

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 1, 2008-09 – Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Introduction

This newsletter is produced by the Head of School every other Wednesday and distributed to parents via our school email list-serv/reflector, PinecrestSchool@GoogleGroups.com. Today, it is being distributed to everyone via Wednesday Envelope. Going forward, it will be distributed via Wednesday Envelope only to those without email. If you have email and are on the list-serv, but still wish to receive a paper copy, please send an email or note to me stating this request. If you are not on our list-serv, but would like to be, please also let me know. I hope you will find the newsletter as an effective means of communication and a helpful tool to stay connected to the Pinecrest community.

News and Notes

PE Teacher Mrs. Browning will be out of school this week and next week due to another commitment. (She is fine - this is not at all health related.) Mrs. Swisher (one of our camp teachers and a trained yoga instructor) will be substituting for Mrs. Browning and will be teaching yoga to all of the children during their regular PE classes this week and next week. It would be most helpful for the children to wear loose-fitting clothing and preferably no skirts or dresses for PE. (PE days are Wednesdays and Fridays.) I know your children will have a very positive experience with Mrs. Swisher, and it will be exciting to see them get introduced to or reacquainted with the practice of yoga!

Pinecrest's Annual Back-to-School Picnic is this Sunday, September 14, from 4-6 p.m., at Lake Barcroft Beach #5. Directions to the beach are included in today's Wednesday Envelope on the yellow flyer. If it is raining on Sunday, we will move indoors at Pinecrest for a social. Unfortunately, we don't have the space to accommodate everyone picnicking at Pinecrest, but we definitely can accommodate everyone for a get together/social and we will have games out for the kids. If we change our plans on Sunday due to weather, I will send an email to our Google Groups list and there will also be a message left on the voicemail greeting of the school phone so you can call 703.354.3446 to find out what's happening.

On Thursday, September 18, Creative Images will be here to take individual and class photos of the children. Please see today's Wednesday Envelope for more information. Siblings can be photographed together and/or separately – parents, please let us know your wishes. There is no pre-order with Creative Images. Everyone will be photographed next Thursday, and then within two weeks, proofs will be sent home to each family. Once the proofs come home, parents can either purchase the photos or not.

There is no bus service on Monday, September 22.

Our annual Back-to-School Night is on Thursday, September 25. We will begin with a brief whole-group gathering in the newer building multipurpose room and then parents will proceed to their child's classroom to hear a presentation by the classroom teacher. Teachers will have handouts and their daily schedules for you at this time as well. Please note that Back-to-School Night is for parents only.

The date of the Fun Fair has changed from what was listed on the first school calendar you received over the summer. The Fun Fair will be held on Saturday, October 18, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., on the Pinecrest front yard. Please stay tuned for more information from Fun Fair Chair Tim Boyer (parent of Nicholas, grade 3).

2008-09 School Directories (one per family) were distributed at Visiting Day. The directory has a lilac cover. If there are any corrections or additions to your information, please email office@pinecrestschool.org to let us know.

2008-09 Community Handbooks (one per family) were also distributed at Visiting Day. The handbook has a light blue cover. Thank you to everyone who has returned their lime green handbook agreement forms. If you have not yet returned this, it is due by Monday, September 15.

News and Notes – continued

Mark Patterson (parent of Garrett, grade 2) is serving as Volunteer Chair on this year's Board of Trustees. You will be hearing from him a lot this year! Thanks to everyone who completed and returned the blue Parent Volunteer Sign-Up forms from the summer mailing. It is heartening to see so many parents willing to pitch in for the school and to make our events successful! Like last year, we have tried to streamline our fundraising efforts to a few select activities, so your active participation in the Fall Fun Fair, Annual Fund, and Spring Auction will help us meet our goals. Watch for more information about how you can be involved – and make sure to mark your calendar for the Fun Fair on Saturday, October 18!

If any family would like additional Pinecrest car magnets for additional vehicles, please let us know by emailing Mrs. Mink at admissions@pinecrestschool.org. We love to see everyone displaying their school spirit and are happy to send more car magnets home with anyone who would like them!

Upcoming Dates

Sun., Sept. 14	Back-to-School Family Picnic – 4-6 p.m. – Lake Barcroft Beach #5 (Hosted by the family of Jonny & Owen Treharne, grades 4 & 2)
Thurs., Sept. 18	Individual & Class Photos by Creative Images (make-up date: April 16)
Wed., Sept. 24	Grade 4/5 & 6 Field Trip – Newseum in D.C. – more details to follow
Thurs., Sept. 25	All-school Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m. – begins in multipurpose room
Fri., Oct. 3	Grade 1 Field Trip – Cox Farm in Centreville – more details to follow
Tues., Oct. 7	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab
Fri., Oct. 10	K-6 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Mon., Oct. 13	Columbus Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Fri., Oct. 17	K Field Trip – Cox Farm in Centreville – more details to follow
Sat., Oct. 18	Fun Fair – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – front lawn
Wed., Oct. 22	Preschool 4 Field Trip – Hidden Oaks Nature Center – more details to follow
Fri., Oct. 24	Grade 6 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Sat., Oct. 25	Annandale Fall Festival in Safeway plaza on 236 – Pinecrest will have a booth!
Thurs., Oct. 30-Mon., Nov. 5	Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room
Fri., Oct. 31	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m. – driveway circle
Fri., Oct. 31	Quarter 1 Ends (43 days)

Celebrations/Appreciations

I want to thank you all of the families who joined us for Pinecrest Summer Pavilion this summer. We all had so much fun, and the creative classes and unique activities were simply awesome. As Mrs. Hartzler said, and I couldn't agree more, it was a great summer!!! We are already planning for 2009! ☺

Thank you the new parents who joined us for our New Parent Coffee last week – it was wonderful to see you and welcome you officially to our school community!

Personal Note

The week of August 25 found the faculty and I here a lot, often far past typical "work" hours, enthusiastically preparing and getting ready for the new school year to begin. It is always so exciting to see how different the school looks on Monday vs. Friday when we welcome parents and children for Visiting Morning. The classrooms become bright and shiny, and the teachers are in place with big smiles and hugs to meet new students and reconnect with returning families. Pinecrest School is a dynamic community of people who have come together to learn, grow, and share. We will all learn, grow, and share ourselves as parents and/or educators, but, more importantly, we will help all of "our" children do the same. I am so happy you are all here, and I know 2008-09 will be a fantastic year! Onward! ☺

Thought for the Day

"When I look into the future, it's so bright it burns my eyes." (Oprah Winfrey)