

Pinecrest School

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

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School - Issue 5, 2009-10 - Wednesday, November 18, 2009

News and Notes

Calendar Date Change: Although this feels very far away now, please note the following date change: The calendar currently states that Tuesday, February 16, is a no-school day and a faculty in-service day for the teachers and me. We have changed this date. We will now be in school as usual on Tuesday, February 16. Our faculty in-service workday will be on Thursday, March 4, instead. This means no school for the children on Thursday, March 4. I know schedule changes are challenging, and I realize that some people may have already made travel plans for February. That is okay, and we understand if so. We have the opportunity to attend a valuable workshop on differentiated instruction on March 4, so that is why we have changed the date. Thank you for your understanding.

Our second annual K-6 Thanksgiving feast will take place next Tuesday, November 24, at 12 noon, in the multipurpose room. Your class room parent should be in touch with you about your family's contribution. Information was sent to everyone last week in Wednesday Envelopes (yellow flyer). Please let Mrs. O'Grady or Mrs. Shaw know if you have questions about our Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you to those who have offered to volunteer and help on the day of!

Pinecrest School is closed Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

K-6 Movie Night is Friday, December 4 (the week we return from Thanksgiving). We're showing *Bolt!* Movie Nights are great fun, and I hope to see many children there! Please see today's Wednesday Envelope for more information.

The first graders and Mrs. Wheeler are very excited to announce that they met and exceeded their school goal of raising \$600 for Unicef. Sixty-one Trick-or-Treat for Unicef boxes were collected containing \$850.99! There were checks totaling \$135.00, bills totaling \$367.00 and 32 pounds of coins totaling \$348.99. They also collected two plastic pennies, 2 gold tokens, 3 euros, 1 South African coin, 1 quarter from the Bahamas, 3 Canadian coins, and 10 pence. Thank you to everyone who supported this cause, and bravo to the first grade class for their generosity and leadership!

Our annual Halloween candy surrender yielded 63 pounds and a donation to the school of \$126.00 from Woodlawn Dentistry and Dr. Monique Nguyen (parent of Angelyn, grade 2)! Thank you to everyone who participated. The kindergarten class collected the most candy per child (34.6 pounds was the class total) and will enjoy a pizza party from Dr. Nguyen on Monday, December 7.

Our kindergarten and first grade classes had a Hidden Oaks Nature Center in-house "field trip"/presentation yesterday!

Second graders went on a field trip last Thursday to the butterfly pavilion at the Natural History Museum. Thanks to Scott Chesbrough (parent of Cameron, grade 2), Menne Dodd (parent of Wilson, grade 2), and Mimi Minnick (parent of Kelly Houk, grade 2) for joining the class on the trip!

Last Friday, the first grade class went to the American Indian Museum. Thank you to Amy Knieriem (parent of Scott, grade 1, and John, grade 3) and Patti Miller (parent of Bryan, grade 1) for also attending!

In computer class, the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders have been playing a Carnegie Mellon computer game about internet safety called Carnegie Cadettes. The students have really enjoyed the game and are planning to write letters to the developers at Carnegie Mellon sharing what they like and what they feel could be improved about the game. The developers asked if they could use the students' thoughts as testimonials (with no identifying information), and our students were quite pleased and said yes! We'll share the link if their comments are posted.

Staff biographies were previously always printed at the end of the community directory, but were eliminated this year to be more environmentally-friendly. However, they're available on the website in the faculty and staff section.

Thank you again to those who ordered Creative Images photos. We have been told that the photos are shipping today. We will send them home in Wednesday Envelopes when they arrive.

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

News and Notes – continued

free entry for your child into K-6 Movie Night on Friday, December 4. (If a preschool family wins, you will receive the same amount as a tuition reduction for December!) Congratulations to Karen Chesbrough (parent of Cameron, grade 2) who won a free entry into the Redskins Auction Raffle for reading and responding to the last newsletter!

Auction 2010

Redskins Raffle tickets are still available for \$25.00 each, and the winner will be drawn on Monday, December 14. The winner will receive 2 tickets to the Redskins vs. Giants football game on Monday, December 21, plus limo service from the school to FedEx Field (pick-up at 4:30 p.m.), access to the Joe Gibbs Club Level to watch the game, dinner and drinks, and a post-game party with a chance to meet Redskins players and cheerleaders. Thank you again to Richelle Singh and Ramiro Torrico (parents of Raman Singh-Torrico, K) for generously donating the tickets!

Donations are already being sought for the auction on Saturday, May 1. Each year, Pinecrest asks businesses, both local and non-local, to donate goods or services. Donations from businesses comprise the majority of our auction items, so it is vital that we have as many as possible. This year, we're asking businesses to donate goods or services worth a minimum of \$25. Please contact Auction Donations Lead Marina Sutton (parent of Lauren, grade 4) at 703.241.9489 or marina_sutton@msn.com or with any questions. As an added incentive, any family who contributes an auction donation worth \$25 or more and buys one Redskins raffle ticket will receive an additional raffle ticket free!

Upcoming Dates

Fri., Nov. 20	Grade 3 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Tues., Nov. 24	Preschool Thanksgiving Feast – morning – playroom
Tues., Nov. 24	K-6 Thanksgiving Feast – 12 noon – multipurpose room
Wed.-Fri., Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Fri., Dec. 4	K-6 Movie Night – 6-9:30 p.m. – multipurpose room
Sat., Dec. 5	Open House for Prospective Families – 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 8	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. – science/art lab
Fri., Dec. 18	NO SCHOOL – Winter Concert – 9:15 a.m. – John Calvin Church, Annandale
Mon.-Fri., Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL (includes New Year's Day Holiday)
Mon., Jan. 4	School Resumes
<i>SAVE THE DATE: Sat., May 1 – Pinecrest Annual Auction Fundraiser – evening – adults only</i>	

Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to those who joined us for Parent Visiting Morning on November 11 and at Ledo Pizza on November 16!

Our fall Scholastic Book Fair was a great success. We do not have a total amount raised yet, but many families participated and there were so many generous classroom wish list purchases made. Thank you to the book fair volunteers who made it happen – Lei Bao, Grace Becker, Kira Becker, Vicky Carmody, Michele Dinsmore, Sandra & Bill Jackson, Patti Miller, Brenda Neil, Hung Ngo, Paula Palmore, Richelle Singh & Ramiro Torrico, and Marina Sutton! A standing ovation for our Book Fair Chair Trisha Serven (parent of Garrett Patterson, grade 3)!

A tip of the hat for our military parents who gave us a wonderful presentation in honor of Veterans' Day with the first through sixth graders on November 16 – Commander Scott Chesbrough, U.S. Navy (parent of Cameron, grade 2); Captain Mark Dinsmore, U.S. Marine Corps. (parent of Max, grade 2, and Sebastian, Pre-K); Commander Matthew O'Grady, Royal Navy (parent of James, grade 4, and Freya, grade 1); Major Cameron "Zoom" Pringle, U.S. Air Force (parent of Sophia, Pre-K); and Major David Spink, Royal Marines (parent of Benjamin, K, and Charlotte, Preschool 3). Special thanks to Mrs. O'Grady for coordinating this special event!

A round of applause for the Board members who served as tour guides for our November 11 open house for prospective families – Susan Akers (parent of Ellie Hohenstein, grade 4), Tim Boyer (parent of Nicholas, grade 4), Nate Carmody (parent of Brooke, grade 3, and Chase, K) and Janice Peterson (parent of Jesse Pasierb, grade 4).

Thought for the Day

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." (Ryunosuke Satoro)