

Dear PBES Families,

We're kicking off an exciting week at Piney Branch! We're excited to announce this year's **Color Craze prizes**, including classroom rewards, grade-level celebrations, and our all-new **Prize Catalog** for top earners. And don't forget to save the date for **Outdoor Movie Night on Friday, October 9**, where we'll host a special **Squishy Basket Raffle** featuring NEEDOHs, RMS dumplings, and more squishy favorites. It's a perfect mix of school spirit, community fun, and big surprises ahead — read on for all the details.

2026 Color Craze Fundraising Event | Deadlines Approaching

Color Craze is officially underway, and our students can earn **amazing rewards** all season long — from commemorative t-shirts and family participation to coveted grand prizes, including our new prize catalog for the top 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place students.

Students unlock prizes by meeting fundraising milestones by the published deadlines, competing within their grade level and classroom, and aiming for one of our **Top Earner** spots.

T-shirts & Additional Participants

All students participate in our Color Craze Running Event on October 30, 2026. Students who raise **\$30** will receive the official **2026 Piney Branch Color Craze T-shirt** — a bright white tee designed to capture every splash of color during our school-wide run. It's the perfect keepsake to celebrate their hard work and show off their Piney Branch pride.

Students can earn the opportunity to **invite family members to join them on race day** if they meet the required fundraising minimums. Additional participants must be registered in advance.

- **Raise \$60:** 1 Student + 1 Additional Running Event Participant. T-shirts for both included.
- **Raise \$90:** 1 Student + 2 Additional Running Event Participants. T-shirts for all three included.
- **Raise \$120:** 1 Student + 3 Additional Running Event Participants. T-shirts for all four included.
- **Raise \$150:** 1 Student + 4 Additional Running Event Participants. T-shirts for all five included.

★ Grand Prizes ★

Top Earners Prize

Our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place earning students across the entire school unlock the Top Earner Prize Catalog, featuring premium rewards students personally select — up to \$300, \$200, and \$100.

PINEY BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
COLOR CRAZE
FUNDRAISER
TOP EARNER PRIZES!

HOW IT WORKS

1ST PLACE:
Choose from **ALL THREE** tiers!

2ND PLACE:
Choose from **TIER 2** or **TIER 3!**

3RD PLACE:
Choose from **TIER 3!**

★ **PLUS... EVERY TIER HAS A YOU PICK OPTION!**

TIER 1

BIG PRIZES FOR OUR TOP EARNER! UP TO \$300

★ Nintendo Switch Lite + game/accessory	★ Great Wolf Lodge gift card
★ Meta Quest headset	★ Kings Dominion family package
★ AirPods + \$100 gift card	★ LEGO Mega Pick
★ Premium bike + helmet	★ Target/Amazon Shopping Spree
★ American Girl Create-Your-Own Doll	

★ **YOU PICK – up to \$300!**

TIER 2

SUPER COOL PRIZES! ~\$150-\$200

★ Nintendo Switch Lite	★ Sports Jersey + Gear
★ Beats Headphones	★ Topgolf outing
★ Kindle + case + book credit	★ iFly indoor skydiving
★ LEGO Pick	★ Build-A-Bear shopping spree
★ Barbie DreamHouse / large playset	★ American Girl shopping spree
★ Stanley/Owala + Nike or Lululemon card	★ Target Room Makeover
★ Ulta/Sephora Tween Beauty Spree	

★ **YOU PICK – up to \$200!**

TIER 3

AWESOME CHOICES! ~\$100

★ Roblox / Nintendo / PlayStation / Xbox credit	★ Nike Shopping Spree
★ Amazon Shopping Spree	★ Stanley/Owala + \$50 card
★ Target Shopping Spree	★ Gaming Bundle (gift card + headset/accessories)
★ Ulta/Sephora Shopping Spree	★ Craft/Art Mega Kit
★ LEGO Pick – up to \$100	★ Book Lover Bundle
★ Squishmallow Mega Bundle	★ Dave & Buster's Family Fun
★ Crocs + Jibbitz	★ Ice Cream + Movie Night

★ **YOU PICK – up to \$100!**

WHO WILL BE OUR TOP EARNERS?!

**GET READY...
GET COLORFUL...
GET FUNDRAISING!**

Grade-Level Top Earners

The highest-earning student in each grade will be invited to a special Chick-fil-A Party with Mr. Thorne — a fun, celebratory way to recognize leadership and school spirit.

Classroom Prizes

Across each grade level, the classroom that raises the most will earn a party of their choice — an Ice Cream Party or S'mores Party — *plus* extra recess. It's a great way to build teamwork and keep the excitement high.

