



Pine Grove Elementary School

HERITAGE

Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility

Mr. Richard Weber, Principal

Dr. Rosanne Reimer, Asst. Principal

2701 Summit Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21234 410-887-5267

January 22, 2009

HOME OF THE PANDA CALENDAR

January

- 23 Second marking period ends
- 26 **Schools closed for students—
professional day**
- 28 Spanish classes start for
Ms. Simpkins, Mrs. McDonough,
Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Hayes, and
Mr. Pugh's classes
- 29 NAEP assessment for fourth
grade students

February

- 2 Whittle equipment arrives
- 5 Chick-fil-A Night
- 7 PTA Rollerskating at Putty Hill
(4:30-6:30 p.m.)
- 9 Report cards go home
- 11 Bus evacuation drill (snow date:
February 13)
- 16 **Schools closed for Presidents'
Day**
- 17 Whittle Night (5:30-8:30 p.m.)

May

- 18 Spring instrumental music concert,
grade 5, PGES (7 p.m.)

June

- 1 Spring choral concert, grades 3-5
and Madrigals, LRHS (7 p.m.)

From the Principal's Desk

We are less than 2 months away from the administration of the MSA. As we gear up for the assessments, daily attendance and homework completion are of even greater importance. Please mark your calendars from March 16-31, 2009. That is the MSA testing window. A good night's sleep and a good breakfast often help student performance. Through the hard work and dedication of our wonderful staff and the effort of our students, PGES should, once again, perform above the satisfactory ranges.

Pine Grove Student News

The boys and girls in K-1 certainly came back from the winter holiday break eager to learn! They are learning many new letter sounds and are becoming excellent beginning readers. They are having wintertime fun in the classroom. They are using Venn Diagrams to compare and contrast the seasons. They are making webs that illustrate signs that winter is here. They are discussing hibernation and are exploring snowflakes with Snowflake Bentley. On Friday, the boys and girls enjoyed a pizza party for their efforts during the Fall Walk-a-thon. Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Davis made sure it was a feast for champions! **K-1** wishes everyone a happy, healthy new year!

The boys and girls in Mrs. Shanahan's class have started the new year working on "voice" in their writing. They are working on talking to the reader and developing their own writing style. They have enjoyed comparing music styles to writing styles by listening to different versions of the same song.

Wall of Fame

Math Facts Wall of Fame winners for December are:

Grade 1—Laila A., Kaylee C., Shamron E., Anna E., Victoria H., Heather H., Lillian H., Chris M., and Mikey T.

Character Education

If you are ever in our school building during the opening exercises, you will hear the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America. Following that, our students recite the Pine Grove Pledge: "I pledge to do my best to show respect for myself and others; to be responsible for my work, my actions, and my words; and to practice the Pine Grove virtues." (All students from PK through grade 5 say this pledge together.) They are led by a small group of students from each class in reciting the pledges.

On Wednesday morning, we had a special show featuring Ronald McDonald. Ronald's program focused on Character Education. The morning's subjects were: "Being a Friend," "Cooperation," "Bullying," and "Active Playing with Friends." Students in PK through grade 3 attended the show. Ronald had several students participate in the program, which was recorded to be shown on the BCPS Education Channel. We will let you know when it will be scheduled. The program was arranged through the guidance office.

From the Nurse

Vision and hearing screening was completed in our school the first week of January. Notices of vision and hearing failures were sent home to the parents on January 7, 2009. Please follow up with an appointment with the doctor. At the time of the visit, request that the doctor complete the lower portion of the notice. Parents need to return the completed form to the nurse. I will notify parents again after 6 weeks if I have not received information about follow-up care. This is the Department of Vision and Hearing protocol. If you have questions, please feel free to call Mrs. Knauer at 410-887-5449.

Chick-fil-A Night

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 5, 2009. Pine Grove Elementary School will be hosting Chick-fil-A Night from 5-8 p.m. All proceeds will benefit technology.

Education Channel

The Education Channel is now on Comcast Cable Channel 73 and Verizon FiOS Channel 35!

Math Homework Helpers is back again this year! Every Wednesday, those crazy math loving puppets are LIVE with homework help! The prize wheel is loaded! Students—need help with your math homework? Call in, Spin, and Win! You'll get help with your math homework AND win a spectacular prize. Call-in hours are Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at 410-494-1459.

BCPS News has a new look! Be sure to tune in and meet our new hosts and get the latest good news that's happening throughout our BCPS. BCPS News airs every day at 7 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.

