



THE PUMA PINNACLE

Pine Grove Public School
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www.dsbnschools.org/Schools/PineGrove



OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



We are off to a great start at Pine Grove Public School for the 2017-2018 school year. The students have settled nicely into their classrooms and have been working hard and achieving success with the tasks that have been required of them in their new grades.

We had a great turn out of Pine Grove families and friends who attended our Open House/Wellness night last week. I was able to connect with many of that night and just a reminder that volunteers are always welcome at Pine Grove School. If you are interested in helping out in your child's classroom, please let them know.

We just received our EQAO scores for the Grade 3 and 6 Assessments done last spring. Our students did exceptionally well and the results are as follows (% of students achieving or exceeding the Provincial Standard):

Grade 3: Reading 91, Writing 94, Math 94

Grade 6: Reading 100, Writing 100, Math 88

DOGS on Pine Grove School Property:

Just a reminder that for the safety of all our students at Pine Grove, we ask that dogs not be brought on to Pine Grove School Property. We recognize that many of our families walk their dog on their way to and from school. We ask that you simply not bring your dog on the school property. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to contact me.

Water Bottles:

It has come to my attention that some of our Puma Pride water bottles that we handed out at the Open House/Wellness night, have a label that is coming off. I have contacted our supplier, and he is willing to replace these. If you have a defective bottle, please bring it to the office, and we will take names of those students that need the replacement bottle.

C. Glauser,
Principal



HONESTY IS OUR CHARACTER EDUCATION TRAIT FOR OCTOBER

The Character Education Trait for October is **Honesty**. Honesty means being a sincere, truthful and trustworthy person who accepts responsibility for their own actions and doesn't blame others. You are being honest when you tell a friend the truth, keep a friend's secret or admit you made a mistake.

Our October Student Recognition Assembly will be held on Friday, November 3 in the gym at 9 a.m. All parents are always welcome to attend any of our assemblies.



PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY / THANKSGIVING

Friday, October 6, 2017 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 developing our school growth plan.

Monday, October 9, 2017 is Thanksgiving Day. There will be no classes for students or staff.



PINE GROVE SCHOOL COUNCIL



Please join us at our next School Council meeting on **Tuesday, October 24** at 6:00 p.m. Babysitting will be provided. We would love to see some new faces and hear your ideas!



Spirit Wear – our spirit wear initiative last year was such a huge success that we are offering it to our families again this year. You may order your spirit wear at any time by logging on to <http://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/pine-grove>. ***This will be your chance to show your Puma Pride!***



FUNDSCRIP!

Buy gift cards and help get resources for our kids!

We have begun a new fundraiser which is available now! Fundscrip! What is Fundscrip? Well, anyone who wants to help support the school council initiatives can buy gift cards. You get full value of what you pay for the gift card – they have all kinds! For groceries, gas, gifts and more! Simply order and use gift cards for items on which you would spend money anyway, and the companies give a percentage back to the school. You can order the gift cards online and have them delivered. Each time you order cards the school receives money back – its that simple!

So – planning teacher gifts? Buying groceries, have some birthday parties coming up? Order your gift cards through our Fundscrip group and give back to the school at the same time. Visit www.fundscrip.com.



OCTOBER IS INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH

Lace up your shoes or snap on those bike helmets for an active trip to school. If you live far from school, park a few blocks away and walk part of the trip. If you ride a bus, take part by walking to your bus stop.

Here's a quick trivia question to have fun with at the dinner table tonight. Walking and wheeling to school can improve:

A) Health
D) Grades

B) Happiness
E) Safety

C) Stress Level
F) All of the above

If you said F, you're correct! Walking and wheeling to school has many benefits and those are just a few.
(Source: activesaferoutes.ca)

Tips to remember when walk or biking:

- Look left, right and left again when crossing the street
- Never run or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them and watch out for cars that are turning or backing up
- It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible
- Cross streets at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Watch out for cars coming out of driveways and alleys
- If what you are doing has wheels, protect your brain – always wear a helmet
- When riding your bike, ride in the same direction as the cars are driving

Tips from www.parachutecanada.org



Indigo love of reading foundation **Adopt a School**

From now until October 10th, for every two books given online, the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation will give an extra bonus book to Pine Grove's school library! We have been recipients from the Adopt a School foundation before and have been grateful for their support in providing us the chance to offer the books the students adore and which motivates them to read.

To show your support please go to: <https://adoptaschool.indigo.ca/eng/signup>, register with an email and password then search for Pine Grove Public School, St Catharines. Once you arrive at Pine Grove's page click donate now!

Thank you to Mrs. Boyd for help in organizing the campaign and so much for your support as well!

Miss MacCrimmon

Introducing the Pine Grove "Me to We" Club!

Pine Grove is very excited to have it's very own "Me to We" Club for students in grades 6-8. The focus of the club is to help the students make a positive contribution within their school, family, community and the larger global community. The students will meet once per cycle during fitness/nutrition break to plan events such as school spirit days, eco-friendly initiatives and ways we can reach the greater global community. Our first two initiatives include:



SCHOOL PICTURES

Your child/ren's individual and class pictures were taken by Edge Imaging the third week of school. The picture proofs with the order form should be coming home shortly. **Retakes of individual student pictures, some class pictures and sibling photos will be done on Monday, October 30.** 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 placing an order. A sibling photo order form has been sent home as well, please complete and return if you wish a sibling photo to be done.



THE LUNCH LADY



Our School Council is pleased to again be offering hot lunches through ***"The Lunch Lady"***. Order forms for October were sent home mid September. Orders received past the due date will be accepted for the following week's lunch. Please mark these dates on your calendar and remind your child so they know whether or not to expect a Lunch Lady lunch.

