



# Pine Hill School

PINE HILL SCHOOL/  
RNSB, INC.

## Parent Newsletter

*MAY*  
**2010**

Volume 3, Issue 9

**Featuring K-12 Programs**

### Special points of interest:

- May 4: 4:30pm School Advisory Committee meeting
- May 5: Mid-School AIMS testing (Math Counts)
- May 7: Operation Graduation & Alcohol Awareness Day
- May 7: 7:00pm Head Start End of Year Celebration @ PHS gym
- May 8-10: Senior Class field trip
- May 9: Mother's Day
- May 11-12: Senior Class FINALS
- May 12: MS/HS Dream Makers Graduation, Albuquerque
- May 12: 6-8pm FACE center-based students to Kindergarten TRANSITION CEREMONY
- May 13-14: Mid-School FINALS (2-hr blocks)
- May 14: 1:00pm MS/HS Awards Assembly & Transportation awards for parents
- May 15: 1:00pm PHS GRADUATION DAY/Reception in gym following
- May 17-18: HS FINALS (Grades 9, 10, 11)
- May 17: 2-2:30pm Elem/Mid-School Transition Ceremony (5th to 6th grade)
- May 18: 1:00pm Mid-School Rite of Passage for 8th Grade @ gym
- May 19: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR GRADES K-11

### Gifted & Talented (Grades 4th-9th) by Miss Hutchison

The 2009-2010 school year was exciting for the Gifted & Talented Program. Some of this year's unit topics included New Mexico Plant Life, Crystals, Slime, Origami, Magnets and

Batteries, Electricity and Circuits, Space and Rockets, Vehicles, Airplanes and Career Investigation. Each of the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Goals and Objectives were

integrated into these self-selected lessons and activities. I would like to thank the Pine Hill Parents, Students and Staff for their cooperation and support to make this year a success!

## High School Social Studies by Catherine Long

All social studies classes have current events which has made them aware of the different kinds of news available.

Twelfth grade economics classes have been exposed to the economic problems facing the United States today. In studying economics, we have tried to relate how that will affect them in the future.

New Mexico history classes have completed beautiful posters hung in the Kiva area showing the Sacred Mountains and/or the National Parks of New Mexico.

World History classes have studied maps and events from world history to help them understand United States history as Juniors.

Unites States history classes concentrated on the major events from the American Cold War to the present. When they began their testing before Spring Break, we were discussing the Cold War. We wish them good luck in all of their subjects in passing the SBA.

This school year 2009-2010, we had improvements in all areas in reading and math in my 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. I will truly miss my students when they go on to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Jackie Martinez

### First Grade by Ms. Marlyn Werner

My students have improved so much this year. Their reading scores are up. Ms. Limalima and I exchanged groups and now my reading group is reading on first grade level. When Adrian came out last

week she said my group has made excellent progress. That made my day. Also, my students are making progress in their math. Just ask Mr. Nestor about the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. This has been a great year for me.

### ENGLISH CLASS

*María Alma A. Bitoy*  
Secondary English Teacher

Learning together in my English Class has been fun and productive. My "ah ha" moments were those times when most students have improved their writing and speaking skills. In the past months, my students learned how to use techniques on how to begin a paragraph with thesis statement. My students were exposed to the four (4) types of writing or rhetoric like, Narrative, Descriptive, Expository and Argumentative. Most of them can organize their thoughts clearly and well. Rhetorical or visual support was effective in making their points. Though in developing descriptive poetry was hard form them, still they were able to get through it. Likewise, in the speaking area, my students enjoyed much in

delivering speeches with putting life in their voice and the eye to eye contact with the audience. My students had a great time presenting role-playing, panel discussions, debate and other types of speeches like, Manuscript, Extemporaneous, and Impromptu Speeches.

However, learning might be enjoyable to some and less fun for others, yet they were able to cope with things imparted to them. The problem I faced which is inevitable in my English class was the attendance and the behavior of my students. Some slacked off in the past weeks and sometimes dilly-dallied the assignment. If they are around, sometimes, they are also checked out before the day ends. All I need as an English teacher is that, our students must be motivated to be productive in class. What matters most is to give them the opportunity to be successful in the future.



