



Pine Orchard Nursery School News

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Newsletter editor and PONS vice-president ~ Kelly Pombo

August 2011

President Note

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Pine Orchard Nursery School Year. While we're all still in the swing of summer the amazing staff and Board have been busy preparing for the new school year and I can tell you all that we are very excited. We have already set some important dates for the beginning of the school year, please check out the events section and be sure to mark your calendars and hopefully find where you would like to volunteer.

I am honored to be returning as the President of PONS for my second year. Participation in the school is important as well as rewarding. I started on the board as a co-secretary when my oldest son, Ryan, was in the kindergarten readiness class. After an amazing Kindergarten year, he will be entering the first grade at Tisko this year. Since my son Max entered PONS, I have continued my participation on the Board as the President; he will be a member of the 2011-2012 readiness class. My daughter Jane will be following in her brothers' footsteps and entering the 3 year old class in the 2012-2013 school year.

As a Co-Op school, PONS offers you the ability to be involved with your child in their pre-school years. It's a wonderful opportunity to really participate in shaping your child's early education years both academically and socially. There are many ways to be involved: become a member of the Board (there are still open positions), attend meetings, provide refreshments for special events, lend a helping hand for clean up days and participating in fundraising events. We realize your days are busy but please consider volunteering in any way you can. It is a wonderful way to stay connected with your preschooler and meet other parents.

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new families at the family picnic in September. The board members and teachers will be on hand to answer any questions or concerns. We will also have a sign-up booth for our Annual Fall Festival. Please feel free to talk

with me anytime at school or you can contact me by phone (203.208.1794) or email (asvoets@comcast.net).

Thank you,
Alison Voets
President

Dates to Remember:

August 9 th	Board Meeting
August 20 th	Clean up Fix it Day
September 7 th	Family Picnic
September 12.....	School Starts
September 29 th	No school (Rosh Hashanah)
October 1.....	Fall Festival

Family Picnic

The family picnic is scheduled for September 7th from 5:30-7:00. The rain date is September 8th. Bring your own blankets and chairs along with dinner. Desserts will be provided. Come meet other PONS families and get ready for the beginning of the school year. It is always a great night.

Fall Festival

Start getting excited because the fall festival is coming. It is on October 1st with a rain date of October 2nd. We hope to have all the families involved with the fall festival. Volunteers are needed to help run all the activities on the day of the fall festival as well as for preparation activities the week before. So if you can't be there on the day of the festival there is still quite a bit you can do to help out. There will be a silent auction at the festival so any donations for the silent auction are appreciated. If you have any questions about the

fall festival or would like to volunteer to help then please contact either:

Nichole Penner (ncpenner@msn.com)

Christine O'Connor (coconnor211@gmail.com)

Clean Up -Fix It Day

With the beginning of school around the corner we need to get the school and playground ready for the children. On August 20th from 9:00-1:00 we need volunteers to come and help clean up the school and playground to get it ready for the next school year. If you are unable to come on August 20th there are always other jobs that can be done at your home. Just contact Judy Hall and she can help make arrangements for toys to be taken home to be cleaned or other jobs that can be done.

PONS Board

We are so excited to have such a fabulous group of people volunteer for the board this year. There are still several open positions that need to be filled. We are looking for someone to take the technology position. This individual assists with the school website and computer systems. There is also an open position for room parent representative. Lastly, we are looking for another volunteer to co-chair the maintenance position. Brian Allen has volunteered for maintenance but he would like to share the position with someone who will be able to attend the board meetings. There are monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of every month. All PONS parents are invited to attend the board meetings.

Reminders

Please remember to close both gates when dropping off children for school. Also please remember to leave a space between the front of your car and the fence so that parents and children have room to walk along the fence to get into the school. Lastly, please remember that we are a nut free school. Be sure to remember to bring snacks that do not contain any nuts.

Home Visits

Teachers will be calling each family in early September. If your child is new to PONS, one of the teachers will make an appointment to visit your child at home before school begins. At the home visit, you will receive information about the first week of school and a copy of the school handbook. If you have forms that have not

been returned before then, please have them ready for the teacher at the home visit.

Classes for the 3 YR Olds

Classes for the 3 year olds will begin the week of September 12th. On Monday and Tuesday (the 12th and 13th) the class will be divided into small groups for one hour orientation sessions for the children and parents. Teachers will have your child's schedule for the first few days at the home visit.

Kindergarten Readiness Class

Classes begin on Monday, September 12. Handbooks will be available at the family picnic on Wednesday, September 7. Please return completed forms at the picnic and come prepared with phone numbers so that you can complete the emergency card with the names and numbers of people to contact in an emergency, including your child's doctor. If you are not attending the picnic, you will need to complete an emergency card on the first day of school. Class meets from 12:00 until 3:00. Children should have lunch before coming to school. Snack will be served mid-afternoon

Health Forms and Emergency Cards

State regulations require that a current health form must be on file BEFORE a child can attend school. We must also have an emergency card with contact information for parents and the names and numbers of alternate adults to call when parents cannot be reached. Completed health forms can be mailed to the school over the summer. Emergency cards can be completed at the home visit or at the family picnic. Please call the school if you have any questions.

Snack Days

Parents take turns providing snack for their child's class, and are invited to stay and participate in the classroom on their snack days. A snack calendar for each class will be posted on the bulletin board and a copy of the snack schedule will be sent home. Room mothers will have details of the snack program for each class after school begins. **Please remember we ask for healthy snacks, and no peanuts, peanut butter, or foods containing nuts. Thank you!**