



Pine Brook School

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December 2024

To Our Pine Brook Community,

As we reflect on 2024 and look forward towards 2025, we want you to know that we truly appreciate the support and encouragement you have provided to your children and our staff here at Pine Brook as we continuously engage in strategies and techniques to educate our students. We are grateful for the collaborative partnership and look forward to working with you for the remainder of 2024 and beyond. Please review the following important upcoming information:

- **Trimester Dates:** Please be aware that Trimester 1 officially ends today, on December 9, however you will notice that grades may change as submitted work and assessments are entered by the teachers. The grades will be considered final and the report card for Trimester 1 will be released on December 20.
- **Assemblies:** Students have now attended two different assemblies hosted by the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office to reinforce our expectations on internet safety, cyberbullying and respectful behavior. We encourage you to ask your children what they have learned as a result of the assemblies. For more information, please visit the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office [website](#).
- **Technology Use:** As we continue to support your children in their educational journey, I want to take a moment to address an important matter regarding the appropriate use of technology at school. Recently, we have observed instances where some students have used technology, including district-issued devices and personal phones, to take pictures and videos during class or post school events online. While we value the role technology plays in enhancing learning, it is crucial that all students adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy and the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook.

To maintain a focused and safe learning environment, please review the following expectations with your child:

- **District-Issued Technology:**
All district-issued devices are provided to support academic work. These devices must only be used for school-related purposes and in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy.
- **Personal Devices:**
As stated in the Student Handbook, personal phones and devices must remain **off and away** during the school day. This includes class time, lunch, and transitions. Unauthorized use of personal devices can be distracting and detract from the positive learning environment we strive to maintain.
- **Respecting Privacy:**
Students should refrain from taking pictures or videos of peers, teachers, or classroom activities without explicit permission. Sharing such content online without consent can lead to privacy concerns and unintended consequences.

We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. By working together, we can help students develop responsible digital habits and ensure that our school remains a respectful and productive environment for everyone. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued partnership in your child's education. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to reach out.

- **Dress Code Reminder:** Slippers, flip flops or any other footwear with very soft soles and/or no backs cannot be worn in school. If wearing Crocs, please be sure the back strap is in place.

- **Student Council:** The Student Council held their first event to support families in celebrating Thanksgiving. The students were successful in providing baskets to local families. Please stay tuned for their press releases as they share more information about events they will be organizing throughout the year.
- **School Spirit:** Every Friday we encourage students to participate in wearing our school colors of red, white and black and/or show off their Pirate spirit!
- **2024-2025 School Calendar:** Take note that December 20 is a 4 hour day. Students are permitted to bring snacks at a time as determined by their team teachers.
- **PTA Information:** Be sure to check out the details for the Holiday Fair on the [Backpack](#). Upcoming Events for the PTA are posted on their website linked above.

Please be sure to check the website regularly and sign up for the Pine Brook Backpack to remain informed about our school. All of our events will show on the school calendar located on the website. Should you have any additional questions, please contact us at (732) 786-2800.

Sincerely,

Julie Szustowicz

Julie Szustowicz
Principal

Allison Rogers

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Assistant Principal