

MARCH

3/5
Teacher In-Service Day
NO SCHOOL

3/8-12
Classified School
Employees Week

3/19
Cinderella 6:30pm

3/20
Cinderella 1:30pm

3/19-26
Early Release Spring
Conferences

3/22-26
Book Fair in Library

3/22
School District board
Mtg. @Pioneer 6:30-8:30

3/23
PTA Assembly 10am

3/30
Science Fair 5:30-7:30pm

Fridays, ongoing
Get Up & Get Moving, 8-
8:50pm in Pioneer Gym



WE'RE ONLINE
pioneerpta.com



PTA GRANTS UPDATE

Since the November newsletter update, the following grants have been approved.

- Hardcover blank books and special crayons for third-grade student to publish and illustrate their own writing.
- A new state of state books to replace the library's current set, which is over 20 years' old. This set provides students with a necessary updated research and reference source, and provides an alternative to online research.
- In-room library book carts for the 4th grade classes to combat stress surrounding missing books.
- Walking Program incentives, serving children of all grades.

Also, head phones were provided to supplement the "Computer on Wheels" (COW) carts. This money came from the Computers on Wheels fund-an-item monies raised at last year's auction.

PTA ASSEMBLY FEATURING LOUIS PEAR, THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN!

Kids will have fun (and learn!) about the science of bubbles with a PTA-sponsored assembly on March 23 featuring Louis Pearl. Louis makes learning FUN by mixing science in with the pure thrills of his stage show. Parents are welcome to attend. This assembly will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium. Learn more about the Bubble Man at <http://www.tangenttoy.com/bubbleman/>.



PIONEER TO HOST SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Show the Olympia School District Board how much Pioneer parents care about what is happening in the district and in our school by attending their next board meeting. Pioneer will host the March 22 meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

PASSPORT UPDATE

Passport check for the March countries will take place on April 2 because of half-days during Spring Conference week.



Capital Playhouse
and Pioneer
Elementary 3rd, 4th
and 5th Graders
Present:

Cinderella

Performances March
19th at 6:30pm and
March 20th at 1:30pm
For more information,
contact Cassie
Welliver at 786-1516
or by email at
cassie_welliver[at]hot
mail.com.

Details can be
found on the
Pioneer PTA
website:
pioneerpta.com

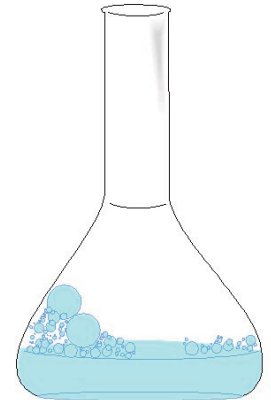


If you are interested in volunteering for any of these roles please contact Tiffin Moreno, volunteer coordinator: tiffin@pioneerpta.com or 753-6401. Please keep in mind that without your help, many events that are sponsored by the PTA will not be able to happen. Thanks for making our PTA great!

SCIENCE FAIR

The PTA-sponsored Science Fair will be held in the school gym on Tuesday March 30 from 5:30-7:30. Sign-up forms are due back by March 22 and display boards will be available in the office beginning March 15 for students to use for their projects. This is a voluntary event open to all students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Information about the 2010 Pioneer PTA Science Fair may be downloaded and printed from the PTA web site. To sign-up, download, print and fill out the sign-up sheet and return it to your child's teacher by March 16th. For worksheets, ideas and more information, download and print the Science Fair Information Packet.

Please contact Denise Laflamme or Brad Grimsted at 352-4735 or denise.laflamme@comcast.net for questions.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Auction: The Pioneer auction is going to be held on May 1st at Pioneer. The auction is our only fundraiser for the school so it is very important that it is successful. As the date gets closer there will be many areas in which help is needed. Currently, the main concern for the auction is procurement. Anyone interested in helping with procurement, knows some places to procure from (connections), or would like to be given a local business list of 5-10 places to contact can get in touch with Sonia Allen allensc@comcast.net, Kristina Hermach kristina.hermach@comcast.net, or Nicole Williams repwilliams@comcast.net.

