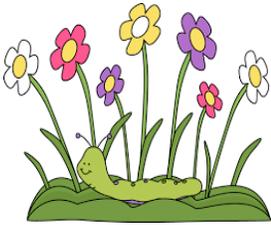


# PINE BUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017



“If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.”  
- Derek Bok, president of Harvard University, 1971-1990

Dear Families and Friends,

The remaining weeks of school are peeling away like layers of an onion, yet there is much to be accomplished before the end of June arrives. Our students in grades 3 through 5 are busy preparing for this year’s annual New York State exams in Mathematics and grade 4 Science. It is always important to be mindful that the results from these exams are one measure of a child’s performance over the course of an academic year. As with any singular measure, there is much that can be subject to interpretation or comparison with other performance indicators. Similarly, there is much that we can interpret from our upcoming budget vote and board member election.

A school budget vote is an annual fiscal commitment to quality education made by members of a local community. I remember a bumper sticker that I saw many years ago which is when I first read the words from the above quote. This was likely attached to a vehicle owned by an education professional or advocate. I share this quote because each of us will have to make a decision in the coming weeks regarding an important vote. This is one in which members of Boards of Education will be elected and school district budgets will be decided throughout the state.

In terms of the budget vote, we are each confronted with essentially one of three choices: we can choose to vote for the budget, against the budget, or not to vote at all. My intention in sharing this is not to influence the vote in any particular manner; but rather to appeal to every eligible resident of the Guilderland community to vote. It is unfortunate that many residents of communities across our state choose not to vote when guaranteed this constitutional right.

This year’s vote will be held on Tuesday, May 16th between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at each elementary school. School district residents have an important opportunity to exercise their vote on the 2017-18 school budget and Board of Education election. Please vote and encourage your eligible family members and neighbors to do the same.

Regards,

Christopher T. Sanita  
Principal

**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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### **School Budget Vote**

On Tuesday, May 16, Guilderland Central School District residents will head to the polls to vote on a \$98,484,110 budget for the 2017-18 school year. The proposed budget, adopted by the Board of Education on April 11, includes an increase in spending of \$1,894,065, or 1.96 percent, over the current year's budget. If approved by voters, it would result in a 2.11 percent tax levy increase in the coming year—below the district's maximum allowable tax levy limit as calculated under the state's "tax cap" formula.

Due to projected assessment growth within the district, tax rates are estimated to increase by less than one percent, at 0.74 percent, for residents of the school district.

### **Registering to Vote**

Voter registration is required in the Guilderland Central School District. If you are not registered with the school district or the county, you must do so prior to the vote. You may register to vote at any of the district elementary schools on May 4, May 8, or May 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or at the district office (8 School Road, Guilderland Center) on the aforementioned mentioned days from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You may also register with the ALBANY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS during their normal business hours. For more information, please contact Linda Livingston, district clerk, at 456-6200, ext. 3125.

### **Transportation Employee Appreciation Week**

The week of May 15th-May 19th is Transportation Employee Appreciation Week at Pine Bush Elementary School. Once again this year, we will be honoring our school bus drivers by presenting them with gift bags of snacks which have been donated by the students. Each child is asked to bring an unwrapped, non-perishable snack to school by Thursday, May 18th. Snacks should be brought to classroom teachers, who will send them to the office where the gift bags will be filled. We are also asking students to consider writing a short note of appreciation to their individual bus driver.

Thank you.



## Library News

Dear Families,

TumbleBookLibrary has launched new tablet and smartphone apps for subscribers\* (all Pine Bush students and staff are subscribers – you must login with our school's account information listed below).

The free apps are available for Apple iOS and Android devices, and can be found at the Apple Store or Google Play stores by searching for TumbleBooks.

Once the app is downloaded, click the School button and enter the following account information:

Username: pinebush      Password: apple

Once you have logged in the first time, each following login should only require a click of the TumbleBooks icon!

While you're using the app, your experience on the site is the exact same experience you'd have if you logged in using your browser! You just need an internet connection to stream content, and there are no downloads to clog up your device! Storybooks are the default screen. Click the menu (on the top left corner) to access read-alongs, ebooks, graphic novels, nonfiction, games and more!

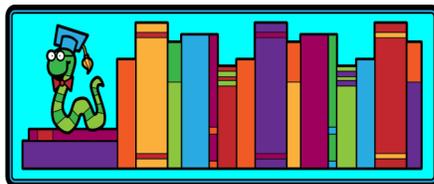
Please contact me at the library if you have any questions.

Ms. Harmon



## End of the Year Library

- May 26:** All student library materials must be returned on or before May 26th.
- May 30– June 2:** Scholastic Book Fair (flyer will go home).  
Library books *cannot* be checked out during the Book Fair due to inventory procedures.
- June 5-23:** Students may borrow up to 10 books for use over the summer. Permission slips are required for summer borrowing and will be sent home by June 2nd. (*Note: Books borrowed during the school year must be returned in order to participate in summer borrowing.*)



## Student Leadership Awards

Congratulations to the following Pine Bush Elementary fifth grade students who will receive the Capital Zone Student Leadership Awards at a ceremony at Hudson Valley Community College on Monday, May 8. The following students will be recognized:

Hannah Bowman	Miranda Putorti
Katelyn Dickerson	Brett Sabatino
Cole Miller	Sam Tanner

## ACES Day

On Wednesday, May 10th, all Pine Bush students will be participating in ACES day. ACES stands for All Children Exercising Simultaneously and is a worldwide effort to promote fitness in school age children. At 1:00 pm on this day, the students at Pine Bush will be participating in a fifteen minute walk around the school, weather permitting. Otherwise, students will enjoy 15 minutes of activities in the gym using Wii Fit.

## Riding Bicycles to School

Students who live in the immediate area have ridden their bicycles to school on days when the weather is pleasant. Parents who are considering allowing their child to ride a bicycle to school should be aware that the driveway to the school is an extremely busy place during the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal hours. At these times, a number of vehicles are entering and exiting the driveway and traffic can be quite heavy. We are requesting that any student who does ride a bicycle to school, submit a note from his or her parent giving permission to ride a bicycle to and from school. No students should be crossing or riding on Carman Road. At dismissal time, all students riding bicycles will be asked to wait for all the buses to leave the property before they may leave. We suggest that any parent who is contemplating having his or her child ride to school, look carefully at all aspects of the trip and advise your child as to the importance of watching traffic, particularly at the entrance to school, but also at intersections.

**Upcoming Events . . .****May**

- 2-4 NYS Math Test, Grades 3-5
- 10 ACES Day, 1:00 pm
- 11 PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 11-12 PTA Spring Plant Sale
- 16 BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION  
7:00 AM—9:00 PM
- 29 NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day Recess
- 30 School Resumes
- 30-6/2 PTA Scholastic Book Fair
- 31 NYS Grade 4 Science Test

**June**

- 1 NYS Grade 4 Science Test
- 5 NYS Grade 4 Science Test
- 12 Flag Day Concert, 9:00 am
- 14 Spirit Games
- 22 11:30 am Dismissal, Grades K-5  
Grade 5 Ceremony and Celebration,  
10:00 am
- 23 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL,  
11:30 am Dismissal, Grades K-5
- 27 Grades K-5 Report Cards Available on  
SchoolTool

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The human body has more than 650 muscles?

**HOOKED ON HEALTH HINT:**

Move it or lose it!

2,000 Steps = 1 mile. Aim for 10,000 steps per day!



**Memorial Day Recess Monday, May 29, 2017**  
**School Will Resume on Tuesday, May 30, 2017**

