



Piney Ridge Elementary School

January 2012 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,

December has been an exciting month with lots of special activities and two wonderful concerts, where our fourth and fifth grade students showed off their musical talents. We thank Mrs. McCusker and Mr. Dundore for working with our students to make these concerts a success. We also thank our families at home for supporting the student musicians and attending the concerts.

Do you already shop at Target, Martins or Safeway? If so, you probably have a discount grocery or store credit card. Each time you choose to use your Martins or Safeway discount card or your Target Red Credit Card, your child's school is given a percentage of the sales. All you need to do is go to the Customer Service Desk and make a written request to donate your reward points to Piney Ridge Elementary. Forms can also be acquired at our school office or online. Funds raised will be spent towards meeting the needs of our students.

Also remember that our school is collecting paper recycling in the yellow and green bin on our lower parking lot. The school is paid by the ton for newspapers, magazines, catalogs, mail, shredded paper, etc. **NO CARDBOARD** please. Clean out all of those holiday catalogs and greeting cards by bringing them to us!

Our next volunteer training will be held in the media center on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 from 6:30—7:00 pm. Please remember we must enforce the seven **school day** waiting period before a volunteer can attend a field trip or work in our school. If you need to be trained before that date, you may attend training at any CCPS school. Check the website for dates and times. <http://www.carrollk12.org/> Plan ahead and get trained if you want to attend any spring field trips.

During the spring, our students will be participating in several county and/or state mandated tests. Our teachers will make sure our students are prepared but we need your help. **Please refer to the schedule below and refrain from scheduling doctor appointments, family vacations, etc. on these dates.**

Grades 3-5 MSA March 14, 15, 20, 21
Grade 5 Science MSA April 16 – May 4

More information about these tests will be included in next month's newsletter.

The weather may alter our school schedule at any time. Alert Now will notify you when schools are closed, delaying opening, or closing early. You will also hear announcements on our local television and radio stations. Please make sure your family has a plan in place for your children when the school schedule is changed. Our school office can get very busy with phone calls so having a plan in place ahead of time will help us make sure your children remain safe. Happy New Year 2012!

Karen Covino
Principal

Michele Becker
Assistant Principal





January Calendar of Events

(Please post this calendar on your refrigerator)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 A HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 Schools/Offices Closed	3 Schools/Office Reopen Market Day Pickup 7:00 pm	4 PTA Meeting 7:00 pm	5	6 Guys Read 8:00 AM Media Center 	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Guys Read 8:00 AM Media Center 	14
15	16 Schools Closed For Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	17 Red Cross Blood Drive 3:30-8:30 pm 	18	19	20 Guys Read 8:00 AM Media Center  Science Fair 7 - 8:30 PM 	21
22	23	24	25	26 2nd Grade Breadmake 1-3:15 pm 	27 Schools Closed for Students	28
29	30 BARK Assembly 2:15 PM 	31 Market Day Pickup 7:00 pm				



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive on:
January 17, 2012 at Piney Ridge Elementary School from 3:30 PM-8:30 PM

Watch for an AlertNow for instructions on signing up to donate.

Blood Usage

Your blood donations are used to help a variety of patients in need. Blood usage depends on the type of surgery or illness and whether there are any complications. Below is a list of common patient needs for blood and the average amount of each blood component that is required.



Patient Need	Red Blood Cells	Platelets	Plasma
Accident Victim	4-100 units		
Kidney Transplant	2 units		
Premature Baby	1-4 units while in intensive care		
Liver Transplant	10 units	10 units	20 units
Cancer Treatment	2-6 units	6-8 units daily for 2-4 weeks	
Heart transplant	4-6 units		
Sickle Cell Disease	10-15 units periodically to treat severe complications		
Open Heart Surgery, adult	2-6 units	1-10 units	2-4 units
Leukemia	2-6 units	6-8 units daily for 2-4 weeks	
Bone Marrow Transplant	1-2 units given every other day for 4 weeks	6-8 units daily for 4-6 weeks	

Common Blood Donation Questions

Will it hurt?

It may feel like a slight pinch or sting for just a second. But there is no pain during the donation. And think about how good you'll feel knowing you're helping save lives!

How long will it take?

The entire donation process from registration to refreshments takes approximately one hour. The actual donation itself only takes approximately seven to ten minutes.

Is it safe?

Yes. You cannot acquire HIV or any other diseases from donating. A new sterile needle is used for every donation and then discarded.

How much blood is taken?

One unit – which is a little less than a pint.

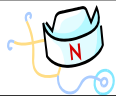
How long will it take to replenish?

