



Piney Ridge Elementary School

December 2011 Newsletter

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www.carrollk12.org/pre

Karen A. Covino
Principal

Michele Becker
Asst. Principal

IT IS THE MISSION OF
PINEY RIDGE ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL TO DE-
VELOP STUDENTS AS
THINKERS, PROBLEM-
SOLVERS, AND COM-
MUNICATORS.
ALL WILL WORK TO
ENSURE MAXIMUM
ACHIEVEMENT FOR
EVERY CHILD IN ALL
CURRICULAR AREAS.

NOTICE OF NON- DISCRIMINATION

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ancestry or national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The CCPS provides nondiscriminatory access to school facilities in accordance with its policies and regulations regarding the community use of schools (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Gregory J. Bricca
Director of Research and
Accountability
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410.751.3068

Dear Piney Ridge Families,



It is hard to believe that November is over already! During this month, students received their first progress reports and we held two evening conference nights. We thank all of you who took the time to come in and meet with your child's teacher and others in the building. Communication is an important part of a child's success in school.

When we reflect on the month, the word "generosity" comes to mind. Our student council hosted a food drive to benefit families in our own community. All of you were very generous and we took many boxes of food to the food pantry at Sykesville Middle School.

Our Student Council and Mrs. Snively donated a decorated tree to the Festival of Trees at Carroll Hospital Center. This Piney Ridge Tree is decorated with Dalmatians, of course! Some of our students also made ornaments to adorn the tree. Our tree, along with many others, will be on display from November 28th – December 5th in the lobby of the hospital. These trees will be sold to the highest bidder with all of the proceeds benefiting Carroll Hospice. We hope your family will stop by and enjoy all of the trees.

Mrs. Pelletier, the Student Council, and the Green School Committee hosted a used toy and book drive to benefit local families. It was unbelievable how many gently used toys and books appeared in our lobby. Again, this was thanks to the generosity of our Piney Ridge families.

Finally, many thanks to the PTA, Ms. McInturff, and the families who donated food so our teachers could enjoy a wonderful dinner between conferences on Nov. 21st. Your generosity and culinary skills were much appreciated!

This quote from Emma Goldman seems appropriate:

"No one has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure."

We are glad you have joined with our school in teaching our students about generosity, kindness and the joy of giving to others. We hope each Piney Ridge family has a wonderful holiday season!

Karen Covino
Principal

Michele Becker
Assistant Principal













December Calendar of Events

(Please post this calendar on your refrigerator)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe 	Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe 	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe 	Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe 	Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe (Makeup Day) 	4th Grade Band/Orchestra Winter Concert 2:20PM / 7:00PM  Grilled Cheese Company Fundraiser	2Hr 45 Min Early Dismissal (12:45 pm)	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			5th Grade Band/Orchestra & 4th/5th Grade Chorus Winter Concert 2:20PM / 7:00PM 		Mother Goose Visits Kdg. 9:15-10: 00am 	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					2Hr 45Min Early Dismissal (12:45pm) <hr/> Holiday Color Day (Wear blue, gold, red, green or any holiday colors)	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>SCHOOLS/OFFICES CLOSED FOR WINTER HOLIDAY</i>						Schools/Offices Reopen on January 3, 2012

School Improvement Team (SIT)

Has your child been a **B.A.R.K.** student?
Have they been **Respectful** and **Responsible**?

Monthly Incentive– December: Movie

SIT Bits: Here are some grade level goals for this school year:

- **Kindergarten:** 92% of kindergarteners met their academic goal in letter identification for Quarter One! The students correctly named upper and lowercase letters including the "funny a" and "funny g". Great work!
- **1st Grade:** In first grade, 50% of the students have mastered the first 200 sight words.
- **2nd Grade:** 2nd graders just finished writing an opinion piece about how often you should exercise. They needed to state their opinion and give 3 supporting reasons to defend their position.
- **3rd Grade:** 83% of all third grade students have mastered phonics and decoding skills.
- **4th Grade:** Our goal for the January Benchmark is to get 85% or above of the students to pass with a score above an 80%. To help achieve this goal, students who do not pass any cluster tests are placed in a second chance learning group during flex time so the concepts can be retaught and mastered.
- **5th Grade:** 5th grade students have been working very hard to develop interesting ideas, lead paragraphs, and voice in their expository writing. They will continue to develop those traits and others as they begin to write narratives in the next writing unit.
- **Specials:** The ETM committee is proud to have our "Piney Wall of the World" board displayed in the main hallway outside the gym. Many families have sent in artifacts showing their family heritage and traditions.

PROGRESS REPORTS

*Report cards will be sent home for children in **grades 1-5** four times during the year.
(**November 9, 2011, February 1, 2012, April 13, 2012, and June 14, 2012**)
Interim reports will be sent mid way through the marking period.*

***Kindergarten** progress reports will be sent home in February and in June.*



Counselors

o r n e r

According to the educational journal, "The School Administrator," school officials do not come close to having the impact on the child's success as does a parent. "Between birth and age 18, children spend only 10 percent of their waking hours at school with the bulk of their time spent in the home environment."