The Chalkboard is up and running. Find out what's happening at your school by watching The Chalkboard every day at 7:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m., and 6 p.m.

Office Depot

Every time parents, students, and school supporters give our 5% Back to Schools ID number when buying qualifying school supplies at Office Depot, Pine Grove Elementary receives credits equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for free supplies. Our ID number is 70046120.

A+ Bonus Bucks

Please register your Giant card so Pine Grove Elementary can earn A+ Bonus Bucks every time you shop. You may designate Pine Grove Elementary by following the directions at www.giantfood.com/aplus. If you have any questions, you may call 877-275-2758.

Target

Remember, your purchases at Target can help donate money to our school! When you shop at Target, ask how you can donate money to Pine Grove Elementary.

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting PGES by recycling your used ink cartridges and cell phones. We are not only helping Pine Grove, but also our planet by recycling. So, keep them coming!

Going Green!

The Heritage is “going green.” If you haven’t already done so, please fill out the yellow flyer with your name, email address, student’s name, and student’s homeroom; and return it to the office. The Heritage is also available on the Pine Grove Elementary School website.

Panda Power School-wide Reading Program (November-March)

Monthly Goal: 100% Participation from all students

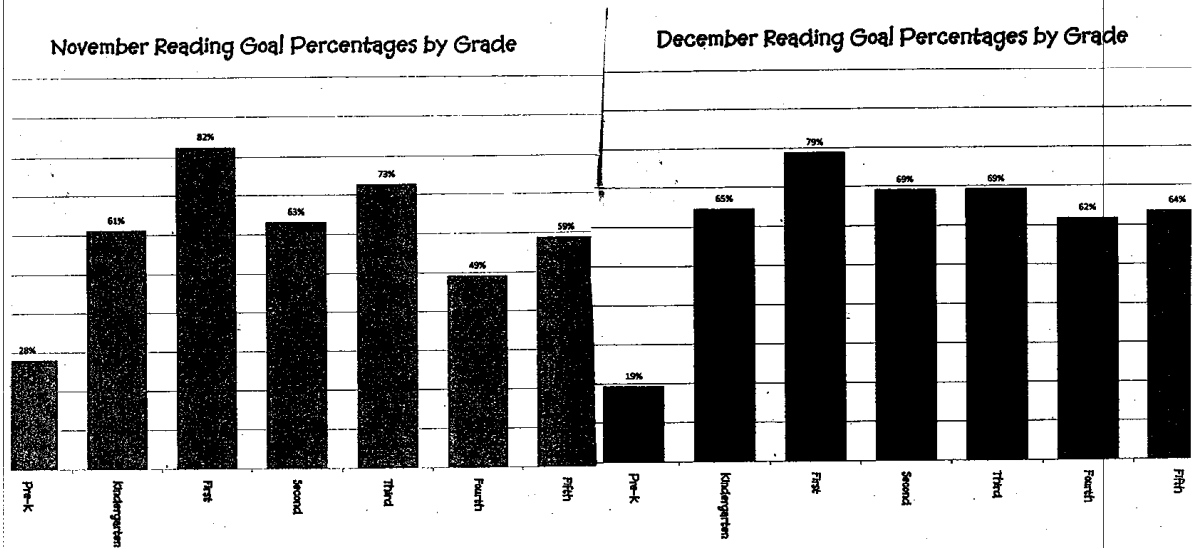


Parents...

We are asking for your support with this important task. Please support your child in meeting their reading goal of 15-20 minutes daily, and remember to sign off on the reading calendar.

Monthly Totals

The graphed information below show results for November and December:



Congratulations to all students who met the goal in November and December and remember...

Be a Panda Power Reader!

Picturing America

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Pine Grove Elementary School is the proud recipient of The National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) new Picturing America initiative. Picturing America provides an innovative way for citizens of all ages to explore the history and character of America through some of our nation's great works of art.

As one of the over 56,000 schools and public libraries nationwide to receive the program, we will have access to this high quality, free resource that we will use to engage our students with discussions of our nation's art, history, civics, literature, and more!

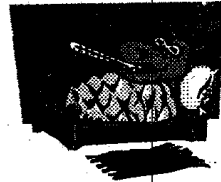
The images of people, places, and events illustrating American history give our students a chance to better understand our country's past and its ideals. What better way to see the courage of a great leader than through Emanuel Leutze's *Washington Crossing the Delaware*? How better to appreciate the power of American democracy than through Norman Rockwell's *Freedom of Speech*? These masterpieces will open our students' eyes to America's rich history and culture while also providing an introduction to the broader world of the humanities.

