



Pine Grove Public School

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www.dsbns.org/Schools/PineGrove

OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH

We are off to a great start at Pine Grove Public School for the 2011-2012 school year. The students have settled nicely into their new classrooms and have been working hard and achieving success with the tasks that have been required of them in their new grades.



Construction is still taking place with the installation of new millwork, SMART boards and the completion of our computer lab and library. Thank you for your patience and continued support through our renovations project.

Thank you as well to our students, parents and staff who were supportive and understanding in the kindergarten class shuffle due to our high JK/SK enrolment numbers. We welcome Miss Palcso to our Pine Grove staff.

We had a tremendous turn out of Pine Grove families and friends who attended our Meet the Teacher Night BBQ last month. Many thanks to our Pine Grove Parent Involvement Committee for providing the BBQ for our families.

Volunteers are always welcome at Pine Grove School. If you are interested in helping out in your child's classroom, please write in a note in your child's agenda for his/her teacher.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

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



Teacher	Academic	Effort	Great Work	Character Trait
Miss MacKenzie	Anna	Anastasia	Carlie	Luke
Mrs. Dyck	Zackary	Miya	Dylan	Josh
Mrs. Shepard	Evan	Landon	Kylee	Brianna
Mrs. McConnell	Jordan	Jocelyn	Jessica	Sydney
Ms. Delahunt	Stephie	Matthew	Olivia	Shauntelle
Mrs. Meleskie	Pauline	Ben	Nolan	Madyson
Ms. Whitesell	Abby	Sydney	Favour	Lilly
Ms. Kond	Danielle	Kailey	Nicky	Kasia
Mr. Leighton	Kate	Dahabo	Nick	Ronan



CHARACTER EDUCATION TRAIT FOR OCTOBER

Citizenship is our Character Education Trait for October. **When we are a good citizen, we do our share to make our school, our community, and the world a better place to live.**

Ms. Kond's class will be hosting this month's Student Recognition Assembly in the gym on **Friday, October 28th** at 9:00 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend our assemblies!



PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Friday, October 7, 2011 is a Professional Activity Day with the District School Board of Niagara. There will be no classes for the children on this day due to staff involvement in workshops and meetings on data and developing our school growth plan.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Along with a new building, the School Council has a new name ~ Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). We feel that this name better explains who we are; parents involved in our school community. We would like an opportunity to let you know what PIC is and what you can do to get involved. Any parent or member of the school community can come to a PIC meeting. It is a very relaxed atmosphere where everyone is given a chance to be heard. We know everyone is busy, but given that it's one night a month and most meetings last about an hour, you're home before the kids go to bed.

Please come and join us at our first meeting on **Monday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** and see what we're all about. Let's work together to make our school community strong for our children and give them the education they deserve.

Important Reminder - registration forms for the DSNB Parent Involvement Conference are due back to Mrs. Smith before **Friday, October 7th**.



DFS FUNDRAISING

Our DFS school fundraiser is now underway, catalogues and order forms were sent home with each child on September 26th. We hope you've had a chance to have a look; we are excited by the array of items offered to our families by this new company. Orders are due back to your child's teacher by with payment by **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH**. Your orders will be delivered sometime the week of November 14th.

The monies raised from this once a year fundraiser will be used to purchase learning resources for your child's classroom and help subsidize special events and class trips.



HARVEST LUNCH

On **Thursday, October 6th**, Pine Grove School will be celebrating Thanksgiving with our annual "Harvest Lunch"; a longstanding fall tradition at Pine Grove. The school provides the turkey and parents are asked to provide the potatoes, vegetables, desserts, etc. Parent volunteers are also required to help serve the food at our luncheon. More detailed information has been sent home with your child.



SCHOOL PICTURES

Your child/ren's individual and class picture were taken by Edge Imaging on September 14th. **Picture proofs were sent home on September 26th with an order return date of WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH. Retakes of individual student pictures as well as class pictures will be done on October 13th.** If you wish a retake, please indicate "RETAKE" on the original proof package and return to your child's teacher. All proof packages must be returned to the school regardless of whether you are ordering.



As well, we are please to once again be offering families the opportunity to sibling photos taken. An order form will be coming home shortly; if you would like your children to have their sibling photo done, please return the order form by **Tuesday, October 11th**.



PIZZA LUNCHES



Again this year, we will be offering the opportunity for parents to order pizza lunches for their child on Fridays; beginning Friday, October 14th (excluding holidays and PA days). Order forms for a two month period will come home every other month; October and November's pizza lunches will be sent home with students on Monday, October 3rd with a return date of Tuesday, October 11th. This is a school fundraising initiative and monies raised from these lunches help subsidize class trips, transportation costs and purchase learning resources for your child's classroom. Please mark these dates on your calendar and remind your child so they know whether or not to expect a pizza lunch.