As parents, we have a huge accountability to our children. We need to resolve to be supportive and involved in our children's lives and in the educational process. It is the most important job we do in our lives.

Let's resolve to be stronger parents in the following ways (excerpts taken from Dr. Thomas Zirpoli, McDaniel College professor and author):

- **I resolve** to have high expectations for my children regarding their school work and to remind them that school work has priority over other extracurricular activities. I will attend all parent-teacher conferences and will work closely with my child's teachers.
- **I resolve** to ensure that my children complete their homework to the best of their ability. I will provide my children with all the necessary materials to be successful in their school work and I will ensure that other activities, such as television and computer or video games, do not interfere with their homework or studies.
- **I resolve** that my children will attend school regularly by being on time and ready to start their day.
- **I resolve** to speak with my children with respect and dignity. I understand that yelling at my children is a sign of my frustration, usually the result of inconsistent consequences regarding family rules. When I am clear and consistent in my expectations and consequences, yelling is not necessary.
- **I resolve** to model appropriate behavior in my speech and by my behavior. I understand that I am my children's first and most important teacher.

I resolve to tell my children that I love them each and every day. I will give them my love and my time.

Finally, resolving to be a stronger, more accountable parent is a "work in progress." Remember that we should not beat ourselves up over past mistakes, but move forward with the conviction to do the best we can in the future. Make 2012 the best year ever for your family in resolving to be a stronger parent!

Chris Snively
School Counselor





Honor Roll Criteria – Grades 3-5

Starting in 2001, Piney Ridge Elementary School, in accordance with School Improvement Team goals, began instituting an Honor Roll system to reward students who meet the criteria listed below.

These awards are earned quarterly. In addition, students also have the opportunity to earn Student Effort and Character Awards if they do not meet academic criteria, but have shown effort in their behavior and work habits.

Principal's Honor Roll – All A's, no N's

Honor Roll – All A's and B's (not all B's) and no N's

Character Award—for those students who may not make honor roll, but exhibit excellent character

Student Effort—for those students who may not make honor roll, but exhibit excellent effort

1st Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 3 – Principal's Honor Roll (All A's – no N's) – 33
Honor Roll (All A's and B's, but not all B's – no N's) – 46

Grade 4 – Principal's – 22
Honor Roll – 57

Grade 5 – Principal's – 29
Honor Roll – 39

Presidential Academic Fitness Award (grade 5 only) awarded in June

The requirements for 5th grade students to achieve this award are:

- Grade 4 MSA—advanced in either reading or math
- Math Benchmarks—90% or higher on each subtest (not average) on January and May Grade 4 and January Grade 5
- Grade Point Average—3.5 GPA for all of Grade 4 and the first two marking periods of Grade 5

Honors Reception: Every June, students who have earned all A's during the first 3 marking periods and/or achieved the "Presidential Academic Fitness Award" (grade 5 only), are invited to a special reception with their family.

Quarter 1

Perfect Attendance

**262 Students with
Perfect Attendance!**

Kindergarten - 27

1st Grade - 33	4th Grade - 59
2nd Grade - 47	5th Grade - 55
3rd Grade - 51	

**Starting with the
2012-2013 School Year,
Piney Ridge Elementary's
school hours will change
from**

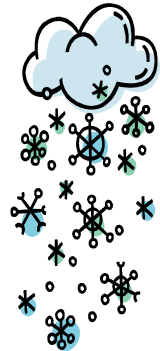
**9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m
(present)**

To

9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Inclement Weather

Announcements regarding school openings and/or closing can be heard on the following radio stations: WTTR, WHVR, WBAL, WCAO, WCBM, WFMM, WFBR, SFMD and WZYQ no later than 6:45 a.m. The closings will also be shown on the local television stations.



Alert Now messages will also be sent out to parents via telephone and/or email. If schools might be delayed one (1) hour or more, the notification will be made by the same time and through the same stations as for the closing of schools.

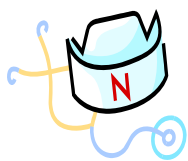
Reminder!

Students leaving school by any way other than their regularly assigned bus or way of leaving (ABC Care, Daycare Vans, Car Rider, Walker etc..)

MUST bring a written note indicating the change.

The note must be sent to school in the morning. The note must include the name of the person who is picking up the student and signed by a parent or guardian.

For safety reasons, students leaving before the 3:30 pm dismissal will be dismissed from the front office **ONLY.**



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Over the counter medications have dose limits too. According to packaging, Ibuprofen (Adult strength) and Extra Strength Tylenol (acetaminophen) should not be given to children under 12 without consulting with a Physician first. Also do not take either medication, extra strength, regular or junior doses for extended periods of time or in larger than recommended dosages. Kidney and liver damage can occur when these medications are taken incorrectly. You should check labels of over-the-counter cold medications as well, Ibuprofen, acetaminophen and aspirin are already contained in several products. Taking aspirin for a viral illness increases the chance of developing Reye's syndrome, a disease that affects the liver and brain. Remember to throw out any expired medications.

