



PANTHER'S ROAR



PICKERING VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

Did You Know?

Dr. Sandy Griffin, DASD superintendent, surprised Mrs. Audrey Blust with a "Simply the Best" Award earlier this month.

As a fifth grade teacher at Pickering Valley, Mrs. Blust brings history to life for her students. She has been instrumental in enabling the 5th graders in our building to continue an amazing tradition here at Pickering - a 3 day, 2 night trip to Colonial Williamsburg. This incredible field trip was being reconsidered and was brought before the School Board to analyze and determine whether or not the trip should continue. Few people know that Audrey spent hours this summer collecting and organizing information to share with the Board, the risk analyst the district requested to assess the trip, and solicitors for the district. After the opportunity to evaluate the safety and risk of the trip, the analyst said that this trip should be the model for all other field trips designed in Downingtown. What high praise for a teacher that spends endless hours (along with her team) to organize, schedule, and prepare students for this opportunity of a lifetime. Our Board approved this year's field trip and so the tradition continues. Thank you, Mrs. Blust, for knowing what a valuable experience it is for our students and going above and beyond to provide them with this opportunity. Little do our current 5th graders and those to come know how much they have to thank you for.

Next PVSA Meeting:

January 8, 2008

7:15pm

PV Cafeteria

Redistricting Update

Communities that Care PV Parenting Workshop Information

PVSA Update

Principal's Report



5th Grade Parent Committee

Our 5th Graders have an exciting year ahead of them! The following is a schedule of events (note that the last three events are tentative):

- Williamsburg Trip Parent Meeting TBA in December
- 5th Grade Parent Committee Meeting January 8th at 6:30pm in Cafeteria before PVSA Meeting
- Spring Fair Used Book/Toy Sale on March 29th to benefit 5th grade
- Williamsburg Trip - April 30th, May 1st and 2nd
- Water World - June 3rd or 4th
- 5th Grade Picnic - June 6th
- 5th Grade Graduation - June 9th

If you are a parent of a 5th grader and would like to participate in any of the following committees, contact Melissa Geoghegan at 610-827-7451 or mrsgeegs@yahoo.com. Our first meeting will be on January 8th at 6:30pm immediately before the PVSA Meeting in the Cafeteria.



Committees:

5th Grade CD

Take pictures, collect pictures of students from Kindergarten to 5th grade for a class CD

Williamsburg Trip

Provide water bottles, snacks and DVD's for the bus ride

Spring Fair Fundraiser

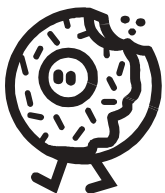
Coordinate a fundraiser at the Spring Fair (Used Book Sale) to raise funds for Williamsburg

End of Year Picnic

Coordinate a Picnic in June 2008 for the students

Treasurer

Maintain records for funds collected for the Picnic, Bus Ride, CD and Teacher Gifts



Thank you to the 350 Pickering Valley families (nearly 900 folks) that participated

in the Donuts with Dad event this year! We hope you enjoyed your morning social and special time together. Thank you for coming! Thank you to all the moms who volunteered their time to help! We appreciate you!



You can still come to the Pickering Valley Holiday Event Saturday, December 8th. Enjoy the Make it and Take it Table, have your face painted, shop for gifts at the Holiday Store and the Book Fair in the library.

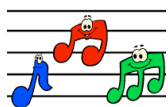
KUDOS FROM THE PVSA BOARD . . .

- *Thank you to the Community Service Committee headed up by Colleen Minio, Judy Jackson, and Joan Kelly for organizing a very successful Make a Difference Day!! Way to go getting PV recognized on the cover of the "Community Courier!"
- *Thanks to all of the PV students and parents who participated in Make a Difference~you certainly did just that!!
- *Lots of PV families had a howling good time at the Halloween Ball thanks to committee chairs Kara Reester and Cindy Gwynn along with their terrific committee members!
- *Kara Reester and her Donuts with Dad committee hosted three delightful donut breakfasts. Our PV students and dads appreciated it!!
- *Thank you to Laura Davis and all of the PV families who donated and coordinated 200+ turkeys!!

A Special Thank You. . .

Cindy Gwynn held a special Arbonne fundraiser to benefit PVSA. The proceeds totaled \$125 and will be used toward PVSA sponsored activities such as assemblies and the upcoming Family Bingo Nights! We all appreciate Cindy's dedication to Pickering Valley and creative fundraising!

