



## Pine Grove Public School

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[www.dsbnschools.org/Schools/PineGrove](http://www.dsbnschools.org/Schools/PineGrove)

# SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Welcome back to Pine Grove Public School!!! A "warm" Puma welcome is extended to all students, parents and staff returning to Pine Grove. If you are new to our area, we extend a special hello to you and hope you enjoy your year with us!!

Pine Grove has a tradition of high academic standards and positive school participation and, we as a staff, expect our students to put their best foot forward and achieve their best results in all endeavours.

We invite and encourage your interest, support and participation in the activities at Pine Grove. We look forward to working closely with you as we strive together to ensure the best possible education for all our students.



## Balanced School Day Times

Pine Grove School is on a balanced school day. Our school day is broken down into three 100 minute blocks of instructional time. School start and finish times have not changed. Our morning entry bell will ring at 8:45 a.m. and our dismissal bell will ring at 3:15 p.m. It is very important for your child to be at school no later than 8:40 a.m. That way he/she can enter the building with his/her classmates and be ready to begin promptly at 8:45 a.m. O' Canada, the Pledge of Freedom and daily announcements will be held at the beginning of the first break. Our first Nutrition/Fitness Break is from 10:25-11:05 a.m. where the children will have 20 minutes to eat their food and then play outside for 20 minutes. Our second Nutrition/Fitness Break is from 12:45-1:35 p.m. It will be during this break that the students will be allowed to go home for lunch.

Our Pine Grove day will look as follows....

8:45-10:25 am	First Instructional Block
10:25-11:05 am	Nutrition/Fitness Break
11:05-12:45 pm	Second Instructional Block
12:45-1:35 pm	Nutrition/Fitness/Lunch Break
1:35-3:15 pm	Third Instructional Block
3:15 pm	Dismissal



Our morning JK/SK class times will be from 8:45-11:15 a.m. and our afternoon JK/SK time will be from 12:45-3:15 p.m.



## Pine Grove Public School Staff 2011-2012

Please welcome and welcome back the Pine Grove School staff. We are very pleased to have most of our staff returning to Pine Grove this year and would like to congratulate the staff members who will be joining us; Mrs. Shepard who is returning from her maternity leave, Miss MacKenzie and Miss Frenette who will be with us on a long term occasional basis and Mrs. Slingerland, an Educational Assistant who will be working with us at Pine Grove as well.



Unfortunately, we did have to say goodbye to Mrs. Gorham-Nowell, a well respected and very well liked teacher at Pine Grove for a number of years. We know you join us in wishing Mrs. Nowell well at her new school this year.

Mrs. Smith	Principal	Mrs. M. Halfyard	Learning Resource Teacher
Miss MacKenzie	JK/SK AM-Music PM	Miss Mazachowsky	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Dyck	JK/SK AM	Mrs. Slingerland	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Shepard	JK/SK PM	Ms. Boyle	Secretary
Mrs. McConnell	Grade 1	Mrs. Marinacci	Head Custodian
Miss Delahunt	Grade 1 / 2	Mrs. Rix	Evening Custodian
Mrs. Meleskie	Grade 2/3	Mr. Curry	Lunch Supervisor
Ms. Whitesell	Grade 3/4	Mr. Hayday	Lunch Supervisor
Ms. Kond	Grade 4/5	Mrs. Hesch	Lunch Supervisor
Mr. Leighton	Grade 5/6	Mrs. Hasenack	Youth Worker
Madame Ten Brinke	French	Ms. Juskiw/Mrs. Saks	Youth Connection Nurse
Miss Frenette	Dance/Drama/Prep		

Classes may not be finalized for the next 2 to 3 weeks. We are still waiting to hear from students who have moved and new students who are moving into our area.



## Meet The Teacher BBQ and Renovation Open House

We know the Pine Grove community is as excited to see our new school as we were! However, due to the extent of the renovations, the Pine Grove staff were not able to get into the school until the first day of school, Tuesday, September 6th which means we still have a lot of unpacking, cleaning and organizing to do!



We invite you to come and have a tour of the school, have your child introduce you to their teacher and show you their new classroom during our Meet the Teacher BBQ on **Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30 p.m.** Come out and join us for some great food prepared for you by our School Council. More information will be going home shortly about this exciting family event!



