

<PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School –Issue 1, 2006-07 – Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Introduction

This newsletter is produced by the Head of School every other Wednesday and distributed to parents via our school e-mail list-serv/reflector, PinecrestSchool@GoogleGroups.com. For those without e-mail, it is distributed via Wednesday Envelope. If you have e-mail and are on the list-serv, but still wish to receive a paper copy, please send an e-mail or note to me stating this. If you are not on our list-serv, but would like to be, please also let me know.

News and Notes

Pinecrest's Annual Back-to-School Picnic is this Sunday, September 17, from 4-6 p.m., on the back playground. Please remember to bring your "assigned" dish and also to bring drinks and chairs/blankets for your family. The school will provide paper plates, plastic silverware, and water.

Our annual Back-to-School Nights will be in two weeks – Wednesday, September 27 (preschool, grade 1, kindergarten) and Thursday, September 28 (grades 2-5). Both nights will begin with a brief whole-group gathering in the newer building multipurpose room and then parents will proceed to their child's classroom to hear a presentation by the classroom teacher. Teachers will have handouts for you at this time as well.

Enclosed in today's Wednesday Envelope is information about the Special Parent Education Evening with Educator Jim Burns on Wednesday, October 4. Mr. Burns came to Pinecrest in May for professional development with the faculty. The faculty and I found his character education presentation extremely engaging and valuable. He is returning to Pinecrest on October 4 and 5; Wednesday, October 4, is a no-school day for students and will be more professional development for the faculty and me. On Wednesday evening, October 4, he will present a program entitled "Proactive Parenting." We are offering child-care at a reduced cost in an effort to encourage attendance. Please see the flyer in today's Wednesday Envelope for more information. We hope to see many parents there! October 5 is a regular school day for students, but Mr. Burns will be here, meeting individually with faculty members and offering on-site insights.

The fourth and fifth grade classes traveled with their teachers and me to A Likely Story Children's Bookstore in Alexandria yesterday for a book signing with award-winning author Katherine Paterson! The children heard Ms. Paterson speak about her new children's book, [Bread & Roses, Too](#), and were able to interact with her during the book signing. Thanks to Mary Alice Catherina (parent of Richie, 5th grade), Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 4th grade), Lisa Layfield (parent of Lily Wittle, 4th grade) and Teresa Rowe (parent of Misha, 4th grade) for driving and attending!

Parent/Student Handbooks (one per family) are enclosed in today's Wednesday Envelope.

Susan Cohen is serving as Volunteer Chair on this year's Board of Trustees. You will be hearing from her a lot this year! Thanks to everyone who completed and returned the purple Volunteer Sign Up forms. It is heartening to see so many parents willing to pitch in for the school and to make our events successful! This year, the Board and I have tried to streamline our fundraising efforts to a few select activities, so your active participation in the Fall Fun Fair and the Spring Auction will help us to meet our goals. Watch for more information about how you can be involved – and make sure to mark your calendar for the Fun Fair on Saturday, October 14!

FYI: Jim Trelease, author of the [The Read-Aloud Handbook](#), now in its sixth edition, will be at Borders in Tysons Corner tomorrow night, Thursday, September 14, for a discussion and book signing. Mr. Trelease is an expert in reading and literacy, and is very well-regarded in the educational community. [The Read-Aloud Handbook](#) is a treasury for both teachers and parents. For more information, please contact Borders at 703.556.7766 or visit www.bordersstores.com/events/event_detail.jsp?SEID=93313.

General Reminders

I respectfully request that all parents drop off and pick up through the carpool line. This system exists to make the transition to/from school seamless and efficient for all involved. If you are unfamiliar with how carpool works, please visit page 6 of the Parent/Student Handbook. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Preschool children should not be bringing backpacks to school; each child was issued a Pinecrest School tote bag with his/her name on it. This is the only bag that should come with the child to school each day. Thank you for your cooperation!

Students should come to school wearing shoes which allow for safety on the playground. If a student wears dressy shoes, sandals, or flip-flops to school, a pair of sneakers or other safe outdoor shoes should be sent in. Additionally, Wednesdays and Fridays are P.E. days, and children need to be wearing sneakers for P.E. class.

Students and/or parents should not enter either school building before 8:40 a.m. Before 8:40 a.m., children must be under the care of their parent or caregiver even if they are on school grounds. Children cannot be left unattended on school grounds prior to 8:40 a.m. (See page 20 of the Parent/Student Handbook.)

Messages from Mrs. Strunk

Beginning in September, bills are no longer being sent to families as reminders of upcoming tuition payments. Tuition must be paid by the 1st of each month. In accordance with pages 11-12 of the Student/Parent Handbook, late fees will be assessed for late tuition payments.

If you have not yet returned your back-to-school forms, please do so immediately. Thanks to those who have already turned everything in!

Upcoming Dates

Sun., Sept. 17	Back-to-School Family Picnic – 4-6 p.m. – back playground
Wed., Sept. 27	Preschool, Kindergarten & Grade 1 Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m. – adults only
Thurs., Sept. 28	Grade 2-5 Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m. – adults only
Wed., Oct. 4	Faculty In-Service Workday – NO SCHOOL
Wed., Oct. 4	Special Parent Education Evening with Jim Burns – 7-8:30 p.m. – limited child-care available – see form in today's Wednesday Envelope
Mon., Oct. 9	Columbus Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Sat., Oct. 14	Fun Fair – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – on campus
Tues., Oct. 17	Individual & Class Photos by Lifetouch
Fri., Oct. 20	K-5 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no lunch, no after-care
Fri., Oct. 27	Fourth Grade Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building
Tues., Oct. 31	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m. – on campus

Celebrations/Appreciations

Kudos to the faculty and staff who worked tirelessly to get everything ready for the first day of school. 2006-07 is off to a fantastic start, and I am proud to be working with such a committed, engaged, and dynamic group of educators!

Thanks to the parents who attended the recent New Parent Coffee!

Thought for the Day

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”
(Nelson Henderson)