Principal Newsletter

Pine Grove Elementary ~ October 2026



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you so much for taking the time to connect with our teachers during parent-teacher conferences prior to fall break! These conversations are invaluable for celebrating the incredible progress your students are making and for strengthening the connection between home and school.

Please remember that our doors and communication channels are always open. If you ever have questions or concerns regarding classroom instruction, small group activities, or your child's overall experience, don't hesitate to reach out directly to our staff—we are always here to help.

We are deeply grateful for our supportive community and for everything you do to prepare your children to learn each and every day.

We're looking forward to a fantastic, event-filled second quarter!

Kelly Coonts
PGE Principal



Fun Run Prize Day!

2nd grade won the prize of sliming the Principal!



National Elementary Honor Society represented at Chap's Homecoming Parade!



Panther Play & Connect Card

Our fabulous School Counselor, Ms. Strange, introduced Panther Play & Connect Cart at recess! A fun way for kids to make new friends and try something new at recess.

DCSD and ME at Pine Grove Elementary

We are thrilled to participate in a new pilot program with DCSD! Starting **November 30th**, Pine Grove Elementary will host our very first **DCSD and Me at Pine Grove**.

This special time is designed for caregivers and their little ones (ages 0–2) to gather at Pine Grove for story time and a fun craft activity. Open to all families in the Parker area, this initiative helps us build connection with our youngest community members and show local families what makes DCSD neighborhood schools so special. Please pass this along to your friends and neighbors—we'd love to see them there!



🎵 What happened to elementary instrumental music in DCSD?

Superintendent Erin Kane explains why instrumental music was cut from elementary schools years ago and how the proposed 2026 Mill Levy Override could help restore these opportunities for students.



Watch this short video to learn more

Learn how our school is funded. www.dcsdk12.org/funding

Spotlight on Safety



October is Fire Safety Month, and we'll be focusing on ways to prevent fires and how to respond in case of one. Here's what we're doing at school and how you can reinforce these lessons at home:

- **School Fire Drills**: We conduct regular fire drills so that students are familiar with evacuation routes and procedures. Encourage your children to stay calm, listen to their teacher's instructions, and move quickly but safely.
- **Home Fire Plans**: This is a great time to create or review your home fire escape plan. Make sure everyone in the family knows where the exits are and where to meet outside in case of a fire.
- **Smoke Alarms**: Check the batteries in your smoke alarms and review their importance with your children.

We hope that by focusing on these important safety topics throughout the year, we can create a strong foundation of awareness and responsibility. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration in keeping our students safe!
Sincerely,
Jen O'Leary
Assistant Principal

PGE Mental Health Team News



October is Bullying Prevention Month!
At PGE, Health and Wellness classes are using Wayfinder lessons to build kindness, respect, and understanding. Our "Say BOO to Bullying" posters remind students to help everyone feel safe and included while learning the difference between bullying and unkind behavior. Families can support these efforts by modeling kindness, encouraging calm and confident words, talking openly about friendships, and celebrating moments when children include or stand up for others. 👻
Free Therapy for Colorado Kids
Could your child use extra support with their mental health? I Matter offers up to six FREE therapy sessions with a licensed therapist for Colorado youth ages 18 and younger, or 21 and younger if receiving special education services. No insurance is required, and sessions are available online or in person.
Getting started is simple: complete a short online survey to find a therapist and schedule an appointment. For children under 12, a parent or guardian must complete the survey.
Visit IMatterColorado.org

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Kelly Coonts
Kelly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters