



PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 1, 2007-08– Wednesday, September 5, 2007

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. I hope you will find the newsletter as an effective means of communication and a helpful tool to stay connected to the Pinecrest community.

News and Notes

As you may have noticed from some of the new posters in the hallways, Pinecrest is “going green” this year! I am very happy to announce that we have begun recycling and conserving energy in an effort to be more mindful of our planet. I was moved to get more actively involved with this after watching Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth* last year; if you have not yet seen this film, I urge you and your family to watch it and discuss. I feel very strongly that this is a critical cause and one that behooves everyone to get involved. As I discussed with the faculty and staff last week, our efforts at Pinecrest to be respectful of our earth will only work if everyone gets on board. We are going to be discussing with the children why it’s important, how they can help and so on, and I hope you may consider beginning some of these efforts in your own home as well. Each classroom and space in our school has a new recycling bin with a sign indicating what can be recycled. We will be recycling paper, some plastics, cans, bottles, and other similar items. I believe it’s not only important to do this not only for our world (and what will be our children’s world later), but help teach children how to be more ecologically friendly and aware of how their actions affect others and our planet. Under Mrs. Hodgkins’ and my direction, our fifth grade class will be managing the Pinecrest “Going Green” efforts. More information (and proactive environmental tips) will be shared throughout the year. Please let me know if you have any questions about this and also if you have any environmentally-friendly tips of your own.

As you know, this is the 50th anniversary year of the school, and we are excited about making this year that much more wonderful for our community! There will be various special 50th activities planned throughout the year, and to kick off the birthday party, Admissions Director Mrs. Mink and I visited classrooms yesterday to give out birthday presents – our special 50th birthday t-shirts! Please let me know if there are any size issues. There might be some special times throughout the year when we ask everyone to wear them, but for now, children can wear the shirts whenever they would like to!

Pinecrest’s Annual Back-to-School Picnic is this Sunday, September 16, 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. In case of rain, the picnic will be held in the multipurpose room.

Our annual Back-to-School Nights will be in two weeks – Monday, September 24 (grade 1 – please note date change); Wednesday, September 26 (preschool and kindergarten) and Thursday, September 27 (grades 2-5). Wednesday and Thursday 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. First grade Back-to-School Night will begin in the first grade classroom. Teachers will have handouts for you at this time as well. Please note that Back-to-School Nights are for parents only.

The date of the Fun Fair has changed from what is listed on the school calendar you have already received. The Fun Fair will now be held on Saturday, October 20, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., on the Pinecrest front yard. Please stay tuned for more Fun Fair information!

Save the Date: I am very pleased to announce that our 2nd Annual Parent Education Evening featuring Cindy Post Senning, Ed.D., co-author of [The Gift of Good Manners: A Parent’s Guide to Raising Respectful, Kind, Considerate Children](#), will be held on Wednesday, November 28, from 7-8:30 p.m., in the newer building multipurpose room. Childcare will be available at an affordable cost. More information will be available soon about this special event!

2007-08 School Directories (one per family) were distributed at last week's Visiting Day. If you did not receive yours at that time, please check today's Wednesday Envelope.

Parent/Student Handbooks (one per family) will be distributed next week and will be sent home via next week's Wednesday Envelopes.

Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 5th grade) is again 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 blue 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! Like last year, we 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. Also like last year, we will be making available the opt-in Southern Living At Home fundraiser through Alumni Parent Barbara Stubblefield again. Watch for more information about how you can be involved – and make sure to mark your calendar for the Fun Fair on Saturday, October 20!

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. 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 (or Mrs. Strunk if I am not present). 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.

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 to school each day. Thanks 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.

Messages from Mrs. Strunk

Thank you to those who have already turned in forms and payments! Mrs. Strunk is in the process of reviewing everything related to your child's records. If there is any information missing from the forms, she will return the form with the area highlighted that needs attention. If there are any missing forms or if there are payment adjustments needed, Mrs. Strunk will send you an e-mail or a note.

Upcoming Dates

Fri., Sept. 7	New Parent Coffee – 9 a.m. – science/art lab, newer building
Sun., Sept. 16	Back-to-School Family Picnic – 4-6 p.m. – back playground
Mon., Sept. 24	Grade 1 Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 26	Preschool & Kindergarten Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m.
Thurs., Sept. 27	Grade 2-5 Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 4	Individual & Class Photos – please watch Wed. Envelopes for order information
Fri., Oct. 5	K-5 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Mon., Oct. 8	Columbus Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Sat., Oct. 20	Fun Fair – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – front yard
Thurs., Oct. 25-Mon., Nov. 5	Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room

Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to all who helped make yesterday a fantastic first day of school!

Kudos to the faculty/staff who worked cooperatively and excitedly last week to get everything ready for the year! 2007-08 is off to a super start, and I'm proud to work with such a dynamic, talented, and kind group of educators.

I want to extend another warm welcome to all of the families joining our school community for the first time this year and to the new staff as well – Mrs. Mink (Admissions Director), Mrs. Butler (Preschool 3), Mrs. Wheeler (Grade 1), Mrs. Tone (Grade 4 Assistant), and Mrs. Hodgkins (Grade 5)!

Thought for the Day

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." (Ghandi)