Students on Stage: Performances will take place on two dates, March 19th & 20th at The OHS Performing Arts Center. Many volunteers are needed for this event on both March 19th & March 20th. We are looking for concessions sales, cast photographer, backstage crew (helping with costumes & props), strike crew (afternoon of the 20th). We will also need people to buy ads and "Bear Hugs", and business sponsorships, or people who are willing to seek them out. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Cassie Welliver, the committee chair, at cassie_welliver@hotmail.com.

Book Fair Volunteers: The spring book fair is held during conference week. Volunteers are needed for set up on Friday, March 19th, from about 3:30-5:30 P.M. Volunteers also are needed to work the register in 1-hour shifts from the hours of 1:00-4:00 P.M (1-2, 2-3 & 3-4) from March 22nd – March 26th. If you would like to volunteer, please email Jeanne Tranum, the committee chair, at Jeanne.Tranum@cbolympia.com.

Judges for Science Fair: The PTA-sponsored Science Fair is scheduled for Tuesday March 30 from 5:30-7:30 in the gym at Pioneer. Some AP science students from Olympia High School will be helping to judge science projects, but we'd also like to have parents help judge since this is such a popular event. Judging is non-competitive and we provide volunteers with the 1-page evaluation sheet to go over with each child. No experience is necessary. Please contact Denise Laflamme at 352-4735 or denise.laflamme@comcast.net if you would like to be a Science Fair judge.

Garden Help: With the spring-like conditions we are currently experiencing there is help needed in our school garden. Volunteers are needed for after hours clean up and to help the children plants and dig during recess time. We are also looking for a few 5th grade parents to assist the 5th graders in making stepping stones. To volunteer please contact Erin McDonnell, the committee chair, at erin.m.mcdonnell@msn.com.

WALKING PROGRAM AND WALK AND ROLL WEDNESDAYS

At the end of February, Principal Woods sent home a map of the Pioneer service area to help families plan out a safe route for walking or biking to school. Also in that handout were important safety tips and neighborhood contacts for families interested in biking or walking together to school. We can promote the health of our children and our very local school environment by walking or riding to school. Look for the “pace car” and “anti-idling” pledge forms at the Science Fair on March 30th. We also hope to have an IT bus visit Pioneer by the end of the month to give students an opportunity to learn about public transit in Olympia.

All of the participants in Pioneer’s Walking Program have logged over 4000 miles this year. Every single student in Mr. Shepard’s 4th grade class has walked at least 50 miles this year by making it a part of their daily before-lunch routine. We also need to give a big shout out to the 6 students thus far who have reached the 100-mile mark: Andrew M., Jaylen M., Avery R., Sierra B., Drew T., and Evan W. all of Mrs. Barber’s 3rd grade class. Congratulations!



STATE OF THE ARTS: WASHINGTON’S CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE K12 ARTS EDUCATION

The Washington State Arts Commission recently released a new publication, K-12 Arts Education: Every Student, Every School, Every Year, which reports on the current state of K-12 arts education in Washington.

The booklet is based on surveys of principals and specific site visits during the 2008-2009 school year and comments on the frequency of arts instruction, those who provide instruction, the varying levels of curriculum development, and more. It states that:

Though the arts are recognized as a core academic subject in Washington State and across the nation, the level of K–12 arts education in our schools is often inadequate. Less time and attention are given to the arts compared to other core subjects; support and resources for teaching the arts varies widely from district to district and from school to school.—Arts Education Research Initiative 2009

One of this year’s PTA goals is to seek ways in which we can provide art and music experiences for our children at Pioneer. The PTA Art Committee has met several times this year with the intent to identify currently available arts opportunities at Pioneer and then report to the PTA Board with its findings and possible recommendations for enrichment.

As part of this effort, we are interested in learning what special talents and knowledge that our Pioneer community has to offer--as it relates to the arts, of course, but also in general. And most especially, we would like to know if you are willing to share your talents in some small way in the future. You may direct your responses to PTA President Amy Riggs at ariggs@pioneerpta.com or to PTA Arts Committee Secretary Carrie Cortés-Monroy at ccortes-monroy@msn.com

Finally, if you are interested in reading K-12 Arts Education: Every Student, Every School, Every Year it is available online as a PDF at www.arts.wa.gov/education/aeri.shtml



Don't forget to keep sending in your Box Tops!

