



PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 7, 2007-08 – Wednesday, December 5, 2007

News and Notes

K-5 Movie Night is this Friday, December 7. This is a very fun event, and we are showing *Ice Age*. We have some space available if you would still like to sign your child (and any K-6 siblings) up!

The kindergarten and first grade classes will be treated to an exciting in-house holiday-themed show on Friday morning, December 7, by Miss Cathy the storyteller.

Mrs. Wheeler will attend a workshop presented by Staff Development Resources next Tuesday, December 11, in Fairfax – “Real Reading...Right From the Start” with Debbie Miller.

Thursday, December 13, is the last day of school before the winter break. There is no school and no bus service on Friday, December 14. Instead, the children will present their winter music concert, at 9:15 a.m., at St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church on Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Directions from the school to the church will be sent home next week. All children need to arrive at the church by 9 a.m. Light refreshments will follow the program.

With the cold weather upon us, please make sure your child has appropriate outerwear and accessories every day for recess, dismissal time, et cetera.

Mrs. Mink and I noticed that many families are showing their school spirit by displaying our new car magnets – thank you! If you have not yet done so, please consider putting yours on your car today! This is a wonderful way to help your children feel proud of our community and help us market Pincrest at the same time. Additional car magnets are available for only \$4.00 each.

Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Ferrier, Mrs. Narcisso, and both preschool classes attended a holiday concert at Woodson High School in Fairfax last week. Thank you to the following parents who accompanied the classes on the trips: Merari Chollette (parent of Jenelle & Julienne, Preschool 4 & K), Pavel Dasek (parent of Misha, Preschool 3), Young-Suk Kim (parent of Andrew, Preschool 3), Alejandra Lorenzo (parent of Vicky & Alex and Santi, Preschool 4 & 2nd grade), Sholeh Najafabadi (parent of Tarah, Preschool 3), Kim Nguyen (parent of Allen & Anne, Preschool 4 & 1st grade), Paula O’Grady (parent of Freya & James, Preschool 4 & 2nd grade), Sheikh Raiyan & Nigar Sultana (parents of Raiyan, Preschool 3), and Kristen Wool-Lewis (parent of Ethan, Preschool 4).

We had three school fundraising events this fall – Fun Fair (although its primary goal is a fun day for our children), Southern Living At Home Catalog Sale with Alumni Parent Barbara Stubblefield (and also an at-home party by Paula O’Grady with Mrs. Stubblefield donating part of her proceeds to the school), and Ledo Pizza Night – and we raised approximately \$1000.00 from these events. Thank you to those who contributed and/or participated!

Save the Date: Our annual International Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 12, at 6 p.m. Location TBA. This is true community event where we can celebrate the differences that make us “one world, one school.” Vikki Keen (parent of Jared, 4th grade) is chairing this year’s International Dinner, and you will hear more about it after the break.

Please note the rising grade-level curriculum coffees in the Upcoming Dates section below; they will take place in January in the science/art lab of the newer building. These coffees are designed to help parents become more knowledgeable about their child’s next grade level. (For example, if your child is currently in the four-year-old preschool class, you would attend the rising kindergarten curriculum coffee, and so on.) Teachers will make presentations and answer questions. I hope you’ll plan on attending!

The winter session of after-school activities is slated to begin the week of January 21. Information will be distributed soon about the winter offerings. Thank you to those who responded to my email with after-school activity suggestions!

News and Notes – continued

Please remember that tuition is normally due on or by the first of each month. January's tuition will be due on or by Wednesday, January 2, as this is the date that school resumes from winter break.

Mrs. Hartzler is working enthusiastically on Pinecrest Summer Pavilion 2008! Camp information packets will be available sometime in January.

Auction Update

While we're all busy with the holiday season and looking forward to winter break, it's important to remember that we are also starting to gear up for our big fundraising auction which will be held on Saturday evening, April 5, 2008! The fundraising auction is one of the largest contributors to the school's discretionary funds, and these expenditures enable us to greatly improve the experience of all Pinecrest students. Several items – like the computer lab computers, screen and projector used for Movie Night and various other presentations, the school's digital camera, and our all-on-the-same-time-zone atomic clocks – were directly funded by recent auctions.

