

## PINECREST HEADLINES

*Communication from the Head of School – Issue 9, 2008-09 – Wednesday, January 21, 2009*

### *News and Notes*

2009-10 Reenrollment Forms were distributed today via Wednesday Envelopes with a requested return date of Wednesday, February 18, for the reenrollment contract and fee.

Many faculty members are attending professional development workshops this month presented by the Office for Children in Fairfax: Mrs. Ferrier – “Science Made Easy” on January 13 and 27; Mrs. Browning and Mrs. Yeomans – “Positive Guidance: Giving Children Clear Directions” on January 22; and Mrs. Wool-Lewis – “Dramatic Play” on January 24.

This Monday, January 26, is a no-school day for students, and an in-service/workday for the faculty and me. We will use the time for planning and meeting, as well as making progress towards our new post-accreditation goals.

Quarter 2 report cards for K-6 students and written narratives for preschool students will be distributed to families via Wednesday Envelopes on Wednesday, January 28. (First grade report cards will be delayed approximately one week due to Mrs. Wheeler’s absence.)

The winter session of K-6 after-school activities will begin the week of February 2. Information was distributed to families in last week’s Wednesday Envelopes. Our offerings are K-6 Soccer on Mondays, K-6 Incredible Edibles Around the World on Tuesdays, Grade 3-6 Clay Sculpture on Wednesdays, and K-6 Around the World Games on Thursdays. The registration deadline for this session of after-school activities is Tuesday, January 27, and we will let you know after this date what activities will be running. Please let us know if you need an additional copy of the packet.

Our Annual Fund continues through the end of the fiscal year in June. Gifts made to the annual fund help strengthen and uphold our mission for current and future students. I wanted to share a touching part of a note received from an alumni family: “Enclosed please find a donation for the annual fund drive. Beth (now in 11<sup>th</sup> grade) and Ben (in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, 7<sup>th</sup> grade otherwise) are thriving precisely because of Pinecrest.”

Thank you to all who clip and save Box Tops for us! Pinecrest recently received a check for \$126.00 for all of the most recent Box Tops we submitted. There is a container in the front office for Box Tops.

Save the Date: We are having another Pinecrest fundraising night at Ledo Pizza in Falls Church on Monday, February 9, from 5-10 p.m. Hope you will join us!

### *Pinecrest Summer Pavilion*

Camp information packets were distributed last Friday and mailed over the weekend to 2008 camp families. Pinecrest families enjoy a priority registration period until Tuesday, January 27. On this day, registration opens to the general public. We are very excited about this summer’s offerings, and we hope to see Pinecrest students in large numbers register!

Mrs. Hartzler and I are attending a camp fair at a local FCPS elementary school on January 29 to help spread the word about Pinecrest Summer Pavilion! Word of mouth is truly our best form of promotion though so please consider sharing information with friends or neighbors who might also be interested in our unique and exciting camp. Extra packets and flyers are available in the front office.

If you read this newsletter, please email me by Monday morning at 10 a.m. and your family will be entered to win a Ledo Pizza gift card towards our next Pinecrest Ledo Pizza Night on February 9! One winner will be drawn randomly from those who respond. Congratulations to Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, grade 3) who won a discounted summer camp registration fee because she responded to the last newsletter contest!

## School Policy Highlight

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](http://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](mailto:PinecrestSchool@googlegroups.com).*

### Upcoming Dates

Fri., Jan. 23	Quarter 2 Ends (43 days)
Mon., Jan. 26	Faculty In-Service Workday – NO SCHOOL
Mon., Jan. 26	Happy Birthday, Ms. O'Hara! ☺
Tues., Jan. 27	Quarter 3 Begins
Wed., Jan. 28	K-6 Quarter 2 Report Cards & Preschool Narratives Distributed
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
Wed., Feb. 4	Grade 3 Field Trip – Green Springs Nature Center
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
Fri., Feb. 13	K-6 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Fri., Feb. 13	100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School Celebration (barring no inclement weather)

### Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to those who contributed a dish to the International Dinner! I think the dinner is a special tradition at Pinecrest, and I am so glad so many families attended. Thank you those who helped set up – especially Madelynn Arnold and family for securing so many tables for us – and helped clean up and break down the tables. Most importantly, a standing ovation for Mark Patterson (parent of Garrett, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) for organizing and chairing the successful event!

Kudos to Mrs. Ferrier & Mrs. Narcisso, Mrs. Vogus & Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Davis, Ms. Bleggi, Mr. Loring, and Ms. O'Hara for their preparation for and presentations at the recent 2009-10 Back-to-School Night!

Thank you to the parents who attended our 2009-10 Back-to-School Night on January 14. Your interest and participation is appreciated!

Applause, please, for the volunteers at our January open house for prospective families – Brian Becker (parent of Kira & Scott, grades 6 & 3), Nate Carmody (parent of Brooke, grade 2), and Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, grade 6)!

Happy Early Birthday to Ms. O'Hara (January 26)!

### Special Intention

Mrs. Wheeler has surgery yesterday for her breast cancer. It went well, and more news about the pathology will come later this week. Mrs. Wheeler was discharged from the hospital earlier today and is home now and her family is taking care of her. Thank you to the many families and staff who offered to make meals for the Wheelers and/or donate to the fund for a cleaning service for their home. This all means so much. Please continue to keep Mrs. Wheeler and her family in your thoughts and/or prayers. This positive attention will make a difference. While Mrs. Wheeler is away from school recovering, Mrs. Hartzler is substituting in first grade.

### Thought for the Day

"There is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task."  
(President Barack Obama in his inaugural address, 1/20/09)