

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 10, 2008-09 – Wednesday, February 5, 2009

News and Notes

I was home sick yesterday (am feeling much better now) so this week's newsletter is a day late.

We are having another Pinecrest fundraising night at Ledo Pizza in Falls Church on Monday, February 9, 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. Ledo Pizza is located on Route 7 in Falls Church across from the Whole Foods and in the same plaza as Trader Joe's.

Next Friday, February 13, is a half day for students. Please remember that K-6 students should bring snacks, but no lunches on half days. On this afternoon, the faculty and I will enjoy a professional development presentation by the staff of George Mason University Training and Technical Assistance Center.

2009-10 Reenrollment Forms were distributed on January 21 via Wednesday Envelopes with a requested return date of Wednesday, February 18, for the reenrollment contract and fee.

As the bus parents know, we currently have no bus. I have identified an excellent new bus driver and am waiting for his background check paperwork to clear and be returned to us. Once this happens, I will officially hire him and we will begin bus service again. I put a call into Social Services to expedite the background checks and I am told I should expect to hear early next week. Bus parents, again, thank you for your understanding and patience.

Quarter 2 report cards for K-6 students and written narratives for preschool students have all been distributed to families via Wednesday Envelopes. If you have not yet done so, please sign the pink report card acknowledgement form and return it to us.

The winter session of K-6 after-school activities began this week. We are running K-6 Soccer on Mondays, K-6 Incredible Edibles Around the World on Tuesdays, and Grade 3-6 Clay Sculpture on Wednesdays. There will be one more session of after-school activities in the spring...more details to follow later.

Ms. Bleggi took her third grade class to a science field trip at Green Springs Nature Center yesterday. Thank you to the following parents who joined the class on the trip: Grace Becker (parent of Kira & Scott, grades 6 & 3), Denise Boyer (parent of Nicholas, grade 3), Bill Hohenstein (parent of Ellie, grade 3), Paula O'Grady (parent of James & Freya, grade 3 & K), Marina Sutton (parent of Lauren, grade 3).

The fourth/fifth and sixth grade classes went with Mr. Loring and Ms. O'Hara to the Holocaust Museum in D.C. last week to culminate their literature study of Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. Thank you to Grace Becker, Matt Greene (parent of Bobby & Mikey, grades 4 & 1), and Teresa Rowe (parent of Misha, grade 6) for also attending.

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.

Pinecrest Summer Pavilion

We have over 70 campers registered so far – some new, some returning, and a few Pinecrest students. We are hoping for many more Pinecrest families. If you love what we do during the school year, there is no better place to be for the summer than Pinecrest Summer Pavilion!

School Policy Highlight

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From page 18 of the Community Handbook: Reportable Communicable Diseases –Parents/guardians must inform Pinecrest School within 24 hours or the next business day after his/her child or any member of his/her

immediate household has developed any reportable communicable disease, as defined by the State Board of Health, except for life threatening diseases, which must be reported immediately. A chart of communicable diseases appears towards the back of this handbook.

Upcoming Dates

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
Mon., Feb. 16	Presidents' Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Wed., Feb. 18	100 th Day of School Celebration (barring no inclement weather)
Wed., Feb. 18	2009-10 Reenrollment Forms & Fees Due
Mon., Feb. 23	Grade 2 & 3 Field Trip – Charlotte's Web Play – morning
Fri., Feb. 27	Grade 4/5 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Sat., Feb. 28	Open House for Prospective Families – 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Mon., March 2	Dr. Seuss's Birthday Celebration of Reading – more details to follow
Tues., March 3	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab
Fri., March 20	Grade 2 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Fri., March 27	K-6 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care

If you read this newsletter, please email me by Monday morning at 10 a.m. and your family will be entered to win \$15 off your 2009-10 registration fee! (If you have already paid this registration fee, you can take it as a tuition credit for next month's tuition.) One winner will be drawn randomly from those who respond. Congratulations to Vicky Carmody (parent of Brooke, grade 2) who won a Ledo Pizza gift card because she responded to the last newsletter contest!

Celebrations/Appreciations

I want to thank the K-6 students and staff for a truly delightful birthday surprise on Monday afternoon with a special song, cute cards, and other special homemade items! It is not very often that one gets a song written about her and then gets serenaded by 54 adorable children! I heard some of you heard renditions of the song at home...hope you enjoyed it as much as I did! ☺

Special Intention

Each day, Mrs. Wheeler is slowly gaining strength and feeling decreased pain. Her outlook remains sunny and positive. She has loved all of the well wishes from our community. It all helps to keep her spirits up. Mrs. Wheeler has received a summary of the pathology reports from her procedure on January 20. While the doctors did find cancer in her sentinel node, just 3 of the 15 nodes removed were cancerous. In addition, the doctor reports that the borders are clear, which is excellent news. This puts Mrs. Wheeler's breast cancer at what is known as Stage 2, and the prognosis is very positive. Mrs. Wheeler will have chemotherapy treatments beginning Friday, February 13, and extending through the spring. Mrs. Hartzler has been substituting (and will continue as needed) in first grade during Mrs. Wheeler's absence. Mrs. Wheeler plans to return to school next week for half days.

We have all been so heartened by your generous donations of support, funds, and food to help Mrs. Wheeler and her family during this challenging time. Mrs. Wheeler is so grateful. At this point, we want to offer you another opportunity to help and continue to support our beloved first grade teacher and this cause. A group of us from our community (including Mrs. Wheeler and her husband) are participating in the 2-day, 39-mile Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in D.C. in May. Each member of our team must commit to raising \$1800. Any donations received from the Pinecrest community will be split amongst the team members. Checks can be made payable to Avon Walk for Breast Cancer and sent to the office.

Thought for the Day

"Either you reach a higher point today or you exercise your strength in order to be able to climb higher tomorrow." (Friedrich Nietzsche)