

# Dates to Remember

## November

- November 24, School closed, conference day
- November 27 and 28, school closed for Thanksgiving break

## December

- December 1, School reopens
- December 1, Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Vocal Music Concert at Loch Raven High School at 7 p.m.
- December 8-12, Kids Go Shopping
- December 8, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Vocal Music Concert at Loch Raven High School at 7 p.m.
- December 24 through January 4, School closed for winter break

# Panda Power Reading Program

Congratulations to our top five calendar artists who received a \$10.00 Barnes and Noble gift card: Brett S., Lindsey L., Ambrosia C., Emmy C., and Abigail S. Students participating in the Program will use these calendars to record their daily reading November through March. Initial your child's calendar every night after they read for 20 minutes. Remember, awards are given to students participating, students reaching their goal and classes with 100% participation. Thank you to all parents for their support!

Tamie Ourand and Erica O'Leary  
Reading Program Committee

# Book Fair

The SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR has come and gone! Although it was not the success it has been the last few years, the children left with smiles on their faces and new books to read, and a lot of erasers! Times are tough for everyone, but PGE families always come through. Thanks for your support of our PTA.

Kristen Hamel

## Campbell's Soup Labels

As of today, all we need from the label is the UPC code. Please keep sending those UPC codes in for more equipment for the classrooms. Thanks so much.

## PGE Spirit Items

For sale: Antenna balls, key chains, can huggies, magnets, water bottles, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and car magnets. Look for our PTA table during special events. We will be selling all kinds of Pine Grove items for minimal cost to spread our Pine Grove spirit!

## School Spirit

Just a reminder that every Friday is Football Friday. Show your child's school spirit by having them dress in Ravens attire from head to toe.

## Recycling Cartridges

Recycling cartridges is back! Together, we can help the planet and raise funds for our school. Tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to save their empty cartridges, video games, used cell phones, digital cameras, laptops, DVD movies, ipods, pda's, and palm pilots. All you have to do is bring them to school and put them in the box in the lobby. It's that easy. I'll pack them up and ship them out. A flyer was sent home with information you may want to keep for future reference. Any questions may be directed to Mrs. Greco at 410-887-5267. Thank you.

## School Store

The school store, which is located in the main hallway, is now open every Friday morning from 9-9:15 a.m. Items for sale: pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks, rulers, post-its, glue, and more. Anyone willing to volunteer to work the store, please contact Kelly Ruby at [kjands3@comcast.net](mailto:kjands3@comcast.net)

## Scrip Gift Cards

Help raise money for PGE by ordering gift cards. All proceeds are used for supplies and equipment for our classrooms and for teacher enrichment programs. Gift cards make great gifts for birthdays, graduations, anniversaries and more! The next order will be placed on 11/26. Cards will be available by 12/8. There will also be an order placed on 12/10 and will be delivered before the holiday break. Cash or checks made out to PGE are accepted for payment. Please note on the order form if you'd like the cards sent home with your child or if you'll be picking them up at

school. Please send order form, located outside the main office, and money in an envelope marked Attn: Julie Raynor Scrip/Gift Card Order and send it with your child to school.

## PTA Membership Dues

It's not too late to turn in your PTA membership dues. The cost is \$7.00 per adult and is put to good use within the PTA. If you have lost the envelope, please send in the money in another envelope marked attention: Sheri Serio PTA Membership Dues and include your child's name and teacher. Thank you.

Sheri Serio  
Membership Chairperson

## WOW!

Check out the updated Pine Grove Elementary School website at [http://schools.bcps.org/schools/ces/pine\\_grove](http://schools.bcps.org/schools/ces/pine_grove). The site includes the lunch menu, school supplies, special events, a link to Baltimore County Public Schools, the Heritage Newsletter, volunteer information, the P.T.A. Newsletter and teachers pages. It's a very easy to use and informative site.

Thank you to Lauren Greaver, a faculty member, for such a great job.

## Skateland

Everyone had a great time on November 8 for roller-skating at Skateland. Next skate date is February 7, 2009. Come join us for fun and exercise!

