

This school year is off to a great start! It is so refreshing to return to school after the summer months and reconnect with students, families and colleagues. This year, we welcomed a total of 265 students to Pine Tree, including 38 new Kindergarten students all of whom are excited and eager to learn!

Our strategic planning and committee work has begun. All Pine Tree staff members serve on one of six committees all responsible for various initiatives throughout the building. Our leadership team oversees the committee work and is comprised of representatives of all positions at PTS including paraprofessionals, classroom teachers, Unified Arts teachers, and other support personnel. For this school year, one of the goals of the team is to re-energize our Professional Learning Communities to focus on cross grade-level collaboration and to realize the full potential of each and every student.

Our Technology committee is responsible for supporting teachers through the integration of technology in their classrooms and the development of technology skills in students. A member from this team also serves on the district-wide Technology committee to ensure alignment of new initiatives. Our TAPP committee (Talk About Problems and Possibilities) plans and implements fun, engaging and entertaining ways to explicitly teach behavioral expectations to our students so that they are provided with a safe and secure environment in which to learn. This month's focus is the new Paws for Safety challenge where our mascot, Paws the Panda, helps students learn how to be safe, respectful and responsible within our school. Our Social committee is responsible for planning events in school and out of school that foster teamwork and collaboration among staff members. This group planned a beautiful retirement celebration last spring honoring three retirees with a cumulative 73 years of service to our district! Our Health and Wellness



committee is incredibly active throughout the year planning and implementing healthy activities for students and their families. Our annual Dance-A-Thon to raise money for our whole-school health and wellness field trip to Camp Huckins raised \$2000! To celebrate National Walk to School Day, our Health and Wellness committee arranged for all students to be dropped off at the town garage so that we could walk to school together and celebrate healthy lifestyle choices. A new committee this year is our Panda Pack oversight team. Panda Packs are cross-grade level groupings of students led by one staff member. In our first pack meetings, we celebrated relationship building through the creation of secret 'paw shakes' and learning the Pine Tree School song.

All of these committees speak to Pine Tree School's commitment to realizing the full potential of each and every student through academic initiatives, positive school climate and relationship building. We are excited to see what this year brings and look forward to watching our students grow and learn!