



PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 4, 2007-08 – Wednesday, October 17, 2007

News and Notes

The annual Fun Fair will take place this Saturday, October 20, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., on the Pinecrest front yard. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

If you have not yet signed up to volunteer at Saturday's Fun Fair, please do so. More volunteers could still be used in all capacities. Please contact Fun Fair Chair Shirley Corkill (parent of Ryan, 4th grade) if you are able to contribute – shirley@corkill.us or 703.319.0778.

Please see today's Wednesday Envelopes for information about this year's Book Fair! The Scholastic Book Fair will run from October 25-November 5, in the newer building! Mrs. Strunk is chairing this year's Book Fair. The children will have the chance to preview the books 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, Pinecrest benefits as Scholastic will give us a portion of profits taken in from our sale – it's a win-win for all!

Pending no emergencies, a fire truck will be visiting Pinecrest at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow – Thursday, October 18 – for a presentation to the preschool and kindergarten classes. This is in honor of fire safety month.

Last week, the second/third grade class took a walking field trip to Annandale Fire Station on Columbia Pike. Thank you to Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, 2nd grade) and Val Treharne (parent of Jonny, 3rd grade) for attending the trip!

There will be a Halloween parade on Wednesday 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. Please see my email/letter for further information about the Halloween parade.

There will be a Lifetouch make-up picture day later this fall; this will be announced by Mrs. Strunk once all of the Lifetouch pictures are in. The pictures will be in sometime soon.

Admissions Director Barb Mink represented Pinecrest yesterday at the Alexandria Moms' Club Preschool Fair.

I attended an accreditation workshop presented by SACS CASI yesterday; SACS CASI (Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, Council on Accreditation & School Improvement) is the group from whom we're currently seeking accreditation, and the workshop was very helpful in understanding the process. I will continue to share information about how we are moving towards our accreditation goal.

Pinecrest has received a most generous offer from Barbara Stubblefield, an alumni parent: Through the end of October we are able to shop in the Southern Living At Home catalog without having to attend a party (the usual way these products are sold). You can stock up on beautiful and unique decorating and entertaining items or shop early for the December holidays while benefiting the school financially – truly a win-win! Catalogs, instructions and order forms were already distributed. Additional catalogs, as well as sample merchandise, will also be on display at the Fun Fair. Please contact Volunteer Chair Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 5th grade) if you need additional information – volunteer@pinecrestschool.org or 703.255.1040.

Save the Date: 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 is available at an affordable cost. Information was sent home last Wednesday about this event; please let me know if you need another copy of the information form. Please note that I am asking that everyone who is planning to attend to please respond (RSVP) and let me know by completing the orange RSVP form you received last Wednesday.

Important Reminders

Thank you in advance for your attention to these below issues.

Wednesdays and Fridays are PE days with Mrs. Browning. On these days especially, please make sure your child is wearing sneakers. Crocs and other footwear besides sneakers are not appropriate for any physical activity beyond walking. If your child is wearing this kind of footwear, Mrs. Browning's ability to implement an active PE class is limited. Similarly, please make sure your child is wearing appropriate clothing on PE days. Tight or form-fitting clothes limit your child's ability to move and, again, limit Mrs. Browning's ability to implement an active PE class, which is our goal.

Please be sure to watch the weather and make sure your child is dressed appropriately for school each day and has a jacket or the equivalent if needed. Although it's warm this week, it was quite chilly last week and some children were not prepared to go outside for recess or PE.

I want to remind you that you returned a signed form to the school whereby you acknowledged the Pinecrest School Parent/Student Handbook policies and guidelines. As the form read, your signature on the form indicated your agreement to adhere to these policies and guidelines. Please note that pages 6-7 in the handbook outline the morning drop-off, 12 noon pick-up, and 3:30 p.m. pick-up policies. Policies and procedures are a mechanism for campus safety and security, as well as a way to help ensure that our school operates effectively and successfully. I am copying and pasting this handbook section below.

Additionally, although this is not listed in the below policies, the speed limit in our driveway is 10 miles per hour and all should be obeying this speed limit. Also, during dismissal, parents should not pass or go around other cars still parked in the carpool line to get out of the carpool line. Finally, please do not hand teachers notes or envelopes for the office during morning or afternoon carpool. Backpack mail, the Wednesday Envelope or coming in to make the delivery yourself is the best way to ensure proper delivery.

Arrival

On-time Arrival – *To promote the safety of both bus riders and carpool students, we ask that the following procedures be followed:*

- *Carpool students may not be dropped off before 8:40 a.m. When you arrive at school, please remain in the carpool line and do not let your child leave the car until you reach the sidewalk where a faculty/staff member will assist the student out of the car.*
- *To facilitate the smooth flow of traffic, please do not get out of your vehicle to drop off students. If you need to come into the school, please park in the auxiliary parking lot. Remain in line until you reach the entrance to the lot. Do not pass other cars in line to get to it. Please check in at the office before going to your child's classroom.*

Late Arrival – *All children who are late to school must report to the office before proceeding to class. Parents must escort tardy students to the office and sign them in at the front desk. The newer building is locked at 9:25 a.m. Students who are tardy will be escorted to their classrooms by the Business Manager/Office Coordinator.*

Departure

12:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Dismissal Procedures

- *The bus pulls into the dismissal circle.*
- *Carpool drivers stop and line up along the right side of the driveway across from the school's mailbox. If you need to come into the school, please park in the auxiliary parking lot. Remain in line until you reach the lot. Do not pass other cars in line to get to it.*
- *The bus loads and departs.*
- *When the bus has left the dismissal circle, carpool drivers pull into the circle three at a time (stopping at the No Standing/Fire Lane sign). Children are put into their parent's or designated driver's car by a faculty/staff member. All students should be out of the building by 12:20 p.m. or 3:50 p.m.*
- *Only school personnel should dismiss children; parents or caregivers should not wave children out of their class lines or out the door to them. K-5 children must still get into their class lines and then check out with the Head of School (or Business Manager/Office Coordinator). Preschool children must check out with a preschool faculty member. Unless there is a reason to come into the school, parents should not park to pick up their children.*

Please Note: *Children must be picked up from school at the designated time. If an unavoidable delay occurs and you are late, the child will be escorted to the office by a faculty/staff member and will remain there until a parent or designated driver arrives. The school will continue to attempt to notify the parents or the emergency contact person. If no one picks up the child by the time the office closes at 6:00 p.m., and the school is still unable to reach the parent or emergency contact, the school is required to notify Child Protective Services.*

Early and Late Pick Up Policies – If you must pick up your child before the 12:00 or 3:30 p.m. dismissal times, please come to the office and sign him/her out at the front desk.

K-5 children who are not picked up by 3:45 p.m. will be sent to after-care. Fees will be assessed under Plan B – Drop-in Attendance. (See After-care Program.)

Preschool children who are not picked up by 12:15 p.m. will be kept in the office. Late fees will be assessed at \$5 per occurrence.

Upcoming Dates

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| Thurs., Oct. 18 | Preschool & K Fire Truck Visit to Pinecrest – 9:30 a.m. – parking lot |
| Sat., Oct. 20 | Fun Fair – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – front yard |
| Tues., Oct. 23 | Grade 1 Field Trip – Cox Farm |
| Thurs., Oct. 25-Mon., Nov. 5 | Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room |
| Thurs., Oct. 25 | K Field Trip – Cox Farm |
| Thurs., Oct. 25 | Grade 5 Field Trip – Pumpkin Maze, Markham, VA |
| Mon., Oct. 29 | Preschool Miss Cathy's Puppet Show – playroom |
| Wed., Oct. 31 | Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m. |
| Fri., Nov. 2 | Quarter 1 Ends (43 days) |
| Mon., Nov. 5 | Quarter 1 Report Cards Distributed |
| Mon., Nov. 5 | Parent/Teacher Conferences / Faculty Workday – NO SCHOOL / no childcare |
| Mon., Nov. 12 | Parent Visiting Morning – 9:30-11:30 a.m. – more information to follow |
| Mon., Nov. 12 | K Field Trip – “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie” play – George Mason University |
| Mon., Nov. 12 | Open House for prospective families – 12-2 p.m. |
| Mon., Nov. 12 | Ledo Pizza Night – 5-10 p.m. – 7510 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church |
| Fri., Nov. 16 | Fourth Grade Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room |
| Sat., Nov. 17 | Open House for prospective families – 10 a.m.–2 p.m. |
| Tues., Nov. 20 | Thanksgiving Feasts (per class) – no after-care |
| Wed.-Fri., Nov. 21-23 | Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL |
| Wed., Nov. 28 | Preschool & K In-house Author Visit/Presentation with Dr. Senning – 9:30 a.m. (<u>Emily's Magic Words</u> – preschool) and 10:15 a.m. (<u>Emily's Everyday Manners</u> – K) – playroom |
| Wed., Nov. 28 | Parent Education Evening with Dr. Senning – 7-8:30 p.m. – multipurpose room |

Celebrations/Appreciations

Applause, please, for the members of our community who staffed our booth at the Annandale Fall Festival held on October 6 – Susan Akers, Susan Cohen, Steve Ginsberg, Agustin Martinez, Mary and Ken Strunk, and Admissions Director Barb Mink, who also organized our presence!

Thought for the Day

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world Love of books is best of all.”
(Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis)