



# PINE GROVE SCHOOL

690 Lake St., St. Catharines, ON L2N 4J5

(905) 935-1901

[www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/schools/pinegrove](http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/schools/pinegrove)



## Newsletter

November 2009



### Message from Mrs. Smith

**A** Learning to take responsibility for one's own progress and learning is an important part of education for every student. Self-motivated, life long learners are able to set goals and judge their own work to determine what is needed to improve.

Our conference times will be held on **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** Families will be given a time for their conference. We are asking that since we will be having student lead conferences, **it is essential that your child is with you to lead his/her conference.**

The benefits of Student Led Conferences are as follows.....

- \*to share past learning
- \*to celebrate successes/areas of strength
- \*to determine areas needing improving
- \*to form a clear plan for future learning involving student, parent and teacher responsibilities

We are also working on gradual release of responsibility whereby the students are taking ownership for their learning at Pine Grove.

We look forward to seeing you during our Student Led Conferences times. Information regarding specific appointment times will be sent home in the next few weeks.

### Students of the Month for October

**S** October's trait was CITIZENSHIP. The following students have been selected as our Students of the Month for October for their classes:

Mrs. Nowell- Dylan, Will, Emma, Pauline

Mrs. Dyck - Nolan, Stephanie, Matthew

Mrs. McConnell- Emma, Meghan

Mrs. Shepard- Madyson, Payton, Owen, Kadense

Ms. Delahunt- Elyse, Shadab, Emily, Jordan

Mrs. Meleskie- Alyssa, Anna, Grace, Kira, Samia, Danielle, Andrew

Ms. Whitesell- Celina, Colin, Matthew, Ronan

Ms. Kond- Jarrett, Alexis, Alanna, Brooklyn, Josh

Mr. Leighton- Emma C., Nicole, Jack

### Professional Activity Day

**P** Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 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 assessment and evaluation activities.

### School Council Meeting

**S** Please join us for our next School Council Meeting on **Monday, November 2nd at 6:00 p.m.** in our staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings!



### Student Hand Sanitizers

**S** Parents/guardians may send their child to school with hand sanitizer, as long as it is only for the personal use of the child. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure the child is old enough to be given the hand sanitizer, and to review appropriate use.

## Pizza Lunches



Pizza lunches will be held on the following **Fridays in November....6, 20 and 27.**

We are always looking for parent volunteers to help count and organize monthly monies and orders for our pizza lunches. If you can help us out, please contact Ms. Boyle in the office.

Please complete the order form and return it to school by the due date. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Pine Grove School. Orders will only be accepted on Tuesdays for the following week's pizza lunch. We thank you for your continued support!!

Thank you to our parents who came in and helped us tally our pizza and milk count for October's pizza lunches!! If you are available to help out in your child's class during our pizza lunch days, please complete the section at the bottom of the pizza form.

## Peanut Allergy Alert



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

Please help keep Pine Grove a Heart Healthy School by not sending in any Hallowe'en 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 choices as healthy ones.**

LET'S KEEP PINE GROVE A SAFE A HEALTHY PLACE FOR OUR STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS!!

## Hallowe'en Activities

On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, the students participated in many special Hallowe'en activities. Our morning JK/SK children wore their costumes to school and had fun participating in activities planned by Mrs. Nowell. Due to the weather, our afternoon consisted of a Hallowe'en Parade around the halls of the school with a visit over to Michael J. Brennan. Each class then had their own Hallowe'en festivities. Thank you to those parents who came to the school to watch our indoor Hallowe'en parade.



## Character Education Trait for November

Integrity is our Character Education Trait for November.

Mme Ten Brinke and the Grade 6 class will be hosting this month's Student Recognition Assembly in the gym at 2:30 pm on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome to attend our assemblies.

## Cross Country

Our Cross Country Team competed with other schools in Area 4 in September and October. Our students ran great and completed all races.

Congratulations to Rachel, Josh, Cailen, Malcolm, Austin and Jane who represented Pine Grove in the DSBN Cross Country Meet at Fireman's Park. **A BIG congratulations** goes out to Jane for placing first in the Peewee Girls Division!!!



Our Cross Country Team members are as follows.... Nick, Grace, Anna, Kira, Karan, Ryan H., Ryan D., Cameron, Taylor, Ben, Samia, Kate, Rachel, Haley, Josh, Hannah H., Dahabo, Hannah C., Sam B., Jack M., Jake H., Gunther, Tyrell, Angelica, Jarrett, Alanna, Jared, Celina, Cailen, Halle, Laurene, Austin, Matthew, Noah V., Tanna, Emma, Ayaisha, Malcolm, Jane.



