

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 5, 2008-09 – Wednesday, November 5, 2008

News and Notes

Sixty two voters rocked the vote yesterday in our mock presidential election for K-6 students and staff! Senator Hillary Clinton earned 1 write-in vote, Senator John McCain garnered 17 votes, and Senator Barack Obama won with 42 votes. (Two ballots were illegible and could not be counted.) I believe it's so important that every citizen votes and that we help instill this in children at an early age. We are privileged to have the opportunity and responsibility here in the United States. If you have not already done so, please talk to your children about what they did yesterday at school and how someday they will be able to do it when it counts.

Mrs. Wheeler and the first graders are on a field trip today to the American Indian Museum in D.C. Thanks to Greg McNiff (parent of Grant, grade 1) for joining the class on the trip!

If you did not receive your child's report card on Conference Day on Monday, please see today's Wednesday Envelope for it. Please note that the report card copy you received (or will receive) is yours to keep; it does not need to be returned to the school.

Monday, November 10, is our fundraising night at Ledo Pizza in Falls Church. I hope you'll consider joining us on the dining room side, anytime from 5-10 p.m. Pinecrest will receive 20% of the profits from that evening; please mention Pinecrest School to your server. The Ledo atmosphere is very kid-friendly, the prices are affordable, and our Pinecrest evenings there are usually a lot of fun! Please remember (and help your children to understand) that there are always other patrons at Ledo's on "our" nights there though and we must show respect and represent our school well; the entire section is not just for us.

Our annual Parents' Visiting Morning is on Tuesday, November 11 (Veterans' Day), from 9-11 a.m. Parents are welcome to drop in to the classroom at any point during this two-hour block. This is an opportunity to observe an as-close-to-typical-as-possible morning in your child's classroom; there are no special activities planned beyond the regularly-scheduled lessons. Unfortunately, this is a case when siblings are not welcome as it will be distracting to have any other children besides our students in the classrooms. Thank you for your understanding!

Mrs. Davis attended a workshop last week in McLean – Create a Classroom of Readers: What Really Matters! facilitated by Pat Cunningham.

Please remember to dress your child for the weather now that it has gotten chillier. All classes play outside everyday that the temperature is above 32 degrees Fahrenheit (and not raining or snowing). A warm coat is mandatory every day until spring.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is open all week in the morning and afternoon in the multipurpose room. The Book Fair closes on Friday, November 7.

If you read this newsletter, please respond by email by Friday morning at 10 a.m. and your child will be entered into a drawing to win a free book of his/her choice at the book fair. Two winners will be chosen randomly from those who respond. Congratulations to Jody Gamber (parent of Emily, Preschool 3) for winning a \$25 tuition credit for November for responding to the last newsletter prize question!

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.

Auction 2009 – Raising the Roof

Energetic Pinecrest Parents WANTED! The Auction Committee needs YOUR help!

This year's annual auction fundraising night is Saturday, April 18, 2009. Please mark your calendar! This is an adults-only evening of fun and fundraising, and you do not want to miss it! Vicky Carmody (parent of Brooke, grade 2) and Val Treharne (parent of Jonny & Owen, grades 4 & 2) are this year's auction co-chairs. Once again, the aim is for this to be as successful as previous events and as much fun.

To make the night a success, dedicated assistance is needed to conduct the preparations. Please, if you can spare just a little time, step up for Pinecrest and pledge your assistance to the Auction Chairs, they will be striving to make the night a success and would love whatever assistance you can offer, great or small. If you would like to know more, please contact them at vicky@carmody.ws / 703.533.9339 or valtreharme@hotmail.com / 703.642.7266.

Upcoming Dates

Fri., Oct. 31-Fri., Nov. 7	Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room
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 – more details to follow soon
Wed.-Fri., Nov. 26-28	Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Tues., Dec. 2	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab
Fri., Dec. 5	K-6 Movie Night – 6-9:30 p.m. – multipurpose room
Fri., Dec. 19	NO SCHOOL – All-school Winter Concert – 9:15 a.m. – location TBA
Mon.-Fri., Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL (includes New Year's Day Holiday)

Celebrations/Appreciations

Bravo to our first-ever sixth grade class and Ms. O'Hara for their incredible assembly on October 24!

Thank you to Manisha Bhaskar (parent of Shiv, Preschool 4) for sharing with Mrs. Ferrier's class about Diwali last week.

The staff raised \$186.00 for participating in a "Pink & Jeans Day" to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization for breast cancer research and support on October 29. Thank you to the staff members who so generously contributed, and a tip of the hat to Mrs. O'Grady for organizing this for us!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at last week's Halloween parade and to all the parents who contributed to our classroom Halloween festivities!

Kudos to the faculty and parents for their open communication and dialogue during the recent parent/teacher conferences!

A round of applause for the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders for running the mock presidential election for K-6 students and staff yesterday!

Happy early birthday to Mrs. Cantor (November 6)!

Thought for the Day

"It is hope that gives life meaning. And hope is based on the prospect of being able one day to turn the actual world into a possible one that looks better." (Francois Jacob)