## Picture Day

School photographs and class pictures will be taken by Edge Imaging on **Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** with individual retakes scheduled for Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The picture proofs/order forms will be sent home with your child approximately two weeks later with the order return date indicated.



## School Agendas

A major part of the primary/junior program involves teaching students to plan their time to complete projects. An organizer, or agenda, is a critical tool for this purpose. To aid classroom instruction in the use of an organizer, we have purchased a common agenda for each grade 1 to 6 student to use daily.

We are asking parents to contribute a portion of the cost with the balance being subsidized by the school. Further information will be coming home with your child shortly.



## Important Information

A manila envelope will be coming home shortly with your oldest/only child. Included in this envelope will be the following:

- \*Student Verification Form**
- \*Netiquette Agreement (except JK/SK)**
- \*Agenda letter (except JK/SK)**

**\*to be returned**

Parent Handbook  
Code of Conduct  
DSBN calendar  
Student Insurance information



Please take the time to go over all this material; share information with your child, and then return the indicated forms and payment in the envelope, to your child's teacher, as soon as possible after receipt. This very important information is needed to make sure we have the most updated records on your child.



## Play Day / Terry Fox Run

Our annual Fall Play Day this year will be held on the morning of our first Early Release Day, Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> for all students in JK to Grade 6. We will be incorporating our Terry Fox Run into our play day that morning.

Pine Grove School is proud to be a supporter of the Terry Fox Foundation. In 1980, Terry Fox faced considerable challenges while running the equivalent of a marathon a day for 143 days during his **3,339** mile Marathon of Hope. He challenged himself every day with one goal in mind: raise the most money he could to end cancer. Now it's our turn. Students will run laps around the school to honour the tradition that Terry Fox started. We are asking each student to donate a "twoonie for Terry"; all money raised will be forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation for Cancer Research.

## Early Release Days for 2011-2012

**Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>** have been designated as an Early Release Days by the District School Board of Niagara. There will be no afternoon classes for the children on these days. The children in grades 1-6 will be dismissed at 11:55 a.m. Our staff will be working on professional development and planning during the afternoon.

Morning JK/SK students, who are normally bussed, will be bussed to school but there will be no bussing home on early release days; parents will be responsible for picking up their children from the morning kindergarten classes. There will be no afternoon class for Mrs. Shepard's JK/SK class on early release days.



## School Council Meeting



Welcome and welcome back Pine Grove families! Your first School Council meeting for this year will be held on **Monday, September 19th, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the school library** and we would love to see some new faces this year! We were sorry to see several of our longstanding council members leave us this year as their child moved on. Meetings are always open to all parents and guardians.

Dates for each of our meetings will be indicated on the school monthly calendars posted on the school website. Please come out and see what we're all about; we look forward to seeing you.



## Pine Grove and the Environment

We are trying hard at Pine Grove School to teach, as well as doing our part, in being environmentally friendly. Therefore, starting in October, our school monthly newsletters and calendars, school council meeting minutes/events, teacher classroom websites, order forms and more can be found on our website at [www.dsbm.edu.on.ca/schools/pinegrove](http://www.dsbm.edu.on.ca/schools/pinegrove) . Please make sure to have a look regularly. Hard copies of Pine Grove's monthly newsletters are always available in the school office.



As well, we are trying to cut down on litter during our nutrition breaks. We are asking parents to pack food items, snacks and drinks in reusable containers.



## Character Education Trait

September's Education Trait is **R E S P E C T**. Children who learn respect treat others with care and courtesy. Children who respect themselves also respect others.

"Puma Paws" will be handed out by our Pine Grove staff to students who display our monthly character trait. Once a student receives a paw, he/she may bring it to the office and place it in our draw basket. Paws will be drawn randomly following morning announcements for students to come to the office for a special treat.

Your child's class will be hosting one of our monthly Student Recognition Assemblies. The assembly will take place at the end of each month. The date and time will be on our monthly calendar. Miss Delahunt's Grade 1 / 2 class will be hosting September's Student Recognition Assembly on **Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**

Parents, families and friends are welcome to attend our assemblies. Your child's photo will be displayed in the front hallway on our Recognition Bulletin Board.