Music Notes



Pickering Valley Winter Concert Thursday, December 6th 7:00 PM

The band, chorus and strings will show their stuff and get everyone in the holiday spirit! Come hear each group perform and hear solos on instruments- some instruments that you've never heard before! It's sure to be an exciting evening.



Hope to see you there!

BOOK FAIR BLIZZARD

Join us as a blizzard of books storm into the Library at this year's Book Fair. PVSA is proud to host the annual Book Fair on Saturday, December 8th from 8:30 to 11:00 am, the same day as the Holiday Breakfast, and all week starting December 10th from 8:30 am to 4 pm.

There will be a wonderful selection of affordable books for children and adults, as well as some unusual gift books. This is a great time to holiday shop, plus, the proceeds of the fair benefit the library directly. We encourage you to take time for this special event. Can't wait to see you there!



Fall Ball Appreciation!

THANK YOU to all the kids!

For wearing your awesome costumes and bringing your spirited fun to the ball...you were beautiful, scary, silly and unique, and we are so glad you came!

THANK YOU to all the parents and grandparents!

For bringing the kids to the ball...your support makes it possible to have this activity for the kids.

THANK YOU to all the amazing volunteers!

For being so generous with your time and help...your support shows the strength of the Pickering Valley community and we appreciate all of you!

THANK YOU to the PV Staff!

For your support through the planning and the night of the ball...we appreciate your generous help and kindness through all the details!

Sincerely,

Cindy Gwynn and Kara Reester



PVSA Community Service

Nearly 100 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th participated in Pickering Valley's "Make A Difference Day" event on October 16th. Make a Difference Day is a challenge put out by "USA Weekend" to encourage residents to help others in their local community. Students at Pickering Valley took over the school cafeteria on a beautiful fall afternoon to make cards for the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country to let them know how much they are appreciated. Over 150 colorful cards were produced by the young patriotic artists some of which have been delivered to veterans at the Coatesville VA Hospital. Cards will also be shared with Major Lee Snodgrass (*Director of Facilities for Downingtown Area School District*) and members of his HHC 20th Engineer Brigade. Other cards will be sent to SrA Matt Clever of the 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, a relative of two students at Pickering Valley. Not only were students generous with their uplifting greetings, but they also donated more than 25 boxes of goods that have been shared with the Coatesville VA Hospital and the service units mentioned above. Donations included personal care items, paper items, non-perishable snack food and books/magazines.

- ❖ In November was the ever-popular Donuts with Dad. **Kara Reester** did a great job organizing this event. Students were able to share donuts and some time with their dads before school. Thanks **Kara**!
- ❖ On November 17, 2007 we had our annual Turkey collection for the Lord's Pantry in Downingtown. A huge thank you to **Laura Davis** who made this event so successful. Thanks also go to **Joan Kelly** for having **Dunkin Donuts** donate donuts.
- ❖ The Turkey collection was a HUGE success. PVE collected 209 turkeys!! The Lord's Pantry placed 90 of these Turkeys for Thanksgiving. The **Krasley family** (owners of **America Bar and Grille**) stored over 80 turkeys until December 15th, some turkeys are at PVE, **Acme markets** also helped and **Laura** found storage for the rest. Thanks to all PVE families for their generosity this holiday season.
- ❖ After Thanksgiving we will start our B101 stocking drive. This is an easy way to make the holidays special for a needy child. Also, we will have a coat drive early in the new year. Look for more information in your child's back pack soon.
- ❖ The Community Service Committee would like to thank all our PVE children and families for their constant support of our school and community. It is wonderful to be part of such a supportive and caring school community.

ANY COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER?

email them to panthersroar@verizon.net

NEXT DEADLINE DATE IS: January 25, 2008
 NEXT PUBLICATION DATE IS: February 7, 2008

Thank you, Noreen Davish, editor of the Panther's Roar

PVSA WEBSITE

www.dasd-pv.org

Click on "PVSA Information"

Visit us online for:

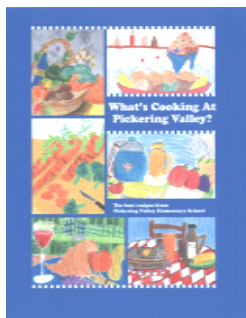
- The latest Home and School news
- Board and Committee contact information
- Specific details on all our Committees
- PVSA Board Agendas and Budget information
- Event Calendar
- Link to purchase Panther Spirit Wear
- Newsletters.....and more!

