

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 6, 2008-09 – Wednesday, November 19, 2008

News and Notes

Our Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Council on Accreditation & School Improvement (SACS CASI) quality assurance review visit is taking place now! Three Virginia educators – SACS CASI Field Consultant Dr. Gordon Trump, Mrs. Irene Carney from Sabot at Stony Point in Richmond, and Mr. Tim Hamer from Bishop Ireton High School – have been here since yesterday observing in our classrooms, looking through many artifacts from our school, and talking with parents, teachers and staff, the Board of Trustees, me, et al. Today they will also be talking with some students. It is a rewarding opportunity to have this time for growth and reflection at our school.

Our first K-6 Thanksgiving feast will take place next Tuesday, November 25, at 12 noon, in the multipurpose room. We are very excited to begin this new tradition at Pinecrest School! Your class room parent should be in touch with you about your family's contribution. Information was sent to everyone last week in Wednesday Envelopes. Please let Mrs. O'Grady or Mrs. Shaw know if you have any questions about our Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you to those who have signed up to volunteer and help us on the day of! Mrs. O'Grady or Mrs. Shaw will be in touch with you by the end of the week to firm up your volunteer participation.

Our second through sixth graders went to D.C. yesterday with Mrs. Davis, Ms. Bleggi, Mr. Loring, and Ms. O'Hara to see a National Geographic Live! presentation by Mattias Klum. Mr. Klum is a photographer who shared his photos and experiences in Borneo. Thanks to Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, grade 3), Eleni Jakub (parent of Alex and Anastasia, grade 2), and Val Treharne (parent of Jonny & Owen, grades 4 & 2) for also attending the trip!

Mr. Loring and Ms. O'Hara took our fourth, fifth and sixth graders to D.C. on Friday, November 7, to see another National Geographic Live! presentation. (I was remiss in not including this in the last newsletter.) Brian Skerry, an underwater photographer, presented his work and talked about his experiences.

Our fourth annual Halloween candy surrender yielded 40 pounds and a donation to the school of \$80.00 from Woodlawn Dentistry and Dr. Monique Nguyen (parent of Kaitlyn & Angelyn, grades 6 & 1)! Thank you to everyone who participated! The kindergarten class collected the most candy per child (approximately 1.2 pounds) and won a pizza party from Dr. Nguyen on Monday.

The first graders and Mrs. Wheeler ran our Trick or Treat for UNICEF efforts, and we are proud to report that over \$450 was raised! Thank you to everyone who gave so generously and trick-or-treated so enthusiastically for this worthy cause!

Our first Ledo Pizza fundraiser of the year was a BIG success! The school received a check for \$422.29 – this is the most we've ever received from this event! Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped us earn this part of the dinner proceeds. Make sure your calendar is marked for our next Ledo Pizza night – Monday, February 9!
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K-6 Movie Night is this Friday, December 5. We're showing *WALL-E!* Movie Nights are great fun, and I hope to see many children there! Please see today's Wednesday Envelope for more information.

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.

If you read this newsletter, please email me by Friday morning at 10 a.m. and your family will be entered to win complimentary participation for one child for our December K-6 Movie Night! One winner will be drawn randomly from those who respond. (If a preschool family wins, you will receive a \$20 December tuition credit.) Congratulations to Cameron Chesbrough (grade 1) and Victoria Midkiff (K) who won free books at the book fair because their parents responded to the last newsletter contest!

News and Notes – continued

Pinecrest School is a member of the Annandale Chamber of Commerce. Sometimes, we receive announcements or information about local business and special offers, et cetera. FYI: Today from 5-8 p.m., 20% of all Vera Bradley merchandise purchased at AnnSandra, located on 4417 John Marr Drive, in Annandale, will be generously donated to the chamber's Student Education Fund. Enjoy light refreshments and specially-priced event merchandise for the Chamber of Commerce members and their guests.

School Policy Highlight

Thanks to a suggestion from a Board Trustee, this will be a new recurring section (space permitting) where I will highlight a random school policy for your information. We hope you find it helpful! ☺ From page 6 of the Community Handbook: *Inclement Weather Procedure – Pinecrest School adheres to the Fairfax County Public Schools' emergency closing policy. Information on when the county schools are closed can be heard early in the morning over most of the local radio stations and accessed on the internet at www.fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm. In all cases, regardless of conditions in your locale, if Fairfax County Public Schools are closed, Pinecrest will be closed. Unless an extenuating circumstance persists such as lack of electricity or water or similar, Pinecrest will not make a decision until Fairfax County Public Schools does. If the county schools open one or two hours late, Pinecrest will open one hour late. If it is necessary to close school early because of bad weather or an emergency situation, the Pinecrest School Emergency Preparedness Plan will be implemented. School closings and delayed openings are announced to the school community via PinecrestSchool@googlegroups.com.*

Upcoming Dates

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
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)
Mon., Jan. 5	School Resumes
Tues., Jan. 6	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab
Sat., Jan. 10	International Dinner – 6 p.m. – multipurpose room

Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to all of the parents who participated in Parent Visiting Morning on November 11!

Our recent Scholastic Book Fair was a big success, raising almost \$500 for the school! Thank you to everyone who participated and to those who purchased books on the teachers' wish lists! Your contributions help grow our classroom libraries. A tip of the hat to the parents who volunteered their time to help run our book fair – Madelynn Arnold, Lei Bao, Denise Boyer, Thuy Bui, Vicky Carmody, Karen Chesbrough, Carolyn Ewen, Elena Han, Eleni Jakub, Aditi Kadakia, Hung Ngo, Paula O'Grady, Paula Palmore, Rema Shaban, Val Treharne, Ansiire Yakanuba, and Havva Yozgat – and three BIG cheers for Trisha Serven (parent of Garrett Patterson, grade 2) for organizing the event and serving as our Book Fair Chair!

A round of applause for all of the parents and students who participated in our Spruce Up Day on November 16! How wonderful the campus looks now, thanks to your hard work! Thank you to everyone who participated, and kudos to Mark Patterson (parent of Garrett, grade 2) for chairing the event!

Thank you to U.S. Navy Commander Scott Chesbrough (parent of Cameron, grade 1) for sharing with Mrs. Wheeler's class about Veterans' Day last week.

Thought for the Day

"What you are will show in what you do." (Thomas Edison)