

## PINECREST HEADLINES

*Communication from the Head of School – Issue 11, 2008-09 – Wednesday, February 18, 2009*

### *News and Notes*

Mrs. Wheeler is back at school full-time this week. She had her first chemotherapy treatment last week and came through very well. We are hopeful this will continue to be the case as she continues her treatments through the spring. Thank you for all of the thoughts and good wishes you have shared with Mrs. Wheeler and her family; please continue to keep the good vibes coming – it does make a difference!

Today was our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! Everyone received a “100 Days Smarter” stamp from me, and the K-6 classes joined together this afternoon for our annual 100 pennies relay race. It is a fun activity that also provides great exercise and community-building. Congratulations to the students on the winning team – Amal Abdulkadir (grade 1), Medha Annam (K), Scott Knieriem (K), Max Dinsmore (grade 1), Charlie Ewen (grade 4/5), Anna Ngo (grade 3), Angelyn Nguyen (grade 1), Misha Rowe (grade 6) and Juberiya Sinsa-Ansiirame (grade 4/5) – and thank you to all for good sportsmanship and teamwork! This year, the pennies were donated to the Wheeler’s Healers team for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in May.

2009-10 reenrollment contracts were distributed on January 21 and were due back today. Thank you to the families who have committed to returning to Pinecrest next year! If your contract and reenrollment fee were in hand when this newsletter came out, you should have received an email confirmation indicating that we have it. If you did not receive an email, we do not yet have your form and your child’s space will not be held.

Last week, we welcomed Mr. Tony Wong to our community as our new bus driver! We are happy to have Mr. Wong with us and he came to us highly recommended from Congressional School and his previous employers.

Please note the following calendar changes:

K-6 Movie Night will be held on Friday evening, May 15 (not Friday, May 8, as the calendar indicates)

Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 17 (not Sunday, May 31, as the calendar indicates)

Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, June 2 (not Sunday, May 31, as the calendar indicates)

Last week, a prospective parent called the school because she was driving behind a car in Springfield with one of our car magnets and she thought she’d give us a call to see if we had any availability for her son in kindergarten next year. I love car magnets – and, when used safely, cell phones! I thought this was a great story and a good time to thank those of you who display proudly your car magnets! It means a lot. Also, if you are in need of a car magnet for your or an additional family vehicle, please let us know.

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.

We are selling pink ribbons in the front office to honor Mrs. Wheeler and support the Wheeler’s Healers team in the D.C. Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in May. 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. This is a fundraiser for the team. Stay tuned for a guess-how-many-pink-M&Ms-are-in-the-jar fundraiser too! ☺

### *Pinecrest Summer Pavilion*

We are receiving many registrations from Pinecrest students, former campers and a lot from new families as well. It is very exciting. In a little less than a month we already are close to having 100 campers enrolled. Mrs. Hartzler is already working on creating additional sections of popular classes to accommodate more people. While we have lots of space in many camps, some are already at or nearing capacity. We hate for anyone not to be able to take a class of their choice, particularly our own students. If you plan to register, and particularly if you are strongly interested in a particular class, we encourage you to sign up soon. We hope that many Pinecrest students will choose to participate. If you love what we do during the school year, there is no better place to be for the summer than Pinecrest Summer Pavilion! Please direct any summer camp questions to Mrs. Hartzler at [summercamp@pinecrestschool.org](mailto:summercamp@pinecrestschool.org) or 703.503.1132 (home).

If you read this newsletter, please email me by Friday morning at 10 a.m. and your family will be entered to win a free book at the Scholastic Book Fair in May! One winner will be drawn randomly from those who respond. Congratulations to Paula O'Grady (parent of James & Freya, grade 3 & K) who won a discounted re-enrollment fee because she responded to the last newsletter contest! (And, the last newsletter came out on a Thursday because I was sick, which is not when Mrs. O'Grady works at Pinecrest so she was truly a parent reading it at that time!) ☺

### *Auction Update: Raising the Roof!*

Pinecrest's annual auction will be on Saturday night, April 18. It promises to be a very special affair – both a fun evening among adults and a fundraising opportunity to further enhance and develop Pinecrest School. We hope you will make plans to join us! Secure your baby-sitters now as this year's Auction Committee is hard at work to make this a memorable and special night for our community!

Last week, a flyer and donation form went home to each family. Each family is asked to get 1-2 donations to help make the auction a success. The Silent Auction works best when we have a variety of interesting and unique items to offer bidders. Donations should be sent in by Friday, March 13. Extra donation forms are available in the office. Please contact Auction Co-Chairs Vicky Carmody (parent of Brooke, grade 2) or Val Treharne (parent of Jonny & Owen, grade 4/5 & 2) with donation questions or to talk over any ideas at 703.533.9339 or vicky@carmody.ws (Vicky) or 703.642.7266 or valtreharne@hotmail.com (Val).

### *School Policy Highlight*

From page 18 of the Community Handbook: Illness – Parents must keep their children home from school when they are ill. A child is considered ill when s/he has an oral temperature of 100 degrees or higher, has recurrent diarrhea or vomiting, or has contracted one of the diseases on the Communicable Disease Reference Chart for School Personnel in the appendix. When a student becomes ill at school, a parent or emergency contact person will be called to pick up the student as soon as possible. Students should remain home until all signs of the illness are gone. If the child has been sick during the night, please keep him home the next day even if he seems well by morning. Students should be fever-free for at least 24 hours before they return to school. If your child becomes ill with a contagious disease (e.g. chicken pox, strep throat) or contracts head lice, please notify the school immediately. The Head of School will alert the other parents so they may take the appropriate action.

### *Upcoming Dates*

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
Mon.-Thurs., March 30-April 2	Spirit Week – more details to follow
Tues., March 31	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab

### *Celebrations/Appreciations*

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Ledo Pizza last week for good food and fun!

Bravo to our first grade class and Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Hartzler for their informative and highly entertaining news show assembly on February 6!

A big tip of that hat to Mrs. Hartzler, who held down the first grade fort in Mrs. Wheeler's recent absence and who was essentially doing two jobs at the same time for us – first grade substitute extraordinaire and camp director. Mrs. Hartzler's hard work over the past month is so deeply appreciated.

### *Thought for the Day*

"One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things."  
(Henry Miller)