

# PINECREST HEADLINES

*Communication from the Head of School – Issue 3, 2008-09 – Wednesday, October 8, 2008*

## *News and Notes*

This Friday, October 10, is a half day of school for K-6 students. Dismissal is at 12 noon. On half days, children should come to school with a snack only, not a lunch. There is no after-care on half days. The faculty, staff and I will be spending Friday afternoon on accreditation work/professional development.

Our fall K-6 after-school activities will begin next week! We are running Grade 2-6 Incredible Edibles with Mrs. Davis on Tuesdays, K-2 Clay Sculpture with Mr. Moore on Wednesdays, and K-6 Mad Science on Fridays. If your child has signed up for any of these programs, you will receive a schedule and class roster in today's Wednesday Envelope!

Administrative Assistant Mrs. Shaw 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. O'Grady will be here full time in Mrs. Shaw's absence. Mrs. Wheeler is doing after-care today, and Mrs. Murphy is doing after-care next Wednesday.

Next Tuesday, October 14, the second through sixth graders will enjoy an in-house presentation from 2008 American Honey Queen, Rachael Seida, of Texas. This is the national spokesperson for the American Beekeeping Federation, which supports beekeepers throughout the United States. The presentation will focus on types of honeybees and their functions, the importance of honeybee pollination, and the job of a beekeeper. Maybe she might tell us also about the secret life of bees while she's here. ;-)

The annual Fun Fair will take place on Saturday, October 18, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., on the Pinecrest front yard. More volunteers are still needed in all capacities. The Fun Fair is such a wonderful day of fun and camaraderie, but it's only successful if everyone participates by both attending and taking a volunteer shift. Please contact Fun Fair Chair Tim Boyer (parent of Nicholas, grade 3) if you are able to contribute – tboyerva@yahoo.com or 703.941.2167.

Mrs. Wheeler's first grade class went to Cox Farm last week for a day of full fun! Thanks to Karen Chesbrough (parent of Cameron, grade 1) and Fifi Tucker (parent of Kalkidan, grade 1)! The kindergartners and Mrs. Vogus will go to Cox Farm next Friday, October 17, for their own autumn adventure! Thank you in advance to Lei Bao (parent of David, K), Scott Midkiff (parent of Victoria, K), Brenda Neil (parent of Ishbel, K), Paula O'Grady (parent of James & Freya, grade 3 & K), Paula Palmore (parent of Peyton Buckley, K), and Rema Shaban (parent of Nesreen, K) who will join the class on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Many families ordered photos of their children from Creative Images! I am so glad the photos were well-received. I was excited to see most of the poses and shots and thought they were terrific! Everyone who ordered pictures of his/her child(ren) will receive a complimentary class group photo when the other photos come in, which should be within 3 weeks or so. If you did not order pictures of your child, but would like the class group photo, you can buy it from the school for \$10.00. More information about that will be available about ordering the class photo when we receive them all in.

The annual Annandale Fall Festival and Parade will take place on Saturday, October 25, in the Safeway parking lot on Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Pinecrest will have a booth, but there will also be all kinds of fun activities like games, a haunted house, and even a "Taste of Annandale." If you attend, please consider wearing a Pinecrest camp or school t-shirt if you have one!

On Wednesday, October 29, the staff will be participating in a "Pink & Jeans Day" to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization for breast cancer research and support. Anyone interested in participating with us, wherever you will be that day, or making a contribution can easily do so by sending in a check to Susan G. Komen for the Cure or by visiting [www.komendonations.org/site/TR/PassionatelyPink/PassionatelyPink?px=3176867&pg=personal&fr\\_id=1080](http://www.komendonations.org/site/TR/PassionatelyPink/PassionatelyPink?px=3176867&pg=personal&fr_id=1080). Please email Mrs. O'Grady at [office@pinecrestschool.org](mailto:office@pinecrestschool.org) for more information. She's chairing this event for the staff.

## News and Notes – continued

Friday October 31, at 9:15 a.m., is Pinecrest's Annual Halloween Parade! All of our ghosts and goblins will wind through the school, finally emerging from the first grade classroom to walk from the back playground out to the parking lot to the "oohs" and "aahs" of their waiting families. Parents and siblings are welcome to participate in the parade and may dress in costume if they'd like. Children may come to school in costume on Friday or change after they arrive. They will need regular school clothes to put on after the parade is over though; children will not wear their costumes all day. The parade will be held rain or shine. A letter in today's Wednesday Envelope provides more information about Halloween morning!