For more information on the program, you can visit the Picturing America Web site at: www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov. Feel free to peruse the site, and check out the images and the great links included. Sit down with your kids and start conversations about the beautiful masterpieces!

Picturing America is distributed by the NEH in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA).

Don't Get Bugged Out This Year!

Prevent the Spread of Colds and Flu



How colds and flu are spread

- By touching respiratory secretions on someone's skin (e.g. when shaking hands) and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- By touching objects like doorknobs or handrails that infected people have touched and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- By inhaling infectious particles in the air from someone sneezing or coughing nearby.

To reduce the spread of colds and flu

- Wash your hands frequently, especially after touching doorknobs, shaking hands, and before eating (and for good hygiene—after using the bathroom).
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Drink lots of liquids and use a vaporizer when necessary to maintain humidity in the air.
- Sneeze and cough into a tissue (or into your arm if you have to—just not into your hands!), then wash your hands.
- Clean surfaces with disinfectant when you or a family member has a cold or the flu.
- Eat a healthy, balanced diet and maintain a good balance of exercise and rest.
- Don't smoke.

Is it a cold or the flu?

<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Cold</u>	<u>Flu</u>
fever	rare	typical, high (102°-104°); lasts 3-4 days
headache	rare	prominent
body aches	slight	typical; often severe
fatigue, weakness	mild	typical; can last 2-3 weeks
extreme exhaustion	never	early and prominent
stuffy nose	common	sometimes
sneezing	usually	sometimes
sore throat	common	sometimes
chest discomfort, cough	mild to moderate	common; can become severe

Note: Colds and flu are caused by viruses. Antibiotics do not cure viral infections; they only work on bacterial infections (e.g. strep throat, ear infections).

If you do get sick: get as much rest as possible, drink at least 8 glasses of water or juice daily, (hot beverages like tea and soup will help relieve congestion), humidify your bedroom, and take acetaminophen (Tylenol) to reduce fever and relieve aches. (Do not give aspirin to children because it increases the risk of Reye's syndrome).

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

January 2009

Pine Grove Elementary School
Richard Weber, Principal

SHORT NOTES

Touch base

Parents often contact teachers when they're concerned about their children. But teachers want to hear from you when everything's going well, too. Send a quick note about something your child enjoyed (a field trip, a history unit). When communication becomes a habit, it will be easier to chat if a concern crops up.

Chore balloons

Motivate your youngster to help around the house by turning chore assignments into a game. Write tasks on balloons (vacuum, dust, mop). Then, set a timer for one minute while you bat the balloons around to each other. When the buzzer sounds, catch a balloon—and do that chore.

Snowman spelling

Improve your child's spelling with this "chilly" version of Hangman. First, use a pencil to draw a snowman on paper. Then, think of a word and write one blank per letter. Ask your youngster to guess the letters one by one. For each incorrect guess, erase one part of the snowman (head, hat, nose). Can she figure out your word before he "melts"?

Worth quoting

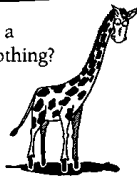
"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

Anonymous

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What's as big as a giraffe but weighs nothing?

A: A giraffe's shadow.



Prevent bullying

Bullying is more than hitting or shoving—it's also using words to make threats, put other children down, or leave kids out. Help your youngster deal with different kinds of bullying with these suggestions.

Situation #1:

Your child complains that she isn't popular—the "in crowd" won't let her sit at their lunch table.

Although you can't make the students include your youngster, you can build her self-esteem and show her how to make friends with kids who will treat her nicely.

Encourage her to talk to friendly classmates and avoid those who are mean or exclude others. Help her gain confidence by finding friends who share her interests (music, pets) and inviting them over to play.

Situation #2:

A classmate has been making fun of your youngster and calling her names.

Bullies who tease may be hoping for a reaction. If they get one, they may tease even more.

The best response is to speak confidently and walk away. For instance, your child might say, "You shouldn't talk to people like that." Then, she should join a group of friends or approach an adult.

