

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 3, 2006-07 – Wednesday, October 11, 2006

News and Notes

On November 15, we will welcome Mrs. Kathleen Browning to our school community as our next PE teacher! Please see today's Wednesday Envelope for a letter with more information.

Today's Wednesday Envelope also has important information about ordering optional "spirit wear" through Lands' End and a form that must be completed (one per family) indicating you have read the parent/student handbook.

K-5 fall after-school activities are slated to begin the week of October 23. Information about available offerings will be out as soon as it has all been finalized. (I am currently in the process of finalizing all details.)

I was thrilled with the turnout for last week's Jim Burns Parent Education Evening! If anyone would like a copy of the handouts he referenced, please let me know and I will send them home to you.

Last Wednesday, the faculty and I participated in a day of professional development with Jim Burns, educator and consultant. Wednesday's workshop "Becoming Your Personal Best" complemented the character education program he shared with us last spring.

Dr. Nguyen (parent of Kaitlyn, 4th grade, and Angelyn, Preschool 4) will once again generously sponsor the Halloween Candy Surrender to benefit a local charity and Pinecrest School. More information will be out closer to Halloween.

Board Chair Susan Akers (parent of Tyler Hohenstein, 5th grade, and Ellie Hohenstein, 1st grade) and I will represent Pinecrest at the Planning Commission Hearing on Thursday, October 12, along with our lawyer. This is Step 2 of 3 in our efforts to rezone the school (to include a sixth grade and increase our hours of operation so we can offer longer after-care). You will be kept informed as we move along.

The Fun Fair (this coming Saturday!) is shaping up to be an enjoyable time for all of our families. We are anticipating a great day filled with fun games to play, crafts to make, a moonbounce, delicious food at the café, and our ever-popular bake sale and Cake Walk. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered so far – this is our first big community event, and it will take everyone's efforts to make it a success. If you haven't yet signed up for a shift, please contact Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 4th grade) at volunteer@pinecrestschool.org or 703.255.1040. I know there is still a need for more parent volunteers to staff the second (12:30–2 p.m.) and third (2–3:30 p.m.) shifts. See you on Saturday!

There will be a Halloween parade on Tuesday morning, October 31st. If desired, children can arrive at school wearing their costume, but must have a change of clothes with them for later. Children will change out of their costumes once the parade and all photo-ops are over. The parade will be held rain or shine.

Monday, November 6, is a no-school day for students. This is parent conference day for teachers and parents. Teachers look forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's progress. Each time slot is 30 minutes; if you have not yet signed up for a conference with your child's teacher, please contact her as soon as possible to do so.

Pinecrest has received a most generous offer from Barbara Stubblefield, an alumni parent: Through the end of October we are able to shop in the Southern Living at Home catalog without having to attend a party (the usual way these products are sold). You can stock up on beautiful and unique decorating and entertaining items or shop early for the December holidays while benefiting the school financially – truly a win-win! Catalogs, instructions and order forms were already distributed. Additional catalogs, as well as sample merchandise, will also be on display at the Fun Fair. Please contact Susan Cohen if you need additional information.

FYI: Suzanne Leitner-Wise taught yoga classes during our winter 2006 session of after-school activities; this was our most popular activity and Ms. Suzanne was very well-received by students and parents. She is starting a local yoga center and I've agreed to help publicize her children's classes: Yoga Classes for Children – Fridays, 4:15 p.m., at Little River Yoga Studio, 6399 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria – 8 weeks, \$100. Please contact Suzanne for more information – suzanne@yoga-wise.com or 703.209.0049.

Messages from Mrs. Strunk

Tuition and bus payments 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 payments. Beginning in September, bills are no longer sent to families as reminders.

This year's Scholastic Book Fair will run Monday, October 30, until Monday, November 6, in the multipurpose room. More information will be distributed next week. The book fair gives families an excellent opportunity to purchase quality children's books at affordable prices. Plus, Pinecrest benefits – it's a win-win for all!

Upcoming Dates

Tues., Oct. 3	Happy Belated Birthday, Mrs. Higgins! ☺
Fri., Oct. 13	Fifth Grade Field Trip – Smithsonian Natural History Museum, D.C. – all day
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
Tues., Oct. 25	First Grade Field Trip – Cox Farm
Thurs., Oct. 26	Kindergarten Field Trip – Cox Farm
Fri., Oct. 27	Fourth Grade Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Mon.-Mon., Oct. 30-Nov. 6	Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room
Tues., Oct. 31	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m. – on campus
Fri., Nov. 3	K-5 Fun Lunch (lunch, drink, and dessert only)
Fri., Nov. 3	Quarter 1 Ends (42 days)
Mon., Nov. 6	Parent/Teacher Conferences / Faculty Workday – NO SCHOOL
Mon., Nov. 6	Quarter 1 Report Cards Distributed
Mon., Nov. 6	Happy Birthday, Mrs. Cantor! ☺

Celebrations/Appreciations

A tip of the hat to the parents who attended our Back-to-School Nights on September 27 and 28, and to the parents and faculty who attended our Parent Education Evening with Jim Burns on October 3!

Thank you to the parents who are regularly using the morning and afternoon carpool system. We appreciate your compliance with this structure for drop-off and pick-up!

Thanks to Sandra Hong-Weiner (parent of Quinton Weiner, K) for regularly providing delicious homemade treats to the faculty/staff!

Thought for the Day

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.”
(Albert Schweitzer)