Questions or comments? Contact Melissa Geoghegan at mrsgeegs@yahoo.com or 610-827-7451.

Used Book Sale to Benefit 5th Grade Williamsburg Trip



Attention all Pickering Valley families! Closets and bookshelves overflowing with books you don't read anymore? The 5th graders will be having a Used Book Sale at the Spring Fair on March 29th, 2008 to raise funds for their Williamsburg Trip. Donations will be collected during the month of March - more information to follow.



What's Cooking At Pickering Valley? The Pickering Valley Cookbook

Do you need any ideas for holiday gifts? Why not try the Pickering Valley Cookbook?

The cookbook includes over 600 recipes, a multitude of cooking hints, entertainment hints and menu ideas. The 3-ring style book has a washable cover and is available for

The Legend of the Red Horse Cavern

Book by: Gary Paulsen

Book Review by: Daria S.

Hi! My name is Daria S. and I'm doing a report on the book, The Legend Of The Red Horse Cavern by Gary Paulsen. This book is about mysteries beyond compare.

Here is my wonderful version of the book. There are two kids named Sarah and Will who find a cave with millions of secret passageways. They run into two crooks who are trying to steal a gold statue. Will is familiar with the gold statue because his grandfather had told him about it in a story. The story was about an Indian man who steals the town's legendary gold statue and hides it in the cave. Nobody has found it since! You have to read the book to see what happens in the end. Do they escape? Do they find the gold statue? Well I'm sorry but you have to find out by reading The Legend of The Red Horse Cavern!

I would recommend this book to anybody who likes a good mystery book because this book is full of breathtaking mysteries that everyone would enjoy.

PICKERING VALLEY SCHOOL STORE

The store is open every Tuesday from 11:30-1:15 outside the cafeteria during lunch.



The children are so excited each week to check out the store and the great items available. Parents are always welcome to come by and purchase too!

PVSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Joseph Fernandes - <i>Principal Advisor</i>	610-458-5324	jfernandes@dasd.org
Beth Madarang - <i>President</i>	610-827-7161	pvsapresident@dasd.org
Sara Armstrong - <i>1st Vice President</i>	610-827-1731	saraarmstrong@verizon.net
Melissa Geoghegan - <i>2nd Vice President</i>	610-827-7451	mrsgeegs@yahoo.com
Kathy Klein - <i>Secretary</i>	610-827-9093	kathyaklein@verizon.net
Carey Burke - <i>Treasurer</i>	610-321-1298	carey_burke@verizon.net

EZ MONEY

The following is a list of ways that you can help Pickering Valley receive some of the money that big companies are giving away to schools; and just like the name says, it's **EASY**.

Box Tops: "The Great Box Top Race" is on. The class with the most box tops collected by mid-May will win a pizza party. Complete standings are posted in the school.



Campbell's Labels for Education: Send in your soup can labels from all Campbell soup products and help PV earn all kinds of cool stuff. Please ask your friends and relatives to help, too! Website: www.labelsforeducation.com

Recycle: Send in your old cell phones and used inkjet and laser cartridges. PV gets big \$\$\$ for these recyclable items. Website: www.fundingfactory.com

Shopping:

Target - Use your Target Visa at any Target store and PV gets 1% of the total sale! Use it at any other store and PV get .5%. It really adds up! To designate PV as your benefiting school, Log on to www.target.com, click on "red cards" at the top of the screen then click on "Take Charge of Education" to the left under "Benefits".

ACME Receipts - Send in all your ACME receipts along with your box top and soup labels.

eScrip - Link your Genuardi's club card to PV today! This can be done via the eScrip website. Log onto www.escrip.com go to "sign up" and designate PV to receive contributions. Our group ID # is 6552229.



Be sure to check out any of the above websites to find out how you can help PV get even more "Easy Money".

Don't forget to ask your family and friends to help collect the above items. With these extra funds, the home and school can do even more great things for our kids!

If you have any questions about the Easy Money Program at Pickering Valley please contact Dorene Guistwhite at guistwhite@comcast.net.

Charlotte's Web

By: E.B. White



Charlotte's Web is a magnificent story about courage and love.

In the beginning Wilbur the pig has been born, and a girl named Fern loves Wilbur dearly, and she keeps him. Later, she finds she can't take care of him so she sent him away to her uncle's farm. Wilbur becomes so scared because he doesn't know anyone and he misses Fern so much.