Note: Always listen to your youngster if she tells you she's being bullied. Assume she's

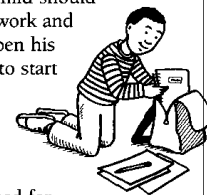


being honest, and assure her she is not tattling. Talk to her teacher and guidance counselor so they can help handle the situation.♥

Resolving to do your best

A new year is the perfect opportunity for your youngster to put his best foot forward. Share these ideas, and watch him shine:

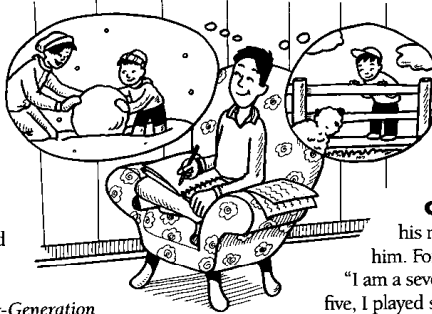
- Be prepared. Your child should take completed homework and books to school, sharpen his pencils, and be ready to start working.
- Look over work carefully. Encourage him to double-check arithmetic and proofread for misspelled words and careless errors on classwork and quizzes.
- Attempt bonus or extra-credit questions on worksheets or tests. A few points here and there can really add up!
- Add flair to projects. Your youngster can put graphics, photographs, or drawings on a poster. Or he could insert a poem or a quote into a report.♥



My memoir

Everyone has a story to tell. Encourage your child to practice his writing skills by telling about his life in his very own memoir.

Read examples. Show your youngster what a memoir is. Read *When I Was Little: A Four-Year-Old's Memoir of Her Youth* (Jamie Lee Curtis) or *Childtimes: A Three-Generation Memoir* (Eloise Greenfield and Lessie Jones Little). Talk about what's included, such as facts about the writer's family and important events in her life.



Gather memories. Help your child make a "memory chart." He can divide a sheet of paper into three columns for people (family, friends, teachers), places (home, school, vacation spots), and activities (scouts, sports, games).

Get started. Using the chart, he can begin his memoir with something that's important to him. For instance, he might choose soccer and write, "I am a seven-year-old soccer player," or "When I was five, I played soccer for the first time."

Organize information. Talk about ways your youngster might present his information. For example, he could write about events in the order they happened. Or he might divide his memoir into chapters about different parts of his life (school, summer break).♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

All bundled up

Astronauts use it in their spacesuits. It's in the walls of our houses. It keeps us warm, and it keeps us cool, too. What is it? Insulation!

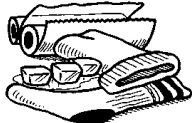
Let your youngster try this science experiment to see which materials make the best insulators.

You'll need: ice cubes, wool hat, cotton sock, aluminum foil, plastic wrap

Ask your child to hold an ice cube in her bare hand for a few seconds—she'll see how cold it feels. Then, have her wrap one cube in each of the different materials.

She can set them all on a tray and see which one keeps the ice frozen the longest. Let her use a watch or clock with a second hand to record how long it takes for each one to melt.

Which insulator works best? **Answer:** Wool, because it traps the most air. Air itself is a good insulator, providing another layer of protection that keeps heat from moving out of an object.♥



Q & A

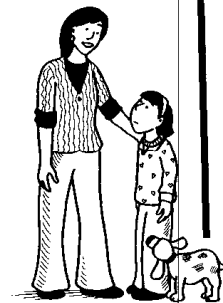
Being honest

Q: My daughter told me she was visiting her friend next door. But I found out she really went down the block. What should I do?

A: First, explain that her decision could have put her in danger. You didn't know where she was, and she went farther than she was allowed to go.

Then, talk to her about the consequences of not telling the truth. Let her know that you may find it harder to believe her next time. You might have to question her more closely or not let her go to her friend's house alone until you feel you can trust her again.

Note: Whenever possible, praise your child for being honest. For example, if she admits to breaking a picture frame, say, "Thank you for telling me the truth. I know that was hard."♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Family show-and-tell

My son's class has show-and-tell the last day of each month. Owen looks forward to it so much that we decided to have our own family show-and-tell every Friday evening. We talked about things we might share, and I suggested that Owen show us his schoolwork or talk about his hobbies.

So far, he has shown paintings he made in art,

demonstrated karate moves, and displayed a model airplane he built. I've shared items I'm knitting and projects I've done at work. And just like in school, we make nice comments about the things each person shares.

I think family show-and-tell has helped us get to know each other a little better. Plus, it's great practice for when my son gets up in class to talk about something he has brought.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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