Blood volume or plasma is replaced within 24 hours. Red cells need about 4 to 8 weeks to complete replacement. You can donate again in 56 days (or 8 weeks).

Can I work after I donate?

Donors should drink extra fluid and avoid strenuous exercise. Avoid lifting heavy objects with your donation arm for about four or five hours after you donate.





NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Behavioral Medication Information

If your child takes medication that affects his/her behavior and the medication is not administered at school, it is helpful for the school nurse to be aware. This confidential information will be shared with your child's teacher on a "need to know" basis. This information is helpful to keep documented for the following reasons; if your child has a reaction to the medication, an emergency arises that 911 would need to be called, or if your child misses a dose at home and it is affecting his/her work at school. If your child misses a dose at home, please call the school. A parent may come to school to administer the medication, or if the medication has not been refilled by the pharmacy, the nurse can let the teacher be aware and other support systems can be put into place until the medication is filled. If at any time the medication dose or type changes, please also let the nurse know for the same reasons. You can contact the nurse by calling or sending a note into school. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Yetman, School Nurse.

The health room is in need of clothes such as pull-on pants, long sleeve shirts size 8 and up.

Sick Day Guidelines

Please keep your child home if he or she:

- Has a fever of 100.0 or higher
- Has been vomiting or episodes of diarrhea
- Has symptoms that prevent him or her from participating in school, such as excessive tiredness or lack of appetite, headache, body aches, earache that continue with pain reliever.

*Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for **24 hours without medication.***

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Piney Ridge Elementary will be holding volunteer trainings on

February 8 @ 6:30pm

March 14 @ 6:30 pm

Registration is not required.

Trainings are held in the Media Center.

The Carroll County Public School System encourages and welcomes volunteers. The volunteer program in Carroll County Public Schools utilizes the talents of all interested citizens in the following capacities:

- ◆ **Level I volunteers** (guest speakers, business representatives, concession stand workers, etc.) **must annually register at a school site before volunteering.**
- ◆ **Level II volunteers** (classroom helpers, chaperones, mentors, etc.) **are required to attend an annual training session at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering.**
- ◆ **Volunteer training is available** at local schools or regional sites throughout Carroll County. A comprehensive schedule of 2011-2012 training sessions will be available through school newsletters/bulletins, local newspapers, Carroll Educational Television Channel 21, and /or the school's website: www.carrollk12.org

If you need more information about becoming a volunteer, please contact a local school or the Carroll County Public School Volunteer Program Coordinator at 410-386-1536.

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OUT-OF-DISTRICT REQUESTS FOR THE 2012 - 2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Board policy states that students who attend Carroll County Public Schools shall attend school in their designated attendance area. However, in very specific and limited circumstances, students may be placed in a school outside their attendance area if an approvable circumstance is deemed to exist.

Parents/legal guardians desiring an out-of-district placement for their child should carefully review the list of approvable circumstances listed on the back of the out-of-district application to determine whether the child meets the criteria for approval. Please review the out-of-district regulations in the Student Services manual for updates. The information can be found in Section I of the Student Services manual at www.carrollk12.org The Carroll County Public Schools' out-of-district policy and regulation will be strictly adhered to in making decisions regarding admission of students to schools outside of their assigned attendance area.

It is the parent's/legal guardian's responsibility to obtain an out-of-district application from the school office or the Student Services Department. These applications will be available on December 5, 2011, *but not before*. Please be certain that the application obtained is for the 2012–2013 school year. Completed out-of-district applications may not be returned to the school office.

The deadline for out-of-district applications for the 2012-2013 school year is **February 1, 2012**. Completed applications must be **postmarked or personally delivered** by the deadline date to:

Carroll County Public Schools
Student Services Department
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Applications postmarked/received after the deadline date of **February 1, 2012** will be returned to the sender without consideration.

QUESTIONS REGARDING OUT-OF-DISTRICT ISSUES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 410-386-1520.

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

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.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

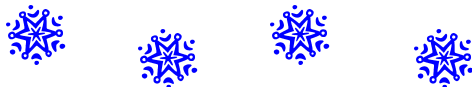


If students are released early from school because of inclement weather, the following applies:

- Parents will be notified by Central Office via Alert Now.
- Information can also be found on TV, radio stations, and the Carroll County Public School website:
www.carrollk12.org
- The school **does not** call parents to inform them of the early dismissal.
- Please have an emergency plan with your child in effect so he/she can get home safely.

Announcements regarding school opening and/or closing can be heard on WTTR (Westminster), WHVR (Hanover), WBAL, WCAO, WCBM, WFMM, WFBR (Baltimore) and WFMD and WZYQ (Frederick) no later than 6:45 a.m. If weather conditions are such that the opening of 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.

- In the event that schools are closed for the day for inclement weather, all events are cancelled.
- In the event of an early dismissal for inclement weather, all events are cancelled.
- In the event of a late opening for inclement weather, there is no effect on a scheduled event.
- If the snow emergency plan is in effect at 5pm, all events are canceled.



Dress Appropriately

As cold weather approaches please remember to dress your child appropriately. This includes hats, scarves, gloves and coats. It is also a good idea to label these items with your child's name. Dress your child warmly in layers. Make sure ears, fingers, and toes are well covered. Change clothing if it becomes wet,

especially socks and mittens. Please help your child learn respect for school by sending them to school dressed appropriately for learning. Clothing should not convey messages that express hate, racial slurs, or sexual harassment. Students are not permitted to wear halter tops, half tops, spaghetti



straps, see-through tops or shoes with spikes/cleats/wheels to school. Bedroom slippers are also not allowed. Requests for exceptions to the dress code for the purpose of school spirit by clubs or organizations is up to the discretion of the school administration. Also see the CCPS STUDENT HANDBOOK.

Beat the Winter Blahs

January can seem like the longest month.



Plan something special. For example, have an



indoor campout, or enjoy a cup of hot cocoa while doing homework. Let your child invite a friend home from school each week during the winter. They can play board games, hide and seek, etc.



With fun things for them to look forward to, this should pick up their mood.



Ready Set Read News

Congratulations to Jon Cole in Mrs. Patrick's 3rd grade class and Matthew Schuler in Mrs. Graumann's 2nd grade class. Both of these students won a Ravens football autographed by Matt Birk. Keep reading and writing and you could be a big winner next time!

Ready Set Read calendars and journals will be collected on Tuesday, January 25th.

Grade	Minutes Read	Journals Written
Kindergarten	500	16
Grade 1	500	16
Grade 2	700	16
Grade 3	700	16
Grade 4	900	16
Grade 5	900	16

PINEY RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STARTS "GUYS READ" PROGRAM

Piney Ridge Elementary School has started a reading program called "Guys Read." The purpose of the program is to provide a place for male students to read and discuss what they are reading.

The program was started by Mr. Fosnot, our 4th grade teacher, and Mr. King, our ESOL teacher. It is open to 4th and 5th grade male students and is the **first of its kind in Carroll County Public Schools.**

Research indicates boys can have trouble reading. However, research also indicates that boys will read if they are given reading that interests them. The mission of "Guys Read" is to increase boys' love for reading by providing reading role models, interesting texts, and a time and place to interact with both. In addition, the teachers hope to impress upon the students that reading is a cool thing to do.

Participants meet on Friday mornings from 8 - 8:30 am before school starts. Currently 15 students and several fathers are participating in the program. The goal is to expand the program to eventually include 2nd and 3rd grade students.

Has Your Child Charged Lunch?

Please remember that lending children lunch money is a courtesy to parents. Borrowed lunch money should be returned to the cafeteria the next school day.

Lost & Found Just a reminder to parents to please check the "rapidly growing" lost & found rack in the cafeteria. Each year we donate a lot of lost clothing to charity. You can avoid your child's clothing ending up at a charity by clearly marking each item with his/her name.

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.**

***Please note that this may require a change in daycare arrangements, and/or after school activities.**

Oops! No Returning After Dismissal!

Once school has dismissed, including dismissal for those students in after school care, we are unable to honor requests for students to return to their classroom for forgotten items, including homework.

This policy is in effect for the safety of students and staff as well as to encourage and develop student responsibility.

Parents picking up students from ABC, after school clubs or activities should not be escorting students to classrooms or other areas of the building.

Thank you for your cooperation and support of this policy.

Getting a new cell phone, iPod, digital camera, GPS devices or laptop for the Holidays? Donate your old one to eScript!

They may look like trash...

but they add up to cash!



Donate to Educate

You can drop off your recyclable items during normal school hours.

Then, periodically, our school will mail the items collected at our school to the eScript Recycling office. eScript will then deposit funds electronically in our group's account!!!!

If you toss...

it's our loss!

Please donate your cell phones, digital cameras, GPS devices, cartridges, iPods & laptops by placing them in the collection bin at Piney Ridge Elementary.



Not only is this an easy way to raise funds, it also teaches our students valuable lessons about the variety of materials that can be recycled and it helps them develop life long patterns. This program is FREE!

Piney Ridge Elementary has a collection bin in the main lobby!

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