**S**occer  
The Pumas had a great season. They won the League Cup, posting a 5 - 0 record. Unfortunately, they lost in the play-off finals against Parnall.

Mr. Leighton was very proud of his players for their sportsmanship and effort throughout the season.

Girls

- Robyn
- Nicole
- Jane
- Olivia
- Emma
- Hannah
- Emily
- Rachel K

Boys

- Malcolm
- Harry
- Matt E.
- Angelo
- Matt B.
- Tyrell
- Austin
- Noah
- Jarret

**H**1N1 Updates

It is important for your child's health that he/she spends time at home when ill. Sending him/her back to school too soon may result in a longer recovery period.

You may send your child back to school a minimum of 24 hours after a fever has broken without the administration of fever medication. This has been recommended by the Niagara Regional Public Health Department.

The DSBN is updated by the Niagara Regional Public Health Department on a regular basis on the status of the H1N1 virus in our area. Please go to the school website and click on the H1N1 link for the most current information available.

A list of clinics offering free vaccinations is also available on the website.

**C**hanges in the Weather

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

**E**mergency School Closing

It's that time again when we have to think about snow and plan for the possibility of school closures. It's better to have plans in place and be prepared. Here are some very important things to remember...



- ✓ Listen to the radio stations for information concerning the District School Board of Niagara closing and reopening:



CHCH TV Hamilton  
105.7 FM St. Catharines

610 AM St. Catharines  
1120 AM St. Catharines

- ✓ Follow the In Case of Emergency link on the school website for up to date information
- ✓ Make an emergency plan with your children to ensure a common understanding for arrangements in the event that schools close early
- ✓ Please do not call the school for information nor expect your child to call home. All our phone lines will be necessary as we will not dismiss a student until we have contacted either parents or an emergency contact.

In regards to sending your children to school during severe weather conditions, the final decision is yours!

Please remember that there may be times when the District School Board of Niagara cancels transportation. Unless you hear otherwise, schools will remain open when transportation is not available.

Please advise Ms. Boyle of any address or telephone changes as soon as possible so she can update your children's information.

**R**emembrance Day Assembly

On Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our Remembrance Day Service in the gym beginning at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Meleskie's class will be hosting our service. Our primary



classes will perform as the choir for our service.

Students who belong to service groups such as Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guides, etc. would honour the veterans on this special day by wearing their uniforms.

Parents, relatives and friends are welcome to attend our service. Donations for a poppy will be accepted on this day.

### Late Students

**L**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.

**When you are picking up your child for lunch or at the end of the day please remember to wait outside for him/her. Once he/she has everything for home time, he/she will meet you outside in the Kiss and Ride area or at the back of the building. Thank you for your continued support in keeping Pine Grove Public School a safe place for our students and staff.**

### What Can Parents Do About Bullying...? From 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
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For more Parenting information you can reach Leanne Hasenack - DSBN Youth Counsellor at your child's school.

### Important Date to Remember for November

- 10 - Ed MacDonald (Korean veteran) will be here to speak with our junior students
- 11 - Remembrance Day service in the gym at 9:00 a.m.
- 11 - Mr. Leighton's class participating in Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph
- 13 - P.A. Day (no school for students)  
Silent Auction/Trivia Night at Heidehof at 7:00 p.m.
- 16 - JK observations begin today
- 18 - Mrs. McConnell's class visit to Heidehof
- 19 - Mrs. Shepard's Memory Box Gallery Walk  
Grades 3 to 6 to Sheridan Park School to see Canadian author Eric Walters
- 24 - Puma Pride Day - Sports Jersey Day
- 26 - Student Recognition Assembly - 2:30 p.m.

District School Board of Niagara,  
191 Carlton Street,  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2R 7P4

October 28, 2009



## Your Family is Invited to Participate in this Exciting Educational Programme

Dear Families of Pine Grove School:

The District School Board of Niagara will be hosting groups of Korean and Vietnamese students in various elementary schools during the school year. Our experience last year with this endeavour was highly successful. The children, who speak basic English, are placed in classrooms at their age-equivalent grade level and show great interest in being in our classrooms.

For living arrangements, every effort is made to place the students in homes of families whose children attend **either the same DSBN school or another DSBN school**. In this arrangement, the Canadian child experiences a sense of leadership and the exchange student benefits from a sense of security. Both benefit by being exposed to a foreign culture, so important in a globalizing world, and by building a close mutual friendship bond. Nurturing families who have no children of their own or whose children go to schools other than those of the DSBN, may also be considered.

Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity. If you would like more information or an application, please contact the following program host, Marina Wilson asap.

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Tel: 905-688-8119  
Email: [marina@hospitalitecanada.com](mailto:marina@hospitalitecanada.com)  
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Sincerely,

S. Smith,  
Principal.