Leslie Johnston

## Going Green

PGE is GOING GREEN! Please consider going green and giving PGE your email address for the Pine Grove Heritage and Pine Grove PTA Newsletter. The amount of money on paper and ink will save the school and PTA money. SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH YOUR AND YOUR CHILD'S NAMES AND THEIR CORRESPONDING TEACHERS TO Kristen Hamel at [Khamel11@comcast.net](mailto:Khamel11@comcast.net). We are looking for help with this committee to get emails entered and get the system up and running. Contact Kristen if interested.

Thanks,  
Kristen Hamel

## My Coke Rewards for Schools

Thank you to everyone who has sent in Coke codes or donated points online. We have 816 points now, but to get one of the nicer items, like a field day, pack we need 18,438. So if you drink Coca

Cola products, including Dasani water, please send in the box flap or bottle cap with the code on it. Just include it in your Box Tops bag. Thanks!  
Please contact Erica O’Leary at 410-663-8282 or [olearys@comcast.net](mailto:olearys@comcast.net) with any questions or comments.

## Math Munchers

Math Munchers has been going for a month now and almost everyone in grades 1-5 has had a chance to participate. The kids are very excited when they hear it is their class’s turn.

We started by playing Gobblet Jr., a tic tac toe game with a twist that allows “gobbling up” the other players pieces. We will be moving on to playing Math War, Make Seven, various versions of Bingo and, with any luck, we will manage to teach the older kids to be Commodities Traders using only playing cards and a bright orange bell.

Math Munchers can always use volunteers to assist. It is a lunch time program where volunteers work with kids from grades 1-5 in groups of 6 or less playing games for the last 10 minutes of each class’s lunch hour. You do not need to be a Math Wizard – the games are all easy to learn and are typically based on popular games that everyone understands. It is a great opportunity to see your son or daughter in the middle of the day and to work with some of the other kids in their class.

Training is quick and you can come on the day convenient for your schedule. Volunteer once a month or just when you can manage to clear your schedule – anything will help. Anyone interested please e-mail me at [ahicks@asg-architects.com](mailto:ahicks@asg-architects.com).

Anne Hicks Harney

## Kids Go Shopping

Volunteers are needed for the week of December 8 - 12 to help with Kids Go Shopping. Volunteer for an hour or even the whole day! Contact Dawn Gregory at [dawnsjewel@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnsjewel@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

## Volunteer Committee

The PTA needs your help. Due to many families leaving us at the end of this school year, we will have many committees left vacant. The following is a list and a brief description of the committees that need a chairperson(s) for the 2009 - 2010 school year. If you have any questions or would like to chair one of the committees, please contact me at [budnbug@comcast.net](mailto:budnbug@comcast.net) or 410-882-2532. Thank you.

Amy Brown, Volunteer Chairperson

#### Back to School Picnic

- Distribute flier at end of school year & beginning of 2010

- Book a D.J.

#### Fall Dance

- Coordinate volunteers
- Create and send home flier
- Book a D.J.
- Rent equipment for snacks

#### Gift Cards

- Collect money, order & distribute gift cards

#### Gifts & Flowers

- Purchase card, flowers or gifts for staff, faculty, or students when needed

#### Hospitality

- Coordinate refreshments for American Education Week, Grandparents Day, Kindergarten Registration, Young Authors Tea & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition

#### Kids Go Shopping

- Order items to be sold
- Coordinate volunteers
- Set up & break down the event

#### School Store (open 1 day a week on Fridays)

- Purchase supplies for store
- Coordinate volunteers

#### Spirit Wear

- Order spirit wear items
- Sell items at PTA events

## Box Tops for Education

We've had 2 contests so far this year. The September contest collected 5,130 box tops with 135 students participating. Mrs. Berkey's class brought in the most box tops, an astounding 586, and received a freezie pop and extra recess party. The October contest collected 3,328 box tops with 138 students participating. Miss Simpkins' class had the best participation and received a fruit snack party. Thank you to everyone who handed in box tops!

Our next contest starts Monday, November 17, and will end December 16. Everyone who hands in box tops will receive a small treat. For every 10 usable box tops handed in, the student's name will go into a drawing for a larger prize. Clipping the box tops neatly on the dotted lines will result in one extra chance at the large prize. There will be 5 large prizes in all, so don't forget to clearly label the zippered bag or envelope with the student's name and teacher in order to have a chance at a large prize.

