

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 14, 2008-09 – Wednesday, April 29, 2009

News and Notes

With spring break and the schedule of when the newsletter is published, we have actually not had a newsletter since March 18! There is a lot of news here – thanks in advance for your attention. Happy reading! ☺

Family Math Night for grades 1-6 was originally scheduled for tonight, but has been cancelled due to staff illness. We will definitely reschedule this very fun annual event for a later time this spring (more details to follow), and I thank you so much for understanding. This is one of the downsides of a small community: when people are ill or faced with different challenges, it affects much more than it would in a larger place. On the upside, the care and concern felt by all makes us who we are. This is community. This is Pinecrest School.

The all-school group photo was taken on April 16. Order forms were sent home today in Wednesday Envelopes. If you wish to order a photo, the form and check must be sent in by Monday, May 4. Extra order forms are available from Mrs. O'Grady or Mrs. Shaw in the front office. Similarly, if you had your child's individual photos taken or retaken also on April 16, order forms and payment for these photo orders must also be sent in by Monday, May 4.

Spruce Up Day is this Saturday, May 2, at 9:30 a.m., at school. Even if you have not signed up, but decide to come and help, you would be most welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Mark Patterson (parent of Garrett, grade 2) at tasmark1020@aol.com or 703.941.3058. Children are always welcome for spruce up days!

In last week's Wednesday Envelope, you got a special letter in a sealed envelope – remember, next week is full of surprises (starting Monday!) for Faculty Appreciation Week. And, if you can contribute a main dish and/or help out at the staff lunch on Wednesday, May 6, please let Mark Patterson & Trisha Serven – tasmark1020@aol.com – know. I know they would love to have your participation!

Our Spring Book Fair is also coming up next week! Get stocked up on summer reading and fun activities to keep your student's skills sharp. Please look for the detailed flyer in today's Wednesday Envelope and, please, sign up to help set up (Wednesday, May 6), work at checkout (May 7-14), or pack up the book fair (Thursday, May 14). Contact Mrs. O'Grady or Mrs. Shaw at the office if you can help out!

Grade 2-5 Authors' Teas will take place in the classrooms on Friday, May 8. The times are as follows: Grade 2: 2:30 p.m.; Grade 3: 2:30 p.m.; Grade 4/5: 1:15 p.m.; and Grade 6: 2 p.m. The Grade 1 Authors' Tea will take place in the classroom on Friday, May 15, at 2 p.m. Authors' Teas are a lovely celebration of the writing our talented children have done all year long! You will have the opportunity to hear the children read some of their pieces and review through their writing portfolio binders as well.

Many field trips have occurred since March 18 – Grades 3-6 Tree Presentation at Congressional on 16, Kindergarten Seussical play on April 20, Grade 6 Alexandria history trip on April 20, Grades 3-6 'Earth' movie for Earth Day on April 22, Grade 2 Lake Barcroft exploration and lunch on April 24, and Kindergarten Frying Pan Park trip on April 28. Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for these trips: Lei Bao (parent of David Sun, K), Robert Buckley (parent of Peyton, K), Denise Boyer (parent of Nicholas, grade 3), Vicky Carmody (parent of Brooke, grade 2), Kaouthar Chebil (parent of Mariam & Youssef, grade 2 & K), Carolyn Ewen (parent of Charlie, grade 4/5), Lisa Klein (parent of Alex, K), Scott Midkiff (parent of Victoria, K), Tan Nguyen (parent of Natane, K), Brenda Neil (parent of Ishbel, K), Rema Shaban (parent of Nesreen, K), Trisha Serven (parent of Garrett Patterson, grade 2), Val Treharne (parent of Jonny & Owen, grades 4/5 and 2) and Kristen Wool-Lewis (parent of Ethan, K)!

Spring after-school activities are in session! We are running Pinecrest Landscapers with Mrs. Davis on Tuesdays, Native American Arts & Crafts with Mr. Moore on Wednesdays, and Abrakadoodle Art on Fridays.

Our Ledo's Pizza fundraiser netted \$193.73 from February – thanks to all who came out and supported us there!

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.

News and Notes – continued

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)
- K-6 Spring Concert & Grade 6 Graduation will be held on Tuesday evening, June 9 (not Wednesday, June 10, as the calendar indicates)

If you read this newsletter, please email me by Friday morning at 10 a.m. and your child will be entered to win a free pink Wheeler's Healers t-shirt (size youth L). One winner will be drawn randomly from those who respond. Congratulations to Robert Buckley & Paula Palmore (parent of Peyton Buckley, K) who won their son a free book at the upcoming Scholastic Book Fair for reading/responding to the last newsletter contest!

Pinecrest Summer Pavilion

We have over 300 children registered for Pinecrest Summer Pavilion – our biggest summer yet! If you have not yet registered for our summer camp, space is still available in some classes, while others are closed/at capacity. Additionally, some closed classes may be reopened this week or next. Please check the summer camp section of the website or check with Mrs. Hartzler for more information. If you love what we do during the school year, there is no better place to be for the summer than Pinecrest Summer Pavilion! Mrs. Hartzler can be reached at summercamp@pinecrestschool.org or 703.503.1132 (home).

Auction: Raising the Roof!

THANK YOU to everyone who supported this year's auction on April 18. Thank you so much for raising the roof with us! What a great night for our community and a fun time for all of us! Thank you for your generosity and support. We do not have the final figure to give you yet of how much the auction raised, but we will share that soon. Auction photos are on the website in the password-protected section.

School Policy Highlight

From page 11 of the Community Handbook: Attendance – Consistent attendance is an important ingredient in achieving success in school. Children must be in the classroom and ready for work at 9 a.m., and each teacher completes his/her class attendance sheet at that time. Children who arrive after 9 a.m. are marked tardy. Students need approximately ten minutes to prepare for the day. Please take this into consideration when planning arrival times.

Upcoming Dates

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| Mon.-Fri., April 27-May 1 | Grade 6 Stanford Achievement Test – mornings – no make-ups |
| Mon.-Fri., April 27-May 1 | Grade 4 Stanford Achievement Test – mornings – no make-ups |
| Tues.-Fri., April 28-May 1 | Grade 2 Cognitive Abilities Test–mornings–no make-ups |
| Fri., May 1 | Kindergarten Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building |
| Sat., May 2 | Spruce Up Day / Parent Workday – 9:30 a.m. – front lawn |
| Mon.-Fri., May 4-8 | Faculty Appreciation Week |
| Thurs., May 7-Thurs., May 14 | Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room, newer building |
| Tues., May 5 | Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab |
| Fri., May 8 | Grade 2-6 Authors' Teas – classrooms: Grade 2 – 2:30 p.m.; Grade 3 – 2:30 p.m.; Grade 4/5 – 1:15 p.m.; Grade 6 – 2 p.m. |
| Fri., May 15 | Preschool 4 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building |
| Fri., May 15 | Grade 1 Authors' Tea – classroom – 2 p.m. |
| Fri., May 15 | K-6 Movie Night – 6-9:30 p.m. – multipurpose room |
| Sun., May 17 | Ice Cream Social – 2:30-4 p.m. – playground |

Upcoming Dates – continued

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| Fri., May 22 | K-6 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care |
| Mon., May 25 | Memorial Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL |
| Fri., May 29 | Preschool 3 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room, newer building |

Celebrations/Appreciations

Bravo to the second grade class and Mrs. Davis for their wonderful assembly on March 20; props, singing, dancing, many lines to memorize, the teacher in costume – this show really had it all! ☺

Thank you for everyone who participated in Spirit Week right before spring break – what a fun week that always is! It's great to see everyone's outfits. Very cute photos from this week are on the website!

Kudos to the faculty and parents for their open communication and dialogue during the April 3 parent/teacher conferences!

Happy belated birthday to Mrs. O'Grady (April 3)!

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time to help with the 2009 Raising the Roof Auction by securing donations and/or ads and/or attending. Thank you to my friends from the Kiwanis Club of Tysons Corner – Kristina Dlugozima, Corey Goggin, and Matt Green – for being our bartenders on auction night. A special tip of the hat to the auction committee (and also their spouses for their support) – Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, grade 3), Lei Bao, Grace Becker (parent of Kira & Scott, grades 6 & 3), Karen Chesbrough (parent of Cameron, grade 2), Susan Cohen (parent of Libby, grade 6), Joyce Gettings (parent of Thor, preschool 3), Carolyn Ewen, Eleni Jakub (parent of Alex & Anastasia, grade 2), Trisha Serven, and Marina Sutton (parent of Lauren, grade 3)! And, finally, a BIG standing ovation for Vicky Carmody and Val Treharne for chairing and organizing the 2009 Auction!

Last Wednesday, April 22, we expressed our appreciation to Mrs. O'Grady and Mrs. Shaw (Administrative Assistants) and Ms. Tamayo (Finance Manager) for Administrative Professionals Day. They are all invaluable assets to our school and our staff, and we are grateful for their hard work!

This weekend, the Wheeler's Healers team will embark on the 39-mile Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in D.C. It is hard to believe the time has actually arrived! On behalf of all of us, I want to thank you for the countless and very generous ways you have supported this cause and Mrs. Wheeler since January. It all means so much. Anyone interested in coming down to the finish line to cheer us on when we are done on Sunday, should please contact Mrs. O'Grady, our team captain, at mattpaula@cox.net; she can give you more information. Participating from our community are parents Susan Akers and Susan Cohen and staff members Mrs. Mink, Mrs. O'Grady, Ms. Tamayo, Mrs. Vogus, Mrs. Wheeler (and her husband), Mrs. Wool-Lewis, and me! Those of us working on Monday, May 4, will each be wearing one of our walk t-shirts; anyone else is welcome to do so as well with their Wheeler's Healers shirts on the 4th.

Thought for the Day

“It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing.
It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into the giving.”
(Mother Teresa)