



Piney Ridge Elementary School

October 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 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO DEVELOP STUDENTS AS THINKERS, PROBLEM-SOLVERS, AND COMMUNICATORS. 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 Families,

It is hard to believe it is October already! Our students are settling in and working hard at their new grade levels. Interim reports will be sent home in early October so you will have a good idea of how your child is progressing. Every student will be receiving an interim report for each marking period.

We will have 4 conference nights in October and November this year. Kindergarten will have conferences on October 10th and 11th in order to meet with all parents. Grades 1-5 will have their first one on Tuesday, October 11th. This night will be ONLY for parents who have been contacted by a teacher requesting a conference. We will have two additional conference nights on Thursday, November 17th and Monday, November 21st for the other parents. This will give all parents an opportunity to meet with the teacher one time this fall.

We need your help and cooperation with two things associated with safety. The first involves parent drop off in the morning. In order to keep the line of cars moving so they don't block Freedom Avenue, we are asking you to comply with the following guidelines:



- 1) No one should enter the parking lot before **8:35 AM** when the sign is removed.
- 2) The driver of the car should remain behind the wheel for a quicker departure. Students should be able to exit the vehicle without assistance.
- 3) Students should get out on the driver's side of the vehicle whenever possible. This is the safest way for them to get to the walkway.
- 4) Please take care of lunch money, notes, hugs goodbye, etc. before you get to the front of the line.
- 5) Please do not pass cars who are stopped to drop off students.
- 6) Announcements begin at 8:55AM. Try to drop off students by 8:50AM. Students are tardy if they arrive @ 9:00 AM or later.

The next item is returning to the building after 4:00 PM. We do not allow students and/or parents to re-enter the building after 4:00 to retrieve homework, forgotten books, etc. Please do not put the staff in a difficult position by coming back and "pleading your case". After school hours are for our custodians to complete their cleaning responsibilities.

There is lots of information in this month's newsletter. We hope you will take some time to read it. Enjoy the fall season with all of its beauty and take some time to get outside before the cold weather arrives.

Karen Covino
Principal

Michele Becker
Assistant Principal





October Calendar of Events

(Please post this calendar on your refrigerator)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 2 Hr 45 Min Early Dismissal (12:45pm) Project ACES Begins	4 G/T Orientation 6:00-7:00 pm Media Center	5 PTA Meeting 7:00 pm	6 Interims Distributed	7	8
9	10 Kindergarten Conference Night 4:00-7:15 pm	11 Conference Night K-5 4:00-7:15 pm	12 Family Fitness Night 6:00-8:00 pm	13 Flu Mist given to students (by request only)	14 Sykesville Fire Dept. visits Kindergarten  Kidstuff orders are due 	15
16	17	18 National Mix-It-Up At Lunch Day School Bus Driver Recognition Day	19	20 Movie Night 7:00 pm 	21 Schools Closed For Students & 10 Month Staff	22
23	24	25 Market Day Pickup 7:00 - 8:00 pm 	26	27	28 1st Grade Harvest Hoedown 	29
30	31 					

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	jreedai
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	smarriothh
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!

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.



This year students at Piney Ridge Elementary are being encouraged to participate in the reading and writing incentive called Ready, Set, Read! This incentive is sponsored by Ravens center Matt Birk, Carroll County Times and Wal-Mart. For each quarter, students will have the opportunity to win prizes including an autographed Ravens football and a trip to M&T Bank Stadium to meet Matt Birk. More information will be coming home this month so get ready to Ready, Set, Read!!!



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.
(**October 6, 2011, December 12, 2011, March 5, 2012 and May 9, 2012**)

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

School Improvement Team (SIT)

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

Students who have not earned a referral or cafeteria citation (grades 3-5) for the month of September will be able to eat outside on Oct. 4th during their lunch period.

Monthly Incentive– October: Extra Recess

SIT Bits: Below are some of the ILA goals from our School Improvement Team.

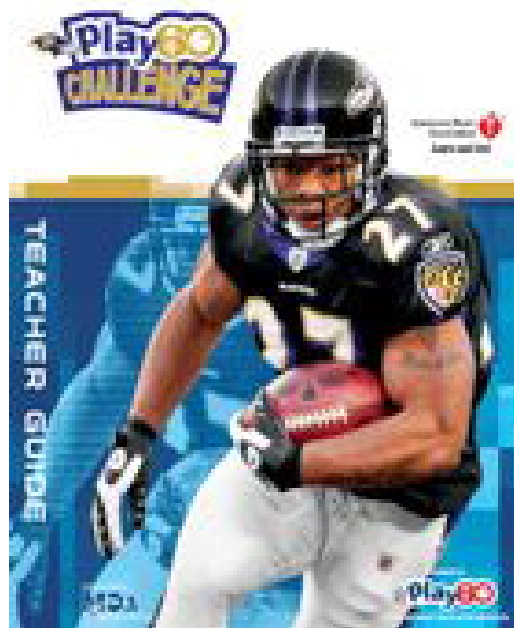
- **Kindergarten:** Kindergarteners will correctly identify 22/22 letters by the end of the first quarter.
- **1st Grade:** 100% of students will be able to identify 200 sight words by the end of the year.
- **2nd Grade:** 100% of second graders will master at least 700 sight words by the end of the school year.
- **3rd Grade:** Third grade will be implementing daily writing instruction using the Lucy Calkins Units of Study to ensure that 100% of students make progress in writing this year.
- **4th Grade:** 100% of pupils will achieve proficiency in reading on MSA and students scoring advanced on MSA will increase by 7%.
- **5th Grade:** This year 5th grade is working with our ELA specialist, Mrs. Modecki, to pilot a new writing program. Through rich literature, students will improve their skills and enjoy writing. Our goal is to have a minimum of 80% of our students score proficient or higher on the CCPS Formative Writing Assessment and advance at least 1 writing stage by June 2012.
- **Special Ed:** The Resource Team's goal is for all identified special education students to achieve 80% or higher on their math cluster assessments.
- **Education That is Multicultural (EMT):** The Education That is Multicultural committee has our "Where in the World" bulletin board contest (to improve world culture awareness) up and running for the 2011-2012 school year. We are also in the planning stages for a school-wide display of our school community's heritage called "Piney's Wall of the World". The leveled reading materials purchased with the help of a CCPS Education Foundation grant award are in our bookroom library, ready for teachers to use in their classrooms.
- **Discipline:** The B.A.R.K (Be a Respectful, Responsible Kid) program is off to a great start. Students were treated to an assembly in September where we reviewed the B.A.R.K. rules through a game of Family Feud. We are working on our school-wide SIT goal of reducing Support Room (Discipline) Referrals by 5%. We made great progress toward that goal in September. **Keep B.A.R.K.ing!!**

Baltimore Ravens and Carroll County Public Schools

2011 Project ACES Challenge

With 14,000 Elementary Students

The Baltimore Ravens and Carroll County Public Schools will kick off the Play 60 Challenge with Project ACES (Active Children Excel in School) Monday, October 3, 2011, as part of the nationwide NFL Play 60 campaign, a program designed to promote healthy and active lifestyles among today's youth. The Ravens and the Carroll County Public Schools health and physical education departments will encourage elementary school students to engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day for a period of two weeks. Students will track their activity throughout the course of the program using provided daily activity logs, with parents and staff members also encouraged to participate as role models. Students who successfully log 60 minutes for each day of the challenge will then be entered in a raffle to win various prizes. Two lucky winners, one girl and one boy, will be invited to the Ravens vs. 49ers game (November 24th) where they will be recognized, on-field, prior to kickoff. Three additional students will be chosen to attend a Ravens Play 60 reward luncheon in the spring of 2012, alongside winning students from surrounding Baltimore-area schools taking part in the Play 60 Challenge. Staff members are also encouraged to participate in the Challenge. The Project ACES school with the most staff participation will receive a catered luncheon, compliments of the Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens will also award a financial grant to the physical education department of the school with the highest overall participation. For 2011, 26 elementary schools throughout Carroll County will participate in the Play 60 Challenge/Project ACES program, totaling over 14,000 students. The event runs October 3-16. Formed in 1996, Project ACES works to promote healthy nutrition and increased physical activity in children. The first physical activity challenge took place in 2000, and has since grown into an annual, two week event every fall.





Students **are not allowed** to wear Halloween costumes, makeup, hair color, etc... to school.

VISITORS

For the safety of our students and staff, **ALL** visitors must report to the office prior to walking to the classroom. All visitors must wear an identification label even if you plan to be in the building for only a few minutes. Parents may not walk students to lockers/classrooms without signing in as a visitor. We encourage and recommend that all students take responsibility for independently walking to their classroom. All visitors must enter through the main entrance and obtain a visitor's sticker.

Classroom Visits

If you want to observe your child in the classroom, please send a note to make arrangements with the teacher.

Visiting at Lunch

Parents are welcome to visit at lunch. All visitors must sign in at the office prior to walking to the cafeteria.

School Age Visitors

Persons of school age who are enrolled in any school, (public or private) or enrolled in a home school program are not permitted to attend school or visit classes in Carroll County during school hours.



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Flu Mist will be administered Thursday, October 13th for students that returned their permission form by September 27. **No late requests will be honored.** If your child is due to receive the Flu Mist for the first time and is under age 9, then they will also receive a second dose on November 10th. The Flu Mist is administered by a nasal spray and is an efficient way to help protect students and their families against the flu. Please be aware that Flu Mist **can not** be given to students who have any documented long term or chronic illness and or short term/acute illness that include: Asthma/ reactive airway disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney, nervous system, brain, heart condition, endocrine, blood system disorder, allergy to egg products or allergic reaction to any previous vaccines. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school nurse.

*****This years Flu Mist contains both Seasonal Flu and H1N1 vaccine*****



RELEASE OF STUDENTS/ATTENDANCE

Students leaving school by any way other than their regularly assigned bus or way of leaving (ABC Care, parent pick-up, etc.) must bring written permission from parent/guardian indicating the change. The notes should be given to the child's teacher before 9:00 a.m. that morning. The regular school day is from 9:00—3:30.

Students **without notes** indicating an earlier pick-up **will be expected to remain in class until the 3:30 dismissal** so that they can bring closure to their day with transitions back to home room classes, completion of S.O.S. sheets, and agenda books, gathering of materials for homework and notes home, and connections for the next day.

Parents who wish to pick up their child(ren) from school must abide by the following guidelines:

- A written note must be sent to school in the morning. This note must include the name of the person who is picking up the student and signed by a parent/guardian.
- Only students with notes will be dismissed to the North Entrance at the end of the school day.
- Students will wait in an orderly line under the direction of the Piney Ridge Staff.
- Parents (or other authorized individuals) will drive to the designated Pick-up area in one of two driving lanes (follow the red paw prints) and be prepared to show ID.
- The PRE Staff member will walk the child(ren) to the car and check ID if necessary. Then the student can enter the car.
- Cars should then turn right and proceed to the first stop sign. After stopping for buses and day care vans, proceed to the second stop sign in the appropriate lane for turning left or right to exit the parking lot.
- Volunteers who are working in the building must send a note to have their children dismissed to the office at the end of the day where they can meet them.

*To ensure your students' safety, students leaving before the 3:30 pm dismissal will be dismissed from the front office only. **Please do not go to your child's classroom to get your child.***

On special event days (Field Day, Grandparents Day, special assemblies), please have your child maintain his/her normal dismissal routine. Please avoid coming to the office at the end of the day to change your child's dismissal routine. This will ensure the safety of all of our students when returning home at the end of the day.

Attendance Guidelines

Below are listed the definitions and timelines that will be used to determine a student's attendance:

Present Full Day: In attendance for 4 hours or more of the school day.

Absent Half Day: In attendance for at least 2 hours of the school day, but less than 4 hours.

Absent Full Day: In attendance for less than 2 hours.

- To request homework for your child who has been absent for (2) days or more, you can call the school office (410-751-3535) before 10:00 a.m.
- Homework will be ready for pick up in the office between 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. or you can request to have it sent home with a neighbor or a sibling.
- If your child is absent for (1) one day, they can get make-up work from their teacher(s) when they return the next school day.

A written excuse is required when a child is absent. The excuse must be received within 2 school days of the child's return and contain the date of absence, the reason, and the signature of the parent/guardian.

You may also email the excuse by sending it to preattendance@carrollk12.org

Without this information, the absence is coded "unlawful".

SEX OFFENDER ALERT LINE

Has a sex offender moved into your neighborhood? Don't be the last to know. Call the Maryland Sex Offender Line at 1-866-559-8017, toll free. Enter your phone number and zip code. When the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services receives notice that a registered sex offender is moving into that area, you will receive a notification call.

You will be directed to the Maryland Sex Offender Registry at www.socem.info for more information. This website is provided for public safety and awareness, to alert possible victims of potential danger. Sex/criminal offenders have always lived in our communities. Only in recent years have laws been passed which require convicted offenders to register with authorities. Unfortunately, many convicted sex offenders re-offend. Through the Maryland Sex Offender Alert Line you can receive a phone call when a convicted sex offender moves into your zip code area.



Piney Ridge Students who completed the Bridging the Gap Booklets

Kindergarten – 55/75 – 73%

Mrs. Marinelli (16)

Mrs. Oates (14)

Mrs. Jones (11)

Mrs. Zayed (14)

1st Grade – 86/109 – 79%

Miss Bair (19)

Mrs. Bangle (16)

Mrs. Crews (16)

Mrs. Palmer (19)

Mrs. Reed (16)

2nd Grade – 64/96 – 67%

Baldwin (12)

Mrs. Bower (17)

Mrs. Cavey (11)

Mrs. Graumann (13)

Mrs. Hinkel (11)

3rd Grade – 63/112 – 56%

Miss Billmyre (15)

Mrs. Marriott (9)

Mrs. Patrick (17)

Miss Surette (10)

Mr. Thompson (12)

4th Grade – 49/107 – 46%

Mrs. Laughman (12)

Mrs. Lishman (13)

Mrs. North (11)

Mr. Rabinovitz (13)

5th Grade – 62/100 – 62%

Mrs. Broome (12)

Mrs. Keiffer (10)

Mrs. Martin (9)

Miss Nave (11)

Miss Yohe (20)

Bridging the Gap 2006-2011

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Kindergarten	70%	69%	76%	75%	86%	73%
1st	52%	67%	60%	65%	68%	79%
2nd	40%	39%	60%	74%	69%	67%
3rd	45%	41%	46%	57%	57%	56%
4th	40%	38%	32%	30%	66%	46%
5th	34%	45%	39%	31%	56%	62%
School Totals	47%	49%	52%	52%	67%	63%
Number of Students	307	309	314	309	393	379

It looks like grade 1 had the highest completion rate at 79% of their students. This same group had a record in kindergarten last year with 86%. The class with the most students completing the book was Ms. Yohe's with a total of 20 students, followed closely by Ms. Bair's and Mrs. Palmers classes with 19!

As a school, we were slightly down for our rate of completion at 379, which is 63% of our students. Last year we had a record of 393 (67%) completion rate.

The past two years we have had excellent completion rates as compared to the first 4 years of the program. The data chart for all of this is attached. You can "follow" the class's progress each year if you look diagonally year to year.

Great job everyone!

Cut and Return to School

School Lunches/Breakfast can be purchased in advance.

Fill out this form, cut and return to school with payment.

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____ **Total enclosed \$** _____

Lunches _____ **# Breakfast** _____ **purchased**

Schools Lunch Prices

Student Lunch \$2.00

Reduced Lunch \$.40

Breakfast Prices

Breakfast \$1.25

Reduced Breakfast \$.30