## Peanut/Nut Safe Building



Pine Grove Public School is a **peanut and nut safe building**. We have students in our building who have severe allergies to peanuts and nut products. Due to the life threatening nature of this food allergy, we are asking for your support and co-operation with this important matter.

For the continued safety of these children, we respectfully request that **no food containing nuts or nut products be sent to school with your child**. We consider the safety of all our students a top priority and we feel confident that you will understand the seriousness of this request.



## Lost and Found

Let's be sure to start the year off on the right foot. Please identify your child's clothing, outerwear, backpack and lunch bag. It only takes a moment to write the name or initials (with permanent marker) on all items. If you find you are missing an item, please make sure your child or yourself come in and check the lost and found bin located outside the Main Office. The Pine Grove community generously donated well over twenty bags of clothing including winter coats and boots to charity last year! Because of the huge amounts of lost items, and as we do not have the storage space, this year all items not claimed **by month end** will be donated to local charities.



## Milk Sales



Students will be able to purchase milk daily at lunch time (the second nutrition/fitness break) beginning on Monday, September 12th. White or chocolate milk may be purchased for \$1.00. Students should come to the school office at the start of the second break to buy their milk tickets.



## Pizza Lunches

Every Friday, beginning in October, we will once again be offering our families in Grades 1 to 6 the opportunity to order a pizza lunch for their children - watch for the October order form coming home shortly. Special lunches will be held during the second nutrition break from 12:45 - 1:05 p.m. Monies generated from these pizza lunches have been used in the past to pay for our Carousel Player productions, offer free pizza lunches for all students, as well as subsidize the costs of both primary and junior trips.



However, as with so many school activities, we can only be successful if we have the parent volunteers to help us. For our pizza lunches, day per month, we need a parent volunteer from each classroom to come into the school and help organize the pizza orders as well as count and roll the pizza payments. As well, on Friday's pizza lunch days, from approximately 12:40 to 1:00, we need one or two parent volunteers per class to hand out the pizza orders and help supervise the students. Cheques for the payment of pizza lunches should be made payable to Pine Grove School.

**Please ensure when ordering pizza and hot lunches that you send payment in separately as one is sponsored by the school while the other is a School Council initiative.**

If you are able to help with the organizing of the pizza orders, please leave your name with Ms. Boyle in the office. If you would like to volunteer in your child's class on Friday's, please indicate on the bottom portion of the pizza order form.



## Hot Lunches



Our Pine Grove School Council is pleased to once again be offering "Hot Lunch Wednesdays" starting in October. This worthwhile fundraising effort by our Council not only provides students with a healthy, nutritious lunch at the low cost of \$6.00 but also gives moms and dads a break from making lunches!

Monies raised have been used to subsidize the Grade 6 year end trip, provide classroom resources to the teachers and purchase sports equipment to name just a few. Watch for order forms coming home the end of September. Cheques for the payment of hot lunches should be made payable to Pine Grove PTA.

**Please ensure when ordering pizza and hot lunches that you send payment in separately as one is sponsored by the school while the other is a School Council initiative.**



## School Visitors/Dismissal Procedures

We ask parents to wait for your child outside the back doors of the school at lunch time and the end of the school day. We are trying to encourage independence in dressing and organizing personal belongs and the hallways outside of the classroom can become quite congested during bell times.

If you would like to speak to your child's teacher, please write a note in your child's agenda.

If your child needs to leave school early for an appointment, again, please write a note to your child's teacher in their agenda. When you come to pick your child up, please come to the office and let Ms. Boyle know so she can record your child's departure out of the school. Ms. Boyle or Ms. Smith will go and get your child out of class.

**Please do not use the "Teacher/Visitor Sign-In" book on the counter in the office to sign your child in or out of the school. It is extremely important that we know at all times whether a student is in the school or has left due to illness, appointment, etc. Ms. Boyle must record it in her attendance computer program.**



## Medic Alert's "No Child Without" Program

The "No Child Without" program offers a free Medic Alert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 and their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, you should consider a Medic Alert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, Medic Alert membership:

- give emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their Medic Alert bracelet or necklet
- enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the 24 Hour Emergency Hotline
- communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the Hotline

- allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

Medic Alert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information, visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca).

Please contact Mrs. Smith or Ms. Boyle if you would like a brochure for this free medical program for your child.