

PINE NEWS

FALL BRINGS PICNICS, FIELD TRIPS, SOCCER, SHOWCASES, & MORE



Pioneer Land was an eye-opener for 4th Grade

Meet the 4th Grade Teachers:



An Interview with Mrs. Lower

By: Destiny

Mrs. Lower is a nice lady. She has 2 dogs, hates chocolate, and likes the Packers. As a youth (yes, Mrs. Lower and all the Pine teachers were young students once!), she went to school in Westville. Back then her favorite book was My Little Sister Ate a Hair. The book she will likely read next is The Princess in Black.

Mrs. Lower's favorite healthy snack is grapefruit and her favorite animal is the opossum because of their cute little toes! For relaxation, Mrs. Lower enjoys the gym, swimming, and her hot tub (her home has 2!). Her favorite vacation spots are Florida and Montana.



Pioneer Land gave Pine students a taste of daily life in our area from our great, great, great Grandparents days. No TVs, refrigerators, cars, movies, cell phones, computers, internet, etc., and yet they survived and even had fun! How'd they do that?.....

Meet the 5th Grade Teachers:

An Interview with Mr. Taylor

By: Nathan

Mr. Taylor has taught for 6 years at two schools, though he was only at Knapp for a few weeks before coming to Pine. He enjoys teaching largely because he enjoys watching how the students grow in knowledge & understanding. Had he not been a teacher, Mr. Taylor might have studied to become a Nuclear Engineer.

Mr. Taylor's favorite book as a teenager was Inkheart. His favorite elementary school teacher was Mrs. Barudusk because she could put up with him.



Don't be surprised if you see Mr. Taylor at different eateries around town, as that is one of his favorite things to do in Michigan City.

An Interview with Mrs. Cole

By Abby & Audrey

Mrs. Cole has taught at 3 different schools in her 17 years as a teacher. She chose teaching as her career as she wanted to make a difference in the lives of students. What she still enjoys most about teaching is simply interacting with her students.

Mrs. Cole might have been a Nurse in the NICU had she not become a teacher. "NICU" stands for "Neonatal Intensive Care Unit." It is the area of the hospital where newborn babies stay before going home if they have significant health concerns. Did any of you spend time in the NICU before coming home? If so, the nurses there spent a lot of time with you!



Mrs. Lower has been teaching for 18 years at 3 different schools. She chose teaching as her career in order to help students improve their lives. If she hadn't been a teacher, she would have been a Veterinarian in order to help improve the lives of animals!



Mrs. Lower has taught 6th grade at Pine until this year. She appreciates this year's 4th graders who do a pretty good job of getting along with each other.

Math is Mrs. Lower's favorite subject, though in High School "study hall" was her favorite class. Her favorite teacher was Mr. Schnoorraert who sometimes teased her about her first name ("Barbara") by humming a famous tune by the Beach Boys, "Barbara Ann." "Ba, Ba, Ba....Ba, Barbara Ann..."



An Interview with Ms. Keltz

By: Mackenzie

Ms. Keltz has been teaching for 31 years in 3 different schools. She has been teaching at Pine since the new school opened in 2009. Her favorite subject in elementary school was Reading and she is still an avid reader. Back then, one of her favorite books was Bread and Jam for Frances. Now she enjoys any book by Mary Higgins Clark. However, her favorite subject in High School changed to Language because she had a great teacher. Teachers do make a difference...even to future teachers.

If Ms. Keltz had not become a teacher, she would like to have studied to become doctor. Ms. Keltz enjoys carrots as a healthy snack and dogs are her favorite animal. When asked what she enjoyed doing around Michigan City, she replied "Anything with family."



An Interview with Mrs. Dilling

Mrs. Dilling has been teaching for 19 years at 3 different elementary schools; Pine, Springfield, and Park. She enjoys getting to know her students each year and watching them grow and learn during the year.

As a student her favorite subjects were reading and math. And as a youth, Mrs. Dilling enjoyed reading mysteries and fiction books that had children and families in them. A few of her favorite books were Danny and the Dinosaur, Blueberries for Sal and Charlotte's Web. Currently, Mrs. Dilling enjoys reading mysteries, suspense/thriller and romance novels.

