

December 2011  
**DECEMBER**



ÉCOLE  
**PINE GROVE**  
Growing, Learning, Caring • Tous Ensemble

Two cartoon raccoon heads are positioned to the right of the word 'GROVE', appearing to peek out from behind the letters.

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Jeff Jarman

Visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/pinegrovecouncil/home>

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE: 1-877-409-6310

## 'In the Grove'

### HOLIDAY SEASON BREAK!!

Our Christmas Break begins **Monday December 26th**. You are reminded that students will be dismissed at **2:15 p.m.** on **Friday December 23rd**. Bus schedules will reflect the early dismissal time. We hope all students and their families enjoy this time together during the festive season and we look forward to the safe return of all of our students on **Monday January 9th, 2012**.

On behalf of the staff of **Pine Grove** we wish you Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, a very happy and safe holiday and all the best in the New Year.

*Mr. Barrett and Mr. Levante*

### THE GIVING TREE

This holiday season, our Global Issues Club is teaming up with Student Parliament to promote the '**Toys For Tots**' campaign in conjunction with Halton Regional Police Service. **Toys for Tots'** initial objective, which remains the hallmark of the program today, is to '**bring the joy of Christmas to needy children**'. Its goal is to deliver a message of hope that will build self-esteem and motivate children to grow into

productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders. The Salvation Army identifies local families experiencing difficulty and distributes toys purchased and/or collected from each location directly to them. Students and their families are asked to donate new warm clothing (hats, mittens, scarves...), new unwrapped toys and items for the food drive. For a list of gift ideas for children/teens aged 10-16, [click here](#).



### NEW ADDITIONS TO PINE GROVE

Lisa Miceli (Gr. 5) has recently begun her maternity leave and, as a result, we are happy to have Mikaela de Silva take over her Grade 5 English program. Also, we are pleased to welcome Ralph Malashevsky who will be taking over Ms. de Silva's planning position. Both are familiar faces to Pine Grove and we are delighted they will remain with us for the remainder of the school year.



As always, we encourage you to maintain close and open communications with the staff at **École Pine Grove**. If you should have any questions or concerns relating to the welfare of your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



## GLOBAL ISSUES CLUB ATTENDS BREAKFAST FOR PEACE

*"Peace has many dimensions. It is not only a state of relationships among nations. We cannot expect to live in a world of peace if we are unable to live in peace with those close to us - even those who differ from us."*

*"The responsibility for peace begins with each person, in relationship with family and friends, and extends to community life and national activities..."*

*-- World Alliance of YMCAs' 1981 Statement of Peace*

On Friday November 25th, 12 grade 7 and 8 members of the Global Issues Club woke up extra early in order to take part in the annual Breakfast for Peace at the Oakville YMCA. During this morning event, students felt humbled, impacted and inspired by the incredible life story of key note speaker and former child soldier, Michel Chikwanine. Two community members were recognized with the Peace Medallion for their efforts towards social justice and a local high school student concluded the morning, beautifully singing John Lennon's inspirational song, *Imagine*. Participants of the Breakfast for Peace were asked the question; what will you do to make a difference, and challenged to make it a reality.

The Global Issues Club would like to give a warm thank-you to the Oakville YMCA and to Pine Grove's Parent Council, for covering the cost of tickets for this event.

The YMCA breakfast event wrapped up a week of activities which were aimed to raise awareness and celebrate peace-building within our local and global community. For more information, please see the links below.

<http://www.metowe.com/speakers/michel-chikwanine/>

<http://www.ymcaofOakville.com/peaceweek>



## LOCKDOWN PRACTICE

To ensure everyone's safety, the Board, in conjunction with the Halton Regional Police Service, conducts two practice *lockdown* drills along with six fire drills every school year. These drills help remind all parties involved what is required of them during these situations. **We will be practicing our first Lock-Down on Friday, December 9th.**

A *lock down* is a response to an emergency situation wherein the evacuation of a school building is neither safe nor advisable, and steps are required to isolate students and staff members from danger by having everyone remain inside the building. This procedure is used in a serious emergency situation where the threat is inside or very near to a school.

*Hold and secure* is a response to an incident in close proximity to a school. Staff and students are considered to be safe inside the school. If safe to do so, school activities may resume inside the building only.

*Shelter in Place* is a response to an external threat or hazard (i.e. gas leak, toxic fumes from a fire). Similar to a Hold and Secure situation, staff and students are considered safe inside the school.

During *Hold and Secure* and *Shelter in Place* situations, staff and students participating in activities outside of the building will be directed indoors.

During a school safety situation, student cell phone use is restricted in order that communication lines are free for emergency services.



## PINE GROVE GOES GREEN-ER

This month, Pine Grove will begin the GreenCart organics program.

On Tuesday November 29th, to show support for our Earth, the environment and our new GreenCart program, all students were encouraged to wear green for our kick-off assemblies.

The GreenCart program is provided by Halton Region, which has been actively working with publicly-funded schools to increase their waste minimization efforts. There are currently 100 schools participating in the GreenCart program. Our school is very excited to be joining the program.

