



PINE GROVE P.S.

Spring 2014

Pine Grove P.S.
86 Gamble St.
Woodbridge, ON
L4L 1R2

Tel: 905-850-0672
Fax: 905-850-3869
Website: www.pinegrove.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Principal:

Mr. B. Fisher

Vice Principal:

Mrs. K. Birnie

Superintendent:

Mr. J. Parappally

905-764-6830

Trustee:

Mrs. A. DeBartolo
905-898-9653

School Council Co-Chairs:
M. Ierullo & M. Sauder

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Administrators' Message:

As we welcome Spring it is wonderful to see how our Kindergarten students have grown and developed over the past school year. Our youngest learners in the building have easily adapted to the full day kindergarten program and indeed blossomed. Learning through an inquiry and play based approach has been very engaging for our Kindergarten students. We are very excited to welcome our new junior kindergarten students and their families to Pine Grove at the Welcome to Kindergarten orientation, held later this month.

Across the school our teachers continue to focus on improving the learning of our students by asking them to think and respond critically to information. Recently, a group of our grade 7 students participated in a technology challenge, as part of National Engineering Month. We are very proud to announce that these students won this YRDSB competition and went on to represent Pine Grove at the Ontario Skills Competition in Waterloo, Ontario in early May. Our teachers are moving beyond the basics for our students and creating communities of thinkers in their classrooms where students have opportunities to acquire, discuss and apply their knowledge within authentic problem solving situations. The next couple of months will be very busy, as we assess and evaluate each child's progress, administer the EQAO testing to students in grade 3 and 6 and organize our programs for the beginning of next year.

During May and June our students will have many opportunities to be engaged beyond the walls of the classroom. Jump Rope for Heart will be held during the month of May, as well as student participation in "Pause to Play" an initiative organized by our Healthy Schools Committee. Intermediate badminton has commenced and plans are underway for Junior – Intermediate Track and Field and our Primary Play Day. School Council is in the process of organizing a "Family Fun Run" for early June. We invite you to come out and exercise with your child or children.

We would like to thank our teachers and parents for making Pine Grove such a positive place to learn and grow.

Yours truly,

Brian Fisher
Principal

Karen Birnie
Vice Principal



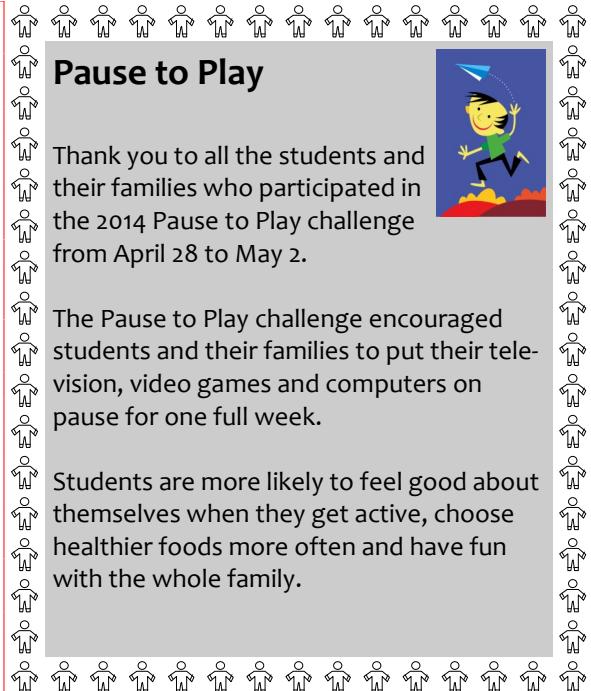
Character Trait for May Courage

We face challenges directly. We seek help from others when necessary. We do the right thing even when it may be unpopular. We are able to recognize risks and danger and do not take unwise risks to gain the approval of those around us.

