



Pine Grove Public School
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 905-935-1901
www.dsbns.org/Schools/PineGrove



NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH

As part of our School Improvement Plan, we are working on Descriptive Feedback. During learning, our students will be receiving ongoing descriptive feedback based on success criteria developed by our staff and students.

We will continue using anchor and criteria charts, rubrics and exemplars to scaffold student learning, provide descriptive feedback and set high expectations for all students.

Our students will be discussing how they can "bump up" their work to the next level, be involved in creating anchor charts, rubrics and creating wording of curriculum expectations. As well, they will be able to talk about the feedback process (peer to peer, teacher to student, self).



STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR OCTOBER 2011

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



Teacher	Academic	Effort	Great Work	Character Trait
Miss MacKenzie	Jack	Harrison	Abigail	Emma
Mrs. Dyck	Skye	Spencer	Mackenzie	Eve
Mrs. Shepard	Mobeen	Caden	Dillen	Julia
Miss Palcso	Lily	Miranda	Eric	Rosalie
Mrs. McConnell	Gabriela	Marcus	Doryan	Maya
Miss Delahunt	Lily	Alisha	Erich	Olivia
Mrs. Meleskie	James	Kira	Will	Connor
Ms. Whitesell	Samantha	Joyce	Peter	Michael
Ms. Kond	Emma	Sahil	Quinton	Ethan
Mr. Leighton	Cameron	Karan	Haley	Hannah

The Character Education Trait for November is **Integrity**. Integrity means understanding the difference between right and wrong and acting accordingly; valuing honesty and fairness over winning and being sincere and faithful to what you believe is important.

Mr. Leighton's Grade 6 class will host our November Student Recognition Assembly to be held on **Friday, November 25th at 9:00 a.m.** in the gym. All parents are always welcome to attend any of our assemblies.



PROGRESS REPORTS & PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS



Elementary progress reports will be going home with all students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 6 on **Tuesday, November 15**. Included in the report card will be your parent-teacher interview time which have been scheduled for **Wednesday, November 17th**.

JK observations will begin in November. Parents will be notified of their date and time by their child's teacher.



PEANUT ALLERGY ALERT



The staff at Pine Grove Public School would like to remind all parents/guardians not to send in peanut/nut food products to school for snacks for lunch. Please help us and make sure you read the ingredient labels on food items you buy for your child's nutrition breaks.

Please help keep Pine Grove a Heart Healthy School by not sending in Halloween treats with your child to school. On the Balanced School Day, we are encouraging eating healthy snacks and foods at school. Please keep your child's snack and lunch choices as healthy one.

Let's keep Pine Grove a safe and healthy place for our students, staff and parents!



REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

On Friday, November 11th, we will be having a Remembrance Day Service in the gym beginning at 9:00 a.m. Miss MacKenzie's and Mrs. Meleskie's classes will be hosting our service. Our primary classes will perform as the choir for our service. Parents are welcome to attend. We encourage our students who belong to Cubs, Brownies, etc. to wear their uniforms on this day.



PIZZA LUNCHES



Pizza lunches for November will be held on Friday, November 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Orders for November were sent home together with the October pizza lunch order.

Thank you to our parents who come in to tally our pizza and milk count for these days and to the parents who come in and help out on pizza Fridays.



HOT LUNCHES

Our Parent Involvement Committee will be offering hot lunches every Wednesday in November beginning **Wednesday, November 2nd**. Order forms for November were sent home together with the October hot lunch order form. **Parents, please make sure that you remind your child if they are getting a hot lunch. There is quite often some confusion with the students on Wednesdays as to whether or not they are getting a hot lunch.**



HARVEST LUNCH

Thank you to our families who contributed food to our Annual Harvest Lunch on Thursday October 6th. Our Pine Grove Family is so fortunate to have parents like you who really care and support our students!



HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES



On Monday, October 31st the students participated in many special Halloween activities. Our morning JK/SK children wore their costumes to school and had fun participating in activities planned by Miss MacKenzie and Mrs. Dyck. The primary students in Mrs. McConnell's, Miss Delahunt's and Mrs. Meleskie's classes walked to Heidehof Home and treated the residents to a Halloween Parade.

