



# Piñon Paw Print

December/January 2019/2020



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Families,

Hello and happy December! Our school year will soon be hitting the halfway mark and we are busy as ever here at Piñon. Our school clubs and organizations are actively in progress: Student Council, Chess Club, Homework Club, Bridge Club, Boys' Council & Girls' Circle, Harry Potter Club, and Safety Patrol, to name a few. Students are already practicing for the Spelling Bee (December 10) and preparing for the Science Fair (December 11) and starting next semester is Rocket Club and the Geo-Bee.

Our early morning clubs are all active and the students are really enjoying these opportunities: Sewing Club, Lego Club, Yoga Club, Board Game Club. In the spring semester we will be introducing a Drone Club for upper grades.

The weather has definitely been feeling wintery so please remind students to dress for the weather, especially keeping outdoor recess as a consideration. Students will have outdoor recess unless the temperatures drops below 20° F so gloves or mittens, cold weather jackets, and caps or hats are in order. On wet days, please send students to school in close toed shoes. **Students are not allowed to play in the snow without snow boots and snowpants.**

We have some upcoming events to look forward to this month including the following:

- Monday, December 2nd - Ride the Bus Day!
- Thursday, December 5th - Coffee & Conversation (Pinon Advisory Team) with the Principal and Guidance Counselor, 8:30-9:00 am in the lobby
- Wednesday, December 4th - 4th-6th Grade Musical - 11am-12pm
- Tuesday, December 10th - Piñon Spelling Bee - 3:30-4:30
- Wednesday, December 11th - Piñon Science Fair 9:00-11:00am
- Thursday, December 12th - Band, Orchestra, & Choir Concert - 8:30-9:30am
- Tuesday, December 17th - Pinon & Chamisa Christmas Caroling Night

On a more somber note, we do have a staff member, Melissa Wilkinson, who has been very ill this semester, and is currently under-going treatment for brain cancer. I ask that you keep her in your thoughts. We have been providing meals for her via Mealtrain.com, if you would care to participate. She remains upbeat and is very hopeful to return in January, if all goes well.

Meanwhile, we will have a happy addition to our "peripheral" staff as our guidance counselor, Mrs. Byers, will be having a baby girl, due on December 19th. I am currently working with central office to have counselor coverage here at Piñon while she is out on maternity leave.

Thank you so much for your support and participation in your children's education. You are a huge part of how we help our kids to THRIVE and succeed!! I look forward to seeing you on or around campus, or at one of our upcoming events.

Cheers,  
Ivanna Austell,  
Piñon Principal

## UPCOMING DATES

12/2	Ride the Bus Day
12/4	Musical gr. 4 <sup>th</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> 11am
12/5	Coffee & Conversation w/Principal - 8:30-am-9am Lobby
12/7	Breakfast with Santa 7-11am Betty Ehart Center
12/9-13	Hour of Code Week
12/10	PTO Mtg. 12:20pm Piñon Spelling Bee 3:30pm Music Room School Board Mtg 5:30pm
12/11	Science Fair 9am-12non
12/12	Winter Concert 8:30am, Gym Band, Orchestra & Choir Chess Club 5:30pm, Room 102
12/17	Pinon/Chamisa Caroling 4:30-5:30pm Downtown Los Alamos
12/21- 1/6	Winter Break Enjoy!!
1/6	Prof. Dev. for Teachers No School for Students
1/7	Welcome Back Assembly 8:30am
1/8	Piñon Geography Bee, Rm 103-12:30pm
1/9	Coffee w/Principal 8:30am Chess Club 5:30pm, Room 102
1/14	School Board mtg. 5:30pm
1/16	LAMS Jazz Band Visit 2:20pm, Gym
1/20	Martin Luther King Jr. No School students and staff
1/22	LAMS Visit 6th Gr. 11am District Spelling Bee 4-7pm @ Chamisa
1/24-25	County Science Fair



## Hour of CODE Week! December 9-13<sup>th</sup>



During the week of December 9-13th, Pinon Students will be participating in the Hour of Code! We need volunteers willing to go into the classroom to facilitate coding activities with students from kindergarten through 6th grade. You don't need to be a master coder, just able to navigate through the guided instructions and help students find their way.

LANL created a sample script at [Script for Hour of Code activity](#) (click the link) that anyone can use to facilitate an Hour of Code. Look through it before you go into the classroom and click the links to familiarize yourself with the program.