COMING EVENTS

- ◆ May 19 Victoria Day Holiday - No School
- ◆ May 22 Junior Intermediate Track and Field
- ◆ May 23 Crazy Hair Day
- ◆ May 26 EQAO Provincial Testing Begins (2 weeks, Gr. 3 & 6)
- ◆ May 28 Welcome To Kindergarten Orientation
- ◆ May 29 Bicycle Safety—Grade 3

- ◆ June 6 P.A. Day No School
- ◆ June 13 Twin or Triplet Day
- ◆ June 17 Primary Concert 1:15 - 2:30
- ◆ June 19 Awards Assembly K-3/4
- ◆ June 20 Awards Assembly Junior-Intermediate
- ◆ June 23 Primary Play Day
- ◆ June 25 Grade 8 Graduation
- ◆ June 26 6:00 - 10:30 Le Jardin
- ◆ June 26 Last Day of School
Early Dismissal
Report Cards Go Home



Pause to Play

Thank you to all the students and their families who participated in the 2014 Pause to Play challenge from April 28 to May 2.

The Pause to Play challenge encouraged students and their families to put their television, video games and computers on pause for one full week.

Students are more likely to feel good about themselves when they get active, choose healthier foods more often and have fun with the whole family.



Walking Wednesdays

Walking Wednesdays for students from grades 1 to 8 will be happening again this year.

Students will be able to sign up and join at school. It's a great opportunity to be active by doing something that is easy and fun!

Safety...Let's work together to keep our kids safe!

1. Make sure your child is wearing a helmet when biking, rollerblading or skate boarding.
2. Caution your children to stay away from the ponds and creeks.
3. Make sure your child is wearing sunscreen and a hat.
4. Running shoes are an appropriate and safe choice for playing at school. Flip flops do not provide enough stability or protection for active play.
5. Review Stranger Danger information with your child.
6. Monitor your child's use of the internet and social media sites.
7. Make sure that you are not sending any products to school that may contain nuts. Please remember that students are not permitted to distribute treats at school.

We encourage you to talk to your child about safe play.

Class Organizations 2014-2015

As a staff we will be starting our preliminary discussions regarding the placements of our students for next year. We meet as grade teams to discuss the creation of the most positive learning environment possible for each child. We plan according to each child's learning styles, skills, knowledge, attitude social and work habits. We also make sure that we are consistent with the Ministry's and York Region's guidelines, range of performance levels, as well as a balance between boys and girls.

Teaching assignments and school organization for next year will be finalized in August based on student enrolment during the summer. As staff assignments have not been established at this time, requests for specific teachers cannot be accommodated. However, if you have information about your child's learning needs that we may not be aware of, please send a letter to Mr. Fisher by **May 30, 2014** so it can be included in the discussion.

Heart and Stroke Fundraiser

Over the past 8 years, the Heart and Stroke Foundation has invested nearly \$3 million in strategic research in children and youth physical activity and exercise. Each year the Heart and Stroke Foundation gives back over \$1,000,000 to support healthy school communities thanks to fundraising programs like Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart.

This year, the Heart & Stroke Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart programs features simple challenges that teach kids the benefits of being active and eating healthy. It's a fun way for the whole family to learn how to live long, healthy lives. Support your child in this exciting journey and fundraise for a great cause!

Kick-Start your child's journey by registering online! By registering your child to participate in Jump Rope or Hoops for Heart, you're helping him or her learn the importance of physical activity, healthy eating and giving to others. PLUS, just for signing up online, they'll receive a **FREE \$5 Kick-Start** and be that much closer to their first prize and the chance to win an iPad Mini! They'll also gain access to exclusive games that you can only get when you sign up online!

Healthy students are better learners and that's why the Heart and Stroke Foundation wants to help students learn about healthy living all while getting active and having fun at school. Supporting kids' health for more than 30 years, the Heart and Stroke Foundation encourages kids to get active while they collect pledges for heart disease and stroke research. Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart deliver fun and accessible games with information that encourages healthy eating, daily physical activity and giving back to the community.

