



Pine Crest Newsletter—September 2010



From Mr. Smith

It is wonderful to see the hallways and classrooms full of children and staff again! We have hit the ground running, practicing our procedures and expectations for PBIS on Thursday and Friday of last week. While much of what we do has stayed the same, we do have some changes from last year:

- We are no longer able to provide the level of music that we have in the past, however, plans are being discussed to integrate music into other parts of our day.
- Lunch periods have been extended and students now go to recess prior to eating lunch.
- We have two new teachers to the building. Mrs. Kelly Higgins and Ms. Stefanie Davis teach third grade.

- As with most of the districts in Vermilion County, we have discontinued our CARE program until state funding is restored. Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Penny Higgins, two of our preschool teachers last year, now teach second grade.

- There have been some changes in several of our bus routes and the transition appears to be coming right along.

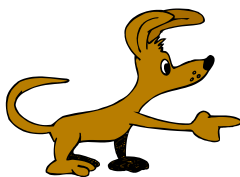
Later this fall, we hope to have the Information Now program ready to go. This program will allow you to have online access to student information such as grades and attendance.

As we all know, these are difficult times for school districts throughout the state. Pine Crest has a tradition of doing everything we can in the best interests

of children in our communities and we will continue to do so with the resources we have available. We explore many avenues to locate resources for our students and I encourage you to help us by participating in Box-tops 4 Education and collecting Campbell's Soup labels. Also, we will be having our annual candle fundraiser in September. All of these efforts do go toward providing for our students and your help is greatly appreciated.

You will also notice our newsletter has been redesigned to save on paper usage. To stay up to date, please check our website and staff WebPages regularly for information, resources, activities and pictures for the 2010-11 school year.

Websites You Should Know!



Check these out for more great information!

- www.grf.k12.il.us
- www.boxtops4education.com
- www.labelsforeducation.com

WELCOME BACK!

Remember to.....
Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be a Pine Crest Pal!

Parents

REMEMBER TO CALL THE OFFICE IF YOUR STUDENT WILL BE ABSENT!

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Need more information or another newsletter?
Go to the website!

Kindergarten Kudos

It has been a few busy weeks in our Kindergarten world. We have been enjoying getting to know one another and learning all our new friends names. We have been exploring our school environment and learning about our school rules (expectations) and routines so we can be **Safe, Respectful, and Responsible**.

We have begun our Saxon Phonics program learning about the letters **L** and **O** where we recognize the letter (see it), verbalize the letter (say it), hear the letter sound it makes, and write the letter. The children have also been introduced to the alphabet where we say and sing the alphabet. We have learned that there are two kinds of letters that make up the al-

phabet: vowels and consonants. The children also are making progress tracking the letters on their alphabet strips.

We have been doing daily counting activities and investigating colors and shapes. We have been exploring our math manipulatives, teddy bear counters and pattern blocks. We are in the process of learning to recognize the numbers 1-5 and singing songs that will help us learn to write them. Please ask your child to share the songs with you.

Miss Dighton Mrs. Glascott Mrs. Swick Mrs. White



We have enjoyed exploring stories and poems, hearing words that rhyme and learning our left from our right. This will help us when we begin reading. To help us with this we played the Hokey Pokey. Our trips to the computer lab, the library, the cafeteria, and playground have definitely put smiles on the faces of our children.

As you can see, our days have been filled with new adventures. We are so proud of the way the children have adapted to their new surroundings. Kindergarten is a very special time in a child's life. We want them to feel safe, secure, and loved. We want the classroom to be a community with the common purpose of learning, growing, and becoming friends. We look forward to a great year!

First Grade Greetings

Mrs. Goodwin Mrs. Daulton Mrs. Kistler Mrs. Kotcher

Pine Crest First Grade Staff would like to welcome you and your child to First Grade! We have many exciting and challenging learning activities planned for this year! We've already sent the first Reading and Spelling packets home with your child. Please keep these at home so that your child can practice reading the story of the week, the vocabulary, and the spelling

It is very important for your child to practice reading and spelling at home everyday.

words. We will have tests on this material every Friday or the last day of the week. It is very important for your child to practice reading and spelling at

home everyday. We encourage you to let the classroom teacher know if you have any questions or concerns about your child so that we can work together to make this a happy and successful year!

Signs of Second Grade

Mrs. Ehrlich Mrs. George Mrs. Higgins Mrs. Thornton

Second Grade is off to a busy start. We have been refreshing our memories with our P.B.I.S. expectations and working very hard on our academic subjects.

Please remember to check your child's folder for notes and homework. Homework may include Math, Phonics, Spelling words, and Reading stories. We

would appreciate if you would go over your child's homework with them and sign it.

