

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 12, 2007-08 – Wednesday, March 5, 2008

News and Notes

I am very pleased to announce that I have a solution to our office staff issue! **Paula O’Grady** (parent of James & Freya, 2nd grade & Preschool 4) and **Karen Shaw** will share the Administrative Assistant/Receptionist role. Each will work daily, with Mrs. O’Grady in from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, and Mrs. Shaw in from 12-3:30 p.m. Mrs. Shaw will work more hours in the summer, and when the 2008-09 school year begins in September, Mrs. O’Grady and Mrs. Shaw will resume the job-share schedule. Mrs. Shaw is an acquaintance of Mrs. Mink’s and has worked for Fairfax County Public Schools for the last 12 years as a substitute teacher. She has a B.A. in English, has two grown children, and lives with her husband in Fairfax. Mrs. Shaw will be here for training on Friday morning, March 7, and her first day will be Monday, March 10. **Karen Tamayo** (alumni parent and former Board member) will work part-time as Finance Manager, taking care of the school’s bookkeeping/financial needs in conjunction with the Board Treasurer and Finance Committee. I am quite pleased to have these three warm and talented individuals join our team, and I look forward to working with them!

On Monday, we celebrated Dr. Seuss’s March 2 birthday with a celebration of reading. The second/third grade class read to the preschool classes in the morning; in the afternoon, K-5 students got together for some buddy reading and then a round-robin teacher-and-me reading of a Dr. Seuss tongue twister book! Lastly, we promised to be readers always with an oath read by Mrs. Wheeler.

K-5 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients continues through this Friday, March 7. All of the money raised goes directly to local children battling leukemia and to cancer research. There is a collection box in each classroom for any funds your child(ren) and family want to donate.

Next week – March 10-14 – is our annual Spirit Week! Each day will be a different theme, and children and staff can dress as desired for each theme. Here are the themes:

Mon., March 10 – Pinecrest Spirit Day – wear your school spirit wear and/or Pinecrest’s colors (blue/yellow)!

Tues., March 11 – Caribbean/Tropical Day – dress in appropriate Caribbean/tropical-themed clothes and/or accessories!

Wed., March 12 – Class Dress-Alike Day – teachers and students decide their own class theme and dress accordingly!

Thurs., March 13 – Sports Attire/Team Day – represent your favorite sport(s) and/or team(s) with your clothing and/or accessories. Hats are okay on this day!

Fri., March 14 – Pajamas Day – appropriate pajamas/slippers welcome; shoes must be worn to/from school and for recess!

Auction Update

Auction invitations were mailed to your homes last week. Please return your response card promptly if you plan to join us! You can turn it into the office or mail it back. Our Golden Gala Auction on Saturday, April 5, is an adults-only evening of fun and fundraising for the school. This is the most important fundraising event to benefit our children and our school so your participation is critical to making it a success! Thank you to all who have already secured donations or ads. It is not too late to turn in donation forms! Every family has been asked to donate at least one item. Donation forms are on the front office counter. The Auction Committee has been working hard to prepare a fabulous night for all of us and to ensure that the school will benefit well. Please contact Auction Co-Chair Eleni Jakub (parent of Alex & Anastasia, 1st grade) with any auction or donation questions – elenijakub@earthlink.net or 703.917.8049.



Pinecrest Summer Pavilion

Camp registration continues to grow as we now have 150 children signed up for Pinecrest Summer Pavilion! We are so excited by the enthusiastic reception we have received in the community. Please check the school website (click on Summer Camp) for updates on closed classes. Although only three are full at the moment, many other classes are very close to capacity. Please email Mrs. Hartzler (summercamp@pinecrestschool.org) if you are interested in a closed class or to check the status of a class. Your name will be placed on a waiting list, and, depending on how many people are interested, future sections of the same class could be added.



Upcoming Dates

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| Tues., March 4 | Happy Belated Birthday, Mrs. Hodgkins! ☺ |
| Wed., March 5 | Preschool 4 Field Trip – Safeway |
| Fri., March 7 | Fifth Grade Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building |
| Sat., March 8 | Happy Birthday, Mrs. Hartzler! ☺ |
| Mon.-Fri., March 10-14 | Spirit Week |
| Mon., March 10 | 4 th & 5 th Grade Field Trip – National Geographic & Natural History Museums |
| Tues., March 11 | Preschool 3 Field Trip – Mr. Moore’s Pottery Studio |
| Wed., March 12 | Happy Birthday, Ms. Cathy! ☺ |
| Thurs., March 13 | 4 th & 5 th Grade Field Trip – “Lily’s Crossing” Play at NOVA, Alexandria Campus |
| Mon.-Fri., March 17-21 | Spring Break – NO SCHOOL |
| Mon., March 24 | School Resumes from Spring Break |
| Tues., April 1 | 2008-09 Tuition Deposit Due |
| Fri., April 4 | Quarter 3 Ends (42 days) |
| Fri., April 4 | K-5 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – Auction Set-Up – no after-care |
| Sat., April 5 | Auction – 6 p.m. (adults only) – newer building |
| Mon., April 7 | Quarter 3 Report Cards Distributed via Wednesday Envelopes |
| Mon., April 7 | Parent/Teacher Conferences / Faculty Workday – NO SCHOOL |
| Mon.-Fri., April 14-18 | Grade 4 Stanford Achievement Test – mornings – no make-ups |
| Tues.-Thurs., April 15-18 | Grade 1 Cognitive Abilities Test – mornings – no make-ups |
| Tues.-Thurs., April 15-18 | Grade 2 Otis-Lennon School Ability Test – mornings – no make-ups |
| Fri., April 25 | K-5 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care |
| Fri., April 25 | Kindergarten Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building |
| Sat., April 26 | Spruce Up Day / Parent Workday – 9:30 a.m. |
| Wed., April 30 | Grades 1-5 Family Math Night – 7-8:30 p.m. – newer building |

Celebrations/Appreciations

Congratulations to the first grade class and Mrs. Wheeler who, with Mrs. Yeomans’ accompaniment, presented an interactive and exciting news broadcast (class assembly) on February 29!

A tip of the hat to the volunteers at our March open house for prospective families – Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, 2nd grade), Nate Carmody (parent of Brooke, 1st grade) and Agustin Martinez (parent of Claudio, 2nd grade).

Thank to Madelynn Arnold (parent of Charlie, 4th grade) and Merari Chollette (parent of Julianne & Jenelle, K & Preschool 4) for their recent office assistance!

Thought for the Day

“Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It is lent to you by your children.” (Kenyan Proverb) 2