All students participated in our Halloween Parade around the school yard in the afternoon followed by fun activities and delicious treats in their classrooms.



SOCCKER SEASON

The team had a fantastic time. They exceeded all my expectations. We were a young team, but with a very big heart and a ton of determination! We finished the season with 3 wins and 1 loss. Then the playoffs began. Defeating Prince Philip in the semi final was a huge thrill. Then we came up a little short in the Championship Game against Parnall. The kids showed tremendous heart and never quit. We lost 4 - 2, but proved we were a team not to be taken lightly. Thank you to all the players for the exciting season and to the parents for all your support!



CROSS COUNTRY

Our cross country team competed with some Area 4 schools for our two meets. Every one of our team members completed their races! Congratulations to Hannah, Rachel, Kate, Connor, Quinton and Emma who represented Pine Grove at the DSBN Cross Country Meet at Fireman's Park on October 12th. Our Cross Country team members are as follows: Kate, Hannah, Rachel, Nick, Emily, Riley, Dylan, Sam, Simon, Abby, Sydney, Quinton, Elyse, Taia, Nick, Kieran, Jordan, Ethan, Gavin, Cameron, Maddy, Emma, Kayley, Michael, Owen, Sam, Katie, Rheagan, Mackey, Parham, Megan, Emma, Shadab, Connor, Samantha, Jordan, Meghan, James and Cydney. Thanks to our students and parents for a great season.



ANNIE THE MUSICAL



We have been offered an amazing opportunity to attend a performance of "Annie" at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, in which members of the Pine Grove School choir will be performing. The cost including transportation for both students and parent volunteers is \$20.00. Regular ticket prices for this performance range from \$28.00 (child) to \$48.00 (adult).

We will be attending the 12:15 pm performance on Wednesday, December 14th. Permission forms were sent home with students on November 1st and are due back no later than November 30th. Parent supervisors are welcome, however, there are only a limited number of tickets available to us at this price, so please be prompt in returning the permission form and payment.



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES FROM THE DSBN

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures. At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as possible through the following channels:

Websites:

www.dsbns.org
www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:

DSBN Facebook or Twitter
NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

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

Television Stations:

CH - Hamilton
CityTV Breakfast Television
CTV Toronto
Cogeco Channel 10

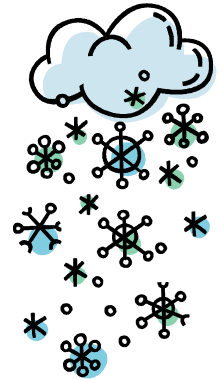
The final decision as to whether or not to send your children to school during severe weather conditions is ultimately yours!



CHANGES IN THE WEATHER



Please make sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the upcoming weather... warm coat, hat, mittens/gloves, boots, snow pants, etc.



LATE STUDENTS

We have a number of students who seem to be late quite frequently. 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.



NIAGARA ICE DOGS

Congratulations to Colin ,Emily and Katie who won tickets for October's Niagara Ice Dog games. More draws will be made for the November games.



LOST AND FOUND

It's not yet winter and already our lost and found is overflowing with hoodies, t-shirts, pants, shoes, lunch bags, etc. Please take the time to come in and have a look if your child is missing any clothing articles. Lost and found items will be donated to a local charity if not claimed.



WHAT CAN PARENTS DO ABOUT BULLYING...?

From Leanne Hasenack, Your School's Youth Counsellor

Whether our kids recognize it or not, we as parents have the most impact on our children as they grow into adults. The goal is to guide them to be confident and independent adults who find success and meaning in their lives and can deal with the ups and downs that life sends us. The following "tips" are meant to help you support and guide your child. For more information feel free to contact the Youth Counsellor at your school.

1. If you think your child is being bullied ask them - many children won't volunteer this information and need us as the adults to take the initiative.
2. Contact the teacher and share what you know. Stay calm, knowing that your child's teacher wants to help.
3. Please DON'T - confront the bully, DON'T - tell your child to fight, DON'T - blame your child, DON'T promise to keep the bullying a secret. **DO** - tell your child you are glad they told you and you are going to help.
4. Role play bully resistant skills with your child. Ex. - stand up straight - look people in the eyes - stay calm - walk with others.
5. Is there a behaviour your child needs to change...? Watch how your child interacts with others and ask for suggestions from other caring adults.
6. Give your child permission to blow off steam around you and state opinions that are different from yours. This gives them practice and then confidence to stand up to a bully and then, they are more likely to do this if need be.
7. You are your child's most important and valuable teacher. Discipline at home should be consistent, fair, respectful and age appropriate.

OTHER RESOURCES:

"The Bully, The Bullied and the Bystander" by Barbara Coloroso

"Bullying - Deal With It Before Push Comes To Shove" by Elaine Slavens

WEBSITES:

Family.com, Bullying.org, Cyberbullying.ca, kidscape.com

KIDS HELP PHONE - 1-800-668-6868 OR kidshelpphone.ca



ENERGY DRINKS ...WHAT'S ALL THE HYPE?

Energy drinks often make big promises. Some say they'll increase energy and alertness, and some even claim to boost athletic performance or powers of concentration. But if you cut through the hype and look past the flashy packaging, chances are you will find a stiff dose of sugar and caffeine. Caffeine can cause side effects like jitteriness, upset stomach, headaches, and sleep problems — all of which drag you down, not power you up! Caffeine may also cause the body to lose calcium, and that can lead to bone loss over time. Some energy drinks pack a whopping 200 mg caffeine (or more)! Health Canada states adults should have no more than 400 mg per day and children aged 7-9 should have no more than 62 mg caffeine per day. In addition to caffeine and sugar, some brands of energy drinks have other ingredients such as guarana (a source of caffeine) and taurine (an amino acid thought to enhance caffeine's effect). Some contain herbal supplements such as ginseng. At about \$3 a can, you can get a better (and cheaper) energy boost by eating a whole-wheat cheese sandwich. The bottom line is, the best energy boost comes from healthy living. Children who eat well, drink water, and get enough physical activity and rest will have plenty of energy — the natural way. For more information visit www.eatrightontario.ca



OCTOBER 15, 2011

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

The schools of the DSBN welcome parent involvement in their children's learning experiences. Studies have found the greater the support that families provide for their children's learning and progress, the greater the likelihood that their children will succeed at school. Parent involvement can take many forms:

- Reading newsletters to keep informed about school and classroom happenings that are part of your child's school experience.
- Asking questions to better understand how your child is achieving and how you can support next steps
- Working with your child at home, supporting what is happening in the classroom
- Making sure there is a time and place set aside to do homework
- Participating in parent teacher conferences, sharing your insights that will provide a richer knowledge of your child
- Meeting with teachers and taking an interest in their programs
- Serving on school councils and Parent Involvement Committees
- Volunteering for field trips and school activities
- Seeking ways to volunteer from home to support classroom activities

Your involvement will enrich your experience as a parent, and will also benefit your child. Students are more likely to be motivated, earn higher grades, and continue their education to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

CRAWL THROUGH THE STORY

Make it fun!

C – Come Read with Me!

Let your child be the leader while reading a book. Let them look and talk about what they are interested in. It's OK to look at the same pages again and again! Repetition helps to build vocabulary and learn concepts.

R – Remember and Recall

For example, you can ask "What was your favourite part? Who were the characters? Do you remember when....?"

A – Ask questions with the word "THINK"

These questions help your child learn to predict and describe. For example, you can ask "What do you think might happen? Where do you think they might go? Why do you think they did that?"

W – Where is the picture? Where are the words?

Help your child understand that pictures and print are different – the words tell us about the story! Can your child point to the words? Can your child count the words?

L – Link to real life

Ask your child "Do you remember when we...." or "Have you ever....." If you let the child link the story to their real life you can help them to relate new words and concepts to their everyday life.

How we read to children is as important as how often we read to them. Traditionally, when most adults share a book with a child they read and the child listens. Research tells us that children learn best from books when they are actively involved.

To get children involved we want to create a conversation while reading a book. We want both children and adults to move slowly through the story together to explore the book. The best way to help your child is to allow them to become the storyteller of the book. The adult becomes the listener, the questioner and the audience for the child.

To create a conversation about a book, we have created a book mark for you. These are strategies that you can use to help turn book reading into a fun conversation. These techniques encourage children to talk more and give descriptions about what they see.

Information provided by: Speech Services Niagara



SUPPORTING THE YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN AT HOME

Success is in the journey, not the destination!

Young mathematicians should be provided with opportunities to explore mathematics throughout their day. Share the times when you are using mathematics in your day so that they see and understand the importance of math in their world. Support them as they begin to grapple with mathematical ideas. Help them understand that success lies not in getting the right answer, but rather in the challenge of solving the problem. Also, let them know that you think math is important, exciting & even creative!

There are many times when mathematical thinking could be discovered while at home or out with the family. Here are a few examples. Be sure to keep it fun!

At home:

Daily chores: How long will it take us to clean the dishes? Let's time it and see if we were close.

Cooking: Measure out the flour for this recipe. What if we double the recipe?

Reading stories: How many elephants are there? How many feet would there be?

Budgeting: How much will you need to save to be able to buy that bike you want to get?

Puzzles: How did you know that piece didn't fit there?

Card Games: What number is that? Is that number bigger than mine?

Board Games: What roll do you want to get? What are the chances of that happening?

Video Games: How much is your team winning by?

I spy with my little eye, something that is smaller than a shoe box...

Grocery store:

Please pick out 5 apples for the family.

I have \$20. Will that be enough to buy what we have in the shopping cart?

That's a lot of pop cases. I wonder if there are more than 100 cases?

Should we buy the smaller bag or the bigger bag? Which is the better deal?

I spy with my little eye, something that is more expensive than a loaf of bread...

Restaurant:

About how much will this meal cost?

About how much of a tip should we leave?

I spy with my little eye, something that is a rectangle...



Help support your child as they encounter math in their daily lives. As well, it is very important that young mathematicians have many experiences around a mathematical concept (addition or multiplication) so that they can understand it in depth. While knowing math facts is important, it is more important that young mathematicians have opportunities to deepen their understanding, to reason mathematically, and to use mathematics to navigate their world. Making connections between school math and the math they encounter in the real world will support this learning.

Remember to keep it fun!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

21st Century Learners: Where Parents Fit In

The DSBN Parent Involvement Committee invites you to join us for an evening of learning, sharing and networking with a focus on ideas to make your School Council bigger and better as you support student learning.

All parents are invited to attend.

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Eden High School

535 Lake St., St. Catharines

Free registration includes a light supper and child care.

Register online at: www.dsb.org > parents > click on the Online Registration link.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports for students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be sent home on November 15th, 2011.

Please contact your child's teacher for an interview.



ORAL LANGUAGE MATTERS

Children who have strong oral language skills often have strong reading and writing skills. The following is a list of specific strategies to help you promote your child's oral language and literacy skills!

Let your child lead the conversation. Children often love to talk about their friends, families, and favourite activities. If your child is less talkative, you may want to start a conversation by telling him/her something about your day that you think would be of interest. Your child may then respond with a comment about his/her day. If s/he does not respond, avoid asking lots of questions; rather, say, "Tell me about _____".

Get close, listen and be animated when speaking with your child. Your child should be able to see your lips and facial expressions, hear your voice clearly, and make eye contact with you. Making sure that you 'get close' helps ensure that your child keeps an interest in what you are saying.

Keep the conversation going. For example, if your child says, "Look at the truck", you might say, "It's a tow truck. I wonder where it is going."

'Think' out loud about what you are doing, using simple language. Activities such as making meals, watching TV, playing or walking outside provide many opportunities for oral language development. For example, when baking, you might say, "Next I'll stir the batter with the spoon. The batter is thick and hard to stir but the more I stir it, the easier it is. The batter is getting smoother and smoother." This type of talk helps children learn vocabulary and conversational skills, and develop sequencing skills. These are all needed at school.

Provide 'toys' that promote oral language. These may include microphones, old telephones, puppets, or even paper towel tubes. Dressing up and pretending to be someone else encourages children to copy the vocabulary, facial expressions, and body language that they see and hear from others.

Remember: the way that you talk to your children influences their ability to talk, think and learn! The most effective way to improve child's language is to let your child lead and keep the conversation going.

Adapted from Prince, Audrey W. (2006) Promoting Oral Language in Young Children: Super Duper Publications.