A GreenCart will be placed in every classroom. Food waste such as pizza crusts, apple cores, and banana peels, will be placed in the GreenCart by students for composting, as will paper towel. The GreenCart program will help the school reduce the amount of garbage it sends to the landfill.

As part of the introduction of the GreenCarts into the schools, students participated in waste diversity workshops led by Halton Region's Waste Diversion Education Coordinator. These workshops explained things like Blue Box and GreenCart acceptable materials, demonstrated how materials are processed, provided tips on how to make the GreenCart work really well inside the school and helped teach students about the importance of protecting and preserving the environment.

For more information on Halton Region's GreenCart program, visit [www.halton.ca/waste](http://www.halton.ca/waste).



Our Minister of the Environment, Emma Torgunrud, and her crew performing a GreenCart rap to kick-off our assemblies.

## DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### December Learning:

Students in grades 1-3 have been working on throwing to a target. To integrate this into a game setting, students in grade 1 have been playing underhand dodge ball games. In grades 2 and 3, they have been encouraged to play underhand and overhand dodge ball games. The goal is to master the skill of throwing to a moving target. This game is a very inclusive game where all can succeed. Students are constantly moving about, and it therefore is a great physical activity. We don't play this popular game often, and therefore, it has been a hit with the students thus far!!

Students in grades 4-6 have been working on volleyball skills. Students are starting with basic passing with both the forearm pass (commonly known as a "bump"), as well as the face pass (commonly known as a "volley"). From this we will move into playing Omnikin volleyball, to beach ball volleyball and finally finishing with traditional volleyball. This is great preparation for both intramural volleyball and upcoming tryouts for our interschool teams for the grade 5 and 6 students.

Students in grades 7 and 8 have been working on basketball skills. They are learning to control a ball with both hands, and keeping the ball bouncing while moving. They will be also learning how to properly do a "lay up" shot, as well as free throws. Students will put together these skills in drills which encourages passing to a partner. Ultimately this will lead to students playing in organized games, following the rules of the game. Students can then apply these skills to intramural basketball as well as the upcoming interschool team try outs!

### Intramurals at Pine Grove:

Intramurals have begun at Pine Grove. We have the grade ones juggling, the grade twos skipping and the grade threes are starting indoor soccer. In the junior grades we have grade fours also playing indoor soccer and the grades five and sixes playing volleyball to practice for the upcoming interschool volleyball team tryouts. The intermediates will be playing tournament style basketball intramural as well.

The schedule can be found outside the gym, in each classroom as well as the Pine Grove website.

### Interschool Sports:

As mentioned above, we are gearing up for the grade five/six volleyball season, which will start in the new year. Both the boys and girls in grades five and six will have tryouts in the coming weeks. These teams are currently signed up for 2-3 tournaments, which are hosted at other Halton schools. These tournaments are always played after school. This interschool league is just tournament style, there are no regular seasons. It is however, a great way for students at this age to get to know volleyball, and have fun playing in friendly competitions.

We will also be hosting the grade 7 and 8 Basketball try outs for both the boys and girls teams in the new year. Students are encouraged to listen to the announcements for upcoming try-out dates. The intermediate interschool leagues are played as a league style, and therefore students will be playing one to two games per week, as well as be having up to two practices a week.



## STUDENT PARLIAMENT UPDATES

### Dance News

Our last Student Parliament dance was a great success. Get ready for our next dance which will take place on Thursday December 22, 2011 in the school gym from 1:45—3:45 p.m. for our Grade 6, 7 and 8 students. Music will be provided by Impressions DJ Services. Admission is \$3 per student at the door. Refreshments will include pop and chips for \$1 each. Money collected will be used to cover the costs of running the dance and, if there is a profit, it will be used to support a charity of Student Parliament's Choice. Students may choose to dress for the occasion in that infamous holiday sweater, glittery outfit or winter / holiday colours such as green, red, blue or white. Don't forget that the school dress code is in effect. Bring your dancing shoes and see you on Dec. 22nd.

### Pyjama Day

Pine Grove School is having a Pyjama school spirit day on Friday December 23, 2011. Celebrate the last day of school before the holidays by wearing your favourite pyjamas! Enjoy the day but don't forget, the school dress code still applies.



## MILK PROGRAM—TERM 2

If you have not purchased the full payment of milk for your child, this is your chance! There will be no milk available at the office for daily purchases. You must pre-pay for milk. The pre-paid milk program for Term 2 (2nd installment) runs from February 8, 2012—June 7, 2012 and is provided everyday for the 1st nutrition lunch break for a cost of \$63.00. Please ensure that you have ordered before Tuesday January 10, 2012. Using 'Cashless' is our preferred method of payment. Please visit:

<https://halton.cashlessschools.com>

## DARE GRADUATION

The Grade 6 DARE Graduation will take place on Wednesday December 7th, 2011 @ 10:15 a.m. in the gym. Parents and Guardians are welcome!



## DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE

Pine Grove School, under the direction of the Student Parliament, will run a food drive to support the Salvation Army Food Bank for the month of December. Student Parliament will be decorating boxes to place in each classroom and hold the donated food. Attending a holiday celebration at school in December? Why not consider dropping off a non-perishable food donation while you are visiting the school or send one with your child? The food bank is always in need of food donations, but there are some items that are always in high demand. They are looking for the following items: fruit juice, canned fruit, rice, canned or powdered milk, cereal, peanut butter, hearty soups or stews, dried or canned legumes, personal hygiene products and diapers in sizes 4-6 as well as other items of your choice. The items will be picked up from the school on Thursday, December 22nd before noon. Thank you for any support you can give!

## WASTE FREE WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday at Pine Grove, students are encouraged to bring in a WASTE-FREE lunch. With our new green bins, the job of packing a waste-free lunch will be even easier. Here are a few ideas to try:

- Buy large yogurt containers and place small portions into plastic reusable containers
- Put juice in a reusable water bottle rather than buying juice pouches (which are non-recyclable)



## WINTER CONCERTS

### Junior / Intermediate Concert

Parents, family and friends are invited to attend our Grades 4 to 8 Winter Concert on **Wednesday, December 14**, at the following times:

**7:00 p.m.**      Grades 4 to 6 (Junior) Choir  
                    Grade 4 Ukulele  
                    Grade 5 Guitar  
                    Grade 6 Guitar

**8:00 p.m.**      Concert Band  
                    Jazz Band  
                    Jazz Choir

Please note that the ukulele and guitar groups consist of student volunteers who wish to demonstrate what they have learned in music class this term.

Pine Grove is able to provide 30 guitars for student use, but it is very likely that more students will wish to perform in the concert. If your child is able to bring an acoustic guitar to the show they may play all of the songs we have practised. If we have a shortage of guitars, the group will be divided evenly between songs.

### Primary Concert

The Primary Music Program will offer a Grade 2 Winter Concert on **Wednesday December 21 @ 6:30 p.m.** Due to very limited space in our gym and fire regulations, **we kindly ask that each child only bring 2 guests to the concert.** Please leave strollers at home or in the car.



## SNOW DAYS

**Announcements on radio, television and the HDSB website and switchboard are supplemented by the new Home Notification System.**

With winter weather approaching, the HDSB reminds parents and guardians of the numerous ways to check for school bus transportation cancellations and school closures.

**Most local radio stations have updates regarding cancellations and closures.**

**Television Stations:** CHTV Morning Show, CITY TV Morning Show, CHCH TV Morning Show

If school or transportation is to be cancelled, this is for the whole day, an announcement will be made by 7:00 a.m.

Closures during the day will be announced by 11:00 a.m. In the event of any emergency closing, you or your emergency contact will be notified that the school will be closing and asked about how your child will get home (i.e. walk, picked up by mom/dad/friend, etc). The safety of your child is paramount. Your co-operation is also essential in ensuring the smooth running of these emergency procedures. Please make sure you have emergency plans up-to-date.

**\*\* If the schools are open but buses are cancelled, they are cancelled for the entire day. If you decide to bring your child to school you must pick them up at the end of the day. If you decide to keep your child home for the day, please call the attendance line at 1-877-409-6310.\*\***



December 2011

**Pine Grove Family Movie Night & Popcorn Days**



Dear Pine Grove Families,

Family Movie Night is coming to Pine Grove on **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. We will be showing a film featuring the Penguins of Madagascar "*All-Nighter Before Christmas: So Many Santas*". The film is rated **G**. Popcorn and drinks will be available for \$1.00 each. Doors to the gym will open at **6:30 pm** for seating. The movie, "*All-Nighter Before Christmas: So Many Santas*", will start at 7:00 pm.

A **\$2.00 donation** per person will be asked for at the door.

The movie will be shown in the gym. Please note that fire regulations limit the number of people allowed in the gym. We are asking that you complete the tear off portion below so that we know how many people will be participating. A parent must accompany their children for supervision purposes.

Please complete and return the tear off portion below by **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, if your family would like to participate in movie night.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a representative of School Council at (416) 728-1969.

**HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU THERE!**

Special Announcement! We will also be holding Popcorn Days at the school during the second nutrition breaks on **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** (Grades 1 - 3) and **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** (Grades 4 - 8). Freshly popped popcorn will be sold for \$1/bag.

Movie Night Reservation Form

The \_\_\_\_\_ Family of \_\_\_\_\_ (#of people

attending) will be watching "*All-Nighter Before Christmas: So Many Santas*" movie on **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_



## Elementary Optional Attendance

Halton students seeking placement at schools other than their home schools, do so by way of Optional Attendance.

Applications are being accepted at your home school from

**December 1- January 23, 2012**

Not all schools are open to Optional Attendance. For a list of schools open to Optional Attendance and to obtain a copy of the registration form (located in the Optional Attendance Procedure) you can go to our website at [www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca) and click on Parent Info, Optional Attendance.