## Fourth Grade by Ms. Connie Schallau

The students read a variety of genres this year. Selections that students said that they particularly liked were Train to Somewhere, The Hot and Cold Summer, and Into the Sea. They also said that the biographical selection Family Pictures was very interesting and that they enjoyed sampling the nopal cactus that was mentioned in the story. The consensus was that the cactus tasted like a combination of a green chili and a pickle. The students also enjoyed

making a life-sized model of a komodo dragon when we read a selection about one of the only two poisonous lizards on Earth. Students also acted out the play Blame it on the Wolf. They said they would really like to be able to do more plays and Readers' Theater.

In math, the students said they enjoyed making input-output machines, plotting African animals using ordered pairs on the x/y axis, and making tree diagrams to figure out all possible combinations. They

also enjoyed making nets and models of a variety of three-dimensional shapes.

Students said they wished that they had been able to do more science, writing, and self-selected reading for Accelerated Reader. They liked the excerpt from the Cricket in Time Square that we read in our Scott Foresman reading program, but wished that the class had had the opportunity to read the entire book.



Having spent over 20 years in the classroom, I arrived at Pine Hill School with some trepidation.

How would an old veteran teacher fit in?

I did not have to worry. The staff and administration welcomed me warmly. Many went out of their way to guide me through the year.

But it was the warmth of the students that surely motivated me to give my all to their learning. Everyday, I hear "please" and "thank you". I see respect for elders. I see comfort given and support for each other.

I hope to stay at Pine Hill Elementary for many years. It's a terrific place to learn and teach.

### First Grade by Amelia Limalima

As a teacher in first grade, there are a lot of positive things that happened this school year as I have observed. To mention a few of some top positive things:

1. My students have improved a lot in reading and math
2. 91% of my students have reached their goal, "BE A BENCHMARK READER".

Seldom have we had behavior problems.

**In our SRA Reading Group, we were able to complete our textbook and workbook before May. Everyone in this 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is now reading at grade level. Good job and Congratulations!! By Trudy Wilson**

Plans were made to do our part for Earth Day. We were going to pick up trash in places where it did not belong. But Mother Nature had her way and we woke up to snow on the ground! That part of Earth Day had to be postponed, but not the wonderful hamburger and hot dog barbecue we had for lunch which the Junior Class cooked for us. Most of us from the Middle and High School went to the gym where Mr. Trujillo's music and games of basketball were played. There were smiles all around and cooperation. Wow, did we have fun! By Robert McIntire's class

## Physical Education Program by Tom Trujillo



The Physical Education Program is excited that we had outstanding attendance and attitude this year. We would also like to thank the staff at the Wellness Center by allowing us to use their fine facility and working with us in testing all Elementary students this year. We tested in the Fall and will have another test in May to

see the differences in height, weight, flexibility and strength assessment. The results of the tests will be sent home with all elementary students at the end of the year. Mid/High School students had a great year with one student losing over 20 pounds and sticking to his work out routine. Students worked hard

and had fun.

Athletically, we finished the year strong in all sports and have virtually all of our student athletes returning. Pine Hill will be in a new district next year which is 6A. Other district teams will be Ramah, Gallup Catholic, Shiprock Northwest and Tse Yi Gai High Schools.

**Science is facts; just as houses are made of stone, so is science made of facts; but a pile of stones is not a house, and a collection of facts is not necessarily science.**

*Jules Henri Poincaré  
(1854-1912)*

*French mathematician*

## Science High School Department My "AHA" Love and Soul in Teaching

By Teresity Inferido, Ph.D., High School Science

One of the key elements to become a better teacher is to stimulate the mind and heart of the learners. Teaching with the heart and soul is like weaving the beautiful tapestry of the learner's destiny in education. Along the way, I see immeasurable joys, fulfillment and life filled with awe and admiration.

Guided by the school's vision, mission, curriculum in science based from the State Standards and Benchmarks, I tried to reach out every single student to learn by doing, inspired by differentiated instruction. Reaching their heart and soul to learn is not that easy but hearing from them saying "I got it" filled my life with joyful "aha" moments. I feel I am completely fulfilled being their teacher. The satisfaction of teaching 35 years is renewed every day. This means more energy is ready for teaching and more resources from the mind are used. I know I cannot stop thinking and talking about my class when I knew they learned a lot in class.

I reflected and thought that, if only the true essence of parenting in well practiced, education at home can be one of the keys for students to succeed in school. The constant care, attention, and encour-

agement from the parents are essential components of parenthood. To nurture children's character, their mind and their soul at home, every day are as important as life itself! Consequently, attendance would never be a problem. Drugs, alcohol, and other issues would be far away from the children. Improving, learning and adequate yearly progress will be better achieved. Their parents are their models in shaping their educational destiny. The big "aha" moments would be for everyone, not only for me.

