

Pinecrest School

Nurturing curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning since 1957

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 2, 2009-10 – Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Quick Note

This newsletter is produced by the Head of School every other Wednesday and distributed to parents via our school email list-serv/reflector, PinecrestSchool@GoogleGroups.com. Unfortunately, due to my tonsillectomy and recovery, only one newsletter has been produced so far. We are back on track with today's newsletter though so please expect this in your inbox every other Wednesday beginning today. Thank you for your understanding!

News and Notes

Our fall K-6 after-school activities are beginning this week and next! We are running K-6 soccer on Mondays, K-6 Party Planning on Tuesdays, K-2 Clay Sculpture on Wednesdays, K-6 Abrakadoodle Art on Thursdays, and K-6 Mad Science on Fridays! If your child has signed up for any of these programs, you should have received a schedule and class roster by email last week.

Our preschool 3 and 3/4 classes will on a field trip with Mrs. Kessler and Mrs. Wool-Lewis to Burke Nurseries tomorrow – Thursday, October 8. Thank you in advance to the following who will be joining the classes on the trip: Usa Beese (parent of Sara, preschool 3), Marsha Christoph (grandparent of Jack & Callie Friedman, preschool 3 & 3/4), Chauntee Credle (parent of Dorian, preschool 3/4), Suzanne Gaffney (parent of Declan, preschool 3), Lei Giap (parent of Kara Haas, preschool 3/4), Rich Kessler (parent of Holly, preschool 3), Kate Lewis (parent of Amy, preschool 3/4), and Sarah Spink (parent of Benjamin & Charlotte, K & preschool 3).

This Friday, October 9, is a half day of school for K-6 students. Dismissal is at 12 noon for all. On half days, K-6 children should come to school with a snack only, not a lunch. There is no after-care or lunch bunch on K-6 half days.

On Friday morning, October 9, Mrs. Davis's second grade class will go on a field trip to see a fairy tale puppet show at Glen Echo Park in Maryland. Thank you in advance to Menne Dodd (parent of Wilson, grade 2) for attending!

Pinecrest School will be participating in a private school/enrichment fair at the Newseum in D.C. on Saturday, October 10, sponsored by [Family Magazine](#).

Giant has a school giving program called A+ Bonus Bucks. To register, you must have a Giant Bonus Card. You must relink your Giant Bonus Card number each year. Have your Giant Bonus Card number handy and then please visit https://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/designate_school.htm?_flowExecutionKey=_c864E5F12-5C81-C23B-9163-32AA4ED8F313_k46C19242-0669-F702-4C31-E7C41D4ADB4D or send us your 12-digit Bonus Card number and the school will register you. Pinecrest's code is 01834.

Harris Teeter also has a school giving program called Together In Education. To register, you must have a Harris Teeter VIC Savings Card. Have your Harris Teeter VIC card number handy and then please visit <https://www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pageId=32> or send us your 11-digit VIC card number and the school will register you. You must relink your VIC card number each year. Pinecrest's code is 5160.

On Friday morning, October 16, Creative Images will be here to take individual and class photos of the children. See today's Wednesday Envelope for a reminder. Siblings can be photographed together and/or separately – parents, please let us know your wishes by emailing or calling us as soon as possible. There is no pre-order with Creative Images. Everyone will be photographed on picture day, and then within two weeks, proofs will be sent home to each family. Once the proofs come home, parents can either purchase the photos or not.

Our Annual Fun Fair is Saturday, October 17. This is such a fun-filled day of games, activities, good food, and plenty of community. Please plan to join us from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the front lawn of Pinecrest. There's a café, fun games, hands-on activities, and lots of Pinecrest spirit. This year, we'll also have an inflatable slide/bouncer for older kids, a moon-bounce for the younger kids, and a cotton candy machine! Please contact Mark Patterson (parent of Garrett, grade 3) if you would like to volunteer – tasmart1020@aol.com or 703.941.3058. Additionally, there is the very popular Cake Walk and cakes of any kind, variety, flavor and shape are needed; if you are a baker, please also contact Mark. The Fun Fair is a great time, but is only successful when we have our very generous parent volunteers to help us out. 1

News and Notes – continued

The annual Annandale Fall Festival and Parade will take place on Saturday, October 24, in the Safeway parking lot on Little River Turnpike in Annandale. Pinecrest will have a booth, but there will also be all kinds of fun activities. This year, Pinecrest will be participating in the parade that will take place also on that Saturday morning. If you would be willing to have your children walk with us and/or join us with your children, please let me or Mrs. Mink know and we can share more details. If you attend the festival, please wear a Pinecrest school or camp t-shirt if you have one!

The fall Scholastic Book Fair – "Destination Book Fair, Read Around the World" – will take place in the newer building multipurpose room from Thursday, October 29 until Friday, November 6. The children will have the chance to preview the books and create wish lists. Teachers are creating wish lists as well for any classroom library contributions you'd like to make. The book fair gives families an excellent opportunity to purchase quality children's books at affordable prices. Plus, Pinecrest benefits as Scholastic will give us a portion of profits taken in from our sale – it's a win-win for all! More Book Fair information will be sent home soon!

We have limited extra light blue "This is community" shirts in various sizes in both long-sleeve and short-sleeve. If you are interested in either additional short-sleeve shirts or the long-sleeve option, please let me know and we'll see if we have your size available. The youth or adult short-sleeve shirts are \$10 each, and the youth or adult long-sleeve shirts are \$15 each. Part of the proceeds from the sale of each shirt will benefit Pinecrest.

