

## PINECREST HEADLINES

*Communication from the Head of School – Issue 8, 2008-09 – Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

### *News and Notes*

On Wednesday, January 14, at 7 p.m., we will have our 2009-10 Back-to-School Night, beginning in the multipurpose room. This is an adults-only event for parents of rising preschool 4 through grade 6 students to learn more about their child's next grade level. For example, if your child is currently in the four-year-old preschool class, you would go to the kindergarten classroom for the presentation, and so on. The format will be very similar to the Back-to-School Night we have in the fall (thus the name of the event). Teachers will make presentations and answer questions. Board members will share information as well. I hope you'll plan on attending.

2009-10 Reenrollment Forms will be distributed via Wednesday Envelopes on January 21 with a requested return date of Wednesday, February 18. The above-mentioned event on January 14 is designed to help inform you more of your child's next Pinecrest experience and help with your decision-making for the next school year.

Our annual International Dinner will be held this Saturday, January 10, at 6 p.m., in the multipurpose room. Please expect an email from Volunteer Chair Mark Patterson (parent of Garrett, grade 2) soon with last-minute dinner information. Many thanks to those who have RSVPed already – we look forward to seeing you there. It's not too late if you have not yet done so either!

The winter session of K-6 after-school activities will begin the week of February 2. Information will be distributed to families in next week's Wednesday Envelopes on January 14.

Our Annual Fund Campaign began last month with 100% Board participation. Thank you to those families, staff, and alumni families who have already made very generous donations! Our goal is 100% parent and staff participation, and we are off to a terrific start to reach this! All independent schools and non-profits run Annual Fund Campaigns each year. Your gift helps strengthen and uphold our mission for our current and future students.

If you read this newsletter, please email me by Friday morning at 10 a.m. and your family will be entered to win a 50% discounted summer camp registration fee! (For preschool parents to whom this will not apply, you will get the same amount off of your next month's tuition.) One winner will be drawn randomly from those who respond. Congratulations to Lei Bao (parent of David Sun, K) who won VIP winter concert seating because she responded to the last newsletter contest!

### *Pinecrest Summer Pavilion*

We are almost ready to announce exciting and new summer camp information for 2009! Pinecrest Summer Pavilion information packets will be available this month and will be distributed to current Pinecrest families first, before information is mailed to last year's camp families or put on the school website. Mrs. Hartzler has been hard at work on the schedule and planning, and there is no doubt in mind that year 3 is going to be ANOTHER great summer for us! ☺

### *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 27 of the Community Handbook: *Bringing Things To School – Please do not send umbrellas to school with your child. They are often difficult to handle and can pose a danger to others when the students try to open them in close quarters, such as on the bus or in the hallways.*

### *Upcoming Dates*

Sat., Jan. 10	International Dinner – 6 p.m. – multipurpose room
Sat., Jan. 10	Happy Birthday, Mrs. Mink! ☺
Sun., Jan. 11	Open House for Prospective Families – 1-4 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 14	2009-10 Back-to-School Night–7 p.m.– begins in multipurpose room (For parents of rising Preschool 4 – Grade 6 students to learn more about their child's <u>next</u> grade level – adults-only evening)
Wed., Jan. 14	K-6 Winter After-School Activity Information Distributed via Wed. Envelopes
Wed., Jan. 21	2008-09 Reenrollment Forms Distributed via Wednesday Envelopes
<b>Mon., Jan. 19</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday – NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>Tues., Jan. 20</b>	<b>Inauguration Day – NO SCHOOL</b>
Fri., Jan. 23	Quarter 2 Ends (43 days)
<b>Mon., Jan. 26</b>	<b>Faculty In-Service Workday – NO SCHOOL</b>
Mon., Jan. 26	Happy Birthday, Ms. O'Hara! ☺
Tues., Jan. 27	Quarter 3 Begins
Wed., Jan. 28	Quarter 2 Report Cards Distributed Via Wednesday Envelopes
Mon., Feb 2	K-6 Winter Session of After-school Activities Begins
Tues., Feb. 3	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab
Fri., Feb. 6	Grade 1 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Mon., Feb. 9	Ledo Pizza Night – 5-10 p.m. – 7510 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

### *Celebrations/Appreciations*

A standing ovation for Mrs. Yeomans and Mrs. Samaha for their direction and Ms. O'Hara for her piano accompaniment for our winter concert on December 19! What a special morning it was to see all of our stars shine! We also extend a warm thank you to John Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Happy Early Birthday to Mrs. Mink (January 10)!

### *Special Intention*

I want to let the community know that our first grade teacher, Mrs. Wheeler, has just been diagnosed with breast cancer. Hers is the second most common form, and she will have surgery later this month. A scan determined that the cancer has not moved anywhere else in the body. Mrs. Wheeler's prognosis is very positive and so are her spirits, as always. The surgery will require her to be out of school for at least two weeks. Mrs. Hartzler will be substituting during this time. Mrs. Wheeler shared this news with the first graders (as their parents were informed over the break) in very simple terms – that she has "bad cells" in her body right now that are making her "sick" and that it is called "cancer," which will require surgery later this month. For those classes who also know Mrs. Wheeler, teachers may be letting their classes know about this as well (in a similar way). The best way for our community to help at this time is to keep Mrs. Wheeler and her family in our thoughts and/or prayers as they face this challenging situation. As things move forward, there will be other ways for people to contribute and help, but for now, thoughts and/or prayers are the most important. I know that together we will support Mrs. Wheeler, give her strength, and help keep those spirits as up as they can be. This is community. This is Pinecrest School.

### *Thought for the Day*

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we are not really living." (Gail Sheehy)