlin' summer activities for children, tweens and teens!

For more information, visit any branch of the St. Catharines Public Library, call 905-688-6103, ext. 227 or check us out online at www.stcatharines.library.on.ca