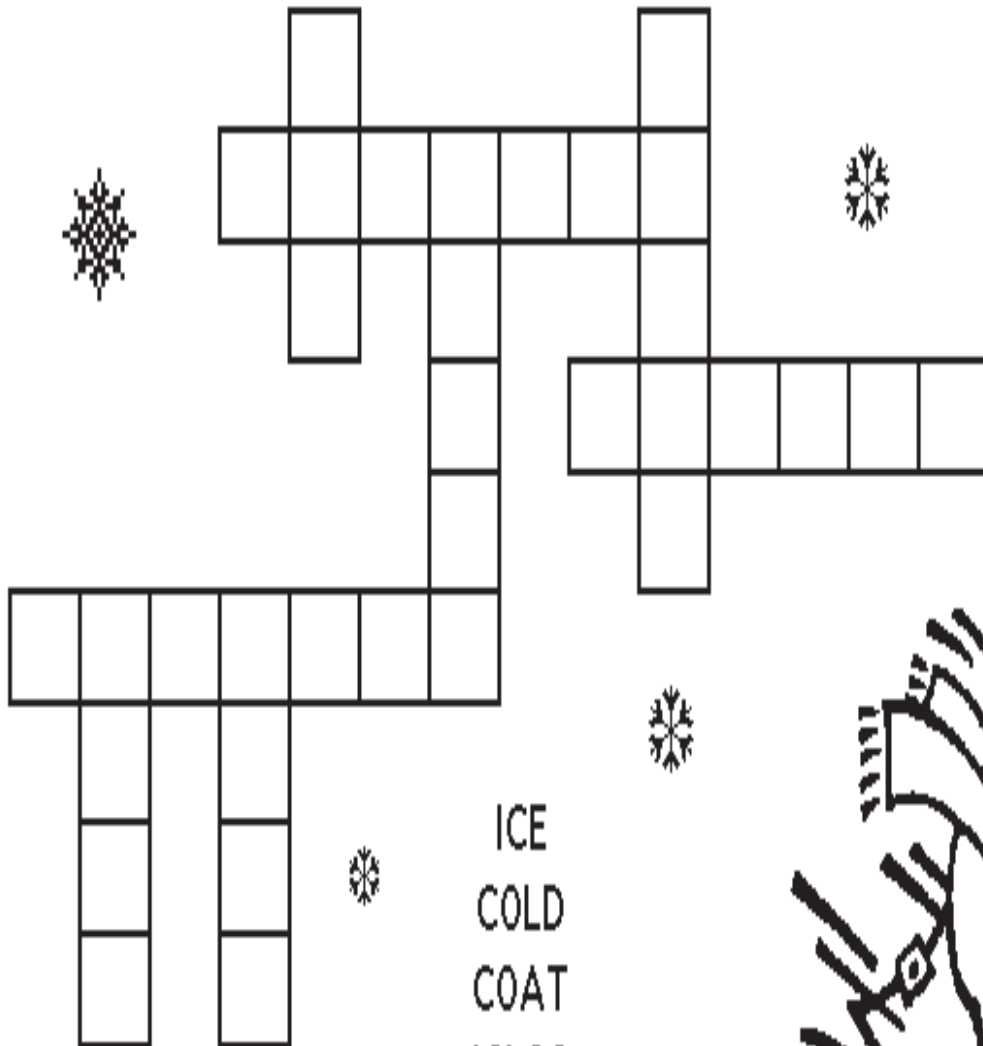
After Wilbur is at the farm for a while it becomes winter and a man that found out about Wilbur has planned to kill him for a Christmas dinner. He becomes so scared and worried about his fate. Then he meets Charlotte the spider, and become the best of friends. After they have been acquainted Charlotte plans to help Wilbur so he won't get killed. She plans to do this by finding words of magazines and things like that. Then she will make a web of it and she will make that word into a web, and the people will be amazed. Then the man plans to kill Wilbur won't kill him after all because he feels so proud.

At the end Charlotte and Wilbur eventually become the best of friends, and she gets all the farm animals to like him and everyone gets along. This is why the book is about courage and love, and that's why I like this book so much. There is more to the story, I didn't want to spoil it so you need to read it!

Written By: Danielle R.



Winter Crossword



- ICE
- COLD
- COAT
- IGLOO
- BOOTS
- HOCKEY
- ICEBERG
- ICICLES

Find the spot where each word fits. Use each word only once.

