

Pearl Rhodes Elementary

Weekly News

November 2, 2017



The Book Fair is Coming Next Week!

There will be a preview time on Monday morning, 11/6, for students and teachers to complete their wish lists. The fair will be open Monday – Wednesday from 2:30-4:30 for students and families to make their purchases and get lost in some good books.

Volunteers to help run the fair are still needed! Please contact Melissa Adamski, theangel136@netzero.net, if you can help out.

Veterans Day Assembly

PRES will be hosting local Veterans on Wednesday 11/8 @ 2:30 in the 5/6 classroom. All are welcome to attend.

Striving for Excellence at PVRs

The Academic Excellence Parent Working Group at the Pioneer Valley Regional School invites you to attend a COMMUNITY FORUM on Thursday, November 9th, from 6:30 – 7:30^{PM} in the PRES café to discuss proposed changes to the graduation requirements at Pioneer.

We will share information about our goals for college and career readiness and data on Pioneer's current strengths and opportunities for growth.

Middle and high school are just around the corner for your students and we are excited to share our vision for the future of Pioneer.

Jean Bacon,
Principal PVRs

Upcoming Events

November 6 - 8

Scholastic Book Fair

November 9

Community Forum,
6:30-7:30^{PM}, PRES Café

November 10

Veteran's Day observed,
NO SCHOOL

November 20

Picture Retakes

November 22

All school field trip to BES for
Turkey Trot, 9:00 – 11:30^{AM}

Early Release, 12:00

no lunch served

November 23 -24

Thanksgiving Recess

December 6

Early Release, 12:00

no lunch served

Parent/Teacher Conferences

PRES Holiday Concert, 6:30^{PM}
@ Leyden Town Hall

December 7

1:45 Release, Parent Teacher
Conferences



News from Preschool & Kindergarten

Happy November everyone! We've been busy learning about autumn in our classroom. We've been doing lots of reading about pumpkins, apples, and butterflies. Last month we had seven monarch butterflies that successfully changed from larva, to chrysalis, to butterfly. Students were so excited to check the tank each morning and being able to see these transformations firsthand really helped us in our learning about the life cycles. For a few friends the word metamorphosis has become a favorite word. As part of our learning about the life cycle of an apple tree we took a trip to Pine Hill Orchards. The students later enjoyed reuniting with our friends from first and second grade to celebrate apples and pumpkins with a fall fun day. We used our apples from the orchard to make apple crisp and apple sauce, and to make apple art prints.



In math we are learning about numbers and shapes. So far we have learned the attributes of circles, squares, and rectangles. We have been drawing them, participating in shape hunts in the classroom and reading about them in lots of books. Children are also learning to identify and count numbers. Each morning children take turns being leaders for our morning math routines. They get to lead us in the number parade (counting 1 to 10), in the 120 poster where we talk about numbers and make plus one equations ($22+1=23$), and in counting down to the 100th day of school. Students are also taking turns as the weather watcher and we are graphing the weather each day.

Since the beginning of the year we have been focusing on learning to identify and write our names. We have been learning to identify our names on nametags, we have explored several name writing practice papers, we have graphed our names and made a few different name puzzles. If we are already experts at our own names then we get to explore other classmate's names. We are learning that our names have a just right order to them and that names begin with one capital letter that is followed by lowercase letters.

In our handwriting instruction preschool has been focusing on using their pinchy fingers when holding their writing tools, and are practicing making marks on a paper and in filling in spaces while exploring different colors. Kindergarten is learning that the capital letters of the alphabet can be made by using a combination of big lines, little lines, big curves and little curves. Our handwriting book does not teach letters in alphabetical order, instead it groups letters together that have similar properties. We started by writing letters that only had straight lines in them. First we learned letter F. If we know F we can write E by adding another little line... We are currently practicing "frog jump letters". These letters are formed by making a big line down first and then jumping back to the top to finish the letter. Some examples are P, B, and R.

As many of you know we recently had a staffing change in our classroom. We have welcomed Mr. C into our classroom. The students have really enjoyed getting to know him and they enjoy having him read, draw, and play games with them.

Thanks you so much to all the families that have been supporting our class. Your donations of snacks and crafting materials have been amazing. We'd also like to say thank you one more time to all the families that joined us as chaperones for our fieldtrip. Your support is greatly appreciated and makes our classroom a better place.