



PANTHER'S ROAR



PICKERING VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

TEST INFORMATION

Our fifth graders will be taking the PSSA Writing Test the week of February 11th with make-ups occurring the week of February 18th. The remaining PSSA tests will be administered the week of March 31. to grades 3, 4, and 5. The March testing will be in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. Since PSSA is mandated by the State, excuses for family vacations can not be honored during the March 31 -April 4 testing dates. Also, during the week of February 12th, our first grade students will take the OLSAT (Otis-Lennon School Ability Test). This test takes less than an hour for the children to complete and is designed to predict school success. The OLSAT, the DIBELS indicators, the ESAR, the Harcourt Reading Assessments, teacher observation, and teacher-made assessments help to give us a picture of our early learners and assist us in planning appropriate instruction for each child.

Joseph Fernandes
Principal



The PVES Library is for. . . YOU!

Yes, that's right parents, there is a whole collection of parenting materials just for you! It includes information ranging from academic to social to developmental issues. Please stop by and check it out!

Did you just finish a book which you found especially helpful in understanding your child? Do you think others would benefit from it? Let's add it to the collection! Please contact Mrs. Michener with the title.



**Next PVSA Meeting:
Tuesday, March 4, 2008
7:15 PM**

Pickering Valley Parent Emergency Phone Chain

Pickering Valley emergencies only: At the beginning of the year, our parent volunteers designed a parent emergency phone chain for Pickering Valley parents. The phone chain was set up in case of an emergency or weather related dismissal during the day. We will be keeping this Pickering Valley volunteer system in place in the event of an emergency that *only* relates to Pickering Valley. This phone chain will use the phone numbers you provided at the beginning of the school year. There is an important change in District wide procedures for inclement weather notification and emergencies that effect the entire school district.

District-Wide Emergency Phone Chain

District-wide emergencies: Effective January 28th, SchoolMessenger, Inc. a leading provider of parent notification solutions used in more than 6,000 districts, will be used as part of the existing district wide emergency system. Radio and TV stations will continue to be notified of any delay or closings. Should *all* Downingtown schools need to be cancelled or delayed due to weather or other emergencies, Dr. Griffin will now be able to deliver personalized direct-to-parent voice messages to your home and/or voicemail through the automated SchoolMessenger system which will transmit to every district home within twenty minutes.

All families must go to the District website www.dasd.org and complete the phone number form in order to verify your phone number used in the automated system. If you are not always home, you can include up to three numbers that will all be called.

YOUR ACTION REQUIRED

All Pickering Valley families need to access www.dasd.org and complete the School Messenger On-Line Form as soon as possible.

Please access our district website at www.dasd.org and follow these directions to register your phone numbers:

- Refer to the section "Featured News & Events"
- Click on "New and Noteworthy Links"
- Click on "SchoolMessenger On-Line Form" and complete your information.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Fernandes
Principal

Kudos from the PVSA Board

- To Kathleen and Jennifer Wachsmuth for coordinating a very festive Holiday Event!
- To Jennifer Stueve for a fabulously fun holiday shop! The children had lots of fun buying gifts for their families!
- To Tricia Scott and the tons of Book Fair volunteers who helped make this the best book fair ever in the new school!! All proceeds go directly to the library!
- To Susan Krasley and Debi Weed for arranging a hugely good time for all PV families who attended FREE Bingo!!
- To Dorene Guistwhite and all of her volunteers for helping with our annual Jump Rope for Heart to benefit the American Heart Association! Let's keep our children jumping to stay healthy!!

We appreciate all of the volunteer hours our parents donate to our PV community to make it the best place for our children to learn and have fun in the process!! **Have you gotten involved?? Contact any PVSA officer to learn more about volunteer opportunities for this year and next (yes, we have already started to look ahead)!!**

Beth Madarang
President

pvsapresident@dasd.org

Sara Armstrong
1st VP

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Melissa Geoghegan
2nd VP

mrsgeegs@yahoo.com

Carey Burke
Treasurer

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Kathy Klein
Secretary

kkrafs@verizon.net

We will have the following PVSA Board positions open next year (two year terms): President, 2nd VP, and Secretary. If you have enjoyed chairing your event and would like to try one of these leadership roles, please contact any PVSA officer. We will vote in May but need a slate of candidates before that. Please consider these awesome opportunities to get more involved in PV and DASD!

