



Pine Grove Public School

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www.dsbnschools.org/Schools/PineGrove

MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

Responsibility was the Character Education Trait we focused on during February. The following students were recognized during February's Student Recognition Assembly by their teacher for showing responsibility and taking ownership for their actions and/or academics.



Teacher	Academic	Effort	Character Trait
Mrs. Nowell	Carlie	Brianna	Wyatt
Miss MacKenzie	Max	Evelyn	Maddy
Mrs. Nowell	Hannah	Nathan	Stephie
Ms. Delahunt	Jordan	Jaeden	Olivia
Mrs. McConnell	Dylan	Lilly	Rheagan
Ms. Snider	Emma	Riley	Mackey
Mrs. Meleskie	Kieran	Sam	Michael
Ms. Whitesell	Kira	Nick	Samia
Ms. Kond	Jordan	Shane	Alexandria
Mr. Leighton	Emma	Aryezon	Gunther
Outstanding Citizen for February - Dahabo, Kate, Hannah			

Ms. Snider's Grade 2/3 class will be hosting March's Student Recognition Assembly on **March 30th at 9:00 a.m.** Please mark this date on your calendar!!!



CHARACTER TRAIT FOR MARCH

Our character education trait for March is **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Being trustworthy means others can count on you to do what you say you will do. How to be trustworthy...

BE HONEST. . . Don't lie, cheat, or steal.

BE RELIABLE. . . Keep your promises and follow through on your commitments.

HAVE THE COURAGE. . . to do what is right, even when it seems difficult.

BE A GOOD FRIEND. . . and don't betray a trust.





Puma paws are awarded to students who display the character education trait of the month with both their teachers and other students. Names are then put into a basket and draws are made during morning announcements for a character education treat!

MARCH BREAK

Please remember our March Break runs from Monday, March 14th to Friday, March 18th. School will resume again on Monday, March 21st at 8:45 a.m.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Our students in Grades 4 to 6 worked very hard this term to prepare and present their speeches. Four representatives from each class were selected to present their speech in the gym during the first week February. The following students represented their class in the speech finale... Harry, Lauren, Cailen, Alexis, Kate, Dahabo, Hannah, Hiroki, Kira, Margo, Grace and Karan.

Congratulations to Dahabo who represented Pine Grove School at the Grantham Optimist competition and to Harry who represented our school at the Port Dalhousie Legion.



GRADE 3 AND 6 EQAO

Our students in Mr. Leighton's, Ms. Snider's and Mrs. Meleskie's classes will be writing some EQAO practice tests from March 1st to March 3rd.

The DSBN Literacy Team has put this assessment together for all students across our school board. Your child will be writing the Language and Mathematics assessment. The school practice test will help our students get used to writing such types of assessments and will also help our staff reflect on various curriculum expectations for the next several months.

Please remember that EQAO is a snapshot of how your child is doing at school. Our staff is experienced and supportive, creating an atmosphere where students feel comfortable and the delivery approach is positive. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any further questions.

Together our goal is to make every child feel successful, when reaching their goals, in all that they do! Parents can also access past assessments and anchors on the EQAO website at www.eqao.com.



DANCE-A-THON SUCCESS!



This year's dance-a-thon was a hit!! Students in JK/SK to Grade 6 got to boogie part of the day away on February 9th, all for a great cause - to help raise funds for their school. And raise funds they did, almost \$2500. which exceeds our hope for \$10.00 per student in pledges. Pine Grove School Council thanks you for your continued support!



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Pine Grove School Council? If so, plan on attending our next School Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, March 7th** in the Pine Grove staff room.



YEAR END SCHOOL TRIPS

It's that time already! The staff have been busy planning our year end and school trips have tentatively been booked as follows:



- ☺ **Grades 4 & 5** - Ms. Whitesell Grade 4 class and Ms. Kond's Grade 5's to Medieval Times on **Friday, June 24**
- ☺ **JK - Grade 3** - Mrs. Nowell, Mrs. Dyck, Ms. Delahunt, Mrs. McConnell, Ms. Snider and Mrs. Meleskie's classes to Cave Springs Camp in Jordan on **Monday, June 27**
- ☺ **Grade 6** - Ms. Kond's Grade 6's and Mr. Leighton's classes to Niagara Falls on **Monday, June 27 and Tuesday, June 28**



GRADE 6 GRADUATION

Our Grade 6 graduation has been scheduled for **Thursday, June 23rd** at 2:00 p.m. Further information will be sent home to our Grade 5 and 6 parents closer to the date.



