

A LINE FROM PINE

March/April 2009

Pine Street Primary Center
Nancy Sparks, Principal



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Parent Reminders:

No School:

Tuesday, March 10
No School for Pine Street Primary Ctr. students on Mar. 10 - Fremont High School Juniors only attend this day.

Safety Issue:

We are requesting that parents who are going to come into the building, park their cars in the front lot, not in the driveway. Parents who are only going to drop off their children should pull up in a single line. The front driveway should not be blocked or 'plugged up'. Thank you for your help!

Principal's News

Dear Parents:

The forecast is promising, Spring is trying to find it's way. Soon, all of our snow piles will be gone and flowers will be poking through the soil. We are all excited to be outside without heavy winter coats, snow pants, and mittens.

At Pine Street Primary Center, we are celebrating spring with a Reading Month Celebration. March is the month when we celebrate the many ways reading enriches our lives. On March 6, we will kick off our reading celebrations with "March Around and Read" Day. This year's celebration features the books of Dr. Seuss.

Please pay close attention to communication that comes home to you at this time of year. Many activities are planned including half or no school days, the school carnival (March 13), as well as Wacky Week and Spring Break coming soon.

Enjoying books and being able to read well are two goals we have for every student. As a parent, you can support our efforts by reading with your child daily. Research has shown that reading with your child during the first five years has a dramatic lifetime effect on your child's ability to learn. Reading can take many forms from studying a cereal box to cuddling while you read a bedtime story. Most great readers are born on the lap of someone who loves them.

There is still time to volunteer at Pine Street Primary Center, at the Spring Carnival, or to be a part of our Elementary Parent Group. We appreciate all the ways you assist our efforts and enrich the lives of our students.

Happy Spring and happy reading.

Your Principal,

Nancy Sparks
Pine Street Primary Center
450 E. Pine Street
Fremont, MI 49412
Ph: (231) 924-3530

Fremont Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

Pine Street Birthday Book Club:

In honor of your child's birthday, help him/her choose a favorite book to donate to Pine Street's Media Center. We are happy to receive books also from students who have summer birthdays at any time or books for special occasions. Help us teach that reading is fun and that books are special!

Our newest members:

Aubrey Williams: Dance at Grandpa's

John Potter: Make Way for Ducklings

Carley Witteveen (2): Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire and

Good Night, Sleep Tight, Don't Let the Bedbugs Bite!

Katie McCastle: I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!

Drew DeBlake: Curious George Visits a Toy Store

Madison Garza: There's No Place Like Space!

Birthdays !

March Birthdays:

Samantha Ferrier	03-02
Dylan Cook	03-06
Elizabeth Curtis	03-07
Emily Curtis	03-07
Isaiah Hansen	03-09
Justin Johnson	03-13
Kylei Beecham	03-21
Nicholas Dunn	03-22
Edward Hallberg	03-23
Tyler Wimmer	03-26
Sean Smith	03-27
Jonathan Rodriguez	03/29

April Birthdays:

Melina Balder	04-02
Sierra Horton	04-03
Cody Visscher	04-12
Logan Stafford	04-18
Ava Ward	04-22
Benjamin Paige	04-23
Jonathon Brandt	04-30
James Enbody	04-30

If you missed ordering a Yearbook and would still like to order one, you can do so on-line. Visit the Geskus website at www.geskusphoto.com

A quick reminder to contact us to explain your child's absence from school. We will contact you if a call is not received.

BMI Screening:

Your child should have brought home a letter giving you information on the BMI Screening that is scheduled at Pine Street Primary Center on Wednesday, March 11. The purpose of this measurement is to screen children for possible weight concerns and related health issues using the Body Mass Index (BMI-for-age) chart. This method uses a child's weight relative to his/her weight. All measures will be taken to discretely safeguard your child's privacy. If you are interested in the results, please contact our nurse, Mrs. Sharon Folkema.

