



## OCTOBER

**10/6**  
PTA Assembly "Friends"

**10/7**  
Walk to School Day  
Late Start 10am

**10/12-16**  
Fall Conferences  
Early Release  
Book Fair

**10/23**  
No School  
Fall Carnival

**10/27**  
Board Meeting

**10/30**  
Passport check

**Ongoing**  
PTA Membership drive



**WE'RE ONLINE**  
[pioneerpta.com](http://pioneerpta.com)

## Fall President's Message



There is no sneaking in with autumn. It just thrusts itself front and center. It may have been 90 last week, but not in the shade--and the leaves are still turning brilliant shades of red. And hints of freezing mornings already?

Well, the change in seasons fits right in with school. As we move into October, I hope you are looking forward to families and friends gathering for a great time with kids at our **Fall Carnival** later this month. (I can't wait to see what Denise does with the Haunted House this year! Anyone want to be a zombie? Really. She needs zombies. Email her at [denise.laflamme@comcast.net](mailto:denise.laflamme@comcast.net).)

And, as the nights get cooler, the **Scholastic Book Fair** presents a great opportunity to stock up on books for fireside reading with your kids. And bonus!...it helps build a well-stocked school library at the same time.

**Please stay healthy.** Two easy ways to work on this: **Walk to School** next Wednesday with your student(s) (and maybe commit to it all year long) and wash your hands—and your kids' hands! There is a lot of attention surrounding this year's flu season. Please consider whether flu vaccinations (for both the seasonal flu and H1N1) are right for your children. Home care tips and some Q&A are posted on the PTA board outside the office as well as on our Web site.

**Thanks** to the many of you who joined the Pioneer PTA in September; I look forward to continuing to increase our membership this month. My sincere gratitude also extends to all of you who are sharing your skills to benefit the Pioneer community, be it in Web design, recycling, event planning, designing and writing, classroom/library assistance, in the interest of children's health, passport, etc. Dare I say it takes a village? (No groans, please.) It really does.

**Enjoy your kids.**

Amy

## YES VIRGINIA, THERE IS A PURPLE POTATO

We have been harvesting and planting in the outdoor classroom. Potatoes came out of the ground in shades of purple, pink and white. Kale, collards, chard and flowers are a glorious sight right now, so come out back and see them. Students may "play" in the garden during recess with parent Erin McDonnell and, oh, do they love it! In winter we will feed the birds, write garden fairy tales and plan for spring. Lend your expertise in art or muscle with weeding: call 357-3915.



## 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

## Fall Membership Drive—There Is Always Room for You! Join Today!

Our fall membership drive is off to a great start—thanks to over 100 members joining or renewing Pioneer PTA memberships in September. Yay!

**If you haven't sent yours in, it's not too late!** Your membership support for our efforts to build a stronger community in support of every child is appreciated.

As a reminder, dues are NOT a fundraising activity for the club. They support the local unit minimally, but help fund important legislative and advocacy efforts in support of all children at the state and national levels. They also help provide training and support for local unit officers.

Membership forms are available on the PTA board outside the school office and will be available on the PTA website. Membership is open to the entire Pioneer community—and we invite everyone to join.

Dues: Individual (\$12) | Family (\$19, for two adults) | School Personnel (\$10)  
Questions? Contact Noha Gindy at 943-5559 | [ngindy@yahoo.com](mailto:ngindy@yahoo.com)

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### PTA events depend on volunteers!

If you can help, please contact Tiffin Moreno.  
753-6401 | [tiffin@pioneerpta.com](mailto:tiffin@pioneerpta.com)

**Fall Carnival:** Friday, October 23, 6-8 PM at Pioneer. Volunteers are needed to help organize the selling of cotton candy, nachos and corn dogs. We also need people to supervise the decorations and games and to be in charge of the bake sale and picture booth. This is a very popular event at Pioneer, and volunteers are necessary to make it successful!

**Fall Garden Help:** Volunteers are needed to pull weeds during school or after school and on weekends. Volunteers are also needed for morning recess to do light gardening with the kids and we are also looking for volunteers to teach the children about local birds during their recesses. If you prefer to donate, we are in need of hardy perennials that bloom in early spring or fall as well as some



**Escrip Coordinator:** We need one or two people to promote sign-ups and register Safeway club cards so that Pioneer can earn contributions from Safeway shopping. This is an easy way for Pioneer to earn money.

**Ink Cartridge Recycling:** There is a collection box in the office for parents to donate their used ink cartridges. These ink cartridges are then recycled to earn money for Pioneer. We need someone to be in charge of letting everyone know about the box and also to mail the cartridges to the company.

We are still in need of **Room Parents** for several classes, **Passport Checkers**, and **Book Fair Volunteers**.

**COME VISIT THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!**

Bring your friends, family & neighbors! Everyone is invited to the book fair! The fair will be going on in the library during conference week

October 12-16, 1-4 PM daily. Come and support our school library, and don't forget to bring in your decorated One for Books slips!



**DON'T MISS THE FALL CARNIVAL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 6-8PM**

**Costumes (let's see yours!) | Cake Walks | Haunted House | Games | Treats**

Free to attend. Purchase game/activity tickets at the door. Cash for food; \$ raised at food booth supports Cispus fundraising efforts. Also, come help make Pioneer's next collaborative art project -- your child can decorate a tile and be a permanent part of Pioneer for years to come (\$10 suggested minimum donation per tile - \$ goes to Cispus efforts) - run during event in 5th grades.

**PASSPORT CLUB: SHARE WHAT WORKS IN YOUR HOME**

Do you have a special way you prepare your student(s) for Passport? We would love to share your study methods with other families.

Please e-mail your ideas to [danner3@comcast.net](mailto:danner3@comcast.net), and we'll share the compiled ideas on the Web site and in future newsletters.

The Passport program is the brainchild of a grade school teacher and began at Centennial Elementary in 1994. Built out of enthusiasm for geography, it is now used in more than 130 schools in 15 states. It is designed to help students meet essential academic learning requirements for geography.



**PTA BOARD CONTACT LIST**

- President.....Amy Riggs (ariggs@pioneerpta.com)
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- Treasurer.....Karlyn Shannon (Karlynp@gmail.com)



**Pioneer Phone  
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Newsletter questions, comments or concerns? Contact Michelle at [michelle.penrod@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.penrod@gmail.com)



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