Need to know what activities are planned for Pickering Valley? Visit:

www.dasd-pv.org

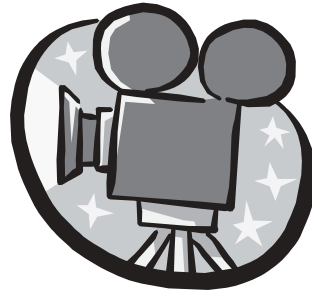
click on "PVSA Information", then "Calendar of Events"

You can also visit us online for:

- Important Links
- Board and Committee contact information
- Specific details on all our Committees
- PVSA Board Agendas and Budget information
- Link to purchase Panther Spirit Wear
- Newsletters



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



Attention All Parents—News from the Raffle Basket Committee

It's hard to believe, but our Spring Fair will be here in a few weeks. Our committee has already been hard at work gearing up for our big day on Saturday, March 29th. But we need your help. Each family is asked to consider donating to their classroom's basket in order for our fund-raiser to be successful. Your child's homeroom parents are orchestrating the collection of donations for the raffle baskets. Many have started contacting you (or will be shortly) with specific information regarding your child's class theme. Please help your homeroom parent by sending in your generous donation. PVSA is relying on the money raised by the raffle baskets for current and future expenses.

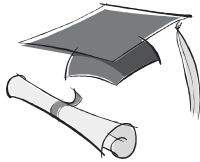
Attention Local Businesses:
Here's a Great Advertising Opportunity!

Additionally, we are asking local businesses to consider donating items or services to our fund-raiser. Each business that donates will be recognized in the Pickering Valley *Panther's Roar Newsletter*. (That's over 700 children bringing home our school newsletter; a great advertising tool for the businesses who contribute.) Additionally, an e-mail publicly thanking each business will be sent to all Pickering Valley families online.

If your business is interested please contact our Business Donations Coordinator, Carey Burke, at 610-321-1298 or carey_burke@hotmail.com before February 22nd. This is an excellent advertising opportunity for your business. It is also a tax deductible contribution to a worthwhile cause, the deserving students of Pickering Valley.

Thank you for your support,

Erin Flexner
Spring Raffle Basket Committee Chair
Erinflexner@yahoo.com



Help us send our 5th Graders to Williamsburg!

The 5th Grade Parent Committee has scheduled several dine-in fundraisers at area restaurants to help raise money for the Williamsburg Trip. Enjoy a meal at any of the following restaurants, mention Pickering Valley Elementary when you order and help our 5th graders raise money for their trip!

Stadium Grille (Eagle)

Monday, February 11th - All Day (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

When ordering just mention that you are there to benefit Pickering Valley's 5th Grade We receive 15% of all those that mention our school that day!

Chick-Fil-A (Lionville)

Wednesday, February 20th between 5pm-8pm

They will decorate with our school colors and call it a spirit night! We receive 20% of all proceeds for those that mention PV when ordering!

Isaac's (Lionville)

Wednesday, February 27th from 5pm-9pm

We receive 25% of all orders for those that bring a flyer/ticket in from PV for either dining in or taking out. The voucher is attached.

Uno's on Route 100 in Lionville

Thursday, March 6th from 4pm - 10pm

Vouchers will be sent home closer to the date.

Questions? Contact Nicole Ripper at 610-458-3376.

KEEP COLLECTING THOSE SODA CAN TABS!!



How can you help the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House® support more than 1,750 families each year? Collecting soda pop tabs is one E-A-S-Y way! It's simple. It's low cost. It's a great way to get involved. Because of the community support for programs such as this, families can stay there for no more than \$15 a night. This program at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House® began in 1997. To date, the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House® has collected over **105 tons** of tabs which translates into more than \$71,000.

Please collect your tabs and drop them off with Mrs. Fraim.





**JOIN US FOR OUR
COMMUNITY NIGHT
FUNDRAISER!**

On Wednesday, February 27, 2008, Isaac's Restaurant & Deli in Exton will host a fundraiser to benefit Pickering Valley Elementary School's 5th grade class field trip to Williamsburg. Bring your friends and family and enjoy great food and good company. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the total cost of your meal will go directly to Pickering Valley Elementary School's 5th grade class.

WHERE: Isaac's Restaurant & Deli in Exton
Crossroads Square
630 W. Uwchlan Ave.
Exton, PA 19341
(Valid at this location ONLY!)

WHEN: Wednesday, February 27, 5:00pm-9:00pm

HOW: Bring this flyer with you to Isaac's, complete the information, and hand it to the cashier when paying.