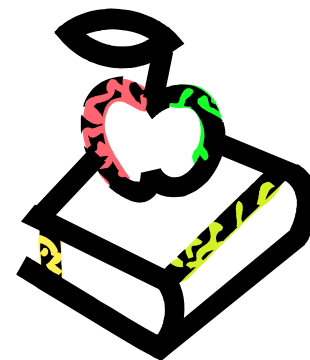
Counselor's Corner:

A Love and Logic Parent class is being offered in White Cloud for four weeks beginning on March 9. Call Deb Miller at 834-7382, Ext. 104 for details.

If you qualify for free or reduced lunch and you are interested in your child attending summer camp at a reduced rate, please contact Mr. Wojcicki at 924-7265.

Upcoming Events at Pine St. Primary Center

Friday, March 6	½ day of school - dismissal at 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday., March 10	No school for Pine Street Primary Students
Friday, March 13	Elementary Carnival at Pathfinder Elem. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 30 through Thursday, April 2	Wacky Week: 3/30 Hat Day, 3/31 Class Color Day, 4/1 Pajama Day, 4/2 Beach Day
Friday, April 3	No School
Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 10	No School - Spring Break
Monday, April 20, Wednesday, April 21 & Thursday, April 22	Annual IEP Meetings (those receiving Sp. Ed. services)
Monday, May 4 through Thursday, May 7	Parent/Teacher Conferences Book Fair (volunteers needed, please)



No Fee - State Funded Preschool Program

Building Bridges Preschool - Great Start Readiness Program

*No child will be discriminated against because of race, color
national origin, sex, age (within program guidelines), or handicap.*



Now accepting applications for the 2009 - 2010 school year. If your child will be 4 years old by December 1, 2009, and you would like to request the enrollment packet and screening for the Building Bridges Preschool Program in your school district, call **Neway Center, 652-3683 or 652-1638 or 652-3843.**

Don't let time run out!
Call today to be on the mailing list.

Photos from Pine Street:



Mr. Bob Cassidy, Pathfinder Principal, meets some of his future students.



Students are assisted with their mail during a recent trip to the Post office.



Again this year kindergarten students had the chance to meet the mayor, visit the fire department, see a police car, and tour the council chambers. The city hall trip provides a hands-on experience for students to learn about our local government, meet the people behind the scenes and see emergency equipment up close. Pine Street's staff would like to thank Mayor Rynberg, Officer Hendrie, Firefighter Bell and the staff at the city offices for taking time out of their busy schedules to educate our students!

We're on the web! www.fremont.net

Instead of Spanking.....

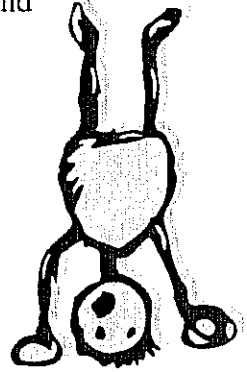
Don't	Do
Criticize or scold a child	Praise or reward them for desirable behavior when it is observed
Punish a child when tempers are flaring and everyone is angry	Remove the child or yourself from the situation for a few minutes to regroup and come up with a positive discipline plan
Hit children as a means of punishment	Use "time-outs" until everyone calms down and parents can communicate effectively with the child
Give all of your energy to your children	Take some time for yourself so that you have the energy to be an effective parent when you are with your children
Assume children know what is expected of them	Be kind but firm with your children, being very clear what the expectations are
Make all of the decisions for what will happen in your family	Give children choices so that they can have a sense of control, responsibility, and accomplishment



Temper Tantrums: Pick Your Battles!

Tantrums are a way for children to express their independence, their preferences, and their frustration at things that just won't go their way. Tantrums are a natural response, especially in children who are not yet able to use words to express their frustrations. Children display temper tantrums for a variety of reasons, including:

1. To test parent's limits.
2. To express their anger and/or frustration.
3. As a way of expressing fatigue, hunger, or pain.
4. To get the parent's attention.
5. To identify those who can be trusted.



Some parents are tempted to give in to tantrums, especially when they are tired, in a rush, or embarrassed by the child's behavior. Other parents fear that saying "no" and sticking with it will cause their children to dislike them. It is critical that a child understand limits, and that parents learn that being too passive is not always beneficial for the child.