Please remember that school begins promptly at 9 a.m. each day. It is hard when children come late as they do not have time to adjust to the new day and must focus immediately on a lesson or activity without any transition time. Drop-off begins at 8:40 a.m., and we do expect all children to be in their classrooms by 9 a.m. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

If you have any questions relating to financial matters or requests for receipts, please contact Ms. Karen Tamayo, our finance manager, at business@pinecrestschool.org. Email is always the best way to reach her. Please understand that Ms. Tamayo works on a flexible, part-time schedule; your patience is appreciated if you have financial questions or requests. Being that she does not work daily and no one else handles our finances, it will take a few days to respond to your request. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

If your child uses after-care or lunch bunch, you will receive a bill in the Wednesday Envelope monthly. When this bill comes home, please return payment promptly. Thank you!

Pinecrest School is now on Facebook! If you are too, please search "Pinecrest School" and become a fan!

If you read this newsletter and respond by email by Friday morning at 10 a.m., you will be entered in a drawing to win a long-sleeve "This is community shirt" for your child! (If you have already purchased one for your child, you could take one for yourself or we will refund the cost you paid.) Congratulations to Marina Sutton (parent of Lauren, Grade 4) who won the last newsletter contest!

Upcoming Dates

Thurs., Oct. 8	Preschool 3 & Preschool 3/4 Field Trip – Burke Nurseries – morning
Fri., Oct. 9	K-6 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care or lunch bunch
Fri., Oct. 9	Grade 2 Field Trip – Glen Echo Park – Fairy Tale Puppet Show – morning
Mon., Oct. 12	Columbus Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Fri., Oct. 16	Individual & Class Photos by Creative Images – morning (make-up date: April 21)
Sat., Oct. 17	Fun Fair – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – front lawn
Mon., Oct. 20	Pre-K Field Trip – Burke Nurseries – morning
Thurs., Oct. 22	K & Grade 1 Field Trip – Cox Farm – all-day
Fri., Oct. 23	Preschool & K Fire Truck Visit – driveway circle – morning
Thurs., Oct. 29-Fri., Nov. 6	Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room, newer building
Fri., Oct. 30	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m. – driveway circle
Fri., Oct. 30	K-6 Quarter 1 Ends (38 days)
Mon., Nov. 2	Parent/Teacher Conferences / Faculty Workday – NO SCHOOL
Mon., Nov. 2	K-6 Quarter 1 Report Cards Distributed at Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tues., Nov. 3	K-6 Quarter 2 Begins

Save the Date

Make sure your calendars are marked for Pinecrest's annual auction fundraising evening and the biggest Pinecrest party of the year – Saturday evening, May 1, 2010. This is an adults-only evening to support Pinecrest that you do not want to miss! Auction Chair Trisha Serven (parent of Garrett Patterson, grade 3) and this year's auction committee have already started planning and working! If you'd like to sign up to help or find out more, please contact Trisha at tasmak1020@aol.com or 703.941.3058.

Celebrations/Appreciations

Many thanks to all of the families who participated in the New Parent Coffee on September 11, the Back-to-School Picnic on September 20, and Back-to-School Night on September 24!

A round of applause for the volunteers at our recent Spruce Up Day/Parent Workday on October 3: Susan Akers, Bill Bruck, Robert Buckley, Brenda & Alastair Neil, Mark Patterson, Janice Peterson, Mike Reid, Gauri Sakpal, Kirsten & Charles Schutt, Mark Sewall, Shaun Simpson, Rich Sutton, Guy Weber, and Bruce Zanin. Special thanks to Scott Tucker (parent of Kalkidan & Amanual, grade 2 & K) for organizing the event! The campus looks wonderful – thank you all for your efforts!

Pinecrest School participated in the Mason District Day on September 26 with an informational table. A tip of the hat to Board Members Janet Bleggi, Amy Knieriem, Mark Patterson, and Janice Peterson and Admissions Director Barb Mink for being there to help spread the good word about Pinecrest School!

Happy Belated Birthday to Mrs. Browning (September 23) and Mrs. Wheeler (October 2)! ☺

Personal Note

Thanks again for all of the well-wishes while I was out recovering from having my tonsils removed! I am finally feeling all better, and it is good to be back at school full-time.

We are often asked how the older students do when they graduate and move on from Pinecrest School. I want to share part of an email I received over the summer from an alumni parent whose son is currently in seventh grade in Fairfax County. It's lovely to hear such positive feedback, and it makes us all very proud of what we do and who we are as an independent community of learners.

"Last year [in sixth grade], his school asked him to take the 8th grade SOLs in math (to see if he was ready for 9th grade algebra) and he got a perfect score of 600 on the 8th grade test! He also got a perfect 600 on the 6th grade English and a 570 in American History. (Obviously, we are really proud of him, but we aren't telling him the scores...as he is obnoxious enough!)"

Nicole, there is not a shred of doubt in my mind that the excellent foundation he got at Pinecrest – beginning in kindergarten – is a huge part of the success he is having today. I know you must have days where you probably want to hop a steamer to Brazil and live peacefully among the natives, but before you get to packing your bags, please always know that the work you do has a real and important effect on so many lives."

☺

Onward!

Thought for the Day

"You can't have a better tomorrow if you are thinking about yesterday all the time." (Charles F. Kettering)