LATE STUDENTS

We seem to be having an increase in the number of students arriving at school late each morning. Please remember that our bell rings at 8:45 a.m. It is very important for your child to enter the school with his/her classmates every morning. Remember that we are encouraging our students to become responsible citizens in our community.

If children do arrive after the 8:45 a.m. bell and come in through the front doors of the school, it is imperative that the student let the front office know they have arrived. Class attendance is taken promptly both morning and afternoon. If Ms. Boyle does not know your child has arrived, a phone call will be made home indicating your child is absent.



DSBN ROAD RACE

The Education Foundation of Niagara and Niagara Nutrition Partners are excited to host the eighth DSNB Road Race which will be held **Sunday, April 17th** at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Education Centre, 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines. This annual event includes a 1 km Fun Run and a 5 km road race which attracts well over 1000 participants from the Niagara Region including DSNB students, employees and families. All money raised from this event supports the Education Foundation of Niagara and Niagara Nutrition Partners and goes directly back to DSNB schools. Stay tuned for more information and application information!

MAKE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN



The Education Foundation of Niagara is a charity organization which provides much needed funding for projects at DSBN schools. They recently held a Make Change for Children campaign to provide funding for their Poverty and Emergency Relief Fund which responds to emergency requests by schools on behalf of DSBN students in need. This initiative supports the extraordinary, and sometimes emergency, personal and school-related needs of individual students brought about by financial hardship. The Foundation has reserved funds to allocate to students who fall within this category to pay for winter clothes, proper footwear, bus passes, field trips, basic school supplies, team uniforms, cafeteria vouchers etc.

Pine Grove School made a donation of \$400. on behalf of our students from the sale of glow rings at the Dance-A-Thon and pizza lunch profits. Way to go Pumas!



PIZZA/HOT LUNCHES 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 **March will be the 4th, 11th and 25th**. If you are available to help us with our lunches, please make sure to complete the volunteer section on your child's order form. We thank you for your continued support with our pizza lunches.

Hot lunches, sponsored by our Pine Grove School Council, will be offered on **Wednesdays, March 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th**.



LOST AND FOUND

We have four huge bags of lost items; coats, leggings, boots, hat, mittens, lunch bags, shoes, etc. Please encourage your child to check our lost and found bin located outside the office or feel free to stop in and have a look. All items will be donated to a local charity during March Break.



BASKETBALL TEAMS



Our girls and boys basketball teams have been busy practicing for the 2011 season with Ms. Kond, Mr. Lampman, Ms. Frenette and Mrs. Meleskie. Our team members are as follows:

Girls - Ajah, Aryezon, Alexis, Vanessa, Hannah, Kate, Dahabo and Emily. Practice squad members include Celina, Taylor, Haley, Alanna, Margo, Laurene, Halle and Olivia.

Boys - Warsame, Tyrell, Sam, Jared, Sean, Jake, Nick, Hiroki and Harry. Practice squad members include Cameron, Ryan, Karan and Nick.

Schedules will be sent home with team members once game dates have been finalized.



IT'S STILL COLD AND FLU SEASON

To prevent the spread of germs, we are encouraging the children to wash their hands frequently during the school day. If your child is not feeling well, and especially if he/she has a fever, please keep him/her home for the day. If your child is well enough to come to school, then he/she is well enough to go outside for the fitness breaks. The fresh air will make your child feel better.



MAD SCIENCE CLUB



Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to Pine Grove School. Their mission is to spark the imagination and curiosity of children everywhere 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. They use exciting activities and spectacular demonstrations to capture the attention and imagination of children as we found out during our assembly.

Both the students and teachers will be thrilled on March 1 at 1:45 PM when Mad Science comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the Mad Science Club. The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students.

Students who join the science club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. They will explore various topics while participating in our Crazy Chemworks program. The Club will take place on Thursdays during second nutrition/fitness break on **March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28 from 12:45 PM - 1:35 PM.**

For those of you who have been in the Mad Science Club before, this is a different club than last year with exciting experiments, cool demonstrations and amazing take home activities.

Mad Science also performs Birthday Parties, Camps and Special Events. Give them a call at 905-937-1878 and watch out for them in Malls, at Fairs, Festivals and Scouts and Guides.



THE PARENTING CORNER

From L. Hasenack - DSBN Youth Counsellor

With March Break soon upon us we, as parents, need to think of and help guide our children in making good decisions in spending their time off from school. (and not drive us crazy) Balance in life is key and here are some ideas for you to help your child manage their time so that it is not just a "screen" (T.V., computer, DS, texting, video games) filled week. Research also tells us that physical based activities help us with our over all health, emotional well being and academic success. May some of these ideas work for you and your family. Children love the time we spend with them.

1. Go for walk.....have a destination.....the Market, library, Park, arena to skate, Pet store, Corner store for a treat, include the dog.....enjoy the journey.....make a list of all the things you see and hear.....talk about it.....value everyone's input.
2. Plan indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts.....let the kids plan one for you too.....enjoy the challenge they give you.....laugh at yourself.

3. Make a jar filled with activities your family can do together.....everyone adds to it with reasonable and no cost ideas.....take turns drawing one out and do it.....kids count on us following through.....helps them to feel valuable.
4. Plan the day or weeks menu together.....let them help cook, (great time to practice "picking your battles" - ignore the mess they make and enjoy the process - show them how to clean up later) set the table, serve the meal together at the table.
5. Bake and enjoy muffins, cupcakes or cookies together.
6. Embrace any snow we have.....shovel together, make a snowman, get out the sled and find a hill together.....laugh with each other.
7. Colour or do a word search together. Play a board game. Have a dance party.....read jokes to each other.
8. Have a house cleaning challenge but keep it fun and enjoyable. (who can clean their room the quickest or clean the house together with a reward for all at the end of the task) Compliment each child for something each and every day.
9. Paint on newspaper.....mix colours.....make a fun mess.
10. Play I Spy.
11. Let them have a friend over to play.
12. Write a letter together to family you don't get to see much.....walk to the mailbox together.

Whatever you decide to do, enjoy your time with your children this coming March Break.



the *Fresh Air* fund
serving children since 1877

Become a Fresh Air Host!

Open your heart and home to a
 New York City child this summer



For more information,
 please contact:

Laura-Ann Morris at (905) 835-2896

laura_ann_morris@hotmail.com

or

Eileen Lucas at elucas@cogeco.ca

or call

The Fresh Air Fund at (800) 367-0003

www.freshair.org

Since 1877, The Fresh Air Fund, an independent, not-for-profit agency, has provided free summer experiences to more than 1.7 million New York City children from low-income neighborhoods.



SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

School newsletter inserts for your consideration

ELEMENTARY

ECO-CORNER

Eco-Corner....by the DSBN Environmental Sustainability Committee

Reducing/Eliminating Single Use Plastic Water Bottles

Millions of single use plastic water bottles are purchased every day in North America....Where does that water and plastic come from? Where will that plastic go? Do some fact finding...here's some facts and websites to get you started.

Get involved at home, at school, or at work...

'Bottled Water Free Day' on March 10

(<http://www.bottledwaterfreeday.ca>)

World Water Day on March 22

(<http://www.worldwaterday.org/>)

Let the DSBN Environmental Sustainability

Committee know about your school's or family's plan to reduce waste with plastic bottles by uploading your idea to our website @ www.dsbn.org/esc/

Take Action

- Promote the use of reusable bottles.
- View the video "The story of bottled water" by Annie Leonard, <http://storyofstuff.org/bottledwater/>. Hold a discussion with the students about bottled water issues.
- Have the school or green committee logo printed on stainless steel bottles: sell these bottles as promotional items or fundraisers. Give as prizes for activities or draws.

Statistics

Only 23 percent of the water bottles that Americans use are ever recycled. This means that 38 billion water bottles are filling up landfills instead of being reused.

Decomposing

It takes a plastic water bottle 1,000 years before it will even begin to start decomposing.

Danger to the Environment

When water bottles are not recycled, they can do serious damage to the environment. If a water bottle is burned, it releases toxic smoke which destroys the ozone layer (which we need to protect us from UV rays and skin cancer).

Uses for Recycled Bottles

Recycled water bottles can be turned into many useful items such as carpet, clothing, new bottles, electronic parts and car parts.

