



# Pine Grove Elementary School

# HERITAGE

*Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*

*Mrs. Jean Wilson,, Principal*

*Mrs. Belinda Tetteris,, Asst. Principal*

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

October 2, 2009

## HOME OF THE PANDA CALENDAR

### October

- 9 Kindergarten to the Baltimore Zoo  
Grade 4 to Camp Puh'tok
- 12 Walk-a-thon
- 14 PTA Board meeting (7 p.m.)
- 16 **Schools closed for students**
- 19 Grade 1 fire department assembly  
(9:30 a.m.)
- 24 Pine Grove Palooza—40<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary celebration
- 28 Grade 1 in-school field trip  
Grade 3 reading night (5 p.m.)
- 29-30 Book Fair
- 30 Costume parade (2:30 p.m.)

### November

- 2-4 Book Fair
- 6 **Schools closed for students  
(assessment/staff development  
day)**

### From the Principal's Desk

Last spring when I was appointed principal of Pine Grove Elementary, I was told information about the dedicated faculty and staff. Teacher surveys reflected outstanding parent involvement and community support. The school's Website indicated an active PTA, strong academic and arts programs, and a variety

of extracurricular initiatives. Test results were exemplary.

Throughout the summer, I dialogued with staff members in a series of 'meet and greet' sessions. Grade level teams, special area teachers, and resource personnel shared their Pine Grove experiences and talked about what makes the school such an outstanding learning environment. Each meeting affirmed for me what I had heard—faculty members are highly competent individuals who deeply care about each child. During our time together, we planned for the year, reviewed test results, and discussed ways we could maintain and enhance student achievement. Together, we got to know each other and began forging our mission, goals, and activities for the 2009-2010 school year.

It also has been a pleasure to meet so many of you already. Excellent parent attendance and involvement have been evident at our back-to-school events, PTA meetings, summer reading celebration, and volunteer orientations. It is not surprising that student achievement is so strong when parents take such an active interest in their children's education. I look forward to meeting *all* of you during the course of the year. I appreciate your support and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Of course, the greatest joy of being a principal is to be surrounded by children

every day. It is a pleasure to talk with the boys and girls and to see them thriving and learning in a school where they feel capable, connected, and secure. Your children are truly a delight!

The first month of school has been busy. Each grade level team met to review student achievement results and to set goals and initiatives for the year. All groups focused on maintaining and strengthening achievement through relationships, relevance, and rigor. The teachers devised plans to continually target instruction based on individual needs and monitor *each* child's progress throughout the year.

As principal, one of my most important responsibilities is to be a strong advocate on behalf of our students and school. When enrollment exceeded projections during the summer months, I requested additional staffing. Two additional teaching positions were granted to us in September. Ms. Zawodny joined the fourth grade team and Mrs. Gerst began teaching her first grade class last week. We were fortunate to add these excellent teachers to our Pine Grove family. The staff is to be commended for the superb way that they supported each other as we reorganized our classes.

This is a very special year for our school. Pine Grove Elementary is turning 40! We will celebrate four decades of excellence at the Pine Grove Palooza on October 24, 2009. Please mark your calendar for this thrilling day of activities and memories. Our outstanding PTA officers, committee chairpersons, and so many dedicated volunteers make events like this possible each year.

The 2009-2010 year promises to be a successful and exciting one. After getting to know the children, staff, and parents of the Pine Grove Community, I can now say that everything I had heard

and read *is true!* What a wonderful place this is, but I am not telling you anything that you do not already know. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Pine Grove Elementary principal.

Sincerely, Jean Wilson

### **Pine Grove Student News**

The **students in prekindergarten** are off to a great start as they learn the rules and routines of the classroom!

WOW! A great group of **kindergartners** come into **K-1** every day! With the help of Gary Gator, the boys and girls quickly learned classroom routines and are enjoying their full day of school. The Crazy Dragon taught the students classroom rules and Spot, the Writing Dog, has introduced them to the seven habits of good writers. The children have been practicing their rhyming skills, their letter identification skills, and have been enjoying Big Books during their shared reading time. Counting and sorting, logic problems, graphing, and investigations with math manipulatives keep the students busy with their math skills. We're going to have a fun-filled year in **K-1!**

**Mrs. Glascock's class** has done a wonderful job of transitioning to third grade. They have already reviewed all of the reading strategies, learned how to build positive relationships in health, and completed the first unit of math. Keep up the great work team!

The **boys and girls in Mrs. Shanahan's third grade class** have been showing the virtue of responsibility. They have been returning papers to school and completing homework. They also have been responsible for their behavior and have already filled the class marble jar! They are working like a team!

**Fourth grade** is planning for their annual trip to Camp Puh'tok in October.

We will be learning about how the environment where they lived affected their culture. And we get to throw spears!

