



Sand Pine Elementary School

PTA Pipeline



29040 County Line Rd. Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
 Website: www.sandpinepta.org

Phone: (813) 794-1900
 Sick Line: (813) 794-1911

A message from this year's PTA President: Mari Blank



Upcoming Events For October

- 2nd—Market Day orders due
- 8th-14th—Fire Prevention Week
- 12th—End of 1st 9 weeks
- 12th—Market day pickup From 2:30—4:00
- 13th—No School
- 16th—No School
- 20th—BINGO Night 7:00pm
- 23rd-31st Red Ribbon Week
- 25th—Report cards dist.
- 27th—Reflections deadline

Looking Ahead To November

- 13th-17th—Food Drive
- 17th—Ident A Kid
- 22nd-24th—Thanksgiving Break

November / December Newsletter

Deadline

October 13, 2006



Total Membership as of 9/28/06

360

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the first 9 weeks here at Sand Pine. I sometimes wonder where time goes!

Your PTA has been busy planning programs and activities for the year. In particular, this month, we will have our ever popular Bingo night on October 20th. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and Bingo will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please join us to spend a fun evening with your family, neighbors and friends. We will have great Bingo prizes and drawings for the entire family to enjoy. Also, we will have hot dogs, chips, sodas, and sweets for

sale. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Our General Assembly Meeting/ Playground Dedication/Ice Cream Social on September 14th was very informative and well attended. We voted on the PTA's 2006-2007 budget, which was approved by the general assembly. The playground dedication was very moving; it was the subject of a touching article in the Tampa Tribune. The ice cream social was the students' favorite part of the evening. I thank all of you who made the time to attend that evening.

Thank you to everyone who participated

in our fall catalog sale. Your support is so important and will help us reach our goals for the year.

Halloween is fast approaching. I ask that you please make sure your children wear reflective clothing and only go to neighbors' homes who you know. In that same note, I hope you and your children have a safe and fun Halloween full of sweets and lots of chocolate.

Mari C. Blank

We would like to say THANK YOU to the sponsors of our PTA ice cream social

held at our September General Assembly Meeting:
 Brusters Ice cream,
 Publix and Sweetbay Supermarkets.
 Everything was Fantastic!



Mom's, don't forget that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Please take the

time to make that mammogram appointment this month. Your family will love you for it.



PTA BINGO NIGHT

October 20th
 Doors open at 6:30.
 Bingo starts at 7:00.

We will have hot dogs, drinks, chips and sweets for you to purchase. There will also be lots of other fun provided by :

Hand in Hand entertainment!

A message from our School's Principal: Ginny Yanson



Our first PTA general assembly meeting took place the evening of September 14, 2006. It was a very moving experience for many of us, as we had our playground dedication. We honored Mrs. Cheryl Komsky, our past president. Mrs. Komsky has been battling cancer but she wouldn't let that stop her from her many efforts and contributions to our school. The playground was her dream and she was adamant that the PTA, under her tutelage, would raise the money and have it installed. Although she was unable to attend the dedication, her family attended. We took pictures of the plaque which bears her name and is affixed to the wall next to the playground. We also made a video of the dedication ceremony so her family could share it with her. Mrs. Komsky is an amazing parent leader, we greatly appreciate her many gifts which she has shared with us. The dedication was followed by an ice cream social.

On October 3rd, we hosted a curriculum night, from 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM. We presented information on our Continuous Progress Curriculum for primary and intermediate students. We also had a presentation on the "Six Traits of Writing". Each presentation was given twice to allow parents to attend more than one. Announcements and reminders were sent home.

Thanks to all of you for being patient and following our arrival and dismissal procedures. All things considered, our "drop off" and "pick up" procedures are going well.

I am a firm believer that learning is the shared responsibility of the school, the student, the home and the community. Sand Pine Elementary is a great school in a great community!

Sincerely, Ginny Yanson



Morning Arrival Procedures:



Please be reminded that we have very limited parking this year. We are strongly recommending that all parents use the car loop to drop off students. The traffic would flow smoother and faster if all parents used the car loop. If you need to park and no spaces are available, continue driving around the loop until a spot becomes available. Parents that are stopping at the entrance to the parking lot to wait for an available spot are blocking the car loop and it is causing traffic jams on County Line Road.

Students may not be dropped off in the parking lot. Parents must park in a parking space and walk their child to the crosswalk area.

As you know, we invite our families to school for many special activities. In the event there is a special school activity, the number of parking spaces will be extremely limited. On those days, using the car loop will minimize the traffic. We will post a sign at the entrance of the school advising you to use the car loop.

