

Celebrating Over 60 years of Education

Dear Parents,

The beginning of school started off with many smiling faces and children ready for the new year. We are looking forward to the Autumn leaves changing and the cooler weather.

Thank you to Coach Langley and his physical education staff for a fantastic Family Fitness Day. It is wonderful to see all the families getting to meet each other and getting a chance learn to be physically fit.

October is Fire Prevention Month. We will be talking to the students about keeping safe and what to do incase of a fire. October 13th we will have a school wide Open House. This is a great opportunity to visit classrooms for the following year as well as visiting the Preschool.

On October 31st, we will be celebrating Halloween with a parade and party. We will also have a Pumpkin Carving contest. Forms will be handed out later this month so you can pick your category. I hope everyone has a safe and fun Halloween.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cauthron
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/3 thru 10/21 - Costume Drive
- 10/13 - Open House (Elementary & Preschool)
- 10/17 - Summer Reading Assembly (K-5)
- 10/20 - In-house Pumpkin Patch (Rooms 6, 7 & 8)
- 10/21 - In-house Pumpkin Patch (Rooms 1-5)
- 10/24 - 10/28 - Red Ribbon Week
- 10/25 - Retake Pictures
- 10/26 - Kindergarten Field Trip to Underwood Family Farms
- 10/31 - Halloween Parade & Carnival

KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Rodriguez Room 11

We are off to a great start and are still learning to adjust to our daily routine. In Language Arts this month, we will master all of our consonant sounds. We will also continue to work on our red rainbow words as we practice using them in our journals and listening for them in stories. In math this month, we will be printing and counting to 50 as well as, continuing with simple addition. In Social Studies we will learn about Christopher Columbus and our community helpers. In Science, we will cover the human body and all about insects. Halloween will be here before we know it so, we will be busy decorating our room for Open House on October 13th and a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch on October 26th. Have a terrific month!

FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Morris-Room 12

Mrs. Goldberg-Room 15

Fall is in the air! October is here and our First graders are doing boo-tiful work. During Language Arts, we will continue to practice using capitals and punctuation marks when writing sentences. Students will begin to learn question words. If a sentence begins with words such as what, where, or how; there needs to be a question mark at the end. When they write their spelling sentences on Mondays and Tuesdays, please check to see if they started with a capital and ended with the **correct punctuation mark**. Have your child read the sentences to you to help them learn to proofread their work. For example, did they write "I like play." or "I like to play."? We will continue writing daily journals and begin learning all about nouns in Grammar. Also, during the first quarter, students are learning to alphabetize a group of words using the first letter in the word only.

In Math, we will be working on addition and subtraction. At the end of this month, we will begin working without our number lines! Parents, flashcards are a great way to reinforce basic math facts. We are really starting to work on word problems, which can be very tricky. Is it addition or subtraction? How did you know? It said "fly away" so it's subtraction or "in all" which is addition. Sometimes the students use manipulatives, like beans, to work out the problem. Other times they are solving the problems by drawing circles. During Science time, we will continue to learn about our bodies. The students will begin to learn the functions of the heart, lungs, and stomach. We will be discussing what we need to keep healthy. How to prevent the spread of germs. What medicine does. Why we have vaccines. We will also be talking about safety rules and ways to prevent accidents. In Unit 2 "Where People Live," our first graders will learn all about people that live in many different locations. We will focus on how a map can help you find places. What can pictures, maps, and models show you? How do location, land and resources affect the way people live? Finally, how does weather affect people? Have a happy and safe Halloween!



SECOND GRADE

Ms. Williams - Room 21

Mrs. Millar - Room 22

Wow! September flew by! We are off to a great start for October! We were so happy to see everyone at the Meet and Greet! Please remember that we will have Open House October 13th.

The month of October will be filled with many exciting events and BOOO-tiful work! October 3rd begins fire prevention week. We will also be celebrating Red Ribbon Week from October 24th through the 28th. We will have our Halloween Parade and Carnival on Monday, October 31st. Academically, we will continue to concentrate on nouns, short and long vowels, and proper sentence writing in Language Arts. In math, we will cover number patterns to 100. We will continue to review addition and subtraction as well. In science, we will focus on volume, pitch, light, and heat. We will begin our unit on immigrants in social studies. We will focus on families now and from long ago. We will also continue to work on reading fluency and reading comprehension. Happy Halloween to all our goblins in second grade!

THIRD GRADE

Mrs. C. Schuyler-Room 19

Mrs. S. Schuyler-Room 20

Our third graders are learning so many new and exciting things. We are going to continue our lowercase cursive letters. By the end of next month, we are going to upper case letters. In Science, we will be continuing our life science unit with a main focus on humans in the ecosystem. We will discuss how people fit into the ecosystem and how humans can protect the Earth's resources. In Social Studies we will start our Unit 1, which focuses on our geography of California and other map skills. This should be a fun unit. This month we will conclude our unit on sentences and start nouns in Language Arts.

This month we will conclude our unit on sentences and start nouns in Language Arts. In math, we will start to work on our multiplication and double digit addition facts. We will start our unit on money, so let your children help you count out change whenever possible. I can't wait to see all of you at the Halloween Carnival. It should be a Spook'tacular time!
May everyone and their families have a wonderful month of October

FOURTH GRADE Mrs. Dillion - Room 16

The 4th graders have made amazing progress during the first month of the school year. They are enthusiastic learners and open to more complex assignments. In English, we will be concluding *Island of the Blue Dolphins* this month. There are numerous similes and metaphors in the book which will be employed in their writing. The in-class book report will cover major character, setting, problem and solution, and a personal opinion of the book. In Science, we will be focusing on matter, motion, and machine this month. This includes the mechanics of simple machine, density, mass and weight and heat. In Social Studies, we will look at the four regions in California and then move into studying of the California Indians. It is interesting to see how the different tribes lived based on their geographic location. There will be particular emphasis on the Chumash, which is our local tribe. Thank you for all your support from home. The home-school connection is vital to the students' academic and social growth. I look forward to seeing 4th grade families at our Open house on October 13th and at the Halloween festivities on October 31st.



FIFTH GRADE

REMINDER-Please note that the registration and deposit for Sacramento trip is due by October 30th. Please contact Mrs. Hogan with any questions.

5th Grade Math

In October, we will begin Chapter 2. The first few lessons will be a review of adding and subtracting whole numbers. Then we will transition into adding and subtracting decimals. We will also focus on algebraic variables, expressions and equations. Please don't forget to practice those multiplication and division facts. We are seeing good progress on our weekly multiplication quizzes.

5th Grade History

This month we will continue Chapter 2 in our History Book. We will discuss and understand why the Europeans began to explore the Americas and the effect it had on the Native Americans. We will have our first 10 State Test October 14th. A comprehensive study guide will be made available.

5th Grade Science

This month in Science, we are continuing with our life science as we continue studying tissues, organs and body systems. The unit will culminate in our human body systems project. Keep posted for the due date.

5th Grade English

We are wrapping up our chapter on sentences in Language Arts. The test will be given during the first week of October. In Literature we will be reading "Frindle". The students have also been assigned their first book report. The due date for their report is October 28th. I'm enjoying how well this class can write. We will be starting a writing project this month called "Twisted Fairy-Tale". The goal is to have these stories up for Open House.

LIBRARY Mrs. Hogan

Fall is here and now the stories will turn to Halloween, pumpkins, leaves and our favorite, *The Pumpkin Cutting Story*. Our 3rd - 5th graders will enjoy *The Boy and the Ghost* and *Scary Stories to tell in the Dark*.

Please feel free to come into our library and check out books that you may read to your child at home. Some of the best times with your child may be when you share a story together. Often elementary parents are surprised when we encourage them to read aloud to their students. Even if students are capable of reading independently students of all ages, K-5th, still enjoy listening to stories which can also improve reading vocabulary, comprehension.

October 7, 2011 - Please turn in your Box Tops for Education coupons by this date. Thank you for your support. Please keep collecting until our next collection date in the spring.

October 17, 2011 – Summer Reading Assembly. Mrs. Cauthron will recognize our summer readers, grades 1-5 following morning flag salute.

HEALTH OFFICE Nurse Jen

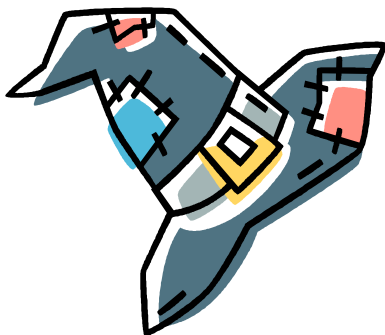
Please remember the following safety tips when you are out Trick or Treating this year.

Always Trick or Treat in a group, never go to a house alone. Make sure to take a flashlight to guide your way. Let your parents check your candy before you eat it.

Have a fun and safe
Halloween!

MUSIC Mrs. Leslie

During the month of October, all grades will review basic rhythms, rests, dynamic markings and music symbols. This knowledge is practiced and applied by playing percussion instruments, playing theory games, and by completing chapters in our activity books. In honor of Red Ribbon Week, all grades will learn to sing an anti drug song entitled "Our School Is Rockin Drug Free." Various, fun, Halloween songs will be practiced in preparation for Pinecrest's annual Halloween Parade on 10/31. Younger grades explored fall and Halloween themes by reading and singing different music stories such as "Abiyoyo," "Barn Dance," and "Hip Hop Halloween Ball." Older grades will count and tap out complicated rhythmic patterns using the boom whackers, on a challenging, rhythmic song entitled "Frankenstein." October will be a truly been a "ghoulishly, good time" in music with Mrs. Leslie. Response to our after school music lab classes in Piano, Voice, Drums, Guitar, Rock Band, Fairy Tale Theater, and Musical Theater has been great. It's not too late to still register! Ask the front office about a pro rated tuition available for late enrollments. There is still an opportunity for grades 1st -5th to join the Musical Theater Cast of "The Emperors New Clothes," and jam in a Rockin Ensemble to classic rock tunes in our Monday "Rock Band" class .