For questions, comments, concerns about the newsletter, contact:
michelle.penrod@gmail.com.

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING...

The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way! At the Book Fair you will find the latest and finest titles for kids, as well as books of interest to parents. Mark your calendar and make sure to stop in during conference week. And, you can contribute books to your child's classroom library through the classroom wish list program. The Book Fair is a great way to get everyone excited about reading. See you there! For more information check out our Pioneer Book Fair web site:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/pioneerolympia>

All Book Fair Volunteers! Love books? Volunteer to help at the Book Fair. You can decorate and set up, help kids select books, work on refreshments, give a book talk, or help pack up. There are lots of ways to participate. Check the book fair web site for more details or to sign-up.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART MARCH 28TH

Jump Rope for Heart will be held during PE classes the week of March 28th (donation envelopes to be handed out to students next week). So whenever the student has PE that week, (Tuesday or Thursday) they will be jumping. The collection envelopes will be due at that time also. However, regardless of who is collecting and who is not, everyone will participate. There will be thank you gifts for students who raise donations!



Jump rope for heart is an educational fund-raising event. It's held successfully each year in thousands of elementary schools across the nation by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Jump Rope For Heart raises funds for medical research and for programs such as HeartPower! that help prevent heart disease and stroke. Jump Rope For Heart teaches students the benefits of Physical activity, how to keep the heart healthy, and that we can help save lives right in our community.

AUCTION ITEMS SOUGHT

Are you doing a little spring cleaning? Finding things you never used that might make a good auction item or part of a basket? Keep us in mind! Please contact Sonia Allen at allensc@comcast.net to donate or drop your items off in the office. Thank you!



**Pioneer Auction
on May 1**

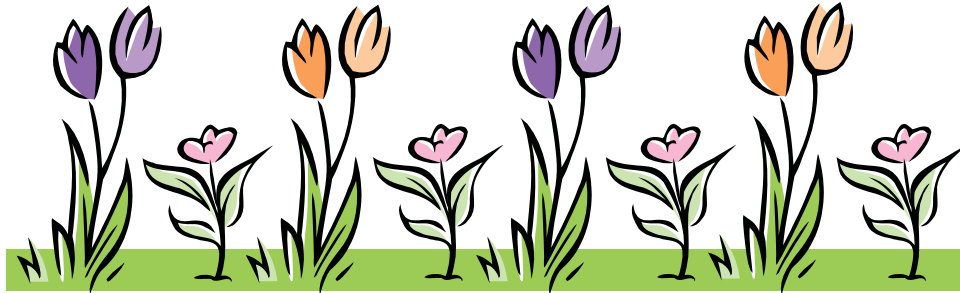
See attached
flyer for more
details.

PTA BOARD CONTACT LIST

- President.....Amy Riggs (ariggs@pioneerpta.com)
- Vice-President, Programs.....Ryan Hall (rhall@pioneerpta.com)
- Vice-President, Fundraising.....Julie Woods (cjwoods1218@comcast.net)
- Secretary.....Elizabeth Hughes (elizabeth@pioneerpta.com)
- Treasurer.....Karlyn Shannon (Karlynp@gmail.com)

We want to hear from you!

Please e-mail ariggs@pioneerpta.com or leave your comments in the PTA box in the office. Your name is appreciated so that we can respond to your comments.



PIONEER ELEMENTARY PTA'S

SPRING INTO AUCTION

FUNdraising Event

SATURDAY, MAY 1ST
PIONEER ELEMENTARY

5:30 PM Doors Open

6:00 PM Silent Auction Begins

\$10 per person

Admission includes appetizers, desserts, espresso & Italian sodas

Ticket sales begin Monday, March 29th

Look for ticket order forms March 26th in Friday Folders

After April 16th & at the door - \$15 per person