🕒 Important Fundraising Deadlines 🕒

- **T-Shirts & Additional Participants**

Fundraising minimums, t-shirt eligibility, and additional participant

registrations are due **October 9 at 5:00 PM**. Once you've met the fundraising minimums, you **MUST** [complete our t-shirt order and additional participant registration form](#) by October 9 at 5:00 PM.

- **Grand Prizes**

All fundraising that counts toward grand prizes must be completed by **October 30 at 5:00 PM**. Donations are tracked through Donately. Winners will be announced the week of **November 2**.

 [Learn more about Color Craze and start your student's fundraiser today!](#)

PTO Movie Night | October 9

Save the date for [Outdoor Movie Night](#)! On Friday, October 9, we invite you to the PBES field for a cozy outdoor theater experience. Admission is free, the field opens at 6:15 PM, and the movie begins at 7:15 PM — with students voting in class (managed by their teachers!) to choose our feature film. Bring your chairs and blankets, enjoy concessions for purchase, and participate in our **raffle to win a squishy basket!** Filled with real NeeDoh, RMS dumplings, and more— it will be one of a kind. Mark your calendars now and get ready for a great night under the stars!

PTO Meeting | October 21

Join us on Wednesday, October 21 from 7–8PM in the PBES Library to learn about [upcoming PTO events](#), [volunteer opportunities](#), [membership options](#), and more. Meetings are open to the entire Piney Branch community regardless of membership status and will be held throughout the year in the school library. **Free childcare** will be provided by our NHS students from Gainesville High School to make it easier for families to attend. Plus, [save the date for future meetings](#).

Can't attend in person? [Join us via Zoom](#).

Color Craze Run | October 30

Our Color Craze fundraising event will culminate with a running event during the school day on October 30th, 2026. Students will join the Color Craze run by grade to celebrate their hard work. The school grounds will transform into a colorful canvas as students dash through clouds of color with laughter and excitement. They will enjoy a dance party and popsicles after the run. All students participate regardless of fundraising status. [Learn more about how](#)

[your student can earn a commemorative t-shirt and qualify to have family members join in the running event.](#)

Our 2026 Color Craze running event schedule and additional details for students, additional participants, and volunteers will be available shortly.

2026 Fall PTO Calendar of Events & Moments*

Check out what's new and save the date for our marquee fall events.

OCTOBER

- **IT'S BACK! [Movie Night + New! Squishy Basket Raffle](#) | Oct 9**
Admission is free. Concessions will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the 50/50 Raffle will support PBES initiatives.
- **PTO Meeting | Oct 21 from 7-8 PM @ PBES Library**
Free child care will be provided.
- **[2026 Color Craze](#) | Oct 30**
Fundraising is now live! Students can earn t-shirts and qualify to invite additional participants for our running event by reaching fundraising minimums before Oct 9. Our top fundraisers will be eligible for coveted grand prizes announced the week of Nov 2.

DECEMBER

- **NEW! Mad Science of Washington Event | Dec 11**
Stay tuned... more details will be announced shortly.

More exciting events will be announced later in the year. [Bookmark our events](#) page to get updates in real time. **Events and dates are subject to change.*

PTO Sponsored Initiatives

In addition to PTO events, we sponsor initiatives that support our students, teachers, staff, and community. Check out some of our upcoming initiatives for the 2026-2027 school year and see what's new this year.

- [Piney Branch Elementary School Spirit Wear](#)
NEW! Designs for the 2026-2027 school year launched in September. Our online store is currently closed but is scheduled to re-open for the holidays in November!
- [Teacher Appreciation Events & Moments](#)
We sponsor monthly teacher appreciation events to ensure our

teachers, administrators, and staff know how grateful we are for all they do.

- [2026-2027 Yearbook](#)
Enjoy photography, design, storytelling, or simply want to help celebrate our school community? We welcome you to join the PTO Yearbook Committee. Email the committee to learn more or express interest at yearbookpbs@gmail.com.
- [Square 1 Art Fundraiser](#)
More information coming soon.

Support the PTO!

There are many ways to [support the PTO](#) – choose the option(s) that fit your schedule and commitment level.

- [Become a member](#) for as little as \$10! Attending meetings or participating in events is appreciated, but NOT required!
- [Volunteer](#) at one of our marquee events or chair a committee!
- Make a financial contribution to support our events and initiatives! The PTO is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We appreciate your contributions. All donations can be sent to the PTO via Venmo [@PineyBranch-ElementaryPTO](#).

Click here to learn more about how to [support the PTO](#).

Stay Informed!

Follow the [Piney Branch Elementary School PTO Facebook page](#). Get event updates, connect with fellow members, and catch all the latest news. Join our social community!

Thank you for supporting the PTO,

Sincerely,

Chris, Sara, Stephanie, Maria, and Emily