



# Piney Ridge Elementary School

## November 2011 Newsletter

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[www.carrollk12.org/pre](http://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

**H**appy Fall! The leaves are beautiful this time of year. We hope you take time to enjoy the outside with your family while the temperature is still moderate.

Just a reminder that we are having a Math Night on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:40 PM. Flyers have gone home and we appreciate your RSVP so we can have enough materials for all who attend. We will be emphasizing math fact strategies and there will be plenty for everyone to do. We hope you will bring your children to this fun night of math. Parking is available at St. Joseph's church and a shuttle bus will be provided.

Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Please take a moment to celebrate your child's successes and set goals in areas that may need improvement. Many parents attended our October conference night, which hopefully was helpful for getting your child on track for success. Kindergarten parents who receive a letter requesting a conference and grade 1- 5 parents who **did not** have a conference in October are encouraged to sign up for our next conference nights, which are Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> (Grades 1 -5 only) and Monday, November 21st from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM. You may call the office and speak with one of our wonderful secretaries to schedule an appointment. Conference appointments must be made no later than 24 hours in advance in order to give the teachers time to prepare.

We want to clarify one thing concerning interim reports, which were sent home on October 6<sup>th</sup>. This year our county expectation is for every parent to receive some kind of report midway through each marking period. This report can be in the form of a data binder, a checklist, a phone call or in person conference or the more traditional interim report you are used to seeing. Each team is sending home information about your child's progress in a way that makes the most sense, considering grade level expectations.

November 14-18 is celebrated as American Education Week. As in previous years, we are not designating set days and times for parents to visit our school. We have an open visitation policy, meaning that parents can visit any time, not just during this one week. Before visiting, please contact your child's teacher to arrange a time that is suitable. We encourage visitation throughout the school year to match your work schedule and prevent interruption of instruction when everyone comes during the same week.

During this season of thankfulness, we would like to say thanks to all of our Piney Ridge families for their support of our school and our students. We appreciate all that you do for us.

Karen Covino  
Principal

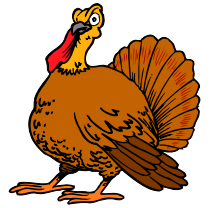
Michele Becker  
Assistant Principal











# November Calendar of Events

(Please post this calendar on your refrigerator)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 Dance Club 4:00-5:00 pm	2 Picture Retakes (AM)  PTA Meeting 7:00 pm	3 2Hr 45Min Early Dismissal (12:45 pm)	4 "Guys Read" Club 7:45-8:30 am 	5	
6 "Fall Back" Standard Time Begins at 2:00 am 	7	8 Dance Club 4:00-5:00 pm	9 Report Cards Go Home  Math Night 6:00-7:40 pm	10	11 "Guys Read" Club 7:45-8:30 am 	12	
13	14 2Hr 45Min Early Dismissal (12:45 pm)	15 Dance Club 4:00-5:00 pm  Panera Bread Night 6:00-9:00 pm	16	17 Conference Night (Grades 1-5)	18 "Guys Read" Club 7:45-8:30 am 	19	
20	21 Conference Night (Grades K-5)	22 Mix & Match Day  Dance Club 4:00-5:00 pm  Market Day Pickup 7:00-8:00 pm	23 <b>Schools/Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</b>			25	26
27	28 Schools Re-Opens	29 Dance Club 4:00-5:00 pm	30 PRE Holiday Shop Opens for Students  				

**"Harvest for the Hungry" donations accepted**

**American Education Week**



# School Improvement Team (SIT)

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

**Monthly Incentive– November:** Sit wherever you want at lunch

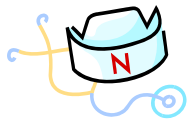
## **SIT Bits:** Here are some grade level goals for this school year:

- **Kindergarten:** 100% of Kindergarteners will identify text features of non fiction books by the end of the school year. Classroom teachers will take initiative to use more non fiction texts in the classroom to teach these features.
- **1st Grade:** 100% of students will pass the Cluster 2 test with an 80% or higher.
- **2nd Grade:** With daily explicit phonics instruction, 100% of second grade students will master the Houghton Mifflin Phonics Assessment this year.
- **3rd Grade:** Third grade is continuing to work to ensure that 100% of students make growth this year in reading.
- **4th Grade:** Students in the fourth grade having been working on achieving our reading goal of 100% proficiency by building comprehension by writing in reading journals and learning how to talk about reading by participating in literature discussion groups.
- **5th Grade:** Fifth graders are working towards becoming 100% proficient or advanced on Math MSA.
- **Resource:** The Resource team continues to work on developing each student's writing skills. We have been working on content, as well as, mechanics. One of our team members recently attended a writing workshop entitled "Framing Your Thoughts" and will begin incorporating these ideas into our writing lessons.
- **Specials:** The ETM committee organized the first "Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day" of the 2011-2012 school year. This event takes place in thousands of schools across the nation and gives students the opportunity to make new friends and learn new things about old friends at lunch. We will organize a week-long heritage themed event in the spring.

### **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.*



# NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

## 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 continues with pain reliever.

*Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication. Returning to school too soon may slow the recovery process and expose others unnecessarily to illness.*

*Please note that children may complain in the morning of not feeling well, but once up and continuing with the day, they improve. You can always call the nurse to “give a heads up” about your child. A runny nose or sniffles without any other symptoms does not always warrant keeping your child home for the day. Mrs. Snively, Mrs. Yetman and the Administrators do monitor student attendance on a daily basis and meet bimonthly regarding student absences.*

Please remember to always send a written note explaining your child’s absence once they return to school. Or you may email absence notes to [PREAttendance.carrollk12.org](mailto:PREAttendance.carrollk12.org).

You do not need to notify the school by phone if your child is absent for the day.

## Cold and Flu Facts

Flu Mist was given to over 350 students in October at Piney Ridge. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose will be given on November 10, only to those students that never received the flu shot or mist in the past.

The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. Because these two types of illnesses have similar flu-like symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them. Flu comes on suddenly, while a cold appears gradually.

### Symptoms At A Glance

<b>Symptoms</b>	<b>Cold</b>	<b>Flu</b>
Fever	Rare	Usually Present
Aches	Slight	Usual, often severe
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Tiredness	Mild	Moderate to Severe
Sneezing	Common	Uncommon
Stuffy Nose	Common	Uncommon
Sore Throat	Common	Uncommon
Chest Discomfort	Mild to Moderate	Often Severe
Headache	Uncommon	Common

“Stomach Flu” is not the Flu, but a virus affecting the intestinal tract. The term "stomach flu" is a misnomer that is sometimes used to describe gastrointestinal illnesses caused by organisms other than influenza viruses.

Please contact your Primary Care Physician or Pediatrician to receive the Flu shot for your family. The Centers for Disease Control now recommend that **all** children receive the Flu vaccine, not just those with chronic medical conditions.

# Media Festival Time Is Here!

From now **until February 10<sup>th</sup>, 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>



# WANTED



## Thursday and Friday Afternoon Media Volunteers

The Media Center is looking for a county-trained parent volunteer for Thursdays from 2:20 - 3:20 pm to help with two second grade classes, and a second parent for Fridays from 1:15 to 2:15 pm for two first grade classes. Please contact Ms. Dulany directly at [kldulan@carrollk12.org](mailto:kldulan@carrollk12.org), or relay a message through Mr. Taylor at school. Training will be provided on how to help with student checkout and assist with any class activities of the day.

### Spirit Days November & December

**Nov. 22** – “Mix and Match” Day – wear any combination of crazy colors and clothes! You can even dress in a



Thanksgiving theme with Pilgrim style clothes or Native American feathers!



**Dec. 23** – “Holiday Color Day” – wear **blue, gold, red, green** – any holiday colors!



Please be advised that this coming weekend, November 6, at 2:00 a.m., we return to Eastern Standard Time.

### Remember to Fall Back!

Carroll County Public Schools and Offices will be operating on Eastern Standard Time effective Monday, November 7th.

### FYI

The week of Nov. 7-11 we will be collecting food for “Harvest for the Hungry”

(a flyer will be coming home soon).

All of the food donations will go to the food pantry at Sykesville Middle School to supply our families here at the southern end of the county!



We will be having a Used Toy Drive and Book Collection in November to benefit several area charities. More information will be coming on this in early November.

Piney Ridge will be donating a Dalmatian decorated tree to the “Festival of Trees” auction at Carroll Hospice. The tree will go to the highest bidder and the money will go to Carroll Hospice which helps cancer patients.



### Liberty High School Presents A Christmas Carol

The classic Dickens's tale of "A Christmas Carol" with a modern twist will be performed at Liberty High School. This original adaptation by Daniel K. Hughes, was written specifically for Liberty High School's production and features over 100 student actors and techies. Akin to Liberty's Award Winning Program, you certainly won't be disappointed by this wonderful, family friendly, tale performed live on Liberty's Stage just for you!



Performance dates are Nov 17th, 18th, 19th, Dec 1st, 2nd, 3rd at 7pm & Dec 3rd at 2pm.

Tickets are on sale now at the Liberty High School box office or online at [www.lhsdramaclub.com](http://www.lhsdramaclub.com). \$8 in advance. At the door, \$10 students and \$12 adults.

For more information, Contact: Tony Cimino at 410-751-3560 or [ajcimin@carrollk12.org](mailto:ajcimin@carrollk12.org).

**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.**

**Did you know that your child has FREE access to the  
web-based reading program RAZ Kids?**



- RAZ Kids offers readers opportunities to:**
- Listen to books for modeled fluency
  - Read books with pronunciation and vocabulary support
    - Record themselves reading
  - Complete reading quizzes, based on what they read
- And, it's all based on their individual reading level!**



**RAZ-Kids Teacher Usernames:**

Grade	Teacher Name	Username
K	B. Oates	boates
K	D. Jones	djonesaaah
K	J. Marinelli	jmarinellid
K	J. Zayed	jzayed
1	L. Bair	lbairb
1	L. Bangle	lbanglea
1	E. Crews	ecrewsa
1	L. Palmer	lpalmerm
1	J. Reed	jreedaaai
2	W. Baldwin	wbaldwinb
2	B. Bower	bbowerf
2	K. Cavey	kcavey
2	K. Graumann	kgraumanna
2	T. Hinkel	thinkela
3	E. Billmyre	ebillmyrea
3	S. Marriott	smarrioth
3	N. Patrick	npatrickd
3	S. Surette	ssurettea
3	J. Thompson	jthompsonaap
4	N. Dubit	nlishman
4	M. Fosnot	mfosnota
4	C. North	cnorthf
4	S. Laughman	slaughmanb
4	C. Rabinovitz	crabinovitza
5	L. Broome	lbroomea
5	K. Keiffer	kkeifferb
5	J. Nave	jnavea
5	M. Martin	mmartinaaaaa
5	J. Yohe	jyohe

If your child's teacher assigned passwords this year, a personalized log-in card will be sent home.

**How do I access RAZ Kids for my child?**

- ~ Go to <http://www.raz-kids.com>
- ~ Click on "Hey Kids Start Here"
- ~ Enter teacher's User Name:
- ~ Click on your child's name
- ~ Click on or type your child's password, if applicable.
- ~ Your child can then click on a book to listen to it, read it, or take a quiz on it!

# 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](http://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](http://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