

Piner-Olivet Press

The Newsletter of the Piner-Olivet Union School District

Volume 3 WINTER 2009-2010



Upcoming Events



2010-2011 Kindergarten & New Student Registrations began, Monday, February 22, 2010 and are currently being accepted

Spring Break: March 29 - April 2

STAR Testing: April 19 - April 30

Open House - K-6 Schools - May 6

No School- May 7
(State Budget Reduction Day)

Outdoor Education - 6th Grade Camp:
May 10 - May 14

Minimum Day - All Students May 27

Last Day of Instruction/Minimum Day:
May 28

The Piner-Olivet Press is a bi-annual publication of Piner-Olivet Union School District. The newsletter is intended to keep families, and other community members informed about District updates, school programs, highlights, and events.

Support Your Child's Reading with a Library Card

In order to extend our programs and services throughout the year, the District would like to provide families with information about public library cards.

Library cards are free! Anyone can stop by the check-out desk and show identification with your current address. There is no charge for the card or for borrowing library materials.

Parents must sign the library card applications for children 17 and under. Library cards expire every 2 years.

To renew or secure a new library card for your child, visit the check-out desk at you're your local library. Branch information can be found at www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/branches or click on the [local library](#) and bring current identification.

You must have your card in order to:

- [Check out materials.](#)
- Place [holds on reserve.](#)
- Use Library [Internet workstations](#) and [wireless Internet](#) access.
- Gain access to [databases](#) from outside the Library.
- Access your [account](#). For more detail, please see the [Library Policy on Library Cards and Accounts.](#)

Message from your School Nurse

February is Dental Health Month. Dental health is an important component of overall health. Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. If you don't have a regular dental provider or dental insurance, you may call Kids Net at 544-5638 for assistance. If you have Dental-Cal, (Medi-Cal), call 1-800-322-6384 for a list of providers.



Jack London's Learning Community

The members of the Jack London Elementary School learning community understand and support a wide variety of educational opportunities for all students. Besides the educational options typical at elementary schools, the teachers, parents, students and other members of the learning community understand that programs to challenge all students are needed. To meet this goal, a number of programs are being continued and added.

Last year Jack London students partnered with students from the Piner-Olivet Charter School (POCS) as actors in "Scrooge", a play based on the character created by Charles Dickens in *A Christmas Carol*. Jack London Families helped provide some of the funding while some of the talent was provided by Jack London students. A professional company, The Theater of All Possibilities, provided students with the chance to perform with and learn from professional actors. While some students participated as performers, others had the opportunity to watch a live performance at their school.

This year Jack London students are working to establish another new program: a school newspaper. This is very much a student enterprise. Students are participating in everything from naming the paper to establishing editorial guidelines. Capitalizing on their skills and interests, students will assume responsibilities as reporters, columnists, editors, cartoonists, photographers and the other roles required to produce a quality newspaper. Students will have the chance to take the academic skills they learn daily in class and expand their understanding by using those skills in real life applications.

To support students interested in the sciences and the arts, Jack London Families will sponsor a Science Fair and an Art Fair. Student work will be showcased during the week of Open House. These are new events! The families group will also host its annual talent show.

This year Jack London and POCS students will once again participate in a workshop and live performance with The Theater of All Possibilities. "Spirit of America" will be performed twice on January 28th. In addition to providing some actors for this year's play, Jack London School students will also provide reviews and photographs of this annual production in their school newspaper, *The Call of the Wild*.



Students and Mrs. Brady discuss the format for the first edition of *The Call of the Wild*.

Photo by JAYDEN SLOCUM / *The Call of the Wild*

Olivet Learning Activities for Students

POUSD Board meeting attendees had a special treat on Tuesday, January 12. Olivet Elementary students Emily Lau and Brandon Pragasa performed a partner poem titled "Bug Banter." They were there to highlight one way that Olivet is challenging learners who excel in school. Brandon and



Emily attends a 3rd grade challenge group.

As a part of our Response to Intervention (RtI) program, all 2nd and 3rd grade students attend leveled intervention groups three days a week. These groups focus on areas of reading like phonics and fluency, to provide struggling students with the help that they need to become successful readers. The group of students who is right on grade level works on skills to help them reach the next level, and students like Emily and Brandon are provided with enriching activities. This provides great experiences for higher students, while allowing the classroom teacher to work in a more focused manner with struggling students.

During challenge time, the students have learned keyboarding skills in the new Olivet computer lab, studied Native American history and culture, extended the classroom learning through writing lessons, and worked on partner poems to present at our next Awesome Osprey awards assembly at the end of January.