If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to **Pine Grove School**. Orders received past the due date will be accepted for the following week's pizza lunch. Please place a separate order for each child to prevent confusion and ensure your child receives his/her proper order. As well, we ask that when you are ordering pizza or hot lunches that you send payment in separately as one is sponsored by the school while the other is a Parent Involvement Committee initiative.



HOT LUNCHES

Our Parent Involvement Committee will once again be offering "Hot Lunch Wednesdays" starting **October 5th**. Order forms for a two month period will come home every other month; October and November's hot lunch orders were due back on Friday, September 30th. Orders received past the due date will be gladly be accepted for the following week's hot lunch. Please mark these dates on your calendar and remind your child so they know whether or not to expect a hot lunch.



If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to the **Pine Grove PIC**. Please place a separate order for each child to prevent confusion and ensure your child receives his/her proper order. As well, we ask that if you are ordering hot lunches or pizza lunch, that you send payment in separately as one is sponsored by the school while the other is a Parent Involvement Committee initiative.



KISS AND RIDE

Our Kiss and Ride area and parking lot are very congested and busy since the addition of our extra JK/SK afternoon class. If you are picking up your child after school, we suggest that you arrive by 3:00 p.m. to find a parking spot. The area by the orange pylons is strictly a drop off area prior to 8:45 a.m. and a pick up area at 3:15 p.m.

It is very important for the safety of our students, staff and parents that you do not double park, leave your car and go and pick up your child from one of our JK/SK classes. At one point last month, the parking lot was so congested that not a car could drive around the parking lot.

If you have any questions or concerns about our Kiss and Ride area, please contact Mrs. Smith.



NIAGARA ICE DOGS

Again this year, Pine Grove has been adopted by the Niagara Ice Dogs. The Ice Dogs have given us season pass tickets for every other game to be won by one of our lucky Pine Grove families. All student names will be going into a draw for these tickets and the parents of the lucky winners will be contacted by Mrs. Smith.



These games are on the following dates:

October 13, 22, 29; November 5, 17; December 1, 10, 17, 2011 and
January 6, 12, 22; February 4, 23; March 1, 8, 17, 2012



EQAO RESULTS FOR 2010-2011

How does this assessment fit in the total picture?

The chart below indicates the percentage of Pine Grove, DSBN and Ontario Grade 3 and Grade 6 students who are achieving at or above the provincial standard in the EQAO testing conducted in May and June 2010. When considering these results, it is always wise to look at this snapshot within the larger context.

Assessment is an important part of the teacher's daily instructional practice: observing student's work, marking their assignments, giving tests and projects and having students perform various other tasks.

The main purpose of the teacher's assessment of student learning is to make decisions about what the child needs next for continued growth. It is personalized, and tailored to the instruction taking place in the class.

The Provincial Assessment is designed to inform us about the quality of program across the province; it also provides, for individual students, a part of the total picture, which should be used in conjunction with other assessments.

For the individual student, it is the teacher's assessment, based on the year long experience of that child that is most meaningful.

GRADE 3

	READING	WRITING	MATH
Pine Grove	92%	92%	95%
DSBN	67%	73%	67%
Province	65%	73%	69%

GRADE 6

	READING	WRITING	MATH
Pine Grove	92%	92%	81%
DSBN	76%	72%	57%
Province	74%	73%	53%



2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR REPORTING TIMELINES

To ensure that assessment, evaluation and reporting are valid and reliable, and that they lead to the improvement of learning for all students, teachers use practices and procedures that:

- ☑ are fair, transparent and equitable for all students
- ☑ support all students
- ☑ are carefully planned to relate to the curriculum expectations and learning goals and, as much as possible to the interests, learning styles and preferences, needs and experiences of all students
- ☑ are communicated clearly to students and parents
- ☑ are ongoing, varied in nature and administered over a period of time
- ☑ provide ongoing descriptive feedback that is clear, specific, meaningful and timely to support improved learning and achievement
- ☑ develop student's self-assessment skills to enable them to assess their own learning, set specific goals and plan next steps for their learning

(Ontario Ministry of Education, Growing Success, p.6 - www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/growsuccess.pdf)

