

PINE BUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017



**PLEASE BE ADVISED
THAT IN THE SCHOOL
SIDE PARKING LOT, IT IS
ILLEGAL TO PASS A
STOPPED SCHOOL BUS
THAT HAS ITS RED
LIGHTS FLASHING.**

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Dear Families and Friends,

As we glance at the warm autumn colors that vibrantly fill the landscape around us, we are reminded that cooler nights and shorter daylight hours will soon greet us as well. The month of October brings a rapid shift from the introductory pace of September to a more balanced tempo of classroom instruction and school activities.

It was a sincere pleasure to have an opportunity to meet so many parents and families at our PTA Ice Cream Social and evening Open House events in September. It is our hope that you were provided with valuable information about the classroom learning environment and grade level curriculum that your child will experience this year.

Our annual Apple Fun Run was also a widely attended school activity. This event promotes health and wellness for our students in a non-competitive environment. All student participants were awarded for their efforts with a bookmark and an apple which reinforces our commitment to physical fitness and healthy food choices.

We invite parents to join us for conferences which being this year with half-day conferences on Thursday, October 26th and Tuesday, November 14th. We will have a full day of conferences on Wednesday, November 1st. Parent conferences provide an opportunity for you to speak with your child's teacher in further detail about your child as a young learner. We ask that you please consider sharing any important information that you feel will assist your child and his or her teacher toward a successful school year.

In addition to these conferences, we have an abundance of wonderful events for students and families in the coming weeks. Many of these activities can be found within this newsletter, our PTA newsletter or school district calendar. Please accept our open invitation to attend any or all of these worthwhile events.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher T. Sanita".

Christopher T. Sanita
Principal

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

~Albert Camus

Nobel Prize winning author and journalist

Vacations and Trips

Vacations and trips that are taken by children while school is in session are viewed as unexcused absences by New York State. The state believes that it is not feasible to fully replicate missed instruction. Despite the best efforts of teachers and parents, it is impossible to make up for missing the class discussion, interaction and teacher-directed instruction.

If an absence cannot be avoided, parents need to notify the office, in writing, as soon as possible.

Teachers are not responsible for providing work to be completed over the vacation. Reading, keeping a written journal, or creating a photo journal are good independent learning activities for the children.

Copies of materials distributed to the students during the absence will be collected. Parents are responsible for having their child complete and return any missed assignments. Once again, this work cannot fully replicate what the child missed. Parents should try to schedule vacations according to the school calendar whenever possible.

Please make every effort to have your child attend school each scheduled day.

Thank you.

Early Dismissal

Parents are asked to please make note of the following early dismissal dates. On these dates, students in grades K through 5 will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. so that teachers may hold parent conferences. The dates are:

Thursday, October 26 and Tuesday, November 14

Also, **Wednesday, November 1** will be a full day of Parent Conferences. There will be **no** classes for **all** Pine Bush students on that day. Parents who did not sign up for a conference during Open House are encouraged to contact their child's teacher in order to do so.

Early Morning Drop-Off

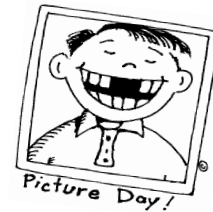
We have many students who are dropped off before our regular school day begins each morning. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:25 am in the cafeteria where they will be supervised until the school day begins at 7:50 am. Students *cannot* be dropped off before 7:25 am as there is no one in the building to supervise them should they arrive early. This presents an obvious safety and security risk for those students who arrive before this time. Please do not have your child enter the building before 7:25 am. Students have been reminded to go directly to the cafeteria unless other arrangements with a teacher have been made in advance. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

After Care Attendance

If your child will absent from their after school scheduled day care program, please notify the Pine Bush main office at x3102 and their after care facility. Thank you!

School Pictures

Adirondack Portraits will be at Pine Bush Elementary on **Thursday, October 19**, to take individual pictures of all students. These pictures will be included in our school year-book and will be available for purchase by parents.



Halloween Costumes

We encourage students to participate and enjoy a safe Halloween with us at school. Parents are asked to be mindful of appropriate costumes for children to wear during school.

Please do not allow children to bring the following costume accessories to school:

- any weapons, pointed or sharp objects including toy guns, swords, spears or knives;
- hair spray or hair dye that needs to be applied at school;
- any items placed inside the mouth such as fake lips or fang teeth.