Guidelines for parents:

1. Learn to deal with your own and others' anger. When we feel calm, we can model effective anger and conflict management.
2. Distract or redirect the child. Focus the child's attention on another object or activity.
3. Be prompt and brief with discipline. Use positive discipline techniques that teach children what is expected of them.
4. Try to discover the reason for your child's anger or temper tantrum. Knowing what causes the tantrum can help eliminate future episodes.
5. Avoid shaming your child about being angry. Children should be allowed to express all their feelings, whether they are pleasant or unpleasant.
6. Notice, compliment, and reward appropriate behavior. Teach your child to do the right thing to get attention.
7. Maintain open communication with your child. Consistently enforce rules and explain the reasons for the rules in words your child can understand.

Most tantrums come and go as children grow in their ability to use language and learn to solve problems using words. Pick your battles; some issues just aren't worth fighting over!



Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

March 2009



Pine Street Primary Center
Nancy Sparks, Principal

KID BITS

Spring fever cure

Does your youngster have spring fever? Help her go happily to school by showing interest in her day. *Example:* "I can't wait to hear about the games you'll play!" Also, plan special time together after school or in the evening. You could read a book outside or look for signs of spring (birds in trees, grass getting greener).

No littering

Show your child that he's old enough to start taking care of the earth. Let him tuck a plastic grocery bag into his pocket when you take a walk or visit a playground. He'll have a portable trash can for tissues and snack wrappers, and he'll learn to reuse shopping bags.

Muscles for writing

Children need strong finger muscles to write and draw. Give your youngster practice by letting her help you do things around the house. She can open a jar, wring water out of a washcloth or sponge, pour juice into a cup, or turn a lamp on or off.

Worth quoting

"Fall down seven times, stand up eight."

Japanese proverb

Just for fun

Q: What animal never needs a haircut?

A: A bald eagle.



What do you think?

What's the secret for raising a child who can solve problems and think creatively? Here are activities to try and questions to ask that will stretch your youngster's mind.

Encourage creativity with interesting projects.

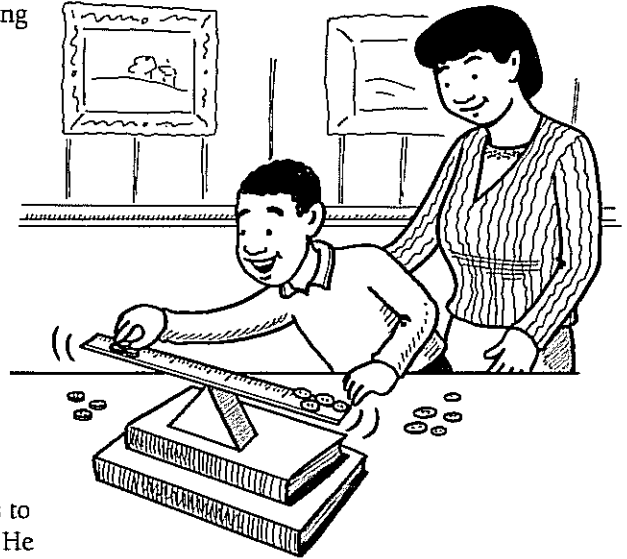
You might give your child a ruler and a block shaped like a triangle. See if he can make a seesaw and balance it using small objects such as pennies and buttons. Or give him graph paper and crayons to create a mosaic-style picture. He can color in one square at a time to make letters, houses, or animals.

Teach your youngster to solve problems independently.

If he misplaces his cup or pencil, for instance, you can ask questions to lead him to the missing item: "When did you last have it?" "Where were you standing when you were using it?" He'll gradually learn to work through the process himself.

Show your child that questions can have more than one answer.

Ask him to hold up five fingers. (He'll probably put up all the fingers on one hand.) Then, ask if he can show you five fingers in a different way. If he isn't sure what you mean, hold up one finger on one hand and four on another, or two on one and three on the other. Repeat the game with other numbers. ♥



Showing your love

"I love you!" Let your youngster feel your love with these heartfelt gestures:

- ♥ Mail her a note from your office to your house.
- ♥ Make snack time special by eating together on a park bench or in a blanket fort.
- ♥ When your child is playing, ask if you can play, too.



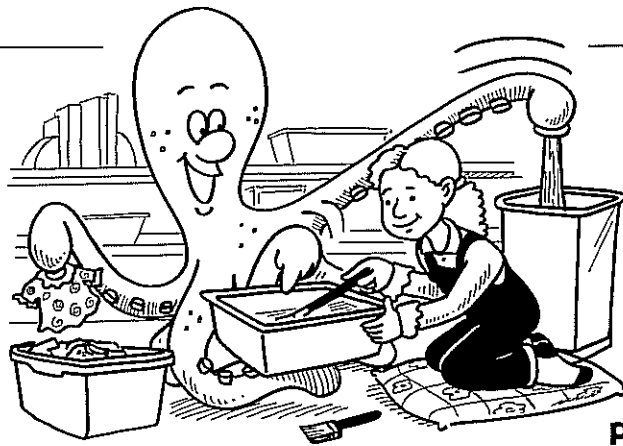
- ♥ Pull your youngster onto your lap, and tell her the story of the day she was born.
- ♥ Let her hear you say nice things about her to others.
- ♥ Start each day fresh. Even though your child misbehaved yesterday, let her know today will be great. ♥

Learn to be organized

Spring cleaning is a great time to teach your child organizational skills. You can also squeeze in some reading, writing, and math practice. Try these suggestions for storing school supplies and toys.

Home office

Teach your youngster about size and shape by helping her fit school supplies into containers. Give her empty, clean food



boxes and cartons. She might put paper in a rectangular cracker box and markers in a frozen juice can. Find a special spot in your house to store her supplies (a corner of the kitchen, a play table in her room). She can use her "office" for drawing, writing stories, or homework.

Playroom

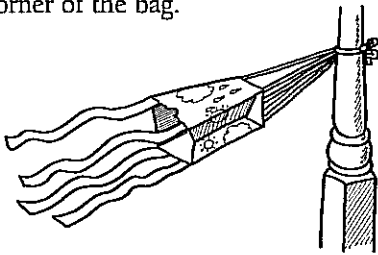
Encourage your child to sort items according to characteristics they share. Ask her to think of categories for her toys (pretend food, doll clothes, building materials) and to place each kind into a different bin. Then, help her make labels for the containers so she'll know what's inside. When she wants to play with a particular toy, she can read the labels to find it. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER Watch the wind blow

Make a wind sock with your youngster so he can "see" the wind blow in different directions.

Materials: paper lunch bag, crayons, crepe paper, four 2-foot pieces of string

Cut the bottom off the bag and let your child decorate it with weather-related pictures (clouds, raindrops, snowflakes). Then, cut four strips of crepe paper, each twice as long as the bag. Help your youngster staple them so that one hangs from each bottom corner of the bag.



Next, punch a hole at each corner of the top of the bag, and knot a piece of string through each hole. When all four strings are attached, pull them up and tie them together.

Hang the wind sock on a tree or porch column, and look at it each day. Explain that the wind sock blows in the direction the wind is moving. ♥

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Q & A

A balanced diet

Q: My daughter only wants to eat pasta and cereal. How can I help her branch out?

A: Start by explaining that everything she eats fits into food groups (milk, meat and beans, fruits, vegetables, and grains). To be healthy and strong, she should eat items from each group every day.

Together, read books like Lizzy Rockwell's *Good Enough to Eat*, or view a "food pyramid" designed just for preschoolers (www.mypyramid.gov/preschoolers). Your daughter will learn how many servings she needs from each food group.

Then, help her make food group charts for a few days. She can draw pictures for each food group (glass of milk, hamburger) across the bottom of a sheet of construction paper. When she eats something, let her place a sticker in the correct column. At bedtime, have her count the stickers for each food group. Did she eat enough servings from each one? ♥



PARENT TO PARENT

A timeline of my life

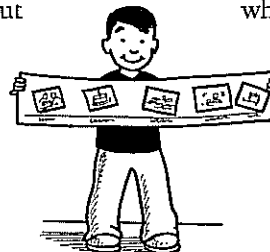
My son Jasper is making a timeline at school. All year, the students have drawn pictures of things they've done. At the open house, his teacher explained that the class project helps the children learn about sequencing.

