



Dear volunteers, donors, partners, and friends of Above & Beyond for Change,

Happy 2026! We hope your year has begun filled with energy and hope, just like ours.

We are thrilled to share with you the first updates, achievements, and plans that are shaping our work at **Pinewood Elementary** and beyond.

Here is a summary of what has happened so far and what's ahead:



2026 Planning

This month, our team gathered to define the goals and actions that will guide our work this year. We are brimming with incredible ideas and projects that, with your support, we will be able to put into practice. Stay connected with us here and on our social media to learn more.



Meeting with Pinewood Teachers: Listening to Act

On January 14th, we held a special gathering with the incredible educators of **Pinewood Elementary at Terra Verde Resort & Park**. It was a moment of active listening, ideas exchange, and collaborative planning for 2026.

We thank all the teachers for their partnership and Terra Verde for their hospitality. Together, we are aligned to create an even more welcoming and stimulating environment for the students.



Weekly STEM Classes: Hands-On & Minds Engaged!

Our weekly STEM classes at Pinewood Elementary continue at full speed! Each week, we provide materials, snacks, and hands-on activities that turn scientific concepts into tangible discoveries.

In the last class, the children explored the school garden, observed insects, planted flowers, and learned about ecosystems — all with great enthusiasm and curiosity. Learning about science goes beyond the classroom.



🎄 Moments of Joy: The Christmas Party You Helped Create

We want to share with you — who made this possible — some of the most special moments from our Christmas Party for over 300 children in our Pinewood Elementary community.

From smiles to hugs, from dance to gifts, every instant was a reminder of the power of collective generosity.

These images are a direct reflection of your support. Thank you for being part of this celebration!

Photos of Pinewood Elementary Holiday Party 2025

📌 Coming Soon

Dinner Experience: We are excited to announce that we will soon be offering a complete gastronomic experience at a local restaurant for Pinewood Elementary students. This presents a unique opportunity for many of them to visit a restaurant, learn proper dining etiquette, experience being served in a public setting, select a dish from a menu, and occupy a space that feels like a world apart from their everyday lives.

We hope to offer an exercise in citizenship and belonging. We want them to know that the world is vast and that all spaces also belong to them.

Stay tuned for more news about this initiative!

Black History Month— In February, Above & Beyond proudly supports Pinewood Elementary students during their Black History Month Living Wax Museum experience. Students will delve into the lives of influential Black Americans, both past and present, and bring their research to life by portraying these individuals. With our support, students will receive authentic, historically accurate clothing, along with props and materials that will help them fully embody the persona of their chosen figure. As families and visitors walk through the exhibit, students will “come alive,” sharing key accomplishments and contributions through short monologues. This immersive approach turns teaching into active, hands-on learning, enabling students to visualize the past and build a profound, lasting understanding of history.

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A special thank you to YOU, who believe that a united community can go **Above AND Beyond**.

Your support and enthusiasm are an investment in smiles, in discoveries, and in brighter futures.

Until the next newsletter!

Love ❤️ and Light ✨

Michelle Sanchez- FOUNDER



Your generous donation will bring joy to our students and their families this holiday season. Let's spread love and kindness together!

Thank you for your support! ❤️ ✨

Feel free to share with friends and family.



*“You don't have to see the whole staircase,
just take the first step.”*
— Martin Luther King Jr

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