



PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School - Issue 8, 2007-08 - Wednesday, January 9, 2008

News and Notes

Our annual International Dinner will be held this Saturday, January 12, at 6 p.m., in the Pinecrest multipurpose room. This is true community event where we can celebrate the differences that make us "one world, one school." It is always a fun event for the children and parents! Vikki Keen (parent of Jared, 4th grade) is chairing this year's International Dinner. Please note that we must have RSVP attendance numbers in advance so we can ensure that the multipurpose room is set up in a way that will accommodate comfortably all who will be coming. Please let us know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. I look forward to seeing you all there! Finally, it's not too late to offer to help with set-up or clean-up! Please contact Vikki at vikkikeen@cox.net or 703.426.1776 with any questions, to RSVP or to learn more.

Please note the rising grade-level curriculum coffees begin next week; they will take place at 9 a.m. according to the below schedule 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!

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| Mon., Jan. 14 | Rising Preschool 4 Curriculum Coffee |
| Tues., Jan. 15 | Rising Kindergarten Curriculum Coffee |
| Wed., Jan. 16 | Rising First Grade Curriculum Coffee |
| Thurs., Jan. 17 | Rising Second Grade and Third Grade Curriculum Coffee |
| Fri., Jan. 18 | Rising Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade Curriculum Coffee |
| Tues., Jan. 22 | Rising Sixth Grade Curriculum Coffee |

The 2007-08 Pinecrest School Annual Fund is underway and has raised almost \$13,000 so far! Gifts to the annual fund help us uphold our mission and make a difference in students' lives, not only now, but for the next 50+ years as well. Thank you to the many families and school community members (past and present) who have donated so far! We began the campaign with 100% participation from the current Board of Trustees – thirteen members of our school community. I encourage you to make a contribution if you have not already done so. Your participation most of all would be valued.

Mrs. Higgins attended a workshop yesterday presented by Staff Development for Educators – "Creating Fluent Readers: From Phonics to Fluency Strategies for Achieving Reading Proficiency" with Dr. Timothy Rasinski.

In the last newsletter before the break, I mentioned our fall fundraisers. I was remiss for not including the Halloween Candy Surrender, which resulted in 60+ pounds of candy and \$120.00 for the school. Thank you again to Dr. Monique Nguyen (parent of Kaitlyn & Angelyn, 5th grade & K) for her generosity!

Although the last couple of days have not reflected our current winter season, please make sure to check the weather daily and to ensure that your child has appropriate outerwear and accessories for recess, dismissal time, et cetera.

The winter session of after-school activities is slated to begin the week of January 21. Information was distributed last week. We are offering K-5 Unplugged: Games for Recess and Playing With Friends with Mrs. Wheeler on Mondays, K-5 Totally Technology Skills with Mrs. Cantor on Tuesdays, K-3 Clay Sculpture on Wednesdays, and K-5 Mad Science on Fridays. Right now, there is just one slot left in the Mad Science class. Clay Sculpture will definitely run. I am hoping for more sign-ups for Unplugged: Games... and the Totally Technology Skills so that they will run.

Mrs. Hartzler is putting the finishing touches on the Pinecrest Summer Pavilion 2008 schedule. Full camp packets with schedules, class descriptions and more will be available later this month!

Auction Update

Pinecrest's 50th Anniversary "Golden Gala Auction" will be on Saturday, April 5, and promises to be a fun, adults-only evening as well as an important fundraiser for the school. Mark your calendars, and look in today's Wednesday Envelopes for more information and donation forms. We need the whole school to be involved and would like to get donations from every family! Donate an item or service from your business, obtain gift certificates from restaurants or theaters, donate a week at your vacation home, build a basket of food and wine, sew, cook or make something unique. Use your imagination! Please contact Auction Co-chair Eleni Jakub (parent of Alex & Anastasia, 1st grade) with any questions or if you want to help – 703.963.8236 or elenijakub@earthlink.net. Donations forms can be picked up and dropped off in the front office.

Upcoming Dates

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| Sat., Jan. 12 | Open House for prospective families – 10 a.m.–2 p.m. |
| Sat., Jan. 12 | International Dinner – 6 p.m. – multipurpose room, newer building |
| Mon., Jan. 14 | Rising Preschool 4 Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m. – science lab, newer building |
| Tues., Jan. 15 | Rising Kindergarten Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m. – science lab, newer building |
| Wed., Jan. 16 | Rising First Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m. – science lab, newer building |
| Wed., Jan. 16 | 2008-09 Reenrollment Forms Distributed via Wednesday Envelopes |
| Thurs., Jan. 17 | Rising Second and Third Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m. – science lab |
| Fri., Jan. 18 | Rising Fourth and Fifth Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m. – science lab |
| Mon., Jan. 21 | Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday – NO SCHOOL |
| Tues., Jan. 22 | Rising Sixth Grade Curriculum Coffee – 9 a.m. – science lab, newer building |
| Wed., Jan. 23 | Fourth Grade Field Trip – Mount Vernon |
| Fri., Jan. 25 | Quarter 2 Ends (42 days) |
| Mon., Jan. 28 | Faculty In-Service Workday – NO SCHOOL |
| Wed., Jan. 30 | Quarter 2 Report Cards Distributed |
| Thurs., Jan. 31 | Reception for Mrs. Strunk – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building |
| Fri., Feb. 1 | Second/Third Grade Assembly – 9:15 a.m. (please note date change) |
| Mon., Feb. 4 | Ledo Pizza Night – 5-10 p.m. – 7510 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church |

Celebrations/Appreciations

Kudos to the parents who helped make the class December holiday celebrations special!

Thank you to our bakers whose goodies were enjoyed by all after the winter concert on December 14!

Applause, please for Merari Hall-Chollette (parent of Julienne & Jenelle, K & Preschool 4) for her recent presentation to the kindergarten class.

Thought for the Day

"Either you reach a higher point today or you exercise your strength in order to be able to climb higher tomorrow."
(Friedrich Nietzsche)