Two of our reasons for offering The Lunch Lady program are the wide variety of healthy lunch options they offer, and the ease online ordering or cancellations. By using their online service, you can order at any time and are guaranteed your child's order, as well as being able to cancel "the day of" if your child is off ill or has to be absent for any reason. We have experienced issues in the past with lunch orders being misplaced or not handed in and children therefore, not receiving a lunch. The ease of online ordering has eliminated this issue. Please visit www.thelunchlady.ca to register your child and receive more information.



A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

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. Please help keep our children and staff safe by reporting to the office once you enter the building. All visitors must be buzzed in and are then asked to stop at the office to let us know how we can help you. We will gladly deliver forgotten homework, lunches, running shoes, etc. during our fitness/nutrition breaks however, we will not interrupt classes to do so. Please do not deliver items to your child's locker.



As well, we must know the whereabouts of each and every student every day at Pine Grove. If your child is going to be absent, a quick phone call informing us would be greatly appreciated. Our answering machine is on 24/7.

Finally, we do send lots of order forms, letters, etc. home that must be completed and returned to the school, sometimes with payment. We would appreciate it if you would have your child give this paperwork and money to their teacher rather than handing it in at the office. Homeroom teachers do track the return of necessary forms, payments, etc. Thank you for your co-operation.



PARKING LOT/KISS AND RIDE

Our Kiss and Ride area and parking lot gets very congested and busy at the beginning and end of each day. If you are picking up your child after school, we suggest that you arrive by 2:55 p.m. to find a parking spot or make arrangements to pick up your child in the drive through Kiss and Ride area. The area by the orange pylons is strictly a drop off area prior to 8:40 a.m., a pick up area at 3:00 p.m. and a fire route during the school day. It is very important for the safety of our students, staff and parents that you do not double park and leave your car to go and pick up your child. Also, a reminder to parents to not park in the bus loading zone in front of the school.



2017-2018 ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT

On November 9th, your child will bring home their Elementary Progress Report. The format was created after years of consultation with parents, teachers, principals, and students across the province. Although it looks much like the Report Card, this report has a very different intent. The purpose of the Progress Report is to share early and specific feedback on your child's development of work habits and learning skills as well as his/her progress towards achieving the curriculum standards by the end of the school year.

Traditionally, when reporting to parents about their child's progress, teachers have prepared by *looking back* over the work done. The teacher evaluated your child's progress from the beginning of the school term to the current point in time, and reported on the highlights of achievement as they compare to overall curricular expectations. Teachers continue to report on Provincial Term One and Term Two Report Cards in this manner.



Reporting on the Progress Report is about *looking forward*. The purpose is to set the course for the learning journey ahead. Based on the evidence teachers see, as well as what teachers know about learning at this grade level, the report communicates the path your child is on towards achieving the grade level expectations by the end of the year. For students who are on a modified Individual Education Program, the teacher uses those modified goals when determining whether a child is progressing well, progressing very well, or progressing with difficulty.

All subjects that are part of your child's program in the first weeks of school will be assessed according to the following indicators:

Progressing Very Well: In the first weeks of school, evidence shows that the student is demonstrating consistent progress and is on track to meet and/or surpass the provincial standard set for the end of the year.

Progressing Well: In the first weeks of school, evidence shows that the student is demonstrating consistent progress and is on track to meet the provincial standard set for the end of the year.

Progressing With Difficulty: In the first weeks of school, evidence shows that the student is experiencing difficulty towards meeting the provincial standard set for the end of the year. For subjects in which your child is Progressing With Difficulty, the teacher will discuss specific next steps plans needed for success. We look forward to partnering with you and your child for a year of great learning and growth.



LOST AND FOUND

Please encourage your child to check the bin for any lost items or stop in yourself; the bin is located in the front entrance. We are overflowing already! Items not picked up will be donated to local charities on a regular basis.



TERRY FOX RUN

Thank you to all families who contributed to our annual Terry Fox Run held in September. Over \$1,000 was donated to the Terry Fox Foundation on behalf of Pine Grove School. Way to go Pumas!



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 multi-coloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.



CHANGE IN CROSSING GUARD TIMES

We have been advised by the City of St. Catharines that crossing guard hours in the Pine Grove School area have been changed effective September 30th. The guard at Lake Street/Lakeshore Road will be on duty 8:00 – 8:40 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. There will be NO crossing guard in attendance over the lunch hour.



Grade 8 Students and Parents: Save the Date!

Starting high school is a huge step in a student's life. While it's definitely an exciting time, it also brings with it many questions, such as "What's life in high school really like? What programs and options are available to help me achieve my goals?" A great way to have your questions answered is to attend an open house. Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses from November 27-30. Details about open houses will be shared with parents/guardians mid-October.

High School Open House Dates and Times:

A.N. Myer Secondary: November 30

Beamsville Secondary: November 29

Eastdale Secondary: November 30 – 6:00 p.m.

Eden High: November 30 – 6:30

E.L. Crossley Secondary: November 27 - 6:30 p.m.

Governor Simcoe Secondary: November 29 – 6:00 p.m.

Greater Fort Erie Secondary: November 28

Grimsby Secondary: November 28 -

Laura Secord Secondary: November 29

Port Colborne High School: TBD

St. Catharines Collegiate: November 28 – 6:00 p.m.

Sir Winston Churchill Secondary: November 27 – 6:30 p.m.

Stamford Collegiate Secondary: November 28 – 6:30 p.m.

Thorold Secondary: Tuesday, November 29 – 7:00 p.m.

Welland Centennial Secondary: November 30 – 6:30 p.m.

Westlane Secondary: November 29 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.