Upcoming PTA Activities

Halloween Spooktacular - The annual Pine Bush PTA Spooktacular will be held on Friday, October 27th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Games, refreshments and a magician are some of the activities that families may enjoy.



The Pine Bush School Store

Pine Bush's very own school store will officially open for the 2017-2018 school year. The items for sale are school related and include erasers, pencils, pens, sharpeners, key chains, notepads, etc. Prices range from \$.10 to \$1.50. The store is open for business from 8:00-8:15 and rolls into the Yellow Pod on Tuesdays, Green Pod on Wednesdays and Blue Pod on Thursdays with grade levels shopping every other week. The schedule is announced during morning announcements, posted in each pod and on the school website under the "Clubs and Activities" tab. Come shop with us!!

Please Do Not Send Any Glassware to School

For the safety of all, we ask that students not bring any glass water bottles or storage containers to school. There have been recent instances where these items have broken inside student lunch boxes or accidentally dropped on the floor in classrooms and the cafeteria. These items can shatter and leave small shards of glass even after being swept. Thank you, as always, for your cooperation.

Substitute Nurses Needed

The Guilderland School District is looking for qualified registered nurses to serve as substitutes for district school nurses. Interested applicants are asked to call the personnel office at 456-6200, extension 3117 for an application.



School News Notifier (SNN)

School News Notifier (SNN) is a voluntary electronic notification system designed to help keep parents and families aware of what is happening in our school and throughout the district. Users can receive an e-mail alert about upcoming school events, emergency closings and delays and other important information. To register online, simply visit our school website at www.guilderlandschools.org, click on the "School News Notifier" icon and follow the onscreen instructions to create your user profile.

School Banking

School Banking began on Thursday, September 28. Students will be able to bank every Thursday in the cafeteria from 7:45 am—8:15 am. New bankers can pick up an enrollment form any Thursday during this time as well.

Emergency Early Dismissal Drill, 10/6/17

Please note that on **Friday, October 6th**, all Guilderland district students will be participating in an annual Emergency Early Dismissal Drill. On that day, students will be dismissed from school approximately 15 minutes earlier than usual. More information concerning this drill will be sent home at a later date.

Fun Run

The annual Pine Bush Elementary Fall Apple Fun Run was held on Friday, September 29. The weather cooperated so that Pine Bush family and friends were able to attend and cheer the students on as they participated in this non-competitive event. All students received a ribbon as they crossed the finish line. Apples were also given to all students. We thank *Lakeside Farms* for their assistance with this activity.



October at the Library

Charles R. Smith Jr. will visit us on Oct. 24!

We are so excited to have award-winning children's book author, poet and photographer come to our school! A huge thanks to our PTA for hosted the event.

Visit our library and get to know him through his books - we have many available for checkout. Visit his website at charlesrsmithjr.com and learn how "Mind, Body and Spirit reflects all that he does" and be inspired by his poetry, photos, videos and audios.

We will learn more about Charles R. Smith Jr. this month in the library.

Coming Up . . .***October***

6, Emergency Early Release Day, 1:45 Dismissal
9, NO SCHOOL—Columbus Day
 18, PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
 19, School Picture Day
 26, Gr. K-5 11:30 am Dismissal for Parent Conferences
 27, PTA Spooktacular, 6:00 pm

November

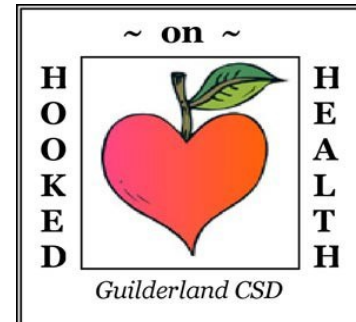
1, NO SCHOOL—Grades K-5 Parent Conferences
10, NO SCHOOL, Veterans Day
 14, Gr. K-5 11:30 am Dismissal for Parent Conferences
 15, Learning Fair, 5:30 pm—7:00 pm
 15, PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm
 17, PTA Movie Night, 6:30 pm
22-24, NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Recess

Hooked on Health:***Did You Know:***

The snack your child eats impacts their learning and behavior.

Hooked On Health Hint:

Pack a healthy snack. You are forming eating habits for life.



**SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE
 OF COLUMBUS DAY
 ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9**