Finally, one of the most interesting stories that I can tell during my teaching here in Pine Hill School, is when I started fashioning flowing juices to pop up sense of humor in different classroom situations. Even in difficult times, I tried to find reasons for students to laugh with me and at myself. As an old proverb goes, "If you don't laugh, you will cry". Students are amazed that I can deal with them and have fun while learning even with my old age. Most of the time, hands-on activities are fun and students feel comfortable sharing their learning with me and with their classmates. In teaching with love and soul, the "Aha" moments are countless.



## Sixth Grade by Mr. Thomas

Congratulations! The following students' essays have been accepted to be published in a book, "What Is Important To Me!"

1. Alvina Johnson
2. Roy Henry III
3. Raine Yazzie
4. Colleen Henderson
5. Sophilia Sherita Martinez
6. Ernlene Natan
7. Bennalyn Nez
8. Leanne Lee
9. Kendra Begay

10. Randolph Alonzo
11. Ashley Martine
12. Fallyn Kelsey
13. Abigail White
14. Joshua White
15. Kyle Limalima
16. Ukisha Maria

These young authors are in Mr. Thomas Creative Writing class. Creative Communications is celebrating or highlighting good writers. This is a Creative Communication Anthology from Logan Utah. My students have been participating in this writing process for 2 years here at Pine Hill.

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## Learning Mathematics

### By Pinky C. Escala, HS Math Teacher

Research has shown that in order for students to retain at least 50% of the information in a lesson, they must be active participants.

Hands-on activities can increase the retention rate to 75%. This semester, we did a lot of hands-on activities. Students love to manipulate improvised devices in learning the lesson. I also added games for fun during instruction.

During the brainstorming and discussion, I usually ask students to do board work and explain their work to the class. For a certain period of time 'students' become 'teachers'. This is the most effective method which students teach others which

increase the retention by 90%. This forces students to organize their ideas and learn more about a concept. Complex thinking is occurring when you teach a subject to someone else.

Group activity, where students are questioning and exploring new ideas, helping each other make sense of the concept being learned.

Generalizing the concept is what they do in writing the reflection, answer the question "What have I learned?" Students will express their own ideas based on what they learned.

Learning math is not easy; it is a building block of knowledge that you must have a very good foundation and

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## Summer School begins May 24 & ends June 18.

an optimistic view of learning it. Having the best strategy and mentioned methods are not enough. There are a lot of factors affecting student learning and I cannot do that by myself. However, support from the parents, administration, and friends and within him/her can make him/her good, better and best in Math. Adding all these ingredients: Positive attitude, Optimistic, Strong determination, Encouragement and motivation can make him/her successful.

Let's do it and don't give up.

(Source: *The Learning Pyramid*)





## OTHER "SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Friday, May 7, 2010: Operation Graduation @ 9:00 a.m. (for PHS Senior Class)
- Friday, May 7, 2010: Alcohol Awareness Day, presentations throughout the morning for Mid/High school students.

For the **Parent Center** we have the following activities scheduled in May 2010;  
Parent Presentations by Gayle Millburg with Leaning Keys LLC and these presentations will be in the School Library from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM each evening.

- May 3, 2010 - 6 Trait Writing and the Writing Process
- May 10, 2010, Brain Development in Children
- May 10, 2010 Unite for literacy Training for Parents at the Pine Hill School Library. It will start at 4:00 PM and refreshments will be available.
- May 17, 2010, Disciplining with feedback not praise

Any questions, please call Gilbert Maria, Parent Educator at (505) 775-3242 Extension 2230. Thank you for cooperation.

### HEAD START

- May 7 - Parents' End of the Year Celebration (Gym at 7:00pm)
- May 7 – Last Day of school (1/2 Day for students to allow parents to prepare)
- May 7 – Last Day for TA's
- May 14 – Last Day for Teachers

### FACE events:

- 5/7: Last FACE CB class day & HB home visit day
- 5/10: HB & CB Field Day/Family Circle 10-noon; last FACE Store 12:30-2 pm
- 5/11: FACE Open House + 2010/11 pre-enrollment @ CB classrooms 10-noon
- 5/12: CB to Kindergarten Transition Ceremony 6-8 pm; location TBA
- 5/24: HB Field Trip to Albq. Zoo; time TBA

**Education is our Strength!**

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We're on the Web!

[www.phwarriors.cc](http://www.phwarriors.cc)

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