The **newspaper team** is hard at work for our first issue for the new school year. Be on the lookout for information about a contest. Learn about our new administrators. All this and more! I'm sure you can't wait!!

### **Time Machine Reading Program**

Students in grades one through five are invited to participate in our fall reading program, "The Time Machine." Mrs. Ambridge will be helping students in the library to find books related to the theme. We will be reading lots of history and biographies, historical fiction, and some futuristic science fiction. The Baltimore County Public Library looks forward to assisting our students as well. The program continues through the end of October. Students are encouraged to wear a costume in our Halloween parade (October 30) related to something they learned during the program.

### **Cafeteria News**

Welcome back. I would like to introduce myself. My name is LuAnn Hawk, and I am the person in charge of the cafeteria. Rachel Henninger is the server. If you have any questions, I am in my office from 8:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m., or you may reach me at 410-887-5267 during that time. My email address is [lhawk@bcps.org](mailto:lhawk@bcps.org).

The price of a student lunch is \$2.90, which includes milk. Breakfast is \$1.40. Individual milk is \$.60 and juice is \$.55. Our snacks range in price from \$.35 to \$.60.

Each child is issued a lunch account when they enroll in school. You can put money on this account so that your child does not have to bring money to

school. (If you prefer that your child bring money each day, please have them carry it in a wallet or Ziploc bag. This helps eliminate lost money.) Send checks made out to Pine Grove Elementary Cafeteria in an envelope labeled "Attention Cafeteria." Monies sent in by check will be used for cafeteria use only. Make sure your child's first and last names are on the check. If you have multiple children, you may write one check, but be sure to let the cafeteria know how to divide it up. This helps to expedite the children through the line. I will send home low-balance letters on Wednesdays. Please watch the date on the letter, as they sometimes do not come home right away.

The cafeteria will lend up to \$6. After that, we will offer the children cereal and milk for lunch.

Children eating breakfast with the school should enter the building at 9 a.m. via the far left double doors near the cafeteria.

### **Peanut/Tree-Nut Allergies**

In compliance with Maryland law, our school will designate a peanut and tree-nut free table in the cafeteria for use by students with medically documented allergies. If your child has such an allergy and you would like to request this accommodation, please notify the school nurse at 410-887-5449.

### **Volunteers**

We would like to thank our volunteers for all of their help so far this year! Volunteer training will be held on Friday, September 25, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

### **Fall Fitness Fundraiser**

The fall fitness fundraiser for Pine Grove Elementary is just around the corner. Time to get training...dust off your sneakers, grab the kids, get the dog,

and go outside to enjoy a walk around the neighborhood. Walking is all that it takes to get you ready for Pine Grove Elementary PTA's Third Annual Walkathon. It's a great activity to get the family physically active and help raise money for the school.

When: Monday, October 12, 2009

Where: Pine Grove Elementary

Who: Your entire family—kids, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles

How: Get donations and come walk, jog, or run the course

Look for the Walk for Fitness flyer coming home!

### **Cartridge Recycling**

The recycling program is underway!! Thank you to everyone who has donated their used cartridges and cell phones. There is a box in the office for all used cartridges. Please continue to send in your used cartridges and cell phones to raise money for our school and keep our planet green!

Any questions may be directed to Mrs. Greco at 410-887-5267.

### **Northeast Educational Advisory Council Meeting Dates**

Listed below are the dates for the Northeast Educational Advisory Council meetings. All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

October 28, 2009—Joppaview Elementary School (Meet and Greet; Gang Awareness Presentation)

February 17, 2010—Stemmers Run Middle School (PBIS)

April 21, 2010—Overlea High School (Capital Pre-Budget)

June 2, 2010—Harford Hills Elementary School

### **Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation**

On July 1, 2008, the Maryland General Assembly directed the Maryland

State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the local school systems, to develop and adopt a model policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation in schools. The Maryland State Board of Education approved its model policy on February 24, 2009.

As a result of MSDE's model policy, the Board of Education of Baltimore County approved the new Board of Education Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5580, "Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation," which prohibits students from engaging in intentional conduct involving bullying, harassment, or intimidation, which can substantially interfere with a student's educational opportunities, or any acts of retaliation against those who report instances of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.

The *Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form* is used to track alleged instances of bullying, harassment, or intimidation. The form is available at your local school or on the Baltimore County Public Schools' website under the "Student" and "Parent" tabs. You may contact the school for additional information or assistance at any time.

### **Open Door**

Open Door before and after school program provides students with breakfast before school, after school snacks, and in both sessions offers choices, arts and crafts, group games, board games and toys, fun manipulatives, outdoor play, Camelot Learning, and a quiet homework area. Hours are 7 a.m. until school begins and after school until 6 p.m. Please call 410-825-6300 for more information.

### **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](http://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.