

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 4, 2008-09 – Wednesday, October 22, 2008

News and Notes

New photos are up on the website! Please visit the password-protected section of pinecrestschool.org to see the following newly-added photos: Back-to-School Picnic, Libby Lane & Grade 6, Grade 1-2 Nature Center Field Trip, Grade 4-6 Newseum Field Trip, Grade 2-6 Planetarium Field Trip, K Pink & Red Day, Grade 3 Pennies Science Experiment, Grade 6 Reading on Windowsill, Grade 1 Cox Farm Field Trip, Grade 2 Fun Photos, Grade 2-6 Honeybee Queen, K Cox Farm Field Trip, Fun Fair, and Preschool & K Fire Truck Visit. More photos are added regularly. If you need to be reminded of your login/ password, please email us to let us know.

The preschool 4 class went on a field trip today with Mrs. Ferrier and Mrs. Narcisso to Hidden Oaks Nature Center! Thank you to Manisha Bhaskar (parent of Shiv, Preschool 4) and Michelle Ziayee (parent of David, Preschool 4) for also attending!

In honor of fire safety month, a fire truck visited Pinecrest yesterday for an exciting outside presentation to the preschool and kindergarten classes!

The faculty and I regularly engage in meaningful professional development opportunities throughout the year. I recently attended an evening workshop last week, and Mrs. Yeomans attended a “A Little Music Every Day” workshop presented by the George Mason University Child Development Center yesterday.

Creative Images photos should arrive sometime early next week. We'll send them home in Wednesday Envelopes when they do. Everyone who ordered pictures of his/her child(ren) will receive a complimentary class group photo. 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.

The annual Annandale Fall Festival and Parade will take place this 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 more. If you attend, please consider wearing a Pinecrest t-shirt if you have one!

Next 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. Please email Mrs. O'Grady at office@pinecrestschool.org for more information. She's chairing this event for the staff.

Next 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 in the multipurpose room in the event of inclement weather.

Our Scholastic Book Fair will run from Friday, October 31-Friday, November 7, in the newer building multipurpose room! The children will have the chance to preview the books and create wish lists. Teachers are creating wish lists as well for any and library contributions you'd like to make. The book fair gives families an excellent opportunity to purchase quality children's books at affordable prices. Plus, Pinecrest benefits as Scholastic will give us a portion of profits taken in from our sale – it's a win-win for all! Please see today's (K-6) or tomorrow's (Preschool) Wednesday Envelopes for more Book Fair information.

Any parent who emails me after reading this newsletter will be entered in a drawing to win a \$25 tuition credit for November. Congratulations to Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, grade 6), Mrs. Hartzler, and Amy Knieriem (parent of Scott, K) for being last newsletter's winners of free tickets for the Fun Fair and to Jody Gamber (parent of Emily, Preschool 3) and Amy Knieriem for winning Box Tops holders in the first newsletter contest. Thank you, faithful newsletter readers! ☺

News and Notes – continued

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. More information will follow about what accreditation means to Pinecrest and what will happen during the quality assurance review.

An alumni parent and friend recently shared a unique e-newsletter with me – Macaroni Kid, “the weekly newsletter of Fairfax activities to entertain, stimulate and exhaust your kids.” It looked really neat with many fun and different events posted for children through teens, as well other interesting tidbits. I thought it was worth sharing. To subscribe, please visit <http://fairfax.macaronikid.com/>.

Upcoming Dates

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-Fri., Nov. 7	Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room
Fri., Oct. 31	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m. – driveway circle // Quarter 1 Ends (43 days)
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	Mock Presidential Election for K-6 students and staff
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

Applause, applause for Mrs. Murphy who’s taking her United States citizenship test today! In her honor, the staff and students are being asked to wear red, white, and blue or other such patriotic clothing tomorrow.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who supported the Fun Fair – whether you ran a game or station, set up, cleaned up, made a donation, baked a cake, or anything else in between. We could have not have done it without you! What an awesome day it was – so many families joined us for fun, games, and good eats and the weather was perfect. Although this event is intended to be community-building for the school and pure fun for the children, thanks to your generosity, the school raised about \$1000. Thank you so much to everyone who supported this year’s Fun Fair! A tip of the hat to Fun Fair Chair Tim Boyer (parent of Nicholas, grade 3), and to Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, grade 3), Nate Carmody (parent of Brooke, grade 2), Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, grade 6) and Mark Patterson (parent of Garrett, grade 2) whose additional help was critical to the event.

Happy early birthday to Mrs. Vogus (October 25)!

Many thanks to Misha Rowe (grade 6) and family for recently providing delicious hand-picked apples for the staff. We so appreciate your kindness!

Thought for the Day

“Every time you vote, you make your kids a promise. It’s a promise that you will... try to find a way to make America worthy of a new generation.” (Anna Quindlen)