This form can be used for Dine-In or Takeout!

TAKEOUT: Call (484) 875-5825 or come in and place your order.

Please complete this information for your server.

Name: _____

Number of People in Party: _____

Total Cost of Meal (excluding tax): _____

***Coupons, discounts, or specials not valid during this fundraiser.**

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.

Questions? Contact Deb Romich at 610-458-0188 or djromich@comcast.net



ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS!

We are planning some very exciting things for our future graduates. One of them is a commemorative Photo CD highlighting the years at Pickering Valley Elementary School that each child will receive.

Send your pictures by e-mail to Diana Litvan at Diana_Litvan@hotmail.com. Clearly identify the photos by the year, the grade, and the names of all the students in the picture. Please include your contact information (phone number and e-mail). Photos due by March 10th, 2008.

We will accept 12-15 photos per family at this time. Example, send an individual photo of your child for each grade year (6 photos) and a group photo for each year (6 photos). Photos of an activity or field trip that have group photos with teachers and/or other students are welcome. If your child was not at Pickering Valley during some of their school years, not a problem! We will accept pictures of your child from any school.

Non-digital photographs can be sent to Diana Litvan, c/o Nicole in Mrs. Blust's class. Note your child's name, year taken, the grade and your child's current teacher's name on the back of the photos. Remember, if we don't have your contact info, we cannot return the photos to you.

For questions regarding non-digital photographs, you may contact Diana Litvan 610-804-8217.

In order to produce this Photo CD, we must have a signed Photo Release form from each family. This release was sent home with students on January 23rd. If you did not receive a release, or need another copy, contact Melissa at mrsgeegs@yahoo.com or 610-827-7451 and we will send another one. This release is vital to making the Photo CD. Families that have not sent in a form by March 10th will be contacted by our committee.

Spotlight on Third Graders



Get to know the very interesting third graders in Mrs. Burgos' class. We interviewed each other, then wrote each article during computer class!

Thank you to all the parents who helped us!

Spotlight on Jason

By
Hallie

Jason once lived in New York but now lives in Chester Springs. He lives with his brother, Mom and Dad. His favorite subject is Math and he thinks cursive is hard. Jason thinks making friends is fun and cool. He likes baseball, football, basketball and dodgeball. His favorite book series is Little Critter because he's crazy and he's an inventor.

Spotlight on Riley

By
Luc

Riley lives in Chester Springs. She did not live there all her life. She has a Mom, a Dad, two brothers and two sisters. Her favorite subject is Language Arts and her hardest subject is Math. She thinks cursive is cool because she thinks it's fun. She likes to play Webkinz for fun. She plays field hockey. Her favorite book is Junie B. Jones. She likes it because it's a hilarious book.

Spotlight on Nicole

By
Mitchell

Nicole lives in Downingtown. She has one Mom and one Dad and one big brother and one dog. Nicole loves Math and does not like Spelling. Nicole loves cursive because it's easy and challenging. Nicole loves Language Arts. Nicole plays soccer and collects gems. Nicole loves Nate the Great because if you like mystery stories, you'll love them.

Spotlight on Mitchell

By
Nicole

Mitchell lives in Chester Springs. He did not live there all his life. He lives with his Dad, Mom, his big sister, his two cats and two dogs. Mitchell loves Gym. He doesn't like Spelling. Mitchell likes to do cursive because it is fun. Mitchell likes to play soccer. His hobby is video games. Mitchell's favorite book is Harry Potter. You should read it because it is scary.

Spotlight on Bryan

By
Mrs. Burgos

Bryan lives in Chester Springs. He lives with Grandma, Aunt "B", Aunt "T", Rea-Rea, and his cousin, Christian. Bryan has been here at Pickering Valley for about one year. Bryan's favorite subject is Art. His least favorite is Phys. Ed. He really likes learning how artists do their art. It is nice to know how to be like a real artist. He likes to draw robots. Sonic is one of his favorite anime characters to draw. His favorite books are drawing books and fact books. Bryan says reading these books are interesting.

Spotlight on Mrs. Burgos

By
Bryan

Mrs. Burgos lives in Chester County. She has lived there for twenty-four years. She has one husband, two girls, three cats, one bad dog, and one huge rabbit. She loves Reading and Science. Her favorite book is Edward Tulane, because it is about patience and love.