PHYSICAL EDUCATION and AFTER SCHOOL

The students are off to a great start in P.E. We anticipate a great year in Physical Education class for all of our students. We have a lot of fun and challenging activities planned for the students this month. The students are preparing for Pee Wee Soccer this month. Our Pee Wee program is offered to all 1st-3rd grade boys and girls who wish to participate. Sign ups are this month and all games will be played in November and December on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Only games will be played after school, as all practices are held in P.E. class in their soccer unit. Look for more information to come home this month and we'll see you out on the field. Kindergarten continues to work on their balance and motor skills through a variety of fun and challenging cooperative games, while 1st - 5th have completed their first series of skills tests and look to improve their scores and reach their goals for the school year! Family Fitness Day was a lot of fun! The students really enjoyed participating and spending time with their family members in P.E. class. A special thanks to the Guiney Family for bringing the shaved ice for all of the students to enjoy. Thanks for all of the support and participation from all of our families and staff members in helping make it a great day! Make sure and keep exercising and eating healthy together as a family. Our after school sports program kicks off this month. We are pleased that we have a lot of our students participating in after school sports this year. We look forward to another fun and exciting year in athletics. The boys will be playing football and the girls will be playing basketball. We look forward to seeing you out there rooting on our Mountain Lions.



SPANISH Senora Garcia

The children are doing an exceptional job!!! Kindergarten will be finishing vocabulary on school supplies, and basic command. We will be moving on to lesson 2 and working on new vocabulary such as body parts. First grade has started new vocabulary and has mastered greetings: Buenos días, Buenos tardes, Yo soy and Niña/Niño. Second grade will start lesson 2 which describe animals, numbers and how to call 911. Third grade is moving quickly and will start lesson 3 and 4 with colors, days of the week and finishing up on school supplies. They will continue to work on writing full complete sentences and grammar. Fourth grade has impressed me and has made great progress. We will be moving on to Lesson 2 and working on new vocabulary such as clothing, months, weather expressions and school rooms. Fifth grade will have new vocabulary and moving on to lesson 2. They will be working on table setting, fruit, foods, school subjects and commands. Have a great Halloween!





COMPUTERS

It is remarkable that we are already through our first month of school. Kindergartners are learning all about using the mouse and learning the keyboard. We use several educational programs to help them get comfortable in the lab environment. Starting this month we will add KidPix a really fun graphics program. First Grade is typing spelling words. We are working our way up to typing the list and then learning to create their own sentences using the spelling word. We are working in Microsoft Word. In Second Grade we will be working in Kid Pix and then we will take a look inside the computer. I have lots of computer parts that they love to handle. We will learn the various parts of the computer and why it is important to take care of our electronic equipment. Third Grade is learning about formatting in Microsoft Word. We are learning how to navigate the menus and to use the program to format our work to include putting a heading on a paper. Fourth Grade is learning all about Microsoft Word. We are looking at the menus and tool bars and will be learning how to import graphics and Word Art. Typing is becoming a priority in Fourth Grade and I offer extra credit for any work that is turned into me that is typed. There is a typing log that is due the first class of each month and we will be taking a typing test each month. I expect the students to type for 10 minutes 3 times a week at home (or in the lab during recess). We are sailing along in 5th Grade. We started the year learning about cities in Italy and how to create a poster in Microsoft Publisher. We will continue to learn about Microsoft Excel. These students have been taking their spelling tests in Excel since Fourth Grade. We will look at how Excel manipulates numbers and learn how to create formulas using a multiplication table. The typing log is due the first class of each month and we will take a typing test each month. I expect the students to type for 10 minutes 3 times a week at home (or in the lab during recess) to keep their skills up. As a general rule, we will not be working in typing programs as much this year as they have the fundamentals. It is time to apply what they have learned, however, to keep their skills, they need to practice regularly. We are striving for better than 30 words a minute. If you have any questions or wish to just email to me, you may reach me at bmazeika@pinecrestschoools.com

RECYCLING

I am collecting equipment for our January recycling day. Feel free to drop off old computers, TV's, cell phones and other electronic items as well as printer cartridges that need to be recycled. Also, if you have equipment (computers, flat screens, DVD players) that you are upgrading and want to find a loving home for your old electronics, please check with me to see if we can place that equipment in a classroom.

VIDEO PRODUCTION

I am so excited to be able to offer this class in video production to our 5th graders. We had our first experience using cameras and working as a team on Family Fitness Day. Our video teams did a fantastic job capturing the event and in the process we learned a lot. I am so proud of how they took their jobs seriously. Our next projects will revolve around Halloween and the library's Book Fair.

YEARBOOK

We have not yet had our yearbook meeting. As soon as I have information, I will let you know where I need the most help in case you would like to help out with the yearbook this year. As always, I especially need parents to take pictures on field trips. Please let me know if you can help. Please email me at bmazeika@pinecrestschoools.com.