Our Event Day involving students from junior kindergarten to grade 8 will be on **Friday, May 16th**.

All pledge envelopes are due by May 13th.

Thank you for your support.



Keeping Our Students Safe

Traffic Safety at Arrival and Dismissal Times

To better ensure the safety of our students and their families at arrival and dismissal times we would like to ask all drivers to refrain from:

- ◆ Parking in or entering the bus loop, when buses are unloading, waiting to load or loading. If you have parked in the bus loop area, you will be asked to remain in there until all buses have left.
- ◆ Double parking in the school driveway.
- ◆ Passing cars in the school driveway that are waiting to pick up students.
- ◆ Parking on both sides of Waymar Ave. or Gamble St. thereby blocking school bus access.
- ◆ Idling your vehicle.

Please ensure that:

- ◆ Your child/children buckle their seatbelts before you put your car in drive.
- ◆ Your child/children leave seatbelts buckled until the car has come to a complete stop.
- ◆ Young children are accompanied by an adult when exiting the vehicle.
- ◆ Students only exit from the right hand side of the vehicle.
- ◆ You proceed SLOWLY and CAUTIOUSLY while driving in the parking lot and bus loop.

Your patience and vigilance are greatly appreciated as we work together to keep our students safe!

Arrive on Time....

Students can be dropped off anytime between 8:10 a.m. & 8:25 a.m., as our staff are on duty, ready to greet your child or children for their upcoming day.



At 8:25 a.m., the entry bell rings. Students are given approximately 5 minutes to enter the building, organize their belongings and arrive at their first class, ready for instruction. Attendance is immediately taken and instruction begins. All announcements and the playing of the National Anthem occur just before morning recess, at approximately 10:00 a.m. , so as not to interfere with the instructional time.

Any student arriving after 8:30 a.m. is considered late and must report to the office to be signed in. They will receive a late slip which they take to the teacher of their first class. All "lates" are recorded and will appear on your child's report card.

Student Absences

Knowing that your child is safe and accounted for is essential. Please ensure that you report your child's absence to the school, as soon as you know they will be away.

If the office is closed, you are able to leave a message on the school's Safe Arrival Line, 905-850-0672, anytime after 4:00 p.m. and before 8:00 a.m.



If you have not let the school know that your child will be absent, and we are unable to contact you or any of the contacts you have provided the school with, York Region District School Board policy states we must contact York Region Police.



Eco Team Update Spring

Into Nature Day

Spring has sprung! The Eco Team and Pine Grove students from JK-8 have been connecting with nature both inside and outside of the classroom. On May 23rd students from various classes in the school will be actively participating in activities about nature. The JK/SK's, and grades 1-3 have been busy learning about planting. Various primary classes will be planting flowers with the intermediate students on this day. Look out for all the Eco friendly practices that classes have implemented and lets continue to enjoy our beautiful Pine Grove landscape as the weather warms up ahead.

Eco Themes this spring are:

♦ Reusable containers

During the month of April, the Eco team continued to track reusable water bottle scores and litter-less lunches, including the usage of reusable containers. Additionally, the Eco Team is continuing to encourage the use of reusable water bottles in our school. As the weather warms up, students will require more liquids to keep themselves hydrated. Please send your child to school with several reusable water bottles.

♦ Conserve Water

Water conservation is the focus for May. It's a good time to prompt yourself to "Rethink" our use of water and to treat our water as an essential resource that should be used sparingly and not wasted. Every drop and every person can make a difference!

♦ Put Everything In It's Place

In June, students will be reminded to put everything in it's place. Students will be challenged to an Eco Assessment in each of their classrooms. Winning classes will be announced at our next awards assembly. Pine Grove's Eco Schools Assessment will be scheduled sometime in June. Our staff and students look forward to celebrating our successes with the school community.

The Eco-team would like to thank you for all your efforts in making our Earth a better place to be.



