

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2010

Plug Into Pine Grove



A Message from the Principal: Mrs. Sajnog

As the cold air settles over Central New York, we are reminded that the enthusiasm for a new school year naturally wanes. It is at this time that we need to be vigilant in continuing our support for our middle school students. The publication of Resources for Educators reminds us that parents can set up their children for success by sharing the following checklist:

- I attend school on time every day, unless I'm sick,
- I get 8-10 hours of sleep each night.
- I eat a healthy breakfast in the morning.
- I pay attention in class.
- I write down my assignments for each subject.
- I start my projects when I get them.
- I complete my homework on time.
- I read for pleasure each day.

I encourage you to have a conversation with your child to assess where you are in fulfilling each item and what you might have to do to support them in the future. During homeroom each week, we set goals using our student planners that have tips from Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. Please work with your child in planning his/her "Big Rocks" for the week. A consistent message between home and school can assist our students in earning higher grades, adapting better to school and attending more regularly, and exhibiting better social skills and behavior. Thank you for all that you do to foster the home-school partnership. Together we can!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Peer Tutors	2
Bookapalooza	2
Students Questions	3
Rockets	3
Counselor's Corner	3
Environmental Field Trip	4
Pine Grove Musical	4
21st Century Learning	4
FACS Winner	5
AM Jams	5
Library Land	6

Check out our main entry art mosaic!



Peer Tutors

The Pine Grove Peer Tutors, coordinated by our counselor Nancy Chapellier, work with students at Woodland Elementary to help them improve their academic as well as their social skills. They assist the teacher in the classroom, providing leadership and compassion, encouraging support to, the elementary students. This in turn, builds up each peer tutor's character and confidence. Peer tutoring increases each students own skills as a 21st Century Learner.



Bookapalooza

In the spring of 2009, the Pine Grove community was invited to read the same book in a program called BOOKAPALOOZA. Through the book, Dunk, by David Lubar, we engaged in discussions, activities at Pine Grove and in the community, a blog, contests, and writing that encouraged each of us to think about elements of a story and how we could apply them to our own lives. In the fall of this year we again united to read and learn through Sean Covey's book, The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Teens. We continue

to explore and apply Covey's habits through activities in and out of the classroom. These habits not only empower each of us for school, but for lifelong success. In the spring of this year, we will again celebrate BOOKAPALOOZA and bring the entire community together with a new book.

The new book will again allow all participants to enjoy a great read and compare situations the characters face to those each of us endure each day. The kick off celebration for **BOOKAPALOOZA 2010 will be on Wednesday, March 24 at the Erie Boulevard Barnes &**

Noble. The book, which will be announced in late March, will again provide an entertaining way for an entire community to come together to exchange ideas and develop personal beliefs on a range of issues and aligns perfectly with our discussion of Covey's habits. If you missed out last year or are new to Pine Grove, be sure to jump on board. BOOKAPALOOZA 2010 will be a great experience and we look forward to your active participation!



Pine Grove Garden Club

"Young people need models, not critics."
John Wooden



Student Questions

Q: There is this guy...he's my best friend. I really like him. I've asked him out twice. I found out he likes another girl. I don't know whom though. I was devastated when I found out. I really, really like him, but I want him to be happy. What do I do?

A: I think if he has made his intentions clear twice that you should try to move on. Not getting the person you want can be tough, but you deserve someone who prefers you from the beginning!!

Q: My friend and girlfriend are fighting. What should I do?

A: Yikes! That is a tough situation. Of course, you should always try

talking to them. Make sure they both know how frustrating this is for you. If you have already tried that, you will need to ask yourself some tough questions. How long has this guy been your buddy? How great a friend is he? Do you want to lose a friend over a girl?

Q: Hi! I just broke up with my boyfriend because he cheated on me. He wants to get back together, but I don't want to get hurt! What do I do? "Get back, say "no" or be friends"?

A: Once a cheater, always a cheater I always say. Wait for a guy who will be there for just you!! I would not even want a friend

like that....

Q: I've had a lot of medical problems in my life and it's hard to keep up with my school work. What should I do?

A: Missing school due to medical problems can be frustrating. No matter how smart you are, being in school is half the battle. There are supports the school can put in place for you. You would be surprised how flexible your teachers can be. Medical problems are not your fault, and there are things we can do for you. Talk to your parents and have them contact the school.

Rockets

The 7th grade technology classes designed, built, and tested rockets during the first weeks of school this year. Students had to research rockets and design an aerodynamic rocket using soda bottles, cardboard, paper, and folders. The bottles, which are used for the body of the rocket, are pressurized to 90 psi to give the rockets the energy they need to fly. The

goal of each rocket is to stay in the air as long as possible. Students can experiment with parachutes or other ways to prolong flight.



Counselor's Corner

As the saying goes, "The longest journey begins with a single step." Organization is your child's first step toward doing his or her best in school...and in life!

It seems like there are never enough hours in the day for all of the things we want to do or have to do. Students who are encouraged to set goals and learn time management skills are on their way to success.

Students who are highly successful at Pine Grove:

- 1- Use their agenda book to record all assignments and test dates.
- 2- Do their hardest assignment first since it requires the most energy.
- 3- Schedule time to prepare for tests over several days, rather than cramming or attempting to prepare the night before.
- 4- Double-check their work before

handing it in.

- 5- Use an efficient filing system every day; putting all 'works in progress' in a homework folder and filing all completed work in the appropriate subject folder.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's team of teachers or the counseling office.

Environmental Field Day!

Sixth Graders went to Green Lakes on October 6th and 7th for an Environmental Field Day! Those students learned about the water as well as the plants and animals that live in and around it. They discussed the human impact on the ecosystem as well as the food chains at Green Lakes. They learned about different trees in the area from a forester and about birds such as hawks, owls, and falcons from a wildlife rehabilitator.

They got to see a barn owl, eagle owl, screech owl, a peregrine falcon, and a turkey falcon! They also met an Eastern box turtle named Elliot!

They learned many interesting facts, such as bats eat 500 mosquitoes an hour, as well as ways to help protect and preserve our wildlife.



Pine Grove Musical



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Pine Grove Drama Club presents *Seussical Jr.*, a shortened version of the hit Broadway musical, *Seussical the Musical*, on **March 17th & 18th at 7:00 pm** at Pine Grove. Tickets go on sale March 1st and can be purchased daily at Pine Grove from 11:30-1:30.

The Cat in the Hat says it best, "If you open your mind, oh the things you will find!"

Seussical Jr. is a vibrant, extraordinary musical celebration of the power of the IMAGINATION! Famous Dr. Seuss characters join together to create a new engaging tale about the miraculous adventures experienced if one is courageous enough to think with no limits.

Teens change emotions by the nanosecond, regularly blow situations out of proportion, and find something to be self conscious about at every turn."
Dr. Charles Nelson

Twenty first Century Learning



Students have been practicing 21st Century learning in the computer labs and the library by creating movies to showcase their potential career choices. Sixth graders have been learning how to access and manipulate Adobe Photoshop. Eighth grade students are creating podcasts and are blogging for learning, too.

In order to be fully prepared for 21st Century learning headphones or ear buds are a necessary piece of equipment that students need to have in their supplies for school purposes. A pair from the dollar store works as well as a pair that comes with an iPod. A flash or thumb drive would also be a piece of equipment that students could utilize if they need to bring computer work home to improve.

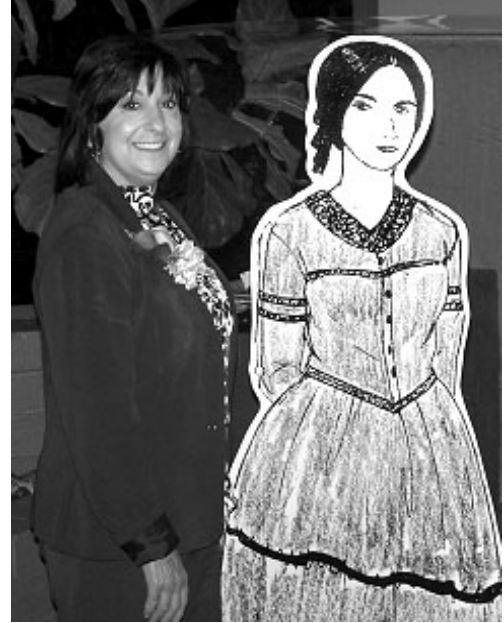


Mrs. Trew Nominates FACS Award Winner!

Jennifer Lynn Nappi is the recipient of the Ellen Swallow Richards Award, which is presented to an individual outside of Family and Consumer Sciences for her support of our programs. Mrs. Nappi has spent eight years working with students in Mrs. Trew's FACS classes. Sponsored by Contact Community Services, Mrs. Nappi presents a program called YES - Youth Embracing Success.

During the more than eight sessions, students explore emotional literacy skills, which cover communication, emotions

and feelings, relationships, responsibility and respect, respecting differences and empathy, teamwork and decision-making. Their extensive time spent allows Mrs. Nappi to develop a relationship of trust and respect with the students, thus enriching the learning experience. Students come away knowing how important and valuable these life skills are to becoming successful young adults in their society and community.



AM Jams

Greetings from Pine Grove's A.M. JAMS!! A.M. JAMS is a homeroom study period supervised by Mrs. Avellino and Mrs. Herbert in Room 206. We just celebrated first marking period accomplishments with a breakfast pizza party! Many students who attended A.M. JAMS more than a dozen times were invited to attend. Way to go - these students are following Covey's



first habit of effective teens by taking a **PRO**active approach to their learning. Students interested in joining us should check in with their homeroom teacher (to be marked present for the day), then report to room 206. A.M. JAMS is open to all students at every grade level who are looking for a little extra homework help, or to study.



Seventh Graders at the Zoo

Library Land

Do you ever try to get your homework done at home and then realize that you don't have the materials you need? Well, worry no more! You have virtual (online) access to a HUGE archive of resources. Some may require passwords at home so be sure to get a BLUE PASSWORD sheet from the library. Start at www.esmschools.org and find ONLINE LIBRARY RESOURCES or go to www.portaportal.com (guest name: pinegrove) and you will see many resources under the category A+ databases. If you would like to be added to a library mailing list or would like the passwords sent to you, send an email to: skowalski@esmschools.org.



Are you looking for something to do from 3:00-3:40 in the afternoon? The Pine Grove Library would love to have you from Tuesday-Thursday. You can enjoy computers, board games, books, magazines, the Wii, and a range of clubs. Sign up today and reserve your spot.

There are many leadership activities available through the library. If you would like to help with promotion, special events, or contests, see Mrs. Kowalski in the library.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
<http://www.esmschools.org>

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