

back to  
School



## SEPTEMBER

- 9/20  
K-2nd Curriculum Night 6pm
- 9/22  
Tears of Joy Theater  
assembly 2pm  
3-5th Curriculum Night 6pm
- 9/27  
PTA Mtg. 7pm

## OCTOBER

- 10/4  
Candyce Bollinger Class  
6pm
- 10/5  
Late Start @10am  
International Walk to  
School Day
- 10/19  
Picture Day
- 10/21  
Teacher Inservice  
NO SCHOOL  
Fall Carnival 5:30-7:30pm

**WE'RE ONLINE**  
**pioneerpta.com**



## Presidents' Message

Welcome to the new school year! This is our first Pioneer PTA newsletter of the year (it's packed with lots of useful tidbits). I hope you will continue to look for important information regarding the PTA and Pioneer Elementary throughout the school year. The PTA is here to support and advocate for all the kids at Pioneer, and that works best if you stay informed and get involved. So please find a way to volunteer and participate. Most of all, please let your voice be heard by joining the PTA and coming to our first meeting of the year on September 27th at 7:00 PM in the school library. I'd like to thank you in advance for your contributions to the school community -- and for helping to make Pioneer the best elementary school in Washington State!

*Joe Ingaglia*  
*PTA President*

### A BIG "THANK YOU"! FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

We had a great turnout at the back to school social on August 30th. More than 11 gallons of ice cream and 25 liters of pop were served to over 200 kids and family members! The event was a chance to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones and learn more about PTA



committees. Thanks to Mr. Weeks, Mr. Benner and Mrs. Kiley for helping with school logistics and set-up. Also, big thanks to the many volunteer "scoopers" for their excellent service and to the 2nd grade Daisy Scouts for helping with trash pick-up and recycling. Finally, a very big thanks to Tony, Kira and (3rd grader) Sailor DeRito of Olympia Seafood Company for donating ice, storage and delivery services. Events like this are not possible without the help of many in our Pioneer Community. We appreciate you all!

### FALL CARNIVAL 2011 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 5:30-7:30PM



Halloween at Pioneer is going to be fabulous! Doors open at 5:30 for games, food, a cake walk, raffle and Olympia School District's finest Haunted House :-). So, come dressed in costume and bring a cake for the walk. You can expect carnival game tickets to go on sale soon. Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, haunted house and carnival games. Email Denise Krone, dlkrone@hotmail.com or Jeff Gruber, j.roegruber@gmail.com for more information.

### YEARBOOK

We just started back but it's already time to think about the yearbook. To order your 2011/2012 Pioneer yearbook, put a check in your child's backpack for \$12 made out to the PTA. Please write your child's name and teacher's name on the check or have the check attached to a piece of paper with that information. Last year we ran out so be sure to reserve yours early.

We need volunteers to either gather or take photos for your child's class. We need volunteers for Muzatko AM and PM, Calhoun, Martin/Brandon, Johnson, Venables, Welter, Pennington, Flynn, and Snyder. We also need volunteers to gather photos of special events. If you know you are going to be at an event please sign up for that event to take photos and gather any photos from others. Contact Leta Hankins to sign-up or for more info: leta.hankins@hotmail.com

**Daily Schedule**

**8:50**

doors open

**9:00**

school starts

**10:10-10:30**

upper pod recess

**10:35-10:55**

lower pod recess

**11:40-12:46**

lunch/SSR/recess  
2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>

**12:10-1:15**

lunch/SSR/recess  
K/1<sup>st</sup>

**12:40-1:45**

lunch/SSR/recess  
4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>

**2:00-2:20**

lower pod recess

**2:20-2:40**

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> recess

**3:22**

dismissal

Are you or a neighbor having tree work done? If so, please ask the arborist to donate the wood chips to the track at Pioneer. Please contact Denise Pantelis (dpantelis@comcast.net) for further information.

**ROOM PARENTS NEEDED!**

Looking for a way to help out in your child's classroom? Consider being a room parent. Room parents coordinate with teachers to help with class activities. As a room parent you may be asked to gather supplies for a class project or recruit parent helpers. You might also organize teacher gifts. Specific activities will depend on the needs of the teacher and the interests of the room parent. Classes can have more than one room parent and will be listed in the Pioneer Directory. If you are interested in being a room parent, contact your child's teacher or Denise Laflamme, PTA Volunteer Coordinator, at denise.laflamme@comcast.net. Thanks for your help.

**THE NEW WOR(L)D ON PASSPORT CLUB**

Pioneer will be taking a break from the Passport Club this year and developing a new geography enhancement program. Some of the features of the new program include a take-home folder that will be added to all year, personalized maps, and songs. A big feature of the new program will be grouping study countries by central themes to help make them easier to remember. Themes might include:



Where the big Cats Live, Myths and Monsters, and The Road to Pasta. Instead of monthly Friday testing at school, students will complete monthly worksheets at home, turn them in by a specific date, and volunteers will review them at home for positive feedback. This is a perfect opportunity to volunteer outside of school hours! Volunteers can also develop a study sheet based on a theme of interest. For more information, and to volunteer as a monthly reviewer from home, contact Erin McDonnell at 357-3915 or erin.m.mcdonnell@msn.com.

**SUSTAINABILITY TIPS SEPTEMBER 2011**

The warm and sunny days of September are the perfect time to be thinking about and preparing for cooler months to come. Why not enjoy that beautiful weather while weatherizing your house? Puget Sound Energy has some simple and easy suggestions for reducing your energy use this winter:

- \* Install inexpensive pipe insulation on all exposed hot water pipes and on the first three feet of exposed cold water pipe that is connected to the water heater.
- \* Use inexpensive weather-stripping and door sweeps to reduce air leaks
- \* Fill, patch or caulk holes in floors and ceilings connected to unheated spaces. Often, large holes can be found in closets. Weather strip or temporarily seal access doors or hatches leading to unheated upper floors or attics.
- \* Have your heating system inspected regularly by a professional to ensure it's not only operating efficiently, but safely, too.
- \* Clean or replace your furnace or heat pump filters in the fall and then regularly throughout the heating season— about every two months.

If you aren't sure what you can do to weatherize your home and/or reduce your energy use, expert help isn't far away. You can get advice and information from a PSE Energy Advisor! For more information:

<http://pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/GetReEnergized/Pages/Ask-an-Energy-Advisor.aspx>.



**Sept 22nd** School assembly "The Ugliest Duckling" at 2 PM. This is a life-size puppet show featuring a palatapus as the lead character teaching the importance of being yourself.  
**Oct 4** Parent Education with Candyce Bollinger, parent educator SPSCC, on parent child communication. 6:30-8:30 (childcare provided). Contact Susan Champagne at 561-4342 or champsus@comcast.net with questions or to reserve a spot.

## INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY WED. OCTOBER 5TH

Parents are leaving their cars at home, or abandoning them a few blocks away, and walking or biking with their children to Pioneer each day. Yes, for the warm weather. Yes, for more bike racks! Yes, for fewer cars in the school driveway! Yes, for family fitness!

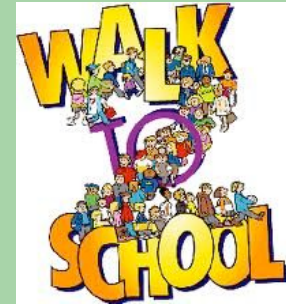
Once again, Pioneer will be participating in International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5th -- a late start day. This is a huge event for our students and competition is fierce among the various neighborhoods to see who can gather the largest crowd and thus claim Mr. Weeks as their walk leader.

Pledge cards will be distributed in the Friday folders on September 30th. Identify the intersection closest or most convenient to your home and return the cards on Monday, October 3rd. Mr. Weeks will meet students at the winning intersection and walk to school with the families.

International Walk to School Day boasts participation from across the globe. It also marks the official kick-off to the year-long Walk and Roll Wednesday program. Every day, if not every Wednesday, the PTA's Health and Fitness Committee encourages walking or biking to school. A little exercise in the fresh air (and perhaps a bit of drizzle) while chatting with neighbors and friends provides students a healthier transition from home to school.

The lively crowd that greets their children to walk or ride home at the end of the day is the hallmark of a neighborhood school and what distinguishes Pioneer from its peers. Face to face contact among parents helps strengthen the Pioneer community. Please help your student develop a healthy habit for life and make a pledge to participate in International Walk to School Day and Walk and Roll Wednesdays!