There is more fabulous stuff in the stores now (and at great deals in many places) than there may be in the spring so if you think you'd like to put together an auction donation such as a basket of home decor items or specialty foods or cool collectibles for kids, this is really the time of year to snag those items. Also, if you see something great while traveling, please consider what you could purchase and donate to the auction. Donation forms are available in the office for those of you who want to get out ahead of the process; the Auction Committee will be making a big push to secure everyone's donations once we get back from the holiday break. (But it's never too early to donate!) Eleni Jakub (parent of Alex & Anastasia, 1st grade) & Kathy Ginsberg (parent of Max, 4th grade) are co-chairing this year's auction.

Upcoming Dates

Sun., Dec. 2	Happy Belated Birthday, Mrs. Yeomans! ☺
Fri., Dec. 7	K & Grade 1 Miss Cathy Storyteller In-house Presentation – 9:30 a.m. – playroom
Fri., Dec. 7	K-5 Movie Night – 6-9:30 p.m. – multipurpose room
Sat., Dec. 8	Open House for prospective families – 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 10	Happy Birthday, Mrs. Butler! ☺
Fri., Dec. 14	NO SCHOOL – Winter Music Concert – 9:15 a.m. – no bus service – St. Matthew's United Methodist Church on Little River Turnpike
Wed., Dec. 26	Happy Birthday, Mrs. Samaha! ☺
Mon.-Tues., Dec. 17-Jan. 1	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL / New Year's Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Wed., Jan. 2	School Resumes
Sat., Jan. 12	Open House for prospective families – 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 12	International Dinner – 6 p.m. – location TBA
Mon., Jan. 14	Rising Preschool 4 Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Tues., Jan. 15	Rising Kindergarten Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Wed., Jan. 16	Rising First Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Wed., Jan. 16	2008-09 Reenrollment Forms Distributed
Thurs., Jan. 17	Rising Second Grade and Third Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 18	Rising Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.
Mon., Jan. 21	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Tues., Jan. 22	Rising Sixth Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m.

Celebrations/Appreciations

Congratulations to the fourth grade class, Mrs. O'Hara and Mrs. Tone who, with Mrs. Yeomans' accompaniment, presented a wonderful first class assembly of the year – "Attitude of Gratitude" on November 16.

Thank you to the parents who helped make the class Thanksgiving feasts special!

Celebrations/Appreciations – continued

Kudos to the parents who attended our recent parent education evening with Dr. Cindy Post Senning! Special thanks to the parents who helped make this event better by their involvement – Merari Chollette and Semsy Yozgat (parent of Aleyna, K) for transporting Dr. Senning and Vicky Carmody (parent of Brooke, 1st grade), Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, 5th grade), Brenda Klisowsky (parent of Carly Hayes, K), Helen Woodfield (parent of Alice, K) for providing the refreshments!

Advanced Accolades for Stacy Clark (parent of Eli Burke, K) for planning a Hanukkah presentation to the kindergarten class later this week!

Applause, please for the volunteers at our November and December open houses for prospective families – Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, 2nd grade), Patti Allis (parent of Molly, 4th grade), Nate Carmody (parent of Brooke, 1st grade), Susan Cohen, Shirley Corkill (parent of Ryan, 4th grade), Steve Ginsberg (parent of Max, 4th grade), Lyn Goodman (parent of Kyle, 4th grade), Truc Mai (parent of Lan & Linh, Preschool 3 & 4), and Julie Muir (parent of Kevin, 5th grade).

Thank you to Susan Cohen, Kathy & Steve Ginsberg, John Goodman (parent of Kyle, 4th grade), Eleni Jakub, Sherry Nicewonder (parent of Nicholas Ozioli, 1st grade), et al for their recent efforts to launch this year's auction planning and committee.

A standing ovation, in advance, to Mrs. Yeomans and Mrs. Samaha for their direction of next week's winter music concert and to Mrs. O'Hara for her piano accompaniment!

Thought for the Day

"Traditions are the 'always' in life – the rituals and customs that build common memories for children offer comfort and stability in good times and bad and create a sense of family identity."
(Marian Edelman Borden)