Our Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Council on Accreditation & School Improvement (SACS CASI) quality assurance review visit will take place on Tuesday-Wednesday, November 18-19. Part of the accreditation process also includes a self-study and a completion of a standards assessment report which needs to be completed and submitted at least six weeks prior to the visit. I am very pleased to report that our standards assessment report is done and in to SACS CASI! More information will follow about what accreditation means to Pinecrest and what will happen during the quality assurance review.

Giant has a school giving program called A+ Bonus Bucks. To register, you must have a Giant Bonus Card. You must relink your Giant Bonus Card number each year. Have your Giant Bonus Card number handy and then please visit [https://www.giantfood.com/our\\_stores/bonus\\_bucks/designate\\_school.htm?\\_flowExecutionKey=\\_c864E5F12-5C81-C23B-9163-32AA4ED8F313\\_k46C19242-0669-F702-4C31-E7C41D4ADB4D](https://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/designate_school.htm?_flowExecutionKey=_c864E5F12-5C81-C23B-9163-32AA4ED8F313_k46C19242-0669-F702-4C31-E7C41D4ADB4D) or send me your 12-digit Bonus Card number and the school will register you. Pinecrest's code is 01834.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> people who email me after receiving the newsletter will receive \$10 worth of free tickets (30) each for the Fun Fair on Saturday, October 18!

Harris Teeter also has a school giving program called Together In Education. To register, you must have a Harris Teeter VIC Savings Card. Have your Harris Teeter VIC card number handy and then please visit <https://www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pageId=32> or send me your 11-digit VIC card number and the school will register you. You must relink your VIC card number each year. Pinecrest's code is 5160.

Two other easy fundraisers are [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com) and [www.giveline.com](http://www.giveline.com). Both of these websites act as online shopping portals that, once you have registered and designated Pinecrest, will give a portion of dollars you spend on purchases on these websites back to Pinecrest. I just ordered some shoes from L.L. Bean and at the last minute remembered to go through schoolpop.com instead of going directly to the L.L. Bean website, and our school got a few dollars from my purchase. These ongoing fundraisers are definitely in the spirit of "every little bit helps..."

Pinecrest School also collects Box Tops! There is a box in the front office to deposit your cut-out Box Tops.

### Upcoming Dates

Fri., Oct. 10	K-6 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Mon., Oct. 13	Columbus Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Tues., Oct. 14	Grades 2-6 – American Beekeeping Federation Presentation – in-house
Fri., Oct. 17	K Field Trip – Cox Farm in Centreville
Sat., Oct. 18	Fun Fair – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – front lawn
Tues., Oct. 21	Preschool & K Fire Truck Presentation for Fire Safety Month – in-house
Wed., Oct. 22	Preschool 4 Field Trip – Hidden Oaks Nature Center
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!
Wed., Oct. 29	Staff "Pink & Jeans" Day to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure
Fri., Oct. 31-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)

### *Upcoming Dates – continued*

Mon., Nov. 3	Parent/Teacher Conferences / Faculty Workday – NO SCHOOL
Mon., Nov. 3	Quarter 1 Report Cards Distributed at Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tues., Nov. 4	Quarter 2 Begins
Mon., Nov. 10	Ledo Pizza Night – 5-10 p.m. – 7510 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
Tues., Nov. 11	Parent Visiting Morning – 9-11 a.m. – classrooms
Tues., Nov. 11	Open House for Prospective Families – 12-2 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 11	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab
Sat., Nov. 15	Open House for Prospective Families – 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tues.-Wed., Nov. 18-19	Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Quality Assurance Review Visit
Fri., Nov. 21	Grade 3 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Tues., Nov. 25	Preschool Thanksgiving Feast – morning – playroom
Tues., Nov. 25	K-6 Thanksgiving Feast – 12 noon – multipurpose room
Wed.-Fri., Nov. 26-28	Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL

### *Celebrations/Appreciations*

Thanks to the parents who attended Back-to-School Night on September 25! It was so nice to see so many engaged parents present!

Kudos to the faculty, who prepared impressive Back-to-School Night packets and presentations for the parents!

Mrs. Browning (September 23) and Mrs. Wheeler (October 2) recently celebrated their birthdays – happy belated birthday! ☺

Many thanks to the families who recently provided generous treats to the faculty and staff – the families of Farhan Saladin (preschool 3), Megan Vo (preschool 3), and Aleyna Yozgat (grade 1). We so appreciate your kindness!

Applause, please, for Denise Boyer (parent of Nicholas, grade 3) who checks in books and puts them away as a dedicated library volunteer on Wednesday afternoons!

### *Thought for the Day*

“Change your thoughts and you change your world.”  
(Norman Vincent Peale)