



Pine Grove Elementary School

HERITAGE

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

Mr. Richard Weber, Principal

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October 18, 2007

HOME OF THE PANDA

CALENDAR

October

- 19** Schools closed for students
- 22-26** Red Ribbon Week
- 25** Barnes & Noble Night (6-8 p.m.)
- 29-31** Vision/hearing screening
- 29** Reptile Man assembly (Tots-grade 2, 9:30-11 a.m.; grades 3-5; 2-3:30 p.m.; family night, 6:30-8 p.m.)
- 31** Costume parade (2:30 p.m.)

November

- 1** Vision/hearing screening
First marking period ends
Panda Power reading program begins
- 2** Schools closed for students
- 5** Vision/hearing screening
- 6** PTA Board meeting (7 p.m.)
- 9** PTA dance (6:30-9:30 p.m.)
- 12-13** American Education Week
- 14** SIT meeting (6 p.m.)
Chick-fil-A Night on Joppa Road (5-8 p.m.)
- 15** Report cards go home
- 19** Elementary conference day—schools closed for students
- 22-23** Schools closed for Thanksgiving holiday

From The Principal's Desk

As you can see by the calendar, the next month is as busy as the last. Our Action Teams (Reading, Math, Science, Parent Involvement, Technology, Gifted and Talented, and Safe and Orderly Schools) will present at School Improvement Team (SIT) meetings for the remainder of the year. The next SIT meeting is on November 14 at 6 p.m., with a presentation from the Math Action Team. All parents are encouraged and welcome to attend.

A few policy issues need to be stressed: 1) Walkers must cross Summit Avenue at the crosswalk. 2) Parents who are dropping off students need to park facing in the correct direction on Summit Avenue. 3) Parents picking up students will be allowed to enter the school **when the 3:45 p.m. bell rings**. In the case of inclement weather only, parents may wait in the lobby from 3:30 p.m. until dismissal. 4) No pets, skateboards, or bikes are permitted on school grounds during the school day. 5) If your child arrives at school after the 9:15 a.m. bell, he/she **must** stop in the office for a late pass **before going to class**.

Lastly, I'd like to highlight our first 2 months of school:

August—Open House and Picnic
September—Back-to-School Night, school pictures, volunteer orientation

October—Book Fair, third grade parent reading program, costume parade, and Red Ribbon Week

We had a site visit from the Northeast Area Office. Pine Grove Elementary School stood tall. 😊 Our students have been praised by bus drivers, Lifetouch photographers, and hosts for field trips. They have represented themselves, their parents, and Pine Grove Elementary School in a very positive way. That's why Pine Grove Elementary School is what it is! I'm one lucky guy. Till next time...Rick

Reminders

School dismisses at 3:45 p.m. daily. Parents need to have a plan in place to get their son or daughter home at that time, whether it is bus, walking, or pick-up.

Visits to unattended teachers' classrooms before and/or after the school day is an unacceptable practice at Pine Grove Elementary School.

Before going to the classroom, parents/guardians need to sign in at the office and get a visitor's badge. If you need to speak to your student, office staff will call the student to the office so there is only a minimum of disruption to the classroom.

When students are absent from school, it is important that they bring in a note when they return stating the date of their absence and the reason. When absence notes are not received, the absence will be coded as unexcused. You do not need to call the school on the day your child is absent. However, you may want to call if your child will be out longer than 3 days due to an illness.

Please put your child's name in all coats, sweatshirts, lunchboxes, etc. We would like to return all the items that make their way to the lost and found. Please feel

free to visit our lost and found if your child is missing something. It is located in front of our cafeteria.

Safety Concerns During School Opening and Dismissal Times

There are several safety rules in place during school opening and dismissal times to ensure the safety of our students. The parking lot is closed to visitors from 8:50-9:20 a.m. and from 3:35-4:10 p.m. Only drivers with handicapped license plates or a special pass from the office will be allowed on our parking lot during these times. We need to control the number of moving cars in our parking lot during the times when our students are entering or leaving the school. It is very difficult for our crossing guard to control traffic and help students cross the driveway and road safely when several drivers are maneuvering cars through our parking lot. I would like to thank you for your cooperation as we work together to ensure the safety of our students.



Pine Grove Student News

The pre-k students in room 1 are learning about 'Families Everywhere' as they are introduced to new vocabulary and stories/poems. In math, they have been working on a project to build a classroom house by making blueprints, listing materials, assigning duties, and working together!