Snow Closing Information

The possibility of early dismissals due to inclement weather always exists and you will be notified by SchoolMessenger, however, in the event of questionable weather, please stay tuned on your radio to WCOJ (1420 AM), KYW (1060 AM), TV/Cable Channels 3, 6, 8, 10, and 11 or access the district website (www.dasd.org) for updated school closings.

Downingtown Area School District Web Site:

www.dasd.org

click on the "School Closing" link



Radio:

WCOJ 1420 AM
KYW 1060 AM
Code Number: 876

TV:

KYW/CBS TV-3
WPVI/ABC TV-6
WGAJ TV-8
WCAU/NBC TV-10
WIXF/FOX TV-29



E-mail: Sign-up with the Transportation department, at the district web site, to get automatic emails notifying you of weather related school closings. You can sign-up your work and home email addresses.

SchoolMessenger: Please make sure that you have updated your phone numbers through the district web site.

During weather situations, our school phone lines are extremely busy, so please avoid calling school unless absolutely necessary.

PICKERING VALLEY HOLIDAY EVENT

This year's Holiday Event was a fabulous success. Over 400 people attended the event on Saturday, December 8th. Guests found the cafeteria festively decorated thanks to Kirsten Jepsen, Kirsten Martin, Kristen Bassick, Lora Bagdasarian and Sue Ponto. Our hungry crowd was greeted at the door by Karen Wertz, Sue Ericson, Trayee Carr, Erin Flexner, Beth Madarang and Melissa Geoghegan. There were no long lines waiting to get your hot, delicious breakfast thanks to two serving stations and our volunteer servers: Caroline Hough, Becky Zablocki, Jennifer DeRocco, Sharon Ercolani, Amy Koser and Kara Reester. For our listening pleasure, The Lionville Middle School's Strolling Strings played holiday music throughout the morning. What a talented bunch of young people! Photos with Santa were a big hit thanks to our dedicated photographers Donna Nyce, Ankathi Rajani, Oviya Soundarajan and Jim Fox. The Holiday Shop was expertly run again this year by Jennifer Stueve and her group of volunteers: Shanette Bernard, Paula Comber, Maureen Howard, Joe LeBoon, Marie Dodds, Gretchen Fox, Gretchen's mother Barbara, Linda Scherzinger, Heather McDevitt, Lisa Saeger and Karen Wertz. Jennifer also had many 'alumni of PV' volunteers thanks to her daughter Miranda. Also popular were the "Make It and Take It" tables. The talented Emily Geoghegan, Madison Wachsmuth and Katie Anthony were ready and able to face paint all our younger participants. And thanks to Jeffrey Kiely for making PV Spirit Wear available for purchase. As the breakfast grew to a close, our tireless volunteers stayed and help to de-decorate the cafeteria and get everything put away.

We'd like to take a minute to thank the following:

- PVSA's publicity committee for making posters to advertise the event.
- Everyone who helped the baked goods table overflow with delicious treats.
- Karen Wertz who helped us both physically and mentally. (She is full of great ideas!)
- All the teachers who had the children make ornaments for the holiday tree: Mrs. Blust, Mrs. Burgos, Mrs. Cline, Mrs. Hixson, Mrs. Legath, Mrs. McGowan, Mrs. Meltzer and Mrs. Vanim.
- The Davish family for beautifully decorating the tree.



This event would not have been possible without the help of Celia Preston, Elisa Marx, Mr. Fernandes, Harry Myers, Ernie Faggioli and the entire maintenance staff.

We sincerely hope that we remembered everyone who volunteered their time and effort to help make the day successful and fun for the children. Our utmost apologies if anyone was omitted.

The co-chairs of the Holiday Event, Jennifer and Kathleen Wachsmuth



Pickering Valley "Easy Money"

New "Easy Money" Opportunity: Check out the Eagles Nest on Park Road. If you decide to buy something mention the code **PV08** and 10% of your purchase will be given to Pickering Valley



Box Tops: "The Great Box Top Race" is in high gear. As

of the end of January, Mrs. Gotro's class is in the lead. Mrs. Blust's class is in hot pursuit. Many other classes are making a good showing and not to worry, there's plenty of time to get those box tops in. The class with the most box tops collected by mid-May will win a pizza party. Complete standings are posted in the cafeteria.



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. Website: www.labelsforeducation.com

Recycle: Send in your old cell phones and used inkjet and laser cartridges. PV gets big \$\$\$ for these recycleable 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".

