

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 4, 2006-07 – Wednesday, October 25, 2006

News and Notes

The option to order Lands' End "spirit wear" is still available. Payment and order forms are due by next Wednesday, November 1.

K-5 fall after-school activities began yesterday! We are offering Digital Moviemaking on Tuesdays, Clay Sculpture on Wednesdays, Strength & Conditioning on Thursdays, and Drama on Fridays.

Ms. Perloth and the first grade class went to Cox Farms in Centreville yesterday and Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Murphy, and the kindergarten class are going tomorrow! Thanks to the following parents for attending the trips: Susan Akers (parent of Ellie, 1st grade, & Tyler Hohenstein, 5th grade), Denise Boyer (parent of Nicholas, 1st grade), Margarete Heber (parent of Jonna, 1st grade), Sandra Hong-Weiner (parent of Quinton Weiner, K), Lisa Johnson (parent of Hannah, K, and Grant, 2nd grade), Siriwan Kulvivat & Guy Weber (parents of Alex Kulvivat, 1st grade), Agustin Martinez (parent of Claudio, 1st grade), Shanna Neumann (parent of Rylee, K), Adam Nguyen (parent of Angela, 1st grade), Thanh Nguyen (parent of Nhi Luc, K), Sherry Nicewonder (parent of Nicholas Ozioli, K), Jolanta Stefanska (parent of Julia, K), Karen Tamayo (parent of Maddie Purser, 1st grade), and Mary Valad (parent of Valerie, 1st grade; Palmer, 3rd grade, and Jackson, 4th grade).

Mrs. Parelhoff will be out of school on Friday; she will be attending an all-day workshop in Fairfax geared for educators in grades 3-8 – "Bringing Boys & Books Together: Practical Activities and Strategies that Engage Boys in Literacy" presented by Barbara Swanson Sanders.

The Scholastic Book Fair is next week from October 30-November 6, in the newer building! (Please note date changes.) Mrs. Strunk is chairing this year's Book Fair. The children will have the chance to preview the books on Friday and create wish lists. Teachers are creating wish lists as well for any classroom and library contributions you'd like to make. The book fair gives families an excellent opportunity to purchase quality children's books at affordable prices. Plus, Pincrest benefits – it's a win-win for all!

There will be a Halloween parade on Tuesday morning, October 31. 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.

Dr. Nguyen (parent of Kaitlyn, 4th grade, and Angelyn, Preschool 4) is again generously sponsoring the Halloween Candy Surrender to benefit a local charity and Pincrest School. Please see today's Wednesday Envelope for more information. There will be a candy collection box in the front office.

Our annual fall food drive will run from November 1-17. This year, Food for Others in Merrifield will be the beneficiary. Food for Others is a local non-profit food bank and food rescue operation serving Northern Virginia. I have volunteered at their warehouse facility with the Key Club students with whom I work, and it is an impressive operation. Did you know that Northern Virginia has a poverty rate of 5%, and that based on U.S. Census figures, more than 90,000 people are living in poverty? Please see the insert in today's Wednesday Envelope for specific items needed and please visit www.foodforothers.org for more information. There will be a collection box in each classroom for food donations.

Mrs. Browning will be here all day on Wednesday, November 1, observing PE classes and meeting with Ms. D.

Board Chair Susan Akers and I represented Pincrest at the Planning Commission Hearing on October 12, along with our lawyer. This was Step 2 of 3 in the rezoning process and we were given a unanimous favorable decision! Step 3 of 3 is the Board of Supervisors Hearing, which has been scheduled for Monday afternoon, November 20.

News and Notes – continued

The Annandale Chamber of Commerce and Special Olympics Virginia will present the Annandale Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Phillips School on the corner of Braddock and Backlick Roads. There will be food, arts/crafts, live bands, children's games/activities, and more. Pinecrest will have a table!

Last week, a Fairfax County Fire & Rescue fire truck visited Pinecrest in honor of Fire Safety Month. The preschool and kindergarten classes enjoyed a presentation by three fire fighters and saw the truck's huge ladder extend!

To complement their social studies, Mrs. Parelhoff and the fifth graders recently went to tour the Natural History Museum and see the "Safari" IMAX movie. Thanks to Mary Alice Catherina (parent of Richie, 5th grade) for attending!

Last week, the fourth graders and Mrs. O'Hara created a large and unique cookie in the shape of the commonwealth of Virginia! The fourth grade social studies curriculum focuses on Virginia history. The students color coded and labeled the cookie with geographic landmarks. Thanks to Lisa Layfield & Lee Wittle (parents of Lily Wittle, 4th grade) for assisting our cookie cartographers!

Please note the following amendment to the Pinecrest School Parent/Student Handbook – Dress Code, page 34 – effective immediately: *"Roller sneakers" or similar such shoes/sneakers are not to be worn to school or after-care with the wheels on and/or wheels on shoes/sneakers such as these are not to be used during school or after-care.*

Monday, November 6, is a no-school day for students. This is conference day for teachers and parents. Teachers look forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's progress. 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. Also, please remember that there is no child care for children, including siblings, during conference time.

Quarter 1 report cards will be distributed during conferences on Monday, November 6. If you are unable to be here on November 6, your child's report card will be sent home in the next Wednesday Envelope.

Open Houses for prospective families begin in November. If you know of a family for whom Pinecrest might be a good match, please share some of our upcoming open house dates. They are listed on the school calendar and on the website. Reservations are not needed; interested families may just drop in during the listed open house hours.

Many have asked about ordering additional photo bookmarks as seen at the Fun Fair. They are the product of White Blossom, a new company by Mary Alice Catherina. Pinecrest families interested in duplicate bookmarks or similar such products can contact Mary Alice at maschott1@cox.net or 703.402.7312. The prices are \$8/one bookmark or \$12.50/set of three identical bookmarks. White Blossom's mission is to facilitate the ability of gift givers to demonstrate their love for recipients through high quality, unique products.

Upcoming Dates

Thurs., Oct. 26	Kindergarten Field Trip – Cox Farms
Fri., Oct. 27	Fourth Grade Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Sat., Oct. 28	Annandale Fall Festival
Mon.-Mon., Oct. 30-Nov. 6	Scholastic Book Fair – newer building
Tues., Oct. 31	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m. – on campus
Fri., Nov. 3	K-5 Fun Lunch (lunch, drink, and dessert only) // Quarter 1 Ends (42 days)
Mon., Nov. 6	Parent/Teacher Conferences / Faculty Workday – NO SCHOOL
Mon., Nov. 6	Quarter 1 Report Cards Distributed // Happy Birthday, Mrs. Cantor! ☺
Tues., Nov. 7	Election Day – VOTE!
Wed., Nov. 8	Open House for prospective families – 6-8 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 10	Parent Visiting Morning – 9:30-11:30 a.m. – for current parents
Fri., Nov. 10	Open House for prospective families – 12-2 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 13	Fifth Grade Field Trip – Dedication of Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, DC
Mon., Nov. 13	Ledo Pizza Night – 5-10 p.m. – 7510 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to the following people who contributed time and effort and/or made donations to this year's Fun Fair: Geoff Allen; Patti, Doug & Katie Allis; Madelynn Arnold; Susan Akers & Bill Hohenstein; Brian, Grace & Kira Becker; Susan Bouyboud; Tim & Denise Boyer; Vicky & Nate Carmody; Mary Alice Catherina; Beatriz Chanduvi; Karen Chesbrough; Andy, Libby & Lena Cohen; Shirley & John Corkill; Karen Dabney; McKenna Deal; Jennifer Dugent; Maureen Frank; Kathy Ginsberg; Lyn Goodman; Margarete Heber; Worth & Karla Hester; Anne Higgins; Sandra Hong-Weiner; Eleni Jakub; Lisa Johnson; Kenneth Kauffman; Vikki Keen; Siriwan Kulvivat; Sang Kwon; Lisa Layfield & Lee & Lily Wittle; Kathy Lewis; Meghan Lucas; Alejandra & Diego Lorenzo; Esperanza Miranda; Valerie Montgomery; Julie Muir; Shanna Neumann; Sherry Nicewonder & Dan Ozioli; Hung Ngo; Monique Nguyen; Phong Nguyen; Thanh Nguyen; Kadi O'Brien; Karen Parelhoff; Anibal Pazmino; Erica Perloth; Will & Teresa Rowe; Monica Sharata; Mena Singh; Dean Smith; Jolanta Stefanska; Mary Strunk; Barbara Stubblefield; Karen Tamayo & Ben, Maddie & Hannah Purser; Huong Tran; Michelle Tran; Trang Tran; Vy Tran & Miki Ma; Bart & Mary Valad; Jeffrey Wolff; and Semsi & Havva Yozgat! And, finally, a standing ovation and a big thank you to Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 4th grade) for organizing the fun and successful event!

A tip of the hat to those who have agreed to be 2006-07 Room Parents – Thao Nguyen (parent of Thomas, Preschool 3), Karen and Scott Chesbrough (parents of Cameron, Preschool 4), Sherry Nicewonder, Karen Tamayo, Karla Ochoa-Lopez (parent of Mireya Lopez, 2nd grade), Lyn Goodman (parent of Kyle, 3rd grade), Lisa Layfield, and Karla Hester (parent of Nick, 5th grade, and Cam, 4th grade)! Thanks also the room parents and Volunteer Chair Susan Cohen who attended the room parent dinner meeting with Mrs. Strunk and me last week; we appreciated your input and time!

Thank you to everyone who warmed up last week with winter gear for our all-school "winter photo!" Special thanks to Karen Tamayo for taking the photo and also to Sherry Nicewonder for assisting the kindergarten class that morning.

Thought for the Day

"Mistakes are portals of discovery."
(James Joyce)