October has been another busy month in **K-1**. During reading, the children have been rhyming words, listening for word parts, identifying long vowel sounds, and playing letter recognition games. They are reading their own take-home storybooks and are

practicing their sight vocabulary words. They have been exploring attributes and patterns in math and are working with numbers 1 through 10. They are currently making discoveries about the ocean and ocean life at the Science Center. The students are looking forward to special Halloween activities and their first **kindergarten** party. See you at the parade!

The **boys and girls in Mrs. Shanahan's class** are working hard in class. They are learning about the ideas trait. The students worked on a writing piece after reading David Wisniewski's book, *The Secret Knowledge of Grown-Ups*. They wrote about the "real" reason we have certain rules at home and school. They showed great creativity!

Mrs. McDonough's class would like to welcome their new student, Nathan Halstead. He will be joining us as we learn all about the different regions of the United States and where the individual states are located. Bon voyage!

After exploring space, **Mr. Pugh's class** is back on earth studying geography in their social studies class. For more information about **Mr. Pugh's class**, be sure to visit www.misterpugh.com.

Students in grades 1-5 have been reading books about animals during the month of October. Their challenge is to read six animal books, fiction or nonfiction, before October 30. Students were given an "Animal Safari" paper on which to record book titles. Please support our efforts with a visit to the public library this month. Students who complete the program will help Mrs. Ambridge to lead the costume parade on October 31 at 2:30 p.m. We hope to see lots of "animals" in our parade this year!

The **students who are attending the Panda Partners homework group** are

doing a great job each day with showing the virtue of responsibility. They come prepared with their materials and are completing their assignments. The group has 16 helpers who are assisting with this program. Many of these helpers are former Pine Grove Elementary students!

American Literate CD's

You can find information about how to get the American Literate CD's at www.misterpugh.com. Stay tuned for an all new CD featuring almost 20 educational songs by Mr. Pugh about Native Americans, the vowel sounds, reading strategies, and his traditional Halloween and Thanksgiving songs he sings on the announcements every year that will be out 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—Katrina B., Parker La., and Savannah S.

Grade 2—Sarah B., Amy Dr., Catherine D., and Chris .

Grade 3—Taylor Ba., Emmy C., Scottie K., and Yixuan L.

Grade 4—Amari I.

Fall Fundraiser

Fall is here! Grab your sneakers and your kids and go for a walk. Take advantage of the cooler weather and beautiful fall foliage, and go for a stroll and talk about the day's events. Your time will be well spent, not only being with your child, but also "training" for Pine

Grove Elementary's fall fundraiser. That's right, no more selling candy, wrapping paper, or candles—**just walk!** During American Education Week (November 12-16), we will host our first Annual Fall Fitness Walk to raise money for the PTA activities that your child is involved in during the school year. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles will be asked to join their special ones to trek around the school grounds and/or pledge money in support of the event. It's a win/win situation, helping the PTA in providing outstanding opportunities for your child and being physically active. Look for notices and sponsor sheets to come home in the near future. Thanks for your continued support.

Vision and Hearing

Vision and hearing screening will be done at Pine Grove Elementary from October 29 through November 5. Grades pre-k, kindergarten, 3 and 5 will be screened. All students who are new to Baltimore County Public Schools will also be screened. If your child is not scheduled to be screened but you have concerns, please call Mrs. Knauer, the school nurse, at 410-887-5449.

Parent Involvement

The Parent Involvement Committee would like to remind you to check out the Pine Grove Elementary website at <http://pinegrovees.bcps.org/>.

If any parents/families would be interested in showcasing your culture, please see Lauren Greaver or Vicki Uzarowski.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for all of their hard work so far this year! If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Lauren Greaver or Amy Brown.

Chick-fil-A Night

Pine Grove Elementary School will be hosting a Chick-fil-A Night on Wednesday, November 14, from 5-8 p.m., at the new location on Joppa Road. Twenty percent of ticketed sales will be donated to our school. Hope to see you there!

Barnes and Noble Night

Save the date: October 25, 2007

6-8 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

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.

Monthly Learning Calendar for Families

A calendar designed to support families in promoting learning at home will be available monthly. The October calendar may be accessed from the Parents' page of the BCPS website by clicking on October Learning Calendar or by clicking on the following link, <http://www.bcps.org/parents/pdf/October-Learning-Calendar.pdf>. Copies will also be available on the Parentmobile and at each of the five Resource Centers for Families and Schools. Questions regarding this information should be directed to Nicole Tucker-Smith at 410-887-6489.