



September 2011

Welcome Back!



Welcome (or welcome back!) to the start of a new school year at PONS! It is such a pleasure to return to school and reconnect with our returning families while welcoming new families to this very special community. Hurricane Irene certainly disrupted the end of summer for most of us; but fortunately, we were able to open on time. A huge thank you goes out to our maintenance coordinator Brian Allen for organizing the effort to make that happen. Thank you to each and every one of our parents (too many to name!) who participated in our clean-up day, took home laundry or toys to wash, and even came to school on their days off to make sure the school and the playground were ready for the first day.

If anyone has any free time in the next week or two and would like to help spruce up the grounds around the front of the school, it would be very much appreciated. Kim Infantino has donated some plants and is working on sprucing up the gardens. Thank you, Kim! I'm sure she would welcome help. Pulling a few weeds and cutting back some of the plants around the fence would be a huge help. It would be great to have that done before the fall festival on October 1.

We certainly have had a successful start to the school year in the classroom. The teachers and kindergarten readiness children are glad to

be back, and the new children are quickly adjusting. We will send home periodic updates about classroom activities; but if you have questions, comments or suggestions please feel free to speak to one of the teachers.

It is hard to believe that our fall festival is less than two weeks away! Preparations are already well underway, but there is a lot to do in the next ten days. There are many ways to become involved, and I guarantee that you will have a good time. Parents are needed to help set up on Friday afternoon/evening (September 30), to work the day of the festival (October 1), to bake for the bake sale, and to donate or solicit donations for the silent auction. Please contact Nichole Penner at ncpenner@msn.com to volunteer or sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to contribute or solicit items for the silent auction, please connect with Christine O'Connor (coconnor211@gmail.com).

The fall festival will be fun for everyone who attends and will be a financial success if we can spread the word to families outside of PONS. Please post a couple of flyers or contact Heather Wells-Sweeney at hcws@att.net if you have any good ideas for more publicity. Thank you!!

Judy Hall, Director

Dates to Remember:

September 29th.....no school (Rosh Hashanah)
Oct. 1..... Fall Festival
Oct. 10..... no school (Columbus Day)
Oct. 11..... Board Meeting 7:15 pm
All parents are welcome
Oct. 25.....Teacher workday – no classes for children

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 Nicole Penner at ncpenner@msn.com

Snack Day Reminder

Thank you for the delicious and nutritious snacks you have been providing for the children. Please remember to bring in cups (5 ounce paper cups if possible) and napkins. Also please remember to write your snack on the calendar a week before your snack day. Thank you!

Safety Reminders

To keep all of our PONS children safe at school, we ask you please to:

- Be sure both gates are securely latched when entering or leaving the school
- Hold hands outside the gates
- Do not leave your car running in the parking area
- Do not leave children unattended in your car. (Other parents are often available to watch your younger children while you walk your child into the school).
- Leave a foot or two of space between your car and the fence to allow room for parents and children to walk in front of the cars in the parking area
- Have your child wear comfortable shoes that fasten and will stay on his/her feet while running and climbing on the playground. Crocs and flip-flops should not be worn on the playground.

Thank you!

