



Pine Grove Elementary School

HERITAGE

All Children... Reach... Achieve... Celebrate

Mr. Richard Weber, Principal

Dr. Rosanne Reimer, Asst. Principal

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

November 15, 2007

HOME OF THE PANDA

CALENDAR

November

- 15 Report cards go home
- 19 **Elementary conference day—
schools closed for students**
- 22-23 **Schools closed for Thanksgiving
holiday**

December

- 3-7 Kids Go Shopping
- 3 K-2 concert at Loch Raven High School (7 p.m.)
- 10 PTA Board meeting at Loch Raven High School (6:45 p.m.)
Gr. 3-5 concert at Loch Raven High School (7 p.m.)
- 18 Snow date for winter concerts
- 24-31 **Schools closed for winter break**

January

- 1 **Schools closed for winter break**
- 2 Schools reopen for students

From the Principal's Desk

I would like to thank all of the members of the Pine Grove Elementary School community who visited our school during American Education Week. I was impressed with the number of parents, grandparents, and other members of our school community who supported our school by visiting classes this week. I am

confident you were impressed with the excellent academic programs you observed. We are very proud of our students and the outstanding work they do on a daily basis. Your children and our staff sincerely appreciate your outstanding support.

I would also like to thank our dedicated teachers for their outstanding efforts. They consistently spend long hours, at school and at home, studying curriculum guides, planning lessons, organizing materials, and assessing student achievement. They truly care about our students and are deeply committed to helping all of our students reach their fullest potential. Pine Grove Elementary is a wonderful school because teachers and parents work collaboratively to help our students achieve their goals.

Our annual costume parade was, once again, a smashing success. Close to 400 parents/grandparents attended. Staff and student costumes were superb. How did you like the double panda thing??

The PTA dance on November 9 was another successful venture. Students, parents, and staff had a wonderful time! The PTA does so much at Pine Grove Elementary School. We are truly blessed.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. Until next time...Rick



Pine Grove Student News

The boys and girls in K-1 are showing off their skills during American Education Week. They are practicing reading silently in their guided reading groups and are learning about story elements. The majority of the students know all of their upper-case and lower-case letters now and are concentrating on the sounds the letters make. We hope our visitors enjoyed the time they spent in our classroom.

The boys and girls in Mrs. Shanahan's class are learning how to be wise consumers in their Econ and Me social studies unit. They are learning how to make good choices with their limited income! Just in time for the holidays!

Math Facts Wall of Fame

The students in first through fifth grades have been working hard to learn their math facts. Each grade has a goal for the students to reach by the first day of each month. The following students are on the Math Facts Wall of Fame for September:

Grade 1—Addison A., Celina B., Kendall B., Zachary G., Minnie H., Gracie M., Austin M., Chan Ho P., Alexis R., Brandon R., Claire R., Savannah S., Chris S., Meg S., Olivia T., and Brayden W.

Grade 2—Tony D., Heather H., Maia J., Caleb L., Lindsey L., Mason M., and Jacob S.

Grade 3—Jasmine A., Lily A., Nicku B., Emric B., Anna F., Buxter G., Rachel G., Peter H., Alison M., Ashley R., and Sadie S.

Grade 4—Justin B., Amari I., August L., Daniel M., Alex P., Yi X. Pei, Anthony R., Dustin R., and Brett S.

Congratulations, National Children's Choir Students!

Six students from Pine Grove Elementary School have been selected for inclusion in the OAKE National Children's Choir: Alexis ., Yelee K., Sophia M., Renee R., Dustin R., and Jeremy W.. These students worked with Mrs. Huggins to prepare and record their audition tapes, which were selected by the national judges from among hundreds that were submitted from across the United States. Alexis, Yelee, Sophia, Renee, Dustin, and Jeremy will meet with Mrs. Huggins before school to learn and rehearse the challenging music for the Choir and will travel to Denver, Colorado, during spring break to rehearse and perform under the baton of conductor Julia White with all of the students in the select national group.

Pine Grove's Winter Concerts

Every student will be a star in Pine Grove Elementary's winter concerts.