Dismissal Procedures:

In the afternoon, students are released to parents in two ways: walk-up/pick-up and car riders. Due to the number of students we have this year, students will not be released to parents walking up to the car rider area. Walkers and bikers should meet their parents/designated person at the corner of the school campus on County Line Road. Parents should not be waiting for the children at the bike rack or on the sidewalk by the portables.

All parents picking students up must have an approved Sand Pine pick-up sign. If you don't have a sign, you will be asked to go to the front office to show your identification. Please contact the office if you need a sign.

If your afternoon plans change on the way your child is getting home, please send a note to your child's teacher. In the event of an emergency, contact the front office.

Please note that there are no dogs allowed on campus at any time. All of our procedures are in place for the safety of our children. We appreciate your cooperation in following these set procedures.

Counselors' Corner...

By Linda Matthews & Virginia Thom

794-1917

794-1916

Hello from your Sand Pine Guidance Department!

We have had a very busy start to our year with Guidance lessons, individual counseling, and group counseling.

It was great to see so many of you at the Open House. Thanks so much for your input about which classroom Guidance topics are most important to you. You may have seen the results on our recent classroom guidance handout (on goldenrod paper) that details the results of the survey. Safety was the #1 most important topic, followed by Respect.

We started our year visiting each team during a team meeting and giving an orientation to our Guidance department. We shared with the kids that we will be coming and teaching in each classroom about once per month, and we are also available to help with feelings and problem solving. Students can request to come and speak with us to discuss any concerns they may have.

As Guidance Counselors we are also here for you parents!!! If you have parenting questions or other questions about your child adjusting to school and would like to come in and meet with us, please call for an appointment and we would be happy to assist in any way possible.

Our first classroom lesson for Primary Students (K-2) was about identifying and expressing feelings. Our Intermediate Students (3-5) played "Counselor Bingo" and were introduced to the idea of Self Esteem and how our self concept impacts every facet of our lives including study habits and relationships.

The second lesson focused on Safety. This has been a hot topic in Meadow Pointe this year. Due to parent request, we moved up this lesson and have been covering important safety rules with all our students. The PTA is also sponsoring a program entitled "Escape School". As a school we are approaching this topic from many directions so that our students are very well prepared.

Our groups are starting as well. If you would like your child to participate in one of our Guidance groups, please give us a call. We offer groups in School Success, Family Changes, Friendship Builders, and Anger Busters.

We are also available for short-term individual counseling, and can make referrals for longer term needs.

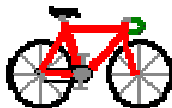
It really is such a pleasure to spend time with all our students here at Sand Pine! It is an honor to be a part of their educational experience.

Health & Safety Topics

Bike and Helmet Safety

October is Children's Health Month

- Don't forget the sunscreen and minimize exposure during peak sun hours 10am to 2pm
- Apply sunscreen about 20 minutes before exposure and remember the rims of the ears, back of the neck and tops of the feet.
- Wear UV protective sunglasses to protect the eyes, which are also susceptible to the sun's rays.
- We celebrated by walking to school on October 4th, which was National Walk to School Day. (www.walktoschool.org)



As the school year gets underway, reinforce bicycle safety...

1. Protect your brain! Always wear a helmet designed specifically for bike riding.
2. The helmet should be snug and the front edge should fall just above the eyebrows.
3. The helmet fits correctly if, when you buckle the chin strap, you can feel the helmet press down firmly on your head.
4. One set = one rider!
5. When riding in a group, ride single file.
6. Keep both hands on the handle bars.
7. You must walk your bike on school property and in the crosswalk.



Media/Technology News

Mrs. Pope, Media Specialist and Mrs. Lattke, Technology Specialist
Mrs. Chitty, Media/Technology Assistant



We welcome Mrs. Michelle Lattke, new to SPES, as our Technology Specialist. Prior to joining us at Sand Pine, Mrs. Lattke worked as the Director of Technology for the Hopkinton School District in Contoocook, NH. She has a degree in Computer Science with a minor in Education from Dartmouth College and is excited to share her love of educational technology with the Sand Pine staff.

Thank you for making our "Back to School" book fair such a success! We will be benefiting from all of the free books and cash profit raised from our record-breaking book fair. The free books will be placed in the media center and the cash profit will be used for motivational reading incentives, technology and additional books. We extend a special thanks to all of our wonderful book fair volunteers.

Our students in grades 3-5 have begun reading this year's list of Sunshine State Young Reader Award books. All of these titles are listed on our school website and they are all on our Accelerated Reader list. Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Chitty will be providing additional incentives and activities for completion of certain levels of these books.