So we decided to make a timeline at home. We went through our family pictures and asked Jasper to pick his favorites. He chose photos from his first birthday party, his first day

of preschool, and our family trip to the beach.

Jasper glued each picture on an index card. Then, I asked him to arrange them on a long sheet of paper in the order of when they happened.

Finally, I wrote dates below the pictures and had him dictate a sentence to go with each one. Jasper shared his timeline at school, and then we hung it in his room. I wonder what picture he'll add next! ♥



Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

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KID BITS



Junior researcher

It's never too early to learn research skills. When your youngster asks a question you can't answer, say, "Let's look it up." Then, search together in an encyclopedia at the library. You can also help your child find the answer online by typing key words into a children's search engine (www.yahookids.com, www.kids.click.org).

Stay up-to-date

Being involved in your youngster's education shows that you care about what she's learning. Remember to check her backpack every day when she gets home. Comment on each item ("What a colorful painting!"), and try to return forms the next day. Write important events (field day, spring concert) on your calendar.

Family sing-along

Singing together is an easy tradition that can help your family have fun together and stay close. Hold sing-alongs at home or in the car. You might take turns teaching songs to each other. Introduce your youngster to ones you loved as a child, and let him share songs he is learning at school.

Worth quoting

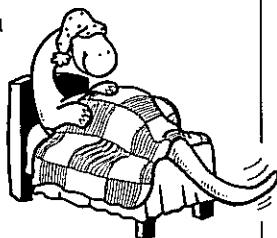
"You really can change the world if you care enough."

Marian Wright Edelman

Just for fun

Q: What do you do if you find a dinosaur in your bed?

A: Sleep somewhere else!



Be a helper

Helping others can be a real confidence booster for your child.

From household chores to spontaneous favors, being helpful can teach your youngster about teamwork, responsibility, and decision making.

Use teamwork. Ask her to stuff pillows into their cases while you put sheets on the bed, or to wipe the windows after you spray them. She'll see that working together gets a job done! *Tip:* If she makes a mistake, let it go. At her age, developing a good attitude toward helping out is more important than a job done perfectly.

Make helping a habit. Have your youngster take her plate to the sink after every meal and put dirty clothes in the hamper each night. Give her regular responsibilities, like watering plants or putting her toys away. She'll learn that helping out is something families do every day.



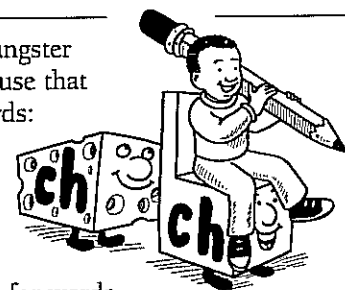
Let your child decide. Ask her to come up with a plan for putting groceries away. She might put cereal on one shelf, canned goods on another, and pasta and rice on a third. Or have her figure out how to make everything fit in the dishwasher (plates and pots on the bottom and cups on the top).

Go beyond chores. Doing things for others, even when it's not your assigned chore, is being truly helpful. Together, think of opportunities to lend a hand. She might help you babysit a friend's child or take in a sick neighbor's mail.♥

Steps to spelling

My name is B-l-a-k-e! Remember when your youngster learned to spell his name? Here are three ways to use that excitement as a springboard for spelling other words:

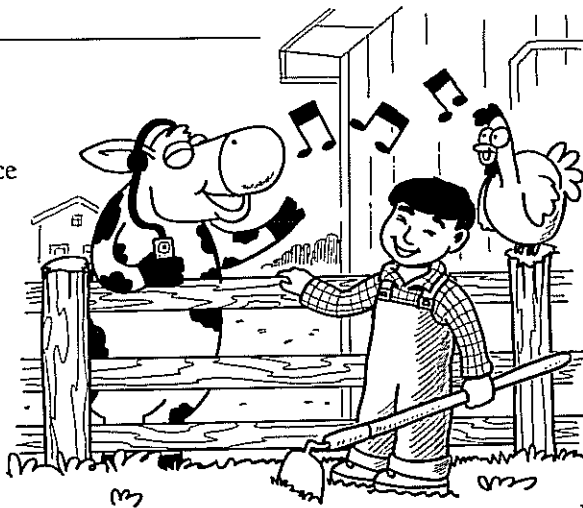
1. Help him put his name everywhere. Let him spell it with magnetic letters on the refrigerator. Or have him use paper and crayons to make a name sign for his bedroom door.
2. Together, look on road signs and product labels for words that begin or end with the same letter or sound as his name. For instance, *Charlie* might find *children*, *chair*, and *cheese*.
3. Use names of family members and classmates. When your child is learning to spell a word, remind him of a name he knows. ("We begins like *William*. What letter sound do you hear?")♥



Time to laugh

Did you know that laughter can reduce stress and make your child feel good? Keep your whole family chuckling with these ideas:

- Take turns choosing a joke of the day. When it's your youngster's turn, help him pick one and practice telling it. Then let him repeat it to others. He might call his grandmother or tell the joke to neighbors who stop by. He'll build speaking skills and strengthen his memory.
- Keep track of your child's favorite jokes in a notebook. Let him watch you write down jokes he has heard or read (try



tell him that "moo-sic" makes the joke funny because "moo" is the sound a cow makes, and "moo-sic" sounds like "music." ♥

books like *Knock, Knock! Who's There?* by Tad Hills or *Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?* by Jon Agee). Suggest that he illustrate the jokes, and then read the pages together.

- Laugh at your youngster's made-up jokes. Help him understand what makes a joke funny by showing him how words can have double meanings. Share this joke: "What did the cow listen to? Moo-sic." Then,

ACTIVITY CORNER Rainy day math



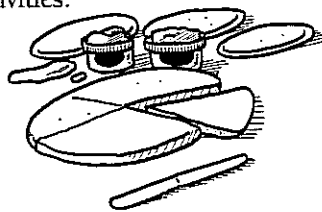
PARENT TO PARENT

Off to work

When April showers keep your child indoors, use the time for indoor fun with math.

Start by filling a cardboard box or plastic tub with materials like a deck of cards, buttons, pennies, math flash cards, blank paper, crayons, play dough, a plastic knife, dice, and buttons. Then, try these activities:

- Have your youngster lay out five playing cards. She can practice counting by matching the correct number of buttons or pennies with each card.



- Take turns making play dough pies and tossing a die to see how to divide them. Using the plastic knife, cut each pie into equal-sized pieces (example: roll a 4, and cut 4 pieces).

- Let her choose a flash card and draw a picture to match it. For $3 + 2$, she could make a sky with 3 stars and 2 clouds. Then, ask her to tell a story about her drawing. ♥

"Why do you have to go to work?" my daughter Rosa asked me one Saturday. I told her that adults work to earn money and also to enjoy doing something they're good at. She wanted to know about my job—I'm a radiology technician—so I explained all about x-rays.

After that, I made a point to show her people working. When I took her for a haircut, I told her that the stylists get paid for making people's hair look nice. At the grocery store, I pointed out the people stocking the shelves, filling our prescription, and scanning our order.

Now she notices workers everywhere: a police officer directing traffic, a postal worker delivering mail, a waitress taking orders. She's talking about what she wants to be when she grows up—and she understands better why I go off to work. ♥



Q & A TV alternatives

Q: My family watches too much TV. How can I get everyone to cut back?

A: Motivate your family to take part in this year's Turnoff Week, April 20–26, by putting away remote controls and planning fun activities.

Get everyone moving with an evening of roller skating or bumper bowling. On the weekend, go outdoors for a family game of kickball or catch. If your youngster misses

favorite television characters this week, check out library books about them. He'll discover that reading and acting out stories can be even better than TV!

When Turnoff Week ends, talk about how much fun you had. If you haven't set screen time limits before, now may be a good time. You might try limiting your children to one to two hours a day for all screen time, including television, video games, and computers. ♥



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