As cold season approaches, please review CCPS medication policy regarding medications in school. Any medication other than Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen must have a parent and physician signature to be administered in school.

No Child is allowed to bring medication to school.

Kids, sleep and stress

Turn down the heat-anything above a neutral air temperature slows the body's initiation of sleep and changes sleep patterns.

Turn off the TV or Computer 30 minutes before bed-The light from a television or computer can delay both the necessary drop in core body temperature and melatonin production and thus delaying sleep onset by two hours.

Keep Regular bedtimes-After just a few days of shortened sleep, the brain starts to make extra stress hormone cortisol. It takes six times as long for this stress hormone to drop to a low enough level that sleep is possible when bedtimes and wake times are inconsistent. Regular bedtimes and wake times that are more consistent makes sleep more efficient. Staying up 3 hours late on the weekends is equivalent to flying across three time zones every weekend!!

Kids' stress can be more than what is happening in their own lives. Do your kids hear you talking about troubles at work, illness, financial concerns or fighting with a spouse? Children can pick up on their parents' anxiety which can worry them. Kids who see disturbing images on TV may worry about their own safety.

Symptoms of stress in children may include; behavioral changes, changes in sleep patterns, bed-wetting, stomachaches and headaches, lying, bullying, nightmares, and changes in academic progress.

Let's help our kids be successful everyday with regular routines!



Media Festival Time Is Here!

From now **until February 10th, 2012**, students can enter the Carroll County Public Schools Media Festival. Students may enter one or more of the following categories:



Photography

Live Action Video Production

Slide Show Stills

Graphic Design

Multi Media



For a complete list of rules, entry forms and labels, go to:

<http://www.carrollk12.org/pre/media/festival.asp>

Birthday Club

To honor your child's birthday, you may purchase a book for \$10.00 from the Media Center to be added to our school collection. A bookplate will be placed inside the cover dedicating the book to your child. Students will be called to the Media Center where they will select a book from a pre-selected list of titles. The student will also receive a pencil, bookmark and a certificate and will have the honor of being the first student to check the book out of the Media Center.

For a form, go to:

<http://www.carrollk12.org/Assets/file/PRE/Birthday%20Club.pdf>



2012 Carroll County Chamber of Commerce



Outstanding Teacher Awards Nomination Form

DEADLINE: January 3 2012

Nominations received after 5:00 PM will not be accepted.
Nomination forms must be received in the Carroll County
Chamber of Commerce office (not just postmarked).

Mail Nomination forms to:
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
Attn. OTA
P.O. Box 871 ♦ Westminster, MD 21158
FAX: 410-876-1023

Online: www.carrollcountychamber.org Outstanding Teacher

Guidelines

Eligibility: Any full-time teacher in the Carroll County Public School System may be nominated.

Criteria: Teachers will be judged on the degree to which the candidates exhibit qualities of excellence.

Process: Step 1—Teacher is nominated.

Step 2.—Each teacher is notified of the nomination and is asked to complete a biographical form. Any teacher not completing the biographical form will not be considered for an award or recognized as an Outstanding Teacher.

Step 3.—Judges review the Nomination Form & Biographical Form and select eight winners for the Chamber's Outstanding Teacher Award.

NOTE: The Chamber follows the MD Teacher of the Year guidelines so that the candidates are eligible for MD Teacher of the Year.

REQUIRED QUESTIONS

On a separate piece of paper please respond to the following three questions.

1. Give specific examples of how this teacher inspires students to learn.
2. Give specific examples of how this teacher builds confidence and self esteem.
3. Give specific examples of the ways that this teacher helps students apply what they have learned to real world situations.

Please feel free to make additional comments.

Answer the questions fully but please limit your response to fit on one page. Your answers are used by the judges to determine the winners. Please print or type.

Teacher Information (Please print clearly) (* Required field: incomplete forms will not be accepted)

*Teacher's Name: _____ First _____ MI _____ Last _____

*Nominee is a **FULL TIME TEACHER**: Elementary School Middle School High School
Career & Technology Special Education Counselor Media Specialist

*Teacher's School: _____

*School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Nominator Information (Please print clearly) (* Required field: incomplete forms will not be accepted)
 My name may be released to the teacher I've nominated if requested, otherwise nominations are confidential.

*Nominator Name: _____ First _____ MI _____ Last _____

*Nominator is: Parent of a student Student Teacher School Administrator

*Nominator's Mailing Address: _____

*City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Phone #: _____ Email: _____

↓ *A RESPONSE TO THE THREE QUESTIONS ON THE LEFT IS REQUIRED,
AND USED BY THE JUDGES TO DETERMINE THE AWARD WINNERS

Submit nominations online Nov 1—Jan 3

Visit the Chamber website at www.carrollcountychamber.org **Nominate early!**

Heavy use of the online site may interfere your nomination being received.

Nominations close on Jan. 3, 2012 at 5:00 PM

Mail to: Carroll Co. Chamber of Commerce 9 E. Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157