



Pinecrest School Lancaster

Pinecone

December 2011



From the Desk of Mrs. Latimer...

This has been a very joyous year and going by way too quickly, however we have many events still to take place before the year ends...

Thank you to all who donated canned goods for the Grace Resource Center. We collected close to **2000** items and helped out many families in our community. Congratulations to Mr. Pintarelli's 7th grade homeroom for collecting the most items, 462 to be exact. For their contributions the 7th graders won a week long Free Dress Pass!

We are thrilled to announce that our iPads and projectors have arrived and the teachers are busily downloading all of the amazing educational applications to be used in the classrooms. In addition, we have purchased \$2000.00 in classroom centers and educational material that all of our students are currently using. These items were purchased with funds from our Cookie Dough sales and Fall Festival Baskets. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to all who took part in these events.

Please join us for our upcoming Holiday Boutique on Wednesday, December 14th from 12:00-4:30pm. We have many vendors from around the Antelope Valley who will be here selling special gifts for the holidays. If you or anyone you know would like to rent a booth, please let us know.

We are looking forward to our annual Holiday Program on December 15th from 7:00-9:00pm. This year, we are excited to announce that the program will take place at Paraclete High School. Please be sure to have your child at the Paraclete gym by 6:30pm so we may start on time. The theme of our show is *The Holidays Gone Country*. We are sure Y'all will have a great time.

We will have our monthly Pinecrest Parent Network Meeting when we come back from the Winter Break on Tuesday, January 10th at 5:30pm. We highly encourage all parents to attend these informative evenings. Our last meeting held was on the topic of Bullying. The parents who attended received a lot of important information. If you were unable to attend and would still like the information, please feel free to call. Middle School

"Mean Girl" Pajama Party!!!! We hope all of our 6th – 8th grade girls will join us on Thursday, December 8th from 5:00pm-10:00pm for pizza and fun workshops. It is our goal to bring awareness to the dangers of the Social Media, Cyberbullying, Sexting and Laws, Exclusion, Harassment, Name Calling, and the Myth of Popularity. We hope to give each girl positive solutions on how to handle bullying, ways to connect with each other, and recognize the importance of acceptance, respect, and responsibility. We will have a similar workshop for our boys at a later date.

To all of our Pinecrest Families and Friends, we hope that the holidays bring you joy, happiness, peace, and a prosperous new year.



From the Desk of Mrs. Pedraza...

Tis the season to be jolly! What a fun season for our preschool friends! They have been busy practicing their songs for the Holiday show! This year our performance will be held at Paraclete High School, 42145 30th St W, Lancaster, CA 93536. Please be sure you arrive by 6:30p.m. Preschool will perform first so please be on time. Your child's teacher sent home information regarding attire and Holiday parties.

Beginning this month Jr. K and Pre-K will visit Kindergarten. Each month they will have the opportunity to do a fun and educational activity together. This month they will work on candy cane patterns! As always if you have any questions my door is always open!

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Monique J. Pedraza

Preschool Director

Music

For the month of December we are continuing with our Recorder Curriculum and we are excited for all the positive feedback we've received from students and parents! Grades Pre-K through 1st will be introduced to improvise simple instrumental accompaniments to holiday songs as well create their own. The music program for 2nd through 5th Grade will consist of developing tonguing, and consistency in their note playing. We are excited to see the Recorder karate belts motivate and stimulate their learning as they help each other succeed.

Middle School will continue learning about the different genres of music that have influenced our culture and history. We are so excited to instill the love of music in our students which will help foster their creativity and imagination. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our music program please feel free to ask me.

Mr. Ramirez

Music Teacher



Art/Library

In Art class the students have finished their self portraits and are learning about Pop Artist Peter Max and his way of painting with bright, brilliant colors. Younger grades are learning about colors and the color families. If you haven't come in to see the new art studio, please stop by and see the students art work on the ART GALLERY wall in the library.

In Library class, the students are able to check out books for their book reports. Please check in the school library before going to the book store. We have several titles available for book reports and research papers.

The library clubs are very popular now that the weather is getting colder. Hot chocolate with marshmallows & cookies will be served for the cold months, so come on in and join the fun!! Library club is for 3rd-4th grades and Scrabble & Chess club is for 4th -8th grades. We meet every Thursday in the Library.

The Holiday Shop will be here the week of December 5th-9th. This is the perfect opportunity to let your child shop for their loved ones. The prices are very affordable with most things under \$5.00.

Happy Holidays to All!