If you are not signed up at the Box Tops For Education website yet, please consider doing so. You

can earn 5 Bonus Box Tops for Pine Grove Elementary School if you sign up at either [www.btfe.com/2008](http://www.btfe.com/2008) or [www.boxtops4education.com/5bonus](http://www.boxtops4education.com/5bonus) (between now and December 2008) and follow up to complete your registration. While you are at the Box Tops website, make sure to enter the 30-Day Giveaway contest. Enter daily for a chance for 100 Bonus Box Tops for the school and a prize pack full of Box Tops products for yourself. Please contact Erica O'Leary at 410-663-8282 or [olearys@comcast.net](mailto:olearys@comcast.net) with any questions or comments.

## Scholastic Books

Tamie Ourand is looking for someone to shadow her the rest of this school year and take over the ordering of the monthly Scholastic Book order next year. She currently chairs several committees, as well as ordering the Scholastic Books, and would like to relinquish this duty. If you are interested in taking on this duty, please contact Tamie at [tamaourand@comcast.net](mailto:tamaourand@comcast.net). Thank you.

## President's Message

Hello Pine Grove Families,

It's hard to believe, but the first quarter of the 2008 – 2009 school year is now complete and the second one is well under way. It has certainly been a busy fall. In addition to all of the 'behind the scenes' activities, the PTA has sponsored two cultural arts assemblies, family roller-skating, the Rock 'n Roll dance and the Scholastic Book Fair. As I am writing this letter, the PTA is preparing for American Education Week, including the Grandparents' breakfast, the Walk-a-thon fundraiser and recruiting volunteers for Kids Go Shopping. This event is open to all students and their siblings and is scheduled for the week of December 8.

All of these activities are being planned and executed to benefit the children of Pine Grove Elementary School, despite the low percentage of families becoming members of the PTA. Only 156 of 390 households have become members of the PTA. The Association is very appreciative of the people who have become members; your dues have already been put to work to enhance each student's experience at Pine Grove. I am happy to report that the entire faculty has submitted their PTA dues. Thank you PGE Faculty!

Here is a review of previous information sent out concerning the PTA

- Annual dues for PTA membership is only \$7.00.
- \$3.75 of each membership goes to the National, State and Local PTA
- PTA plans and facilitates many school programs; Math Munchers, Roller Skating, the Book Fair, Kids Go Shopping, Kindergarten Roundup, Panda Power Reading Program, Spirit Week, school dances, cultural assemblies, the Spell-a-thon, the Ice Cream Social and the Back to School Picnic.

Significant funding for the student planners, teacher supplements, the yearbook, Loch Raven scholarships, ESOL, MSA and math incentives, field

- day and the annual Art Show are provided by the PTA.

- Benefits of PTA membership include voting rights concerning the budget, activity planning and the Executive Board.
- Anyone is welcome to join the PTA. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors. We even received membership dues from Senator Kathy Klausmeier!
- It's never too late to send in your dues to join the PTA. Checks made out to PGE PTA and cash accepted. Please write PTA Membership on the envelope.

Family involvement is needed to make the PTA at Pine Grove Elementary great. In mid-November the Membership Committee began a contest between the grades to encourage participation. Check out the progress on the chart hanging up in the school. We need to you to get involved and show your support for the work of the PTA.

The Executive Board of the PTA is carefully considering long range planning, as we are aware of other local PTAs that have disbanded. There are multiple committees that are currently chaired by 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents and are in need of new volunteers this year, for a smooth transition into next year. Please look over the volunteer needs in this newsletter and let us know how you want to be involved.

Many thanks to Kristen Hamel and her volunteers for a very successful Book Fair. Also, thanks to Karen Riefner and her crew for a great rock n' roll dance. Finally, thank you to all the people who helped Sue Costello with the Walk-a-thon Fundraiser and the Technology Committee with candy gram sales. Much appreciation goes to the many people who offer a bit of time to ensure the delivery of quality activities.

The next General PTA meeting will be at 7pm, on December 8, 2008 at the Choral Arts Concert. I look forward to seeing you all there. Happy Holidays!

Susan Landry, PTA President