NEWS FROM THE...Pine Grove Learning Commons



Early Harvest Competition 2014

Our Pine Grove Learning Commons continues to partner with the Pierre Berton Resource Library. Daniela Pacini, Youth Services librarian visited grade 6, 7 and 8 students in April to promote the Early Harvest 2014 Competition. The competition is being initiated by the Vaughan Public Libraries and is for teens aged 12 -18 who live or go to school in the City of Vaughan. Students may enter pieces of work they have produced for school assignments or projects such as short stories, poems, photographs, sketches, drawings and videos. Entries needed to be received no later than May 22, 2014 and brought to a local Vaughan Public Library. Winners get published and win prizes. In addition, winners will be celebrated at Vaughan Public Libraries' 2014 Teen Awards in October 2014.

All students were given entry forms and information about the competition. For more information please visit the following website: <http://www.vaughanpl.info/index.php>.

Cathy Rondina Author Visit: Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2

Pine Grove Public School students in Kindergarten to grade three had the opportunity to meet Canadian author Cathy Rondina. She visited the Learning Commons and shared her love of reading and writing. Students had the pleasure to enjoy her dynamic presentation. Kindergarten students enjoyed creating their own "story web" using props that Mrs. Rondina brought. Using her book, *Lighting Our World: A Year of Celebrations* Grade 1 and 2 students were engaged in different art activities to learn about various celebrations from a variety of cultures.

For more information about author Cathy Rondina please visit the following website: <http://www.catherinerondina.com>.

Reminder About Lost Books

As we get closer to the end of the school year, we ask that all parents help their children find any lost Pine Grove library books at home. If lost books are not found, the school will be asking parents for a reimbursement for the replacement of the lost book.





Forest of Reading Update 2014

Congratulations to all the students who completed and voted for their favourite Forest of Reading book in late April. Certificates have been given to our Kindergarten to Grade 2 students for having participated in the program through the Learning Commons. Students listened to and participated in activities related to the ten Blue Spruce nominated books. Once all ten books were read to them, they voted for their favourite book. Students in grades 3 to grade 8 who participated in the program will receive their certificates in June at our next awards assembly.

For more information about the Forest of Reading please visit <https://www.accessola.org> or contact Mrs. Meleca.



THE RESULTS ARE IN AND THE STUDENT FAVOURITES ARE...

The following Canadian book titles have been chosen by students across Ontario as their favourite book and have been designated to receive the Forest of Reading Award for their category.

AWARD RECEIVED	BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR(S)
Blue Spruce K - 2	<i>Oddrey</i>	Dave Whamond
Silver Birch Express Grade 3 - 4	<i>Secret of the Village Fool</i>	Rebecca Upjohn and Renné Benoit
Silver Birch Fiction Grade 5 - 6	<i>Record Breaker</i>	Robin Stevenson
Silver Birch Non-Fiction Grade 5 - 6	<i>One Step at a Time: A Vietnamese Child Finds Her Way</i>	Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch
Red Maple Fiction Grade 7 - 8	<i>The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen</i>	Susin Nielsen

Please go to www.accessola.org for more information about
the Ontario Forest of Reading Programs.

These winning titles will be excellent reading material for students during their summer break.





**Join us at Woodbridge College for
A Workshop Geared for South Asian Women, however all are welcome**

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

In partnership with Yellow Brick House

Topics for discussion will include:

- **Communication and Language barriers**
- **Advocating for your child**
- **Navigating the Canadian education system**

**All Parents are
welcome!**

Translation support available (Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu)

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Date: Monday, May 26, 2014

Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

Location: 71 Bruce St., Vaughan, ON L4L 1J3

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**Light Refreshments provided
Child Care provided**

RSVP to:

Mini at 905-884-2046 ext. 271 or

Sarah at sarahsa@yellowbrickhouse.org or

Hina at hshah@ccsyr.org or

Oksana at oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca