

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 6, 2006-07 – Tuesday, November 21, 2006

News and Notes

We are closed Wednesday-Friday of this week for the Thanksgiving holiday. Wednesday Envelopes will be coming home today.

Board Chair Susan Akers and I represented Pinecrest at the Board of Supervisors Hearing yesterday afternoon, along with our lawyer. This was Step 3 of 3 in the rezoning process to add a sixth grade to the school and extend after-care hours, and the matter received unanimous support from the Board of Supervisors! The last piece in the process is an inspection to be sure we are in compliance with the development conditions set forth when the newer building was built a few years ago. (We are.) Once this is done, the vote of the Board of Supervisors becomes official and final! We anticipate that our first sixth grade class will be in 2008-09, and we will begin the longer after-care hours after the December holiday break.

Pinecrest is planning to have a summer camp program on-site beginning in 2007! Preliminary information will be distributed soon.

Our annual fall food drive has ended, and the food has been delivered to Food for Others in Merrifield. Thank you to Mrs. Strunk for making the delivery! I believe in the importance of helping children understand that the “world is a bigger place than just me,” and I appreciate how many parents helped further that message with the many food drive donations.

Movie Night will take place in the multipurpose room on Friday, December 1, for K-5 children. We are showing *The Incredibles* and eating pizza, the children can wear their pajamas, and parents have the night “off!” There is still space to sign up if you are interested – please complete the form and send in payment as soon as possible.

Last week, Mrs. Parelhoff, the fifth graders, and I went into DC for the groundbreaking ceremony of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial to be built on the Mall. Last year, the fifth graders studied the Civil Rights movement, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and Dr. King so this event complemented their social studies work nicely. It was a unique ceremony featuring speeches from many people, including President Bush, President Clinton, Senator Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Maya Angelou, Dr. King’s children and more! Thank you very much to Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, K, and Tyler Hohenstein, 5th grade) and Karla Hester (parent of Nick, 5th grade, and Cam, 4th grade) for driving us into DC, and to Mary Alice Catherina (parent of Richie, 5th grade) for accompanying us on the trip!

Last week, Mrs. O’Hara, the fourth graders and I went to Yorktown, Williamsburg, and Jamestown for a day-long field trip. The fourth grade social studies curriculum focuses on Virginia history, and the tour guides (and I) were quite impressed with our fourth graders’ knowledge of the time period and geography! It was wonderful to see the children so engaged. Thank you to the following parents who drove and chaperoned the trip: Brian Becker (parent of Kira, 4th grade, and Scott, 1st grade), Lisa Layfield (parent of Lily Wittle, 4th grade), Steve Muir (parent of Kevin, 4th grade), Monique Nguyen (parent of Kaitlyn, 4th grade, and Angelyn, Preschool 4), Will Rowe (parent of Misha, 4th grade), Mary Valad (parent of Jackson, 4th grade; Palmer, 3rd grade; and Valerie, 1st grade)! A tip of the hat to Fourth Grade Room Parent Lisa Layfield for her help to organize the trip and to Holley Walling (grandparent of Lily Wittle) for securing a local dinner location for us!

Mrs. Johnson and the three-year-old preschool class took a recent field trip to Bob Moore’s pottery studio in Falls Church. Mr. Moore is also our instructor for the Clay Sculpture after-school activity.

Recently a number of items have been found at school and left in the office. Because there are no student names or initials on the items, it is often difficult to find the rightful owners. I urge you to please label belongings coming to school with names or initials.

Upcoming Dates

Tues., Nov. 21	Thanksgiving Feasts (per class) – no after-care
Wed.-Fri., Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Fri., Dec. 1	K-5 Movie Night – 6-10 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9	Open House for prospective families – 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 15	NO SCHOOL – Music Program – 9:15 a.m. – no bus service
Mon.-Fri., Dec. 18-29	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
Mon., Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Tues., Jan. 2	School resumes
Mon., Jan. 8	Rising Four-Year-Olds Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Tues., Jan. 9	Rising Kindergarten Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Wed., Jan. 10	Rising First Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Thurs., Jan. 11	Rising Second Grade and Third Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 12	Rising Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 12	K-5 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Mon., Jan. 15	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday – NO SCHOOL

Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to all who joined us at our Veterans' Day Parent Visiting Morning, who came to Ledo's last week for pizza and camaraderie, and for those who will join us today for the classroom Thanksgiving feasts!

Applause please for Karla and Worth Hester for their recent efforts to help us maintain our outdoor sports equipment!

A standing ovation for the volunteers at our November open houses for prospective families: Susan Akers, Mary Alice Catherina, Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 4th grade), Steve Ginsberg (parent of Max, 3rd grade), Lyn Goodman (parent of Kyle, 3rd grade), Lisa Johnson (parent of Grant, 2nd grade, and Hannah, K), Mary Strunk, Karen Tamayo (parent of Maddie Purser, 1st grade)! Thank you for your time.

Happy Thanksgiving! May your holiday and weekend be a time of reflection, renewal, and relaxation.

Thought for the Day

“Let us be grateful to people who make us happy;
they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”
(Marcel Proust)