Winter concert #1—grades PK, KG, 1 and 2 on Monday, December 3
2 p.m.—dress rehearsal assembly at PGES

6:30 p.m.—students arrive at Loch Raven High School

7 p.m.—evening performance at Loch Raven High School

Winter concert #2—grades 3, 4, 5, and Madrigals on Monday, December 10
2 p.m.—dress rehearsal assembly at PGES

6:30 p.m.—students arrive at Loch Raven High School

7 p.m.—evening performance at Loch Raven High School

Snow date for both winter concerts—Tuesday, December 18

The pleasure of your company is requested for one or both of our evenings

of beautiful seasonal and holiday music at Loch Raven High School. All of the students in grades PK-5 and the Madrigals have been working very hard to prepare for these exciting events! They are ready to entertain and amaze you as they perform songs and choral literature in unison, two-part, and three-part harmony, sing in foreign languages, and play accompaniments on melody and percussion instruments. Our musical stars will sing songs that are happy, funny, inspiring, beautiful, and powerful. We can't wait to share them with you. Concert letters and permission slips will be on their way to you soon. We'll see you there!

Announcing our Young Authors' Writing Contest

This is a message to all students who

Are in second, third, fourth, and fifth grade, too

The Young Authors' Writing Contest is under way

Write a poem or short story—either is okay

Winners from each grade will be Submitted to the county and invited to tea

If you win in the county, to the state you'll go

And then you'll be published and everyone will know

You're from Pine Grove! You can do it, don't forget to write

Any day this month, any time, just don't lose sight

Of the Young Authors' Contest and your chance to win

All the entries are due before winter break, so be sure to begin!

See Mrs. Semesky, our reading specialist, if you have any questions.

Math Update

Our Scott Foresman math curriculum has a wonderful on-line component. Students can access the website from home using their pamphlet that contains their username and password. The website offers games to practice math facts and other skills, on-line manipulatives, and a link that reviews previous skills. Students can also access the textbook on-line. If you have any questions regarding the on-line component, please contact your child's math teacher.

Vision/Hearing

Vision and hearing screening has been completed in our school for this year. We are very fortunate that the Health Department came early in the school year to identify the children who need further care. Notices were mailed to the parents/guardians of students who failed with instructions for follow-up care. It is important that the notice be completed by the doctor and that the parent returns the notice to the nurse.

Safe and Orderly School

Pine Grove Elementary students are doing a great job of practicing safety at school. Check out our Walk of Fame display outside the gym! Students who are spotted being "safe" are given a star and a reward for being safety role models. So far this year, the following students have been honored: August L., Taylor S., Thomas R., Abby S., Andrew W., Elle S., Chris B., Maia J., Nicolette S., Akyra S., Jennifer H., Philip H., KBin K., Brayden W., Quinton B., Carl W., Cody L., Carolyn B., and Alexa E. Congratulations!

The following classes have been honored for having the best overall safety record for a 2-week period: Ms. Lake's first grade class, Ms. Simpkins'

kindergarten class, Mr. Pugh and Mrs. Atabek-Gabriel's fourth grade classes, Ms. Greaver's morning and afternoon PK classes, and Mrs. Boram's first grade class. Congratulations to all!

Meningitis Vaccine Clinics

Baltimore County is offering Menactra®, the vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis, to high school students. This vaccine is required for residential students at all Maryland colleges.

Clinics are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Monday, November 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Parkville High School (2600 Putty High Avenue, 21234)

Tuesday, November 27, 3:30-5:30 at Patapsco High School (8100 Wise Avenue, 21222)

This vaccine is available to all high school students. Students must be accompanied by a parent or must bring a parent-completed consent form with them to the clinic. Consent forms are available in all BCPS high school nurse's offices. There is no charge for this vaccine.

Meningococcus is a bacterium that can cause serious infections, including meningitis and infections of the blood stream. These infections can cause death. The meningitis vaccine is not currently required for school but is recommended by

the CDC for all teenagers, especially those who plan to live in a dormitory in college. Many states, including Maryland, require it for students who live on college campuses.

If you have any questions, please contact the Baltimore County Office of Health Services at 410-887-6368.

Special Days Book Club

Looking for a unique way to honor your child on a special day? For \$15, you may select a book for our library that will have a personalized bookplate placed in the front. What a great way to honor your child and add to our library at the same time! Mrs. Ambridge, our librarian, has lots of books for you to choose from. Send a note with your child and a check payable to Pine Grove Elementary School whenever a special day is near.