The circulation period for all media books is 2 weeks and students are allowed to check out 2 items. Magazines and literature-to-go kits may be checked out for three nights. Since the media center works on a flexible access basis, students may use media passes to come to return or check out additional books during the school day. We encourage students to return their books first thing in the morning on their way to class.

Be sure to check our newly revamped website at <http://sandpine.pasco.k12.fl.us>. To view the list of Accelerated Reader tests and other resources, go to the "For Parents" menu and select "School Publications." This page contains all of the school and district produced documents that we thought parents might find helpful, including the AR lists, which are available toward the bottom of the page. Also available in the "For Parents" menu is a list of the school staff with email links, a selection of helpful online resources for parents and students, the PTA link, and the district's parent tip of the day. The school's CIP plan, a link to the district calendar, and our location are also easily accessible from the home page or the "Quick Links" menu. In the future, we will be adding student art work, more educational links for students, a school-based calendar, and other helpful resources, so check back often for more!

Business Partner News

Sand Pine business partners make an annual, ongoing commitment to our school, a classroom, a team or department. Partnerships can include businesses, professional groups, civic groups or other community organizations. Partnerships donate money, manpower or materials/services.

We provide our partners publicity through our newsletters, signage, and public announcements.

We welcome returning business partner, Domino's Pizza, who will be sponsoring our SPES Pizza Nights. Twenty percent of the proceeds will be donated to our school on the following nights: 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, 12/14, 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, and 4/19. Please support our pizza nights. Domino's also donates pizzas for our Star Student Pizza Party each month and for other events throughout the year. Please thank this business partner.



For more information about how you can partner with Sand Pine, please call Belinda Pope at 794-1920.

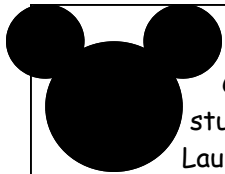
Fundraising Headlines

Don't forget Market Day! If you haven't tried it before you should, as everything bought helps us earn money for our school. Orders were due October 2nd and Market Day pick up is October 12th from 2:30 - 4:00p.m.

Also, a reminder, if parents want to volunteer in the classroom or go on field trips, they need to complete a volunteer application.



2006-2007 Entertainment Books
Attention Parents!!
If you purchased an entertainment book during registration day on August 3rd, please contact the school office and leave a message for Catherine McClain, PTA Treasurer.
It's Not Too Late!
We still have a limited number of Entertainment Books for you to purchase. They are full of 50% off and 2 for 1 discounts on restaurants, movies, sporting events and more. If interested in purchasing a book, please contact Carol Brower or Mari Blank, through the school office.



FUNDRAISING WINNERS!!

Christa Passafume, who is a 4th grade student in Miss Johnson's class, and Lauren Williams, who is a Kindergartener in Mrs. Brett's class, are the lucky winners of our Disney's Very Merry Christmas tickets in Orlando.

Thank you to all who participated in our fundraiser. Your help has allowed the PTA to provide many needed items for our school.

Sand Pine's annual food drive to benefit our ABC (Assist Believe Care) families and local food banks will be November 13-17, 2006. We welcome any non-perishable food items. We would like to encourage food donations representative of the holidays: canned vegetables, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, yams, etc.



We will be sending a flyer home with the students as the date approaches.

Blue Moon Dry Cleaners will donate 10% of the total cost of your dry cleaning orders to our PTA. Blue Moon is a dry cleaning service that picks up and delivers directly to your home.



Contact them at 813-615-1415 to set up your account today and tell them Sand Pine sent you!

Thank you for your support!

Recycle, Reuse and Save



HELP Sand Pine Elementary School GET FREE MERCHANDISE!

Campbell's Labels For Education™ Program Awards Free Educational Merchandise

Attention Parents: Campbell's has changed the procedure for collecting Labels for Education. Campbell's now requires the UPC code off of the packages. They will no longer except the front labels off of the products. Please continue to help out our school by sending in your UPC codes! Visit www.labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of eligible products.



Please help support our on-going recycling program. This program provides an opportunity for our school to turn used cell phones, laser and ink jet cartridges to CASH!! It's so easy to do! Save those old cell phones, empty laser and inkjet cartridges from printers, copiers and fax machines. Please drop them off at school in the collection areas. Remember that every cartridge or cell phone we receive is money for our school. Did you know that Sand Pine PTA receives all newspaper recycling proceeds from the dumpsters in Meadow Pointe I and II clubhouses? Please help us by recycling your newspapers and placing them in these dumpsters. Together we can make a difference.



Earn Cash for our School with Box Tops for Education!

1. *Clip Box Tops.*
2. *Send Box Tops to School.*
3. *Our School Earns Cash!!*

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Wesley Chapel, FL 33543