Mrs. Holly Vasconez
Art/Library Teacher



Physical Education

During the frosty days of December our Preschool and Pre-K classrooms will enjoy indoor activities such as playing with the parachute to help develop large motor activities.

Our Elementary students will be working on cooperative games and agility races. We will be outside weather permitting.

In Middle School a variety of obstacle courses will be implemented to our Middle School fitness program to fine tune students rapid time for various sports. Team building skills will be assessed directly through cooperative games.

Our football teams will continue to practice and participate in our games.

Have a safe and healthy Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year with your new goals and renewed strength!

Coach Mike and Coach Dolores



Computer Lab

Since the month of December is a short one, we will use it to review our lessons we've done so far. For all Middle School Classes, we'll review Word and its components. In PowerPoint the students will review formatting a page, creating a table, and practicing typing, especially keys and finger positioning. In Microsoft Word we are going to review how to use Copy, Paste, and Cut commands. These are very basic commands that will help kids to create and do their assignments for all classes.

For 5th and 4th grade we'll do some research in the Internet using Discovery Channel as a guide for some of the assignments. They will practice how to do research within this websites. Furthermore they will review the keyboard and formatting with tables and columns. They always enjoy going to the Internet.

For 3rd and 2nd graders we will practice on proper hand/keyboard orientation, along with 1st Grade we'll review some basic commands like: save, print, exit, Etc. Kindergarten will continue to review their letters on the keyboard, creating with Kids Pix and Bitmap Paint. In turn, all grades will create some pictures for the holidays. This should be fun.

So have a Safe and Wonderful Holiday Season and see you all next year.

Mr. Vasconez



Spanish

In the month of December the Preschool and Pre-K children will count to twelve-'doce.' The shape is the star-'estrella', and the color is blue-'azul'. The Junior Kindergarten children will count to twenty-'veinte.' Elementary will work on family words 'La Familia' and Middle School will continue to work out of their Spanish books.

I wish everyone a wonderful and happy holiday.

Thank you,

Senora Laura Curiel



Pre-Kindergarten
Jr. Kindergarten



Happy Holidays! It's December and that means there's lots of seasonal festivities and fun in our classroom! This month will be an exciting time for your child. During the coming weeks we will study the weather in Science and we will learn about the customs and traditions of Winter Holidays. Please feel free to bring in Holiday books for us to share and read.

In Prekindergarten our letters for this month are Kk, and Ll. The numbers for this month are 11 and 12 and oral counting 1-50.

In Jr. Kindergarten our letters for this month are Ff, Ee, and Hh. The numbers are 16-20 and oral counting 1-50. In Pre-K and Jr. K the color is turquoise and the shapes are star and Holiday shapes. Our virtue for this month is problem solving and thinking before acting.

We hope to see you all at the Holiday program on Thursday, December 15th!

Happy Holidays!

Miss. Dennise Miss. Yeni
Miss. Rose

Room 2

Room 4

Preschool



Happy Holidays!

During this month we will learn the letters J,K, and L, the number 4, the color green, and Holiday Shapes. We will also practice our oral counting to 10.

Our virtue for this month is Positive Problem Solving and Thinking before Acting.

The children have been busy practicing their holiday song in preparation for our exciting **Holiday Program on Thursday, December 15th**. We look forward to seeing you there.

We wish you a warm and happy holiday season with much joy and prosperity in the New Year.

Miss. Diana
Miss. Tammy

Room 3



Dear Santa Claus,

I want to let you know
The few things that I need,
And if you'll bring them to me
I'll be much obliged indeed.

I want a horse and wagon,
And a boat that's painted red,
An elephant, a jumping-jack
You need not bring a sled,

Now, Santa dear, you'll not forget.
I wish you'd write them down,
And leave them all at my house
When you journey through the town.

Kindergarten



December is a month of bright lights and cool nights.

As we move ahead the children will be doing some creative and fun projects.

In Phonics: we will continue working with our short vowels.

In Math: we will continue working with place value.

In Social Studies: we will discuss different celebrations around the world.

In Science: we will continue discussing the workings of the human body.

A special thank you to all the parents who donated to the canned food drive.

We will see you all on December 15th at our Holiday Program. It will be a wonderful time!

Have a nice holiday see you next year!

Mrs. Ray Miss. Jess

Room 1

Mrs. Sahagun Miss. Elaine

Room 5



First Grade

The Holidays are such a wonderful time of year! We are so excited to have the chance to celebrate. December is going to be a very fun and fast month in First Grade. Here are some things we will be doing.

In **Reading/Language Arts** we will be working on making predictions in stories. We will also be focusing on the writing process.

In **Math** we will begin working on subtraction strategies.

In **Science** we will begin exploring the different properties of matter.

In **Social Studies** we will be learning about Citizenship and the rights and responsibilities we all have.

Our Holiday Program will be on Thursday, December 15th. We hope you can come out to see the wonderful performance. Our class Holiday parties will be on Friday, December 16th.

We are so excited for this Holiday Season! As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

Mrs. Alcantar

Mrs. Lucero

Miss Rachel

Miss Sophie

Room 6

Room 7



Merry Christmas



Second Grade

Hi Everyone!

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break. The next couple of weeks are going to be very busy. The holiday program is around the corner it will be held on December 15th!

In Reading- We are continuing through our Literature book and reading about rescue dogs and other famous canine stories.

In Math- We are working on 2 and 3-digit addition and subtraction.

Language Arts- Extended and compound sentences and creative writing.

Science- We will study water habitats.

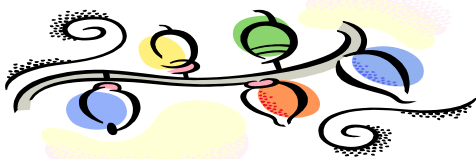
Social Studies- We are studying natural resources and will continue our maps and graphs.

Have a wonderful winter break!

Mrs. Hodges

Miss. Carol

Room 8



Third Grade

Although November is over, in the spirit of thankfulness, I want to say "thank you" to all the students of room 12 for doing such a great job in November. Everyone continues to work hard in class and exhibited awesome behavior on our field trip. Of course a big "thank you" goes out to the parents- your hard work and dedication to your children truly show!

As we go into our short month of December, there is still a lot going on. The students' first book report project is due December 12th. At this point, everyone should be already finished or close to finishing reading their chosen book. Also, we will be going on our second field trip- to the Chumash Indian Museum, on December 13th. The students will travel back in time, beginning with the extensive museum exhibits, continuing to the game field where they play the game Ma'pon (rabbit game) and visit the 'Aps (houses). Of course, don't forget our holiday performance on December 15th. It's sure to be a good ole' time!

Here's a quick glance at what will be happening in the classroom:

Math: Beginning Chapter 3- Subtraction. We will be subtracting and regrouping to the thousands place.

Language Arts: Beginning Unit 4- Narrative writing. We will work through the 5-step writing process

Literature: Unit 3- Family Album. We will continue to work on reading comprehension and reading fluency.

Science: Finishing Unit A- Living Things. We will conclude by learning about the life cycles and needs of plants and animals.

Social Studies: Beginning Unit 2- Looking Back to the Past. We will be reading about a Native American community, an English colony and a Spanish mission.

Here's to wishing everyone a safe and joyful holiday season! Until 2012...

Mrs. Romero

Miss Jackie

Room 12



Fourth Grade

Thank you, parents for all of the cans that were donated for Grace Resources. Everyone went above and beyond to insure that we blessed less fortunate people with food.

December will prove to be a busy month in room 11. We will start the month of with a pajama party on the 1st. We will be preparing for the Holiday Show, which is on Thursday, December 15th. We hope everyone can join us for the show. The kids are working hard on their song.

Math – We have moved into division, then will transition into measurement.

Language – Our focus will be on verbs. We will be writing children’s books that are about verbs, then read them to one of the younger classes.

Social Studies – We will be finishing up our study on European Explorers.

Science – We will be finishing up our study on Life Science, and move onto Earth Science.

Ms. Hernandez and I wish all of you a Happy Holiday!

Mrs. Warwick

Miss Hernandez

Room 11



The Dreidel Song

I have a little dreidel

I made it out of clay

And when it's dry and ready

Then dreidel I shall play

CHORUS

Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel

I made it out of clay

And when it's dry and ready

Then dreidel I shall play

It has a lovely body

With legs so short and thin

And when it is so tired

It drops and then I win!

CHORUS

My dreidel's always playful

It loves to dance and spin

A happy game of dreidel

Come play now, let's begin!

CHORUS





Fifth Grade

Math – Last month, students practiced dividing very large numbers. This month we will focus on number theory and fractions. We will cover factors, multiples, primes, and composites. Fractions are used in many occupations, from the chef to the carpenter to the metal worker. Students will learn how to recognize patterns and use models to understand why certain processes work such as the procedures for finding equivalent fractions and for renaming improper fractions as mixed numbers.

Science—Last month we learned how scientists classify animals. Now we learn how these animals live in their environment. All living and nonliving things interact in an ecosystem. We will discuss how they interact with each other and factors that contribute to the changes in different ecosystems.

Language Arts—We will begin our unit on informative writing. Students get ready to write by learning the key elements of writing instructions. In this unit, students learn how to prepare written explanations and give oral directions. Students will also review verbs. Some verbs express action and some do not. Students will learn about different types of verbs and how they are used.

Literature—Students will continue reading the book, *The Cay*, for independent reading. We will begin Unit 2 in our literature books. This unit's theme is "World of Change" and the influence that each person has in making a positive change in the world.

Social Studies— Last month we learned about John Winthrop and the Puritans who arrived in Massachusetts Bay in 1630. Out of this settlement grew the New England Colonies also known as

the original 13 colonies. This month we will discuss the struggle for North America. George Washington led the colonists in the French and Indian War and their defeat led to England's control over much of North America.

Remember, I am available to help before school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and after school on Mondays and Thursdays. Keep up the good work!

Mrs. Christman
Miss Carol
Room 9

Middle School Science

December proves to be a very busy time of year here at Pinecrest. Science class is no different. There are many activities in store to deepen a greater desire to explore the many mysteries of Science.

Sixth Grade will study Earthquake prediction and safety, through classroom discussion and internet research. The knowledge gained will be useful in designing and creating a model of an earthquake-safe house.

Seventh Grade In Chapter 5 we learn about genetics! Get ready to have fun while learning about your different hereditary traits.

Eighth Grade will study atoms and bonding. We will grow crystals out of table salt, create electricity out of substances containing ionic bonds, and make models of atoms and combine those models with those of other classmates to form a compound.

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Marzocchetti

Room 10





Middle School Math

I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Program on December 15th. We have been planning some serious fun!

6th Grade— is learning how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide mixed fractions. They are also learning to solve for “x” using fractions.

7th Grade— Our focus is exponents as we learn to factor, collect like terms, and evaluate in pre-algebra.

8th Grade— will be evaluating, factoring, and solving binomials and trinomials. Thank you for having such great attitudes!

Remember to keep those daily notebooks neat, and up to date!

Wishing you a happy holiday season and a blessed New Year!

Mrs. Greenleaf-Perez

Room 14

Middle School Language Arts

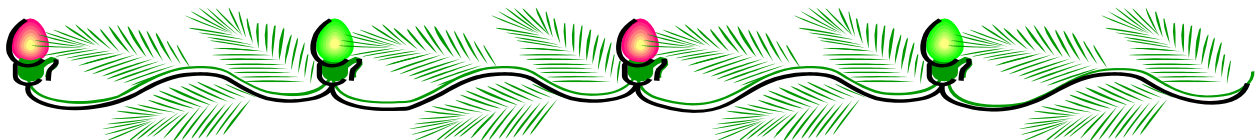
This month the 7th and 8th grades will be beginning a Language Arts unit on Pronouns while 6th grade studies Adverbs.

Additionally, as part of our preparation to compete in the National Spelling Bee, all grades will begin to see words selected from the Merriam-Webster Spelling Bee list in their weekly vocabulary lists during the months of December and January.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!

Mr. Pintarelli

Room 15



Middle School Social Studies

Happy Holidays! It's hard to believe that we are at the end of another year. I wish all of you a beautiful and peaceful season filled with the blessings of family and friends.

Here's what we will be studying in Social Studies this month:

6th Grade: In History we will study Ancient Israel then move on to ancient cultures of the Far East: India and China. In Geography we will continue studying the US regions.

7th Grade: Our focus this month will be on Medieval China and Japan. After we finish studying Africa, in Geography we will move on to Southeast Asia.

8th Grade: In US History we are examining many of our early political challenges centering on the transition from Jeffersonian to Jacksonian Democracy. In Civics we will finish our look at the Legislative branch of government then concentrate on the largest branch of government-- the Executive branch.

Again, let me say how proud I am of the 6th grade classes and all of their hard work on our Egypt project. The museum was awesome!

Have a restful holiday—see you next year!

Mrs. Robin
Room 16

Upcoming Dates:

December 5th-9th-Holiday Shop

December 8th— Pre-K and Jr. K visits Kindergarten

December 8th-Mean Girl Pajama Party
5:00pm-10:00pm

December 13th-Third Grade visits the Chumash Indian Museum from 8:00am to 3:00pm

December 14th-Holiday Boutique
12:00pm-4:30pm

December 15th-Holiday Program at Paraclete High School 7:00pm-8:30pm

December 16th-Progress Reports

December 19th-22nd-Winter Camp

December 23rd-January 2nd-Campus Closed

January 3, 2012-Classes Resume