The Safe Routes to School Map and additional information on the Walk and Roll program are available on the PTA website. If interested in supporting the Health and Fitness Committee, please contact Denise Pantelis ([dpantelis@comcast.net](mailto:dpantelis@comcast.net)) or Stacey Brewster ([slbbrewster@comcast.net](mailto:slbbrewster@comcast.net)).



## SPECIAL "FEETURE" FROM THE HEALTH AND FITNESS COMMITTEE

### PIONEER TRACK STARS

Pioneer students are encouraged to walk or run along the wood chip track on the playground during recess. Tracking cards record each lap and once the card is full (5 miles completed), students receive 2 foot tokens that are kept on a chain. It's amazing and rewarding to see how much the kids enjoy such a simple activity--and it's good for them! Other goal levels rewarded include: Marathoners (26.2 token after completing 25 miles); 50-Mile Club (ribbon); and, the 100-Mile Club (t-shirt that has traditionally been signed by classmates and friends).

This year we are adding monthly track events with the goal of getting every student to participate by either walking or running. Here's what's on the calendar:

October 5 - Apple Run

October 21 - Pumpkin Run

November 23 - Turkey Trot

December 14 - Jingle Bell Dash

January 4 - Snowflake Run

February 8 - Heart Healthy Run

March 14 - Shamrock Stampede

April 11 - April Showers Run

May 2 - May Winds Kite Dash

June 6 - Where's the Sun? Run

If you are interested in cheering on the students please contact Denise Pantelis ([dpantelis@comcast.net](mailto:dpantelis@comcast.net)) or Stacey Brewster ([slbbrewster@comcast.net](mailto:slbbrewster@comcast.net)). Hopefully your schedule will allow you to attend at least one of these events.



For questions, comments, or concerns about the newsletter contact:  
[michelle.penrod@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.penrod@gmail.com)

**SHOP AND EARN \$ AND SUPPLIES FOR PIONEER**

Free money and products are available to schools through the Labels for Education, Box Tops for Education, E-scrip, and ink cartridges/old phones recycling programs. Three ziplock bags under your sink is all you need to raise additional funds for Pioneer, AND recycling keeps items out of the landfills! What could be better? **Take a few minutes this evening to register online for additional points--see program info below.**



Labels for Education can be collected from a variety of food products to support your school. Affectionately known as the "Campbell's labels," the points from the labels purchase items to support and enhance school activities and events. Send your labels to school with your child and sign up online for additional point opportunities. To learn more about the program and specific store programs and promotions, please visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).



Every boxtop adds to the money pot for school activities that benefit your child(ren). Collection sheets for kids are below the bulletin board outside the office. Coupons for products are available at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com).

***Ink Cartridge and Phone Recycling—Keep them Coming!***

Through ink and phone recycling efforts, hundreds of cartridges have been diverted from landfills. Send them in with your children, or drop them off in the school office (there is a collection bin in the production room). Consider setting out a box for collection at your office or church. (Just be sure to collect them.) Thank you for helping us get one more large box sent in this spring!



[WWW.ESCRIP.COM](http://WWW.ESCRIP.COM)

Please renew or sign up for Escrip today. Pioneer Elementary Group ID# 8565738

Register any one or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program. Participating merchants make contributions to your chosen group, based on purchases made by you. Your purchases are tracked and available to you online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning on your child's behalf!

Please let your extended families and places of employment know so that everyone can save for Pioneer kids!

THANK YOU!

**PTA BOARD CONTACT LIST**

- President.....Joe Ingoglia ([jingoglia@bgctc.org](mailto:jingoglia@bgctc.org))
- Co-Vice-President, Programs.....Susan Champagne ([champsus@comcast.net](mailto:champsus@comcast.net))
- Co-Vice-Presidents, Fundraising.....Kandra Barrett ([barrettkmb1@comcast.net](mailto:barrettkmb1@comcast.net))
- Secretary.....Heather Christenson ([htchristenson@gmail.com](mailto:htchristenson@gmail.com))
- Treasurer.....Randy Gunderson([rkgunderson@comcast.net](mailto:rkgunderson@comcast.net))



We're going **GREEN**  
 October's Newsletter will be emailed to families or can be downloaded from the Pioneer PTA web site [pioneerpta.com](http://pioneerpta.com)