This is only one example of the kinds of differentiation that is provided at Olivet. While budget cuts have cut the funding for programs, Olivet teachers continue to provide experiences to reach all learners and challenge them at their own levels. Parents and community members are invited to visit Olivet and see our programs!

Piner-Olivet Union School District

Governing Board of Trustees

Lisa Anderson - President

William Campbell - Vice President

Beth Mead - Clerk

Mardi Hinton - Member

Cindy Pryor - Member

Piner Elementary Students Become Good Writers

At Piner Elementary, teachers are working very hard to challenge and enrich all students. One important way that we are doing this is through our English Language



Enrichment rotation, which happens four times a week. During this one-half hour period of time, students are grouped together to receive instruction that targets specific learning objectives that are both challenging and lots of fun. Here are examples of some exciting student activities led by Erika Wilson, one of Piner's many outstanding instructional assistants.

The challenge level students in first grade at Piner Elementary are hard at work learning all about how to become good writers. These students have spent a considerable amount of time reading exiting books, discussing these books while charting their ideas for their own stories on a web graphic organizer, writing their story or report, editing and illustrating their work with the end-goal of publishing their own book. These students are very excited about this enrichment time and can't wait to share their published books with the rest of their first grade classes. Check out these proud authors...



Schaefer's Enriching Learning Environment

The Schaefer Elementary School community provides an enriching learning environment for all students through a wide variety of opportunities offered both during the school day, as well as after school hours. Along with supporting our English Language Learners and our struggling students, we take pride in providing challenging and enriching activities to those students who are performing at or above grade level.

Through our English Language Enrichment (ELE) program, these high performing students participate in a variety of activities designed to stretch their creativity and provide higher level thinking opportunities. Currently, students in our first and second grade on grade level/challenge groups are working on descriptive and creative writing. Students in the second and third grade challenge group are working on research projects that will allow them to explore a topic of interest and develop a creative way to present their findings.

Students in our upper grade GATE/Challenge group have been working on autobiographies, expressing themselves through reflective writing in both narrative and poetry. They have taken a survey on the computer to identify their personality traits. Now, they are in the process of researching to determine the requirements for a possible future career choice, based on the survey results.

After school, our Chess Club offers students the opportunity to learn and play a game that requires strategy and skill. All levels of players are welcome. As a result of their participation in the club, several Schaefer students have successfully competed in regional chess tournaments.



Northwest Prep

AT PINER-OLIVET

Happy 2010!

Northwest Prep continues to flourish! And we're now enrolling grades 7-12 for 2010-2011. We offer stellar programs taught by exemplary teachers.

Exciting times are happening at Northwest Prep. Our Career Pathways serve as models for other schools. Our Garden is recognized by the School Garden Network as being the standard for middle/high schools. Our academic courses are rigorous, relevant, and accredited. Our Middle School Sports Program is burgeoning and competitive. Our upper grade students are CPR/First Aid Certified.

As we continue to grow and offer a solid educational experience, we invite you to stop by and join us as we plant the seeds for a secure future. You can visit us online at pousd.org and download an application or come by to pick one up. Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity to be a part of the Northwest Prep experience.

Keith Muelrath
Principal



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Piner-Olivet Charter School – POCS Strong Academics and Enriched Learning

Piner-Olivet Charter School strives to provide middle school students with challenging and enriching learning experiences to educate for the 21st Century, including strong academic skills, teamwork skills, and the use of technology.



Students regularly work on projects individually and in small groups in each of their classes. They may work together to present the theme of a novel they read in literature circles or to create a poster and presentation to teach other students a concept in science. In another class they may work individually or in partners to analyze World Series statistics.



Another time they will spend a week immersed in learning about Lewis and Clark through an interactive journey. Many of these projects are open-ended so that students can

perform at their level, and so that teachers can push stronger students to demonstrate what they are capable of doing. Additionally, the group work experiences help to develop teamwork, communication and collaboration skills while they build their academics.

Through enrichment classes offered in the afternoon, POCS students have opportunities to explore new areas and develop life skills. Seventh graders are required to take a health class that includes an experience with an electronic baby; an introductory technology class that includes keyboarding and online instruction; and at least one trimester of either art or drama. Eighth graders are required to take an introductory French and Spanish course and a career exploration course that includes an online career assessment and lifetime portfolio. You can check out the online career tools at www.kudornavigator.com. Beyond these requirements, students may choose Robotics, multi-media, additional art or drama, academic support, or physical education. With enough interest, a band class may be offered as well.

