

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 15, 2006-07 – Wednesday, April 25, 2007

News and Notes

Last week's Spirit Week was a lot of fun! Thanks to everyone who participated! Photos from Spirit Week, Movie Night and other recent events are now available for viewing in the password-protected photo gallery on our website.

The school's annual Spruce Up Day / Parent Workday will be this Saturday, April 28, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Strunk is heading up our efforts. Please contact her at office@pinecrestschool.org or 703.354.3446 to sign up – there is still time to join in!

I am happy to report that Pinecrest is now all in the same time zone. Every room in both buildings has a new atomic clock, thanks to the Time Zone Challenge from this year's auction fundraiser!

The JDRF Sneaker Sale in honor of and in support of Ellie Hohenstein (1st grade) will continue through mid May. All of the money raised will go to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to support research for a cure for diabetes and for better treatments for the complications of diabetes. The sneakers are posted in the front entryway/office of the school as a visual reminder of our community's support for Ellie.

Last Thursday, Mrs. Higgins attended a day-long workshop in McLean – Reading & the Brain: What Every Teacher Absolutely Needs to Know – with teacher, consultant and author Pamela Nevills.

Last Friday, I attended the Sensory Strategies to Improve Children's Learning & Behavior conference with Carol Kranowitz, best-selling author of [The Out-of-Sync Child](#).

Please note that the preferred method of afternoon pick-up is to go through the carpool line. Additionally, for safety and security reasons, only school personnel should be dismissing children, meaning that parents or caregivers should not be waving children out of their class lines or out the door. As the children have been informed yesterday, everyone must still get into their class lines and then "check out" with me/Mrs. Strunk or their classroom teacher. Although we are a small community, these kind of systems exist in order for us to care for and protect our children in the best and safest possible way. Cooperation and understanding is appreciated.

Save the Date: On Sunday, June 3, we will have our Annual Meeting (2-2:30 p.m.) and Ice Cream Social (2:30-4 p.m.) Please note that this is a date change from what is listed on the school calendar. More information will be sent home soon!

FYI: The George Mason Regional Library on Little River Turnpike is hosting a free showing of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, at 7 p.m., on Thursday, May 10. I believe this movie is a must-see for every citizen!

Pinecrest Summer Pavilion

I am so pleased to report that 114 children will be participating in our inaugural camp program this summer! Mrs. Hartzler and I are very excited by this positive response. There is still space available in many of our unique camp classes this summer, and it is not too late to sign up or to pass the word along to other families you know who might be interested. Please continue to help us spread the word about Pinecrest Summer Pavilion!

Upcoming Dates

Mon.-Fri., April 23-27	Grade 4 Stanford Achievement Test – mornings – no make-ups
Tues.-Thurs., April 24-26	Grade 1 Cognitive Abilities Test – mornings – no make-ups
Tues.-Wed., April 24-25	Grade 2 Otis-Lennon School Ability Test – mornings – no make-ups

Upcoming Dates (continued)

Wed., April 25	Open house for prospective families – 6-8 p.m.
Fri., April 27	Kindergarten Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building
Sat., April 28	Spruce Up Day / Parent Workday – 8:30 a.m.
Tues., May 1	In-house Reptiles Alive Shows – Grades 1-5
Wed., May 2	Kindergarten Field Trip – Green Thumbs Group Visit – Cox Farm
Thurs., May 3	In-house Kaydee Puppets Show – Preschool and Kindergarten
Fri., May 4	All-school Group Photo
Mon.-Fri., May 7-11	Faculty Appreciation Week
Wed.-Fri., May 9-11	Kindergarten Metropolitan Readiness Test – mornings – no make-ups
Fri., May 11	Grade 1-5 Authors' Teas – 2-3:30 p.m. (per class – teachers will be in touch with parents on exact times)
Fri., May 18	Preschool 4 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building
Fri., May 25	Preschool 3 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building – please note that this is a date change from what is listed on the school calendar
Fri., May 25	K-5 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Mon., May 28	Memorial Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL

Celebrations/Appreciations

Today, we appreciate and recognize Mrs. Strunk, in honor of Administrative Professionals' Day! Mrs. Strunk is always working for the good of the school, and her dedication and efforts do not go unnoticed. A round of applause, a standing ovation, and a resounding THANK YOU to Mrs. Strunk for all that she does for Pinecrest!

Last week's Movie Night was a lot of fun, and I think all 56 children who attended would agree with me! Thank you to Scott Pratt, his wife Carol and their daughters, for again joining us! Mr. Pratt gives of his time and equipment to help us make our Movie Nights great nights for all. The addition of his popcorn machine made this one even more special! A round of applause for Ben Purser (parent of Maddie, 1st grade) and for Maureen Frank and Amy Kaplan from the Kiwanis Club of Tysons Corner for giving their time to help us that night, and a big tip of the hat to Karen Tamayo (parent of Maddie Purser, 1st grade) for all of her work to organize and coordinate this popular and fun-filled event!

Thank you to the volunteers at our April open houses for prospective families – Susan Akers (parent of Tyler & Ellie Hohenstein, 5th & 1st grades), Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 4th grade), Mary Strunk, and Karen Tamayo!

Thought for the Day

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."
(Taylor Benson)