

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 14, 2007-08 – Wednesday, April 9, 2008

News and Notes

THANK YOU to everyone who supported and attended the auction this past weekend! Your generosity is awe-inspiring. Both of the technology challenges were met, and we now have the funds to acquire a GPS for the bus/field trips and two hand-held microphones and stands for class assemblies and similar such activities. These items will be ordered very soon! In general, auction funds augment the operating budget for the school and enable us to do things like host assemblies, provide specialized faculty training, take special field trips and much more.

We will be offering two K-5 after-school activity options for the spring, and they are both wonderful opportunities for your child's creativity to shine! Abrakadoodle Art on will run from Monday, April 28 – Monday, June 9, and will be open to K-5 students. Clay Sculpture with Mr. Moore will run from Wednesday, April 30 – Wednesday, June 4, and will be open only to third-fifth graders as our winter clay sculpture was open to the younger students. There is more information in today's Wednesday Envelopes about these activities.

Office Hours With the Head began last week. Although I am always available to talk with parents, I thought having specific office hours (Wednesdays 1-3:30 p.m. and Thursdays 9-10:30 a.m.) might be helpful for parents and provide a more defined opportunity for me to answer questions, hear your feedback, et cetera. I am available to talk either by phone or in person during these hours (or at another mutually-convenient time – just let me know!).

The second/third grade class, Ms. Bleggi, and I are going to see a play in Alexandria tomorrow – “Fish Face.” Thanks in advance to Val Treharne (parent of Jonny & Owen, 3rd & 1st grades) for also attending.

The fourth graders and Mrs. O'Hara are going to Jamestown on Friday! Thanks in advance to Patti Allis (parent of Molly, 4th grade), Bruce Arnold (parent of Charlie, 4th grade), Kathy Ginsberg (parent of Max, 4th grade), Lyn Goodman (parent of Kyle, 4th grade), and Vikki Keen (parent of Jared, 4th grade) for joining the class on the trip!

Last week, a yellow flyer was sent home to everyone. On Wednesday evening, April 23, and Tuesday evening, April 29, we are co-sponsoring with Montessori School of Northern Virginia (MSNV) a program for parents entitled “Discipline and Children's Conflicts: Strategies and Solutions.” Childcare for children of any age will be included in the session fees. It is \$25/couple for both sessions, \$20/individual for both sessions, \$15/couple for one session or \$10/individual for one session. Please sign up in the office to attend or RSVP to the email address listed on the flyer. Checks can be written to Pincrest School and sent in to the office – please mark checks “parent program.” The presenter, Marsha Blakeway, is well-regarded in the field of conflict resolution.

Our annual Spruce Up Day/Parent Workday will be on Saturday, April 26, outside at Pincrest. This is a day when parents, and children too, come together to do outside work to “spruce up” the school campus. Nate Carmody (parent of Brooke, 1st grade) is chairing this event, and you will hear more about it soon.

Family Math Night for grades 1-5 will be held on Wednesday, April 30, in the newer building. In each classroom, a variety of math games, sets of manipulatives with instructions, math puzzles, or logic problems will be set up. With your children, you can visit as many stations as desired during the course of the evening.

Photos from recent events including the auction are now online in the password-protected photo gallery of our website. Go to the Students & Current Families section and click on Photo Albums on the left side. Then click Pincrest Members Only and enter your login/password. Please let me know if you need your password again. To see the auction and auction set-up photos, you can also click here:

Auction Set-up 4/08: <http://picasaweb.google.com/PincrestHead/GoldenGalaAuctionSetUp?authkey=oAQIYLoBzvU>

Auction 4/08: <http://picasaweb.google.com/PincrestHead/GoldenGalaAuction?authkey=9vUxdFnaKxI>

News and Notes – continued

As most of you know, Ellie Hohenstein (2nd grade) has Type 1 diabetes. Like last year, the Pinecrest community will be invited to join Ellie and her family at the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes in D.C. on Sunday, May 4. You will receive more information about this event soon from Ellie's parents. The walk benefits the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to support research for a cure for diabetes and for better treatments for the complications of diabetes.

FYI: Next Tuesday, April 15, at 7 p.m., at the Washington National Cathedral, Michael G. Thompson, Ph.D. will be speaking. Dr. Thompson is a consultant, author and psychologist specializing in children and families. He is the clinical consultant to The Belmont Hill School in Massachusetts and has worked in more than 200 schools across the United States. Dr. Thompson is the author of Raising Cain: The Emotional Life of Boys and It's a Boy: Understanding Your Son's Development from Birth to Age 18. Tickets are \$20/person, and I believe they are still available. Please visit www.beauvoirschool.org/leadingvoices/ or call 202.537.2359 for more information.

Board Chair Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein) has asked me to put a note in today's newsletter about next year's Board of Trustees, which will be elected at the school's annual meeting on Sunday, June 1 (more information to follow about this). If you are interested in serving on next year's Board of Trustees or learning more about the work of the Board, please contact Susan directly at susan.akers@usdoj.gov or 703.354.9012.

Upcoming Dates

Thurs., April 10	Grade 2/3 Field Trip – “Fish Face” play – Schlesinger Theatre, NOVA
Fri., April 11	Grade 4 Field Trip – Jamestown
Sat., April 12	Open House for prospective families – 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
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
Mon., April 21	Grade 5 Field Trip – National Cathedral
Wed., April 23	Parent Informational Program – Session 1 – 7-8:30 p.m. – multipurpose room
Fri., April 25	K-5 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Fri., April 25	Kindergarten Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Sat., April 26	Spruce Up Day / Parent Workday – 9:30 a.m. – front lawn
Mon., April 28	Grade 4 Field Trip – National Cathedral
Tues., April 29	Parent Informational Program – Session 2 – 7-8:30 p.m. – multipurpose room
Wed., April 30	Grades 1-5 Family Math Night – 7-8:30 p.m. – newer building
Fri., May 2	All-school Group Photo – morning – more information TBA
Sat., May 3	Open House for prospective families – 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to the following people who gave of their time to assist with our Golden Gala 2008 Auction, whether it was on the committee, on Friday at set-up or on Sunday at clean-up: Susan Akers & Ellie Hohenstein; Patti Allis; Janet Bleggi; Jayne Cantor; Vicky, Nate & Brooke Carmody; Karen & Cameron Chesbrough; Merari Chollette; Susan, Andy & Libby Cohen; Karen, Tom & Steven Dabney; Steve & Max Ginsberg; Lyn, John & Kyle Goodman; Nancy Greene; Alex & Anastasia Jakub; Georgette Jakub; Vikki & Jared Keen; April McDermott; Julie Muir; Sherry Nicewonder & Nicholas Ozioli; Paula, James & Freya O'Grady; Albert Saccocia; Ghada Samaha; Trisha Serven; and Val, Steve, Jonny & Owen Treharne! Many thanks to all who secured donations and/or ads! And, finally, a standing ovation for Eleni Jakub (parent of Alex & Anastasia, 1st grade) and Kathy Ginsberg (parent of Max, 4th grade) for chairing and organizing the 2008 Auction!

Thank you to the parents who participated in Monday's parent/teacher conferences!

Thought for the Day

“You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.” (Kahlil Gibran)