2011-2012 School Year Reporting Timelines

November 15, 2011

- Grades 1 - 6 Elementary Progress Report
- Senior Kindergarten Progress Report

November/December

- Junior Kindergarten Parent/Guardian Observation and Follow-Up

February 9, 2012

- Grades 1 - 6 Term 1 Elementary Report Card
- Junior Kindergarten Progress Report
- Senior Kindergarten Term 1 Report Card

June 25-27, 2011

- Grades 1 - 6 Term 2 Elementary Report Card
- Junior Kindergarten Report Card
- Senior Kindergarten Term 2 Report Card



SCHOOL VISITORS

We ask that parents make sure their children are organized with all the things they need to take to school for the day before children leave the house in the morning. However, we do understand some mornings can be more hectic than others. We will gladly pass along forgotten backpacks, lunches, running shoes, etc. Please leave these items at the school office and we will call your child down at one of our two fitness/nutrition breaks. Unannounced classroom visits are disruptive to both your child and the other children in the class.



A reminder as well that all visitors or volunteers coming into the school must sign in our "Vistor/Volunteer" sign in book which is always on the counter in the office and wear a Visitor Tag.

We appreciate your support in these important safety matters as we continue to make Pine Grove Public School a safe place for our children and staff.



A REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE

We receive a number of messages in the school office concerning lunch arrangements, play dates, reminders to students about picking up siblings, how children are getting home, etc. We ask that you try and organize your day in the morning before your children leave for school. The office can get very busy and sometimes messages do not get delivered before dismissal time. We appreciate your help and will endeavour to be prompt in delivering any urgent messages.



LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found bin is full already! Please encourage your child to check the bin for any lost items or stop in yourself; the bin is located in the hallway outside of the school office.



HALLOWE'EN ACTIVITIES



On Monday, October 31st, the students will take part in many special activities. Our morning JK/SK children may wear their costumes to school and will participate in activities planned by Miss MacKenzie and Mrs. Dyck. Students in Mrs. McConnell, Miss Delahunt and Mrs. Meleskie's classes will be walking to Heidehof Home for the Aged to visit the residents and show off their costumes. Our afternoon will consist of a Halloween Parade at 1:45 p.m. with our classes in JK/SK to Grade 6 walking around the exterior of Pine Grove and Michael J. Brennan. Parents are welcome to dress up and join us for our Halloween walk. We are looking for parents to help supervise our walk.

Please help us keep Pine Grove a heart healthy school by keeping Halloween treats and candies at home. Remember to send in healthy nutritional foods to school with your child everyday for our nutrition breaks.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe from the Niagara Regional Public Health:

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.
- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.



"THE PARENTING PLACE"

Parenting today is far more complex than it was years ago. As parents we need to cope with the adversity of our times and the many versions of right and wrong our children will face. This can be confusing to us as parents and to our children. In the book "How To Behave So Your Children Will, Too! By Sal Severe, Ph.d there are three promises highlighted that parents can make and work to live by that will help in becoming more successful in our parenting efforts.

- 1. PROMISE TO HAVE COURAGE.** . . . to grow and learn with your child. Be open to and accept new ideas and change. Children spend a lot of years changing. We need to modify our parenting with these changes so that our parenting is age appropriate and fair.
- 2. PROMISE TO HAVE PATIENCE.** . . . lots. Give your child time to change in the direction that you are trying to encourage/instil. When we try a new parenting method we need to give it a consistent try and time to have an impact. Some methods can take weeks to show improvement. Our world runs fast enough as it is with cell phones, computers, one hour photos/dry cleaning etc. Positive and productive parenting will always take time. Something our children deserve!
- 3. PROMISE TO PRACTICE** . . . your good intentions. Sports teams have practices for good reason. Having a child does not mean we always know what to do or how to do it. Learning new ideas/methods and getting good at using them through practice always helps.

Information from Leanne Hackensack, Pine Grove Youth Counsellor



COMMUNICATION MATTERS

(Smart talk from DAB Speech-Language Pathologists)

Did you know that children whose parents are involved in their education do better at school than those with less involved parents? They get better grades, have a better attitude toward school and demonstrate more appropriate behavior. Consider trying a few of these tips to make a BIG difference.

Tip 1: Get involved

*Attend open houses, book fairs, BBQ's, parent/teacher interviews

Tip 2: Check on homework

*Communicate with your child each day about homework.

*Provide an organized and quiet place for your child to do school work.

*Help your child manage the workload by dividing assignments into smaller parts.



Tip 3: Make home a good place for learning

*Praise and encourage your child.

*Read and encourage your child to read every day.

*Set aside a few moments daily to talk with your child about a special interest he/she has.