All second grade classrooms have a website; feel free to visit the website throughout the year. If you have any questions you may contact us.

Remember it takes school and home to make your child's education a success!

JOIN PTO!



Third Grade Notes

Miss Bowman
Miss Davis
Mrs. Higgins
Mrs. Klink

The 3rd Grade teachers would like to welcome everyone back to the 2010-2011 school year! We have 2 new faces to the team this year!

Miss Davis has joined us from Monticello. This is her 1st year of teaching. We also have Mrs. Higgins. She is joining us from Ridge Farm Elementary. Mrs. Klink and Miss Bowman are returning for another year and we are all excited to be here! We ask that you keep checking your student's book bag and assignment notebooks for homework and notes. We will be having our first STI Assessment in September. Be looking for more information on this event soon! Once again we are excited to be here and are looking forward to working with your children!



PTO MEETING DATES

Always at 7 PM

September 21st @ Ridge Farm
October 19th @ Pine Crest
November 16th @ Ridge Farm
December TBA
January 18th @ Ridge Farm
February 15th @ Pine Crest
March 15th @ Ridge Farm
April 19th @ Pine Crest
May 17th @ Ridge Farm

Quiet Thoughts of a Special Child

By: G. Patel

We don't see what they see.
We don't hear what they hear.
We don't feel what they feel.

We can only imagine
The deep things of their minds,
The deep things of their hearts
and souls.

Perhaps, if they could speak
They would reveal
The mystery of life,
The meaning of their existence,
Your existence, our existence.

I suppose we will go on
pondering what they
are pondering
Cherishing them for what they
are and what they could be.

Courtesy of the Burgin Bunch!

PTO HIGHLIGHTS

The P.T.O. has elected new officials. Heather Williford has taken the position of President, Annette Hummel has taken position of vice president, Stephanie Ray has taken treasurer, and Jennifer Drake has taken parliamentary. The P.T.O. would like to thank Shawn Schendel for her six years of services to the P.T.O. We would encourage everyone to come to the meetings. We need help planning and executing fundraisers.

- We want to put on a Family Dance for our students and their families in February. We are asking the classrooms to make baskets to be raffled off at



the dance. We need two baskets per grade k-4 and one basket for 5th grade. We are asking the teachers and students to come up with a theme and submit it to the PTO mailbox by September 15, 2010.

Then we will ask the students to bring in items to put in the basket or cash to help purchase items for the basket.

- We are looking for fun ideas to raise money for our schools. If anyone has any ideas or is willing to help out on activities please attend the next PTO meeting on September 21, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Ridge Farm Grade School, send ideas or comments in an envelope titled PTO with your child to school or email any of our members.

- I have also had many parents asking us to start a volunteer committee to help out at events. If you are interested in joining the committee please let us know.

President- Heather Williford
singlewomen70304@yahoo.com

Vice President- Annette Hummel
vb101spot@hotmail.com

Treasurer—Stephanie Ray

Secretary- Jodi Spray

Parliamentary-Jennifer Drake
jennydrake1981@yahoo.com







Pine Crest School

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 No School Labor Day	7 Green Team Meeting 2:45 PM Pine Crest Open House 6-7 PM	8	9	10 Picture Day	11
12	13	14 "Two- Quarters Tuesday" HAT DAY	15	16	17 Store Drawing	18
19	20	21	22 Progress Reports Family Fall Scavenger Hunt 11:15 Dismissal	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> " S M I L E I L L I N O I S " </div>						

Pine Crest Elementary School

September Lunch Menu

Monday 30-Aug	Tuesday 31	Wednesday 1-Sep	Thursday 2	Friday 3
Soft Pretzel / Cheese sauce Carrot Sticks Banana Halves Gogurt  Milk G 6	Corn Dog m/c Corn Glazed Fruit Bread and Butter Milk P 7	Breaded Chicken Nuggets BBQ Sauce / Baked Beans Applesauce/ B&B Chocolate Chip Cookie Milk G 8	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Green Beans/ Diced Peaches Dinner Roll / margarine cup Milk P 9	Bologna/Cheese Sandwich m/c/m Tater Tots Orange Wedges Ice Cream Sandwich Milk **finger food day** G 10
Labor Day  13	Tacos, soft or hard shell Lettuce / Cheese Corn / Pineapple Slices Bread and Butter Milk P 14	Spirals and Cheese Peanut Butter Sandwich Peas Diced Pears Milk G 15	Cheese Pizza Lettuce Salad/ French Diced Peaches Cherry Gelatin Cup Milk P 16	Mini Corn Dogs m/c Green Beans Applesauce/ B&B Sugar Cookie  Milk G 17
Breaded Popcorn Chicken ranch dip / Corn Warm Apple Slices Bread and Butter Milk P 20	Sloppy Joe on Bun dill pickles Smiley Face Potatoes Diced Peaches & Pears Milk  G 21	Breaded Fish Nuggets tartar sauce / Cole Slaw Pineapple Slices Orange Sherbet Cup B&B / Milk P 22	Spaghetti / Meat Sauce Lettuce Salad / French Fruit Cocktail Garlic Toast Milk G 23	Pancake Wraps Hash Brown Pattie Applesauce Blueberry Muffin Milk P 24
Chicken Fajita (soft shell) Lettuce / Cheese Green Beans Grapes Milk G 27	Pop-Up Pizza Sandwich dipping sauce Baked Beans Diced Pears Milk P 28	School Improvement Day 11:15 Dismissal No Lunch Served G 29	Scrambled Eggs Sausage Links Applesauce Orange Wedges/ Toast Milk ** Breakfast for Lunch** P 30	Chicken & Stars Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Carrot Sticks Banana Halves Milk  **finger food day** G 1-Oct
Hot Dog on Bun m/c Chili Sauce/ Baked Beans Fruit Cocktail Dirt Pudding Cup Milk  P	Homestyle Goulash Lettuce Salad / Ranch Warm Apple Slices Corn Bread Milk G	Bread. Chicken Legs (boneless) Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Green Beans Diced Peaches Bread and Butter / Milk P	Nachos Supreme Mexican Rice Applesauce Banana Halves Milk G	Cheesy Breadstick / sauce Corn Pineapple Slices Gogurt Milk P

Lunch prices are \$1.50 per day (\$.40 for approved reduced-price lunches)



Parents: Please send lunch money in an envelope as described in the Pine Crest Handbook Thank you!

**questions or comments? Contact Carol Niccum @ 662-6981 or Patty Lyons @ pal@grf.k12.il.us

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS and SUPPORTS

The PBIS committee makes school-wide plans to create a positive school climate.

Here are a few aspects of PBIS and where you can help!

- * A big THANK YOU to Susan, Kathern and Kara for attending our first Green Team meeting. If you would like to become part of our PBIS Green team, call or send a note to school with your student.
- * Our classes are divided into "FAMILIES" where a Kindergarten, First, Second and Third grade room will, at times, do activities/celebrations together. Ask your child if he or she is a Skittle, Smartie, Starburst or a Sweet Tart!
- * 2QT—What is that? In order to help fund our celebrations and other fun activities, each month there will be a "Two Quarter Tuesday!". By bringing 2 quarters, students will be able to participate in a low-key activity. September 14th will be "Hat Day". Any student who wishes to wear a hat that day can bring in \$. 50.
- * Our "Thumbs-Up" Store is still open. We are asking for donations of new or gently used items.
- * Throughout the school day, a student might be given a "Thumbs-Up" ticket for showing good behavior. That ticket goes into a box in their room. Occasionally, we will have teachers draw out a few names for an "Out of the Blue" mini-celebration or a trip to the Thumbs-Up Store. We are in need of Sidewalk Chalk and Bubbles for some of these celebrations.

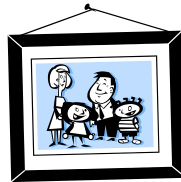
We LOVE Our Social Workers!

Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Troyer

Once again Mrs. Wilson will be working with Pine Crest Students individually or in small intervention groups during the school year. Please feel free to call or drop by Mrs. Wilson's office at Pine Crest if you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance.

Pine Crest is again offering the Smile Illinois Dental Service September 27th through October 1st. This service provides exams, cleaning, and sealants for all school aged children. They accept the medical card, dental insurance, and self-pay. For those needing payment assistance there is a simple grant process available. If you are in need of this service please contact Mrs. Wilson for more information at 662-6981.

April Troyer is the new School Mental Health Coordinator here at Pine Crest Elementary. If you are wondering



what a School Mental Health Coordinator does, her job is to work with teachers, staff, and parents to cre-

ate a school environment that is positive and promotes success. She is looking forward to getting to know your child and working with you to create opportunities to support your child's success in the classroom. If you have any questions please feel free to contact April at the school.

Call it a clan,
call it a network, call it a tribe,
call it a family.

Whatever you call it,
whoever you are,
you need one.

~Jane Howard

Early Childhood

Mrs. Beyers
& Mrs. Martin

We are thrilled to still be able to provide Early Childhood classes to the GRF schools. We have had a wonderful first few weeks together.

We will soon begin an exciting Ocean Unit with our students. We can't wait to explore the depths of the seas and make new friends!



A few reminders....

- * When your child is taken home, YOU MUST BE VISIBLE TO THE DRIVER FROM THE DOOR!
- * Since we climb, swing and play in EC, your child MUST have tennis shoes on when coming to school.