Had she not become a teacher, Mrs. Dilling said she might have become a nurse. We are glad she chose teaching!

Mrs. Dilling also enjoys going to the beach, movies, shopping, and spending time with her family.



An Interview with Mrs. Palleschi

By: Rhianna

Mrs. Palleschi has been a teacher for 12 years and has taught at Coolspring, Eastport, Knapp and Pine. She attended Roosevelt Elementary School as a child in Stevensville, Michigan. She had two favorite subjects in High School – German and Forensic Science. What is "Forensic Science?" Ask Mrs. Palleschi! Maybe she'll answer you in German!

Mrs. Palleschi now especially enjoys teaching 5th grade Social Studies and being a positive person. She would like to see Mr. Dewitt interviewed next!

Meet the 6th Grade Teachers:

An Interview with Mrs. Dombkowski

By: Piper Sewell, Grace Dillard and Kiera Gondocs

Mrs, Dombkowski has been teaching for 48 years! That's right, 48! She has taught at Krueger Middle School, and ALL of the MCAS elementary schools.

As a child, Mrs. Dombkowski attended Marsh Elementary School where her favorite teacher was Mrs. Millbranth who emphasized "responsibility" in what one says & what one does. Mrs. Dombkowski loved to read, especially the Nancy Drew series.

Mrs. Dombkowski still enjoys teaching because she likes to see kids have fun learning. You will certainly get a laugh when we tell you that her favorite healthy snack is popcorn!....So healthy, right?! Mrs. D. wishes to note that it can be healthy if eaten without butter.

So, what's going on in classroom 410, aka, Mrs. Dombkowski's 6th grade? We all agree that "quizlet" is a favorite among 6th graders, but "silent ball" uis also a fun activity that the class really enjoys. "My class is off too a great start for the school year" according to Mrs. Dombkowski.

An Interview with Mrs. Olson

By: Alyssa & Emily

Mrs. Olson has had a very interesting young life already. In High School her favorite subject was Spanish. She understood it, she was good at it, and it was easy! Hablas Espanol?

Mrs. Olson's favorite place to go in Michigan City always has been and still is Hacienda. In Elementary School, Mrs. Olson went to Edgewood where her favorite teacher was Mrs. Pressel in the 3rd grade. Mrs. Olson's classmates were loud, but Mrs. Pressel never gave up on them.

We thought it was funny during our interview that, if Mrs. Olson weren't a teacher, she would be in the FBI. But Mrs. Olson does enjoy teaching because she is excited about helping students grasp new learning and she enjoys hearing what the students have to say.

Mrs. Olson's favorite book as a teen was To Kill A Mockingbird, and her favorite healthy snack is fresh fruit.





An Interview with Mr. Schultz

By: Jayme

Mr. Schultz has been a teacher for 7 years and has been at 3 different schools; Prairie Vista, Knapp, and Pine. (Mr. Schultz started to tell me how to spell Knapp, but I stopped him and said, “I know how to spell it, I went to that school for 2 years.”) Mr. Schultz wanted to teach so he “could work with youth daily.”

As a youth himself, Mr. Schultz attended Elsie Rodgers Elementary School in Mishawaka, Indiana about an hour east of Michigan City. “Who was your favorite teacher?” was a tough question for Mr. Schultz as he liked them all. Mr. Horeine and Mr. Hendrickson were his choices as favorites.

Mr. Schultz’ favorite subject in elementary school was Social Studies and in High School it was United States History. His favorite books as a youth were the Berenstain Bears series.

Mr. Schultz would be an Investment Banker if he weren’t a teacher. But he does like teaching, partly because he sometimes learns from his students! His favorite animal is the raccoon, and he would like to return to Glacier National Park as a favorite vacation spot.



Missing glasses, anyone? Please see Mr. Schena soon if any of these look like yours!

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: MEET THE TEACHERS OF GRADES 4, 5 & 6
& OTHER INHABITANTS AT PINE...WHAT...WHO ELSE LIVES AT SCHOOL???**

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING: *“WHEN STUDENTS ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO MANAGE THEIR OWN EMOTIONS AND BUILD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS, THEY’RE BETTER EQUIPPED TO LEARN.”*

The 4th & 5th grade classes have begun a series of classroom lessons which promote students social, emotional, and academic success. The program is called “Second Step.” The students’ Teacher and/or School Counselor shows a short video on the week’s topic, then leads a discussion on an important topic of development such as “Empathy.” Empathy is described as the ability to feel or try to understand what another person is going through and feeling. It is also described as “walking in another person’s shoes.” When we have empathy for one another, we tend to treat each other with greater respect.

A second video with a catchy tune is played and students “Think, Turn & Tell” each other some thoughts on how the topic and video apply to them. Teachers then reinforce the lesson throughout the week to keep important topics such as “Empathy” on the minds of everyone, students and staff alike. After all, “Repetitio Mater Studiorum Est!” (Small candy bar from Mr. Schena, 5th graders?)

For the lesson on “Empathy,” the video tune is called “Walk, Walk, Walk.” Students talked to each other, “interviewed” each other using a handout, and may be interviewing Mom & Dad about “Empathy” soon! Watch for handouts to start coming home weekly for Parent signatures as we want Parents informed and involved in what our students are learning. We will be using Second Step for most of the rest of the school year. It takes about 45 minutes a week, and has already been seen as very beneficial in other elementary schools with over 15 million children participating. As can be found on their website: *When students are better equipped to manage their own emotions and build positive relationships, they’re better equipped to learn.*

PINE BOYS & GIRLS 5TH/6TH GRADE SOCCER TEAM

This year we had 37 students come out and join our school soccer team. Coach Schultz and Coach R decided that in order to give each player adequate playing time, the team needed to be divided into two squads. Each squad was created by random, and the excitement of the last game of the season was played by the graduating class of sixth graders.

All games this year were played at Edgewood. It has been wild season of ups & downs, wins & losses. All of the players have shown fantastic growth in skill from the very first week. Great Job to all the Pine Panthers!!! Thank you for a fun season!

- Coach R & Coach Schultz



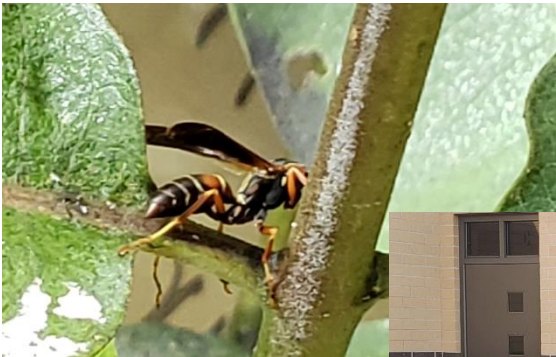
Picnic at Hawkins Park

Many students, families, and staff attended the “Welcome Back” picnic at Joe Hawkins park.



Pine isn't only for two-legged creatures!

Several classes made stops at our windows & outdoor classroom to find the various creatures which also make their home at Pine.



Several classes took advantage of the outdoor classroom for small field trips to observe, clean out & plant various plants, & place works of art.



Yes, he lives at Pine!







Hey! How did that picture get in here?! No, black bears don't live here anymore, but one did make its way through Michigan City a few years ago!



OK, these are from Mr. Schena's home, but we've had them at Pine before. The two parents in front are as tall as 6th grader; the "baby" is slightly smaller. They scared the heck out of my cat this summer as they walked through the yard!

What are they? The first 10 Pine students who answer correctly IN WRITING TO MR. SCHENA win a candy bar (payable at a recess).

Hint #1: They come to our area in the early Spring to have their babies, then they migrate away to warmer places as Winter approaches.

Hint #2: Often you can hear their strange call far up in the sky. Often way higher than you will see ducks, geese or swans.











Let *Gratitude* be My *Attitude* this Thanks-Giving!

Over the break, let's consider telling our family & friends that we are truly full of thanks that they are in our lives!...

*...(and maybe even **why** we are thank-full).*