If you are interested in participating, please email **Janelle Vigil-Maestas** Community Partnerships Office of Los Alamos National Laboratory (505) 665-4329 [vigil-m@lanl.gov](mailto:vigil-m@lanl.gov) , or Laura Waarvick at [l.waarvick@laschools.net](mailto:l.waarvick@laschools.net).

Click here to see the schools and classrooms who would like a volunteer <https://goo.gl/551YIF>.

# *You are invited to have Breakfast with Santa!*



**Date: Saturday, December 7**

**Time: 7 am to 11 am**

**Place: Betty Ehart Senior Center**



## *Free Breakfast and photos of kids with Santa*



We request a donation of **NON-PERISHABLE** food or a monetary donation to help with our annual Foster Children Christmas party. LA Cares will distribute the food donations.



**The Los Alamos Public Schools neither endorses nor sponsors the organization or activity promoted in this document. The distribution of this material is provided on an equal basis as a community service.**

The Student Council would like to thank the students, families, and staff for contributing to the CommuniTY Blanket & Socks Drive!

We donated them to area shelters. Participating in community service projects teaches our children about the world around them and the needs of others. Thank you for helping us honor the memory of Tyler VanAnne and his mission to keep everyone warm!



**Please take the time to check the lost and found for anything you might be missing. All items that are left by the time winter break arrives will be donated. Thanks!**



# Thankful for Our Pinon Family



Unity Day



2019



# Clubs & Activities at Piñon

Be sure to check our website for more information about clubs and activities as it becomes available.

## Spelling Bee Club

The Piñon Scripps Spelling Bee is officially scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2018 at 3:30pm in the Piñon Music Room! All students 4th through 6th grade can participate with a signed parent permission form. Please see Ms. Roberts in Room 101 for more information. Practice at lunch on Mondays in Room 101. We hope to see you there!



Chess Club –Tuesday-12:20-1:05 - Rm. 106  
Thursday-12/12 & 1/9 5:15pm, Room 102  
For more information contact Jeff  
Goettee [jdgoettee@yahoo.com](mailto:jdgoettee@yahoo.com)



Sewing Club

Room 604

7:30-8:10am

Tues. & Thurs.

Mrs. George



## Geography Bee

Geography Bee will be selecting contestants this December as students in grade 4-6 hold individual class Bees. After that, the school-wide Piñon Bee will take place January 8<sup>th</sup>, Rm 103, @ 12:30pm. The top ten scoring students in each class will be eligible to participate in the school-wide competition.



## Rocket Club

Rocket Club will be starting very soon. The first club meeting will be held @ 3:25-4:15pm on Tues, December 10<sup>th</sup> in the Art Room. Students will have been notified if they are in the club in November. Meetings will be on Tuesday's @ 3:25-4:30pm, Starting 1/7/20. Launch date TBD, usually in March.nbv

# Musical Notes

## **BAND, Orchestra, and CHOIR PARENTS:**

**December 12th: Winter Concert at Piñon at 8:30AM.** Students will have their band/choir shirts and can just wear them with jeans (or whatever pant/skirt are required by Orchestra).

**December 12th at 7:30AM** Band students need to report to the band room with their instruments, books/music, and shirts. The concert will start at **8:30AM.**





# PSST!!!

## Looking for some easy ways to raise money for our school?

Box Tops for Education is a quick, easy, and FREE way to support Piñon Elementary. All you have to do is check your grocery store items for the “Box Tops for Education” seal (pictured above), clip them out, and bring them to the Piñon main office. You can even send them with your kids if you don’t have time to stop by the office! The PTO takes it from there. Each box top clipped earns \$.10 for our school.

In case you’ve ever wondered exactly how much money we’ve earned, you can always check out the Box Tops for Education webpage ([boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com)). It’s easy to search for Piñon.

### Smith's Food and Drug Inspiring Donations

**Link your rewards card to Pinon Elementary PTO and .5% is donated to Pinon PTO.**

Go to [smithsfoodanddrug.com](http://smithsfoodanddrug.com) , **Sign In or Create an Account**. Once signed in you can enroll or update (Organization #CB493) in the Inspiring Donations Program under your Account Settings.

***\*The system changed last year, please re-enroll!***

The Amazon Smile logo, with "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, featuring the Amazon arrow underneath.

**Always start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)**

You will be prompted to enter your charity of choice. Select Pinon Elementary School PTO or go directly to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0382207>

Amazon will donate .5% of all purchases at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)!