Genuardi's - 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.



eScrip - Log on to www.eScrip.com and check out the on-line mall. Register your credit card and every time you access your favorite store through the eScrip Mall and use your registered credit card, Pickering Valley gets a percentage of the sale.

ACME Receipts - Send in all your ACME receipts along with your box top and soup labels. PV gets 1% of the total...it adds up fast.

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.

Are you preparing for the 6th Annual Invention Convention?

It's easy. Determine a **NEED**. Come up with an **IDEA**.
Devise a PLAN. BUILD IT! This is how a great mind WORKS!

Participants are to come up with an original idea for an invention but it doesn't necessarily have to work! Present it as a diorama, model, poster or display! Have **FUN** with it! Work solo, with friends, or family. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*Convention Date: **Friday, February 29, 2008***

*Convention Time: **7:00 to 8:30 PM***

*Eligible Inventors: **Grades K through 5***

*Convention Place: **Pickering Valley***

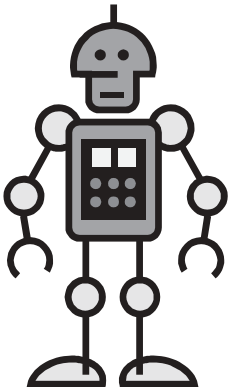
*Questions: **Sara Armstrong at 610-827-1731***

Diana Urbanski at 610-827-7017

*Awards for every Inventor!
Refreshments will be served!!*

Participants may arrive 30 minutes early to set up invention/project/display.

COME EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES!



February is All About Hearts!

This year's Jump Rope For Heart Event is being held in February, from the 12th to the 15th. Students will be participating in this event during their physical education class.

What is Jump Rope For Heart?

Jump Rope For Heart is a national educational fund-raising program that is sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

This program engages elementary students in a physical activity (jumping rope) while raising funds to support lifesaving heart and stroke research. Students ask friends and family for donations and receive thank-you gifts based on the dollars they raise. This educational program teaches physical fitness and promotes the value of community service to students and their families. It shows students that they can contribute to their community's welfare.

The students have also been learning ways to prevent heart disease, which is the number one cause of death in this country. Stroke is number three. Exercise, healthy eating, sleep, and not smoking are excellent ways of preventing heart problems!

Did you know?

- Regular periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity (3-5 times per week) enhance the health, academic performance, attitudes and classroom behavior of children at school. Physical education programs are valuable to students and teachers.
- A number of studies have demonstrated that increased physical activity is linked to better school performance.
- The American Heart Association advocates for P.E. and Health Education to be on the list of core subjects.
- Overweight adolescents have at least a 70 percent chance of becoming overweight adults.
- More than 9 million children are overweight and 23 percent get no exercise.
- American children ages 2-17 spend an average of almost 25 hours per week watching television —that's more than any other activity except sleeping.
- Some experts predict that for the first time in history, because of inactivity and obesity-related illnesses, children's life spans will be shorter than their parents'.
- Congenital cardiovascular defects are the most common cause of infant death from birth defects.

(Resource: American Heart Association)



ANY COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER?

email them to panthersroar@verizon.net

NEXT DEADLINE DATE IS: March 14, 2008
NEXT PUBLICATION DATE IS: March 27, 2008

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 29th from 8pm to 10pm

The 5th Grade Parent Committee is hosting an evening of fun at the Bowling Palace in Downingtown to raise money for the 5th Grade Williamsburg Trip.

Come enjoy an evening of fun with your family or friends! More details to follow - keep an eye out for a flyer in your child's backpack.

For more information, contact Brooke Jewett at 610-827-1469 or sbjewett@comcast.net



Lights! Camera! Action! The PVSA is happy to be putting on the third annual Pickering Valley Variety Show! We are going to Hollywood! *Pickering Valley Idols* will be performed on Friday, March 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the PV cafeteria. The show is non-competitive and is intended to provide an evening of fun, laughs, and lots of oohs and aaahs as we share our various stage talents with the PV community.

Preview night was held on January 23 and we have the makings of a great show in store! Rehearsals will be held throughout the month of February. So mark your calendars and save the date! This is a show you don't want to miss!

Questions? Feel free to contact one of the Variety Show co-chairs (Paula Hallenbeck, phallenbeck@comcast.net, 610-827-9160, Kelly Burton, kellyburton@comcast.net, 610-458-7099 or Jenny Campbell, leaseline@att.net, 610-458-9797).

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