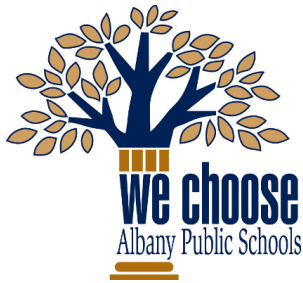


PINE HILLS POST

Learn, Lead, Change the World.

Winter 2017



Pine Hills Elementary School
41 North Allen St.
(518) 475-6725
Vibetta Sanders, Principal
vsanders@albany.k12.ny.us

PTA Officers 2017-18

President

Rebecca Zimmerman
(518) 360-5692
pinehillspta@gmail.com

Fundraising

Dawn Garces
(518) 269-2589
Brittany Wilkinson (faculty)

Treasurer

Christine Martinelli
(518) 438-4966

Media & Communications

Meredith Wilson
(518) 951-5183
Stephanie Dutra (faculty)

Secretary

Elizabeth MacCallum

Membership

Kim Ruchel
Patricia Jeffress (faculty)

Cultural Events

Michelle Chiappone
Justin Gallo

FOLLOW US ONLINE:

[facebook.com/PineHillsPTA](https://www.facebook.com/PineHillsPTA)

A message from the principal

It's hard to believe that 2017 is coming to a close and with snow now on the ground, we are well on our way into winter. Watching our students grow as leaders throughout the school year never fails to be a sight of wonder, and we owe this not only to our faculty and staff, but to you as parents and the strength of the Pine Hills community as a whole.

This week will give you two opportunities to see our talented students in action, with the Winter Concerts on Dec. 12 and our Leadership Day on Dec. 13. Leadership Day is a particular point of pride and distinction here at Pine Hills, as it showcases the work our students have accomplished. It also provides an opportunity for you to learn first-hand about The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People philosophy we use as a Leader In Me School. During Leadership Day, you can tour our school, visit classrooms and learn from the young leaders of Pine Hills. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Michelle Chiappone or contact the main office.

PTA updates

We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Multicultural Night a success earlier this fall, as well as those who helped at our Scholastic Book fair and Movie Night. The PTA was able to raise \$700 and donate a book to each classroom.

As a reminder, our holiday store will be running during lunch and recess on Dec. 8, 15 and 22. Students will be able to purchase gifts for friends and family costing from \$0.25 to \$5 with complimentary wrapping.

You can also help out those in need by purchasing gifts for students through the Adopt a Family wish list available in the main office.

We would also like to invite you all to our holiday

Additionally, our students are not the only ones growing, as our staff spent our November professional development day immersed in the discovery Leader In Me processes and practices. More specifically, we are learning about Wildly Important Goals (WIGs). This work helps ensure that our staff are providing the best instruction practices for our students and developing as learners alongside them.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone happy holidays, and hope that you are all able to enjoy the upcoming recess relaxing in the company of friends, family and loved ones.

–Vibetta Sanders, Principal



tree lighting on Dec. 20 from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 8, from 6:15-7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome, and we look forward to your input and ideas. Although we do not offer specific babysitting services at meetings, children are more than welcome to play quietly, read books or enjoy some time on the computer. Refreshments are served at our meetings, which are held in the library on the second floor.

Lastly, don't forget that you can now follow us online through our page at [facebook.com/PineHillsPTA](https://www.facebook.com/PineHillsPTA). Be sure to like and follow us to stay updated on all the great things happening here at Pine Hills!

Pine Hills partners with Humane Society

We are very excited to announce that this year our community service project will be centered around helping the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. Throughout the school year, we will have several opportunities for you to support this cause. One way you can help is by donating any of the following items: (continued on next page)

Partnership (continued)

- Cat toys (plastic)
- Pipe cleaners
- Cat beds
- Dog and/or cat food (wet and dry)
- Large spray bottles
- Paper towels
- Towels (new or good condition)
- Scratch pads
- Nylabones or Kongs (large or extra-large)
- Small fleece blankets
- Cat litter
- Cardboard shoeboxes
- Leashes
- A monetary donation
- PetSmart gift cards

Please drop off any donations to Mrs. Parker in room 303. Thank you for your help in serving our community!

We want to hear from you!

The City School District of Albany is asking all families to take part in a survey that will help inform the district's school-improvement work. The Family Engagement Survey is open through Dec. 22. You can find a link at albanyschools.org in our From the Superintendent section. From that page, just click on the survey link and enter the password Albany. It's easy to complete. The survey has 50 questions rated on a five-part scale, plus three open questions for comments. We ask that there be one survey per household; all responses will remain anonymous. If there are questions or if you need clarification, please contact our Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (518) 475-6060.



Our Multicultural Celebration brought students, families and staff together for a fun-filled evening of food and entertainment from around the world. The event celebrated the rich cultural diversity of Pine Hills—along with the City School District of Albany as a whole—and offered a variety of activities from henna tattooing and face-painting to salsa dancing and students taking a spin on the turntables.



From the nurse

Recent changes to the New York State education law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination. Each year, a sample of school districts are selected to take part in a survey by the NYS Department of Health.

Because our district has been selected to be part of the survey this year, we will be reporting to the Department of Health information about our students weight status groups. **No student names are included, only summary information.** However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from the survey report. Watch for "opt-out" forms coming home with your student soon.

Please feel free to call the health office at (518) 475-6730 with any questions or concerns.

Upcoming events

12/12: Winter Concerts, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

12/13: Leadership Day

12/15: Holiday Store during lunchtime

12/20: Holiday Tree Lighting, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

12/22: Holiday Store during lunchtime

12/25-1/1: NO SCHOOL, Holiday Recess

1/8: PTA meeting, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

1/11: Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, 1:15 p.m.

1/15: NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

2/8: Black Heritage Potluck Dinner (snow date 2/9)

2/12: PTA meeting, 6 p.m.

2/19-2/23: NO SCHOOL, Winter Recess