STATS OR FACTS

1. Bottled water is 2000 times more energy intensive than tap water.
2. It takes 3 litres of water to produce 1 litre of bottled water.
3. Bottled water is 240 to 10,000 times more expensive than tap water.
4. Between April 2008 and April 2009 only 6% of bottled water producers in Canada were inspected by health authorities. And what about tap water? Municipalities often test public water 24 hours a day, and conduct thousands of sample tests for bacteria every day.

WAYS TO KEEP YOUR CHILD ENGAGED DURING MARCH BREAK

Literacy	Numeracy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let your kids read the mail: ads, brochures, sales, coupons, letters. • Subscribe to the newspaper. Share and discuss articles, cartoons and columns. • Bus, train, or plane trips are for reading too. Put a bag of books and comics on board. • Notice <i>life print</i> around you – ads, signs, menus – and point out examples of word play. • Kids love to collect things. Help them arrange and label each artefact they collect during their holiday. • Ask your kids to write out the shopping list, address an envelope or help make a calendar of weekly activities. • Sing songs with your kids. Share the lyrics. • Have kids check the internet to answer questions that arise. • Let kids plan for and read maps on an excursion. • Exercise everyone’s mind doing crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches. • Write a letter, short story or a song together. • Question your child about the story you’re reading together - What do you think happened next? • Read all the descriptions on exhibits and displays on outings to the zoo, museums or galleries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the car, estimate how many kilometres or how much time it will take to get to your destination, estimate how many cars you will see in 5 minutes, or how many licence plates it will take to see all the numbers from 0 to 100. • Play Tic-Tac-Total by drawing a tic tac toe board and having each player print the numbers 1 to 10 off to the side. Players take turns crossing out one of the numbers and writing it in the board. The player who makes 15 first wins. • Play Bizz Buzz as follows. Players generally sit in a circle. The player designated to go first says the number "1", and each player thenceforth counts one number in turn. However, any number <u>divisible</u> by three is replaced by the word <i>bizz</i> and any divisible by five by the word <i>buzz</i>. Numbers divisible by both become <i>bizz buzz</i>. You may change the numbers to counting by 2's and 10's or divisible by 6 and 2 etc., for variations. Players may either be eliminated if they make a mistake or you may play co-operatively. • Bake with your child. Have them work with you to halve or double a recipe. • Play card games and board games. • Build with blocks, found materials or a model kit.
The Arts	Media and Library
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search through your family’s recycle bin for items to make an instrument. Join with your friends/family to create a band. Accompany your favourite songs. • Many of the local museums and art galleries provide March break camps. Check out these links to a few of them: http://brocku.ca/rodman-hall/education/studios http://niagarapumphouse.ca/youth_program.htm http://www.artellervofhamilton.com/wo_ahh_kids.php#2 Grimsby Art Gallery is running two March Break Camps, one for 5 – 8 year olds and another for 8 – 12 year olds. Contact the gallery by emailing gpag@town.grimsby.on.ca or call 905-945-3246 • <i>Today's Parent</i> website has game ideas for a road trip at http://www.todayparent.com/craftsactivities/article.asp?content=20080602_105740_5700&page=1 • Texture Hunt. Arm yourself with pieces of scrap paper and crayons (with paper removed so you can use the ‘belly’ of the crayon). Place paper over various surfaces & rub over the paper firmly with a crayon. Experiment with different colour combinations. When you’ve collected a variety of rubbings, use them to create a collage by tearing them into shapes and gluing them onto a large sheet of paper. • Use some recycled materials and your imagination to make puppets. Create a puppet show or write a story about your puppets. Check out this website for some ideas http://www.play-script-and-song.com/easy-to-make-puppets.html • Play games and learn about art at http://cybermuse.gallery.ca/cybermuse/kids/index_e.jsp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a trip to your local public library. Find out about their March break programs for children. • Download an eBook from your school library. Go to http://destiny.dsb.edu.on.ca and click on the link for your school. Students can login using their school username and password. • Enjoy a little Canadian film culture by accessing NFB’s online film library www.nfb.ca and click on Explore. • Hear your favourite actor read a well-loved story at www.storylineonline.net • Have fun and learn at the same time with www.tvokids.com/games/ • Read books in many different languages from the International Children’s Digital Library at http://en.childrenslibrary.org/ • Find digitized photos and documents from local area museums at http://search.ourontario.ca/search (Do some early exploration to prepare for the War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebrations!)