



# PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 2, 2007-08- Wednesday, September 19, 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](mailto: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.\*\* I hope you will find the newsletter to be a helpful tool to stay connected to our community.

## News and Notes

Information about our fall K-5 after-school programs was distributed last week. We are offering K-5 Abrakadoodle Art on Mondays, 3-5 Etiquette on Tuesdays, K-5 Yoga on Wednesdays, K-5 Tennis on Thursdays, and K-2 Etiquette on Fridays. A note about the etiquette sessions and the yoga class: I believe the etiquette sessions would be terrific for any child, but especially wonderful for any child with social awkwardness or shyness. Good manners and feeling good about oneself are often linked; this after-school activity will give students the opportunity to practice good manners and interact in a variety of social situations thereby increasing self awareness and self esteem. Mrs. Swisher is our yoga teacher, and she taught a yoga class at Pinecrest Summer Pavilion this summer. The class took place in the playroom so I had the pleasure of hearing much of what went on in that class as they were right next door! Mrs. Swisher is fantastic, and the class is unique and so positive on many levels. It actually inspired me to take my own adult yoga class this fall – that's how good it was! I hope you will consider these and the other programs for your child this fall.

Our annual Back-to-School Nights are next week – Monday, September 24 (grade 1 – please note date change); Wednesday, September 26 (preschool and kindergarten) and Thursday, September 27 (grades 2-5). Teachers will have handouts for you at this time. 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. Please note that Back-to-School Nights are for parents only.

Next Wednesday, September 26, our K-5 students will be treated to a math-themed magic show by Brian Curry. Mr. Curry performed at Pinecrest Summer Pavilion Week 6 and his show was a BIG hit! This new show brings math to life using magic, and it will take place in the multipurpose room at 2:30 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend as well; siblings may also attend as long as they are accompanied by a parent.

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 from Fun Fair Chair Shirley Corkill (parent of Ryan, 4<sup>th</sup> grade).

Save the Date: Our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

Thank you to those who have returned the Parent/Student Handbooks Agreement Form (one per family). If you have not yet done so, please sign and return the agreement form as soon as possible.

Mrs. Hodgkins and the fifth grade class traveled to Philadelphia on Monday to see the King Tut exhibit at the Franklin Institute! Thank you to Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Karen Dabney (parent of Maggie, 5<sup>th</sup> grade) for their work to coordinate the trip and for attending and to Monique Nguyen (parent of Kaitlyn & Angelyn, 5<sup>th</sup> grade & K) who also attended with the class.

Last Wednesday, our fifth grade class presented an assembly to our school community about recycling and why we are going green at Pinecrest this year. Thank you to the fifth graders and Mrs. Hodgkins for a job well done!

## News and Notes – continued

Pinecrest will be participating with a booth at the upcoming Mason District Fall Festival on Saturday, September 29, and the Annandale Fall Festival on Saturday, October 6. Admissions Director Mrs. Mink will be sharing more of this information with the community soon.

I was remiss in not including this in the last newsletter: Mrs. Yeomans attended a music course at George Mason University this summer that focused on meeting the needs of all students in music class.

Harris Teeter has a school giving program called Together In Education. To register, you must have a Harris Teeter VIC Savings Card. Have your Harris Teeter VIC card number handy and then please visit <https://www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pageId=32> or send me 11-digit VIC card number and the school will register you. You must relink your VIC card number each year. Pinecrest's code is 5160.

Two other easy fundraisers are [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com) and [www.giveline.com](http://www.giveline.com). Both of these websites act as online shopping portals that, once you have registered and designated Pinecrest, will give a portion of dollars you spend on purchases on these websites back to Pinecrest. Please see the e-mails that were sent out about this or ask me for more information.

Lands' End catalogs will be sent home today for those interested in ordering "Pinecrest Pioneers" spirit wear items.

FYI: Saturday, September 29, is the National Book Festival, held on the Mall in D.C. This is a very unique event that promotes reading and features many authors. It is hosted by the Library of Congress and First Lady Laura Bush. For more information, please visit [www.loc.gov/bookfest](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest) or call 888.714.4696.

## General Reminders

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.

Beginning in September, bills are no longer being sent to families as reminders of upcoming tuition payments. Tuition must be paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. In accordance with the Student/Parent Handbook, late fees will be assessed for late tuition payments.

## Upcoming Dates

Mon., Sept. 24	Room Parent Meeting – 9:15 a.m. – science/art lab
Mon., Sept. 24	Grade 1 Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m. – first grade classroom
Wed., Sept. 26	K-5 Math Magic Show with Brian Curry – 2:30 p.m. – multipurpose room
Wed., Sept. 26	Preschool & Kindergarten Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m. – multipurpose room
Thurs., Sept. 27	Grade 2-5 Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m. – multipurpose room
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
Wed., Oct. 31	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m. – parents are invited to attend – more information to follow

## Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to everyone who attended the Back-to-School Picnic! It was lovely to see you all. Special thanks to Mrs. Strunk who set up; Shirley, John and Ryan Corkill for their set-up help; and Susan Akers and Ellie Hohenstein and Susan, Andy, Libby and Lena Cohen for their clean-up/break-down efforts!

## Thought for the Day

"There can be no happiness if the things we think are different from the things we do." (Freya M. Stark)