

Pinecrest School

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

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 8, 2009-10 – Wednesday, January 27, 2010

News and Notes

Thank you for your attention to the recent email about drop-off ending for all students at 9:05 a.m. We appreciate your responsiveness and cooperation!

The fourth and fifth/sixth grade classes went with Ms. O'Hara, Ms. Mitlo, and me to Mount Vernon last week. Thank you to Marina Sutton (parent of Lauren, grade 4) for joining us!

Tomorrow night – Thursday, January 28 – at 7 p.m., we will have our 2010-11 Rising Kindergarten Back-to-School Night, beginning in the kindergarten classroom of the older building. This is an adults-only event for parents of rising kindergarten students to learn more about their child's next grade level. Teachers will make presentations and answer questions. Board members will share information as well. I hope you'll plan on attending.

Quarter 2 report cards for K-6 students and written narratives for preschool students will be distributed to families via Wednesday Envelopes on Wednesday, February 3.

2010-11 Reenrollment Forms were distributed via Wednesday Envelopes last week with a requested return date of Friday, February 19. Once again, the Board of Trustees has determined that an early registration discount will be available if the registration contract and tuition deposit is returned by Monday, March 15. If you have any questions about the registration contract or the letter explaining next year's tuition and other information, please contact me directly.

Save the Date: We are having another Pinecrest fundraising night at Ledo Pizza in Falls Church on Tuesday, February 23, from 5-10 p.m. Hope you will join us!

Please see today's Wednesday Envelope for an important communication about the auction on Saturday night, May 1!

Our Annual Fund Campaign continues and will go through June 30. We kicked it off with 100% Board participation. We hope that you will consider donating an amount that fits within your family's means. Our goal is 100% community participation, although we have many alumni families who continue to give generously each year as well. All independent schools and non-profits run Annual Fund Campaigns each year. Your gift helps strengthen and uphold Pinecrest's mission for our current and future students.

The winter session of K-6 after-school activities will begin on Monday, February 1. We will be running K-6 Super Sports on Mondays, Grade 3-6 Clay Sculpture on Wednesdays and K-6 Reptiles Alive on Thursdays. Parents of children enrolled in these activities will receive a confirmation email on or before Friday.

Please remember to dress your child for the weather now that it has gotten chillier. Classes play outside most days that the temperature is above 32 degrees Fahrenheit (and not raining or snowing). A warm coat is mandatory every day until spring.

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 \$10 reduction on one child's Pinecrest School reenrollment fee! Congratulations to Ronni Hargrove (parent of Koby, grade 3) who won a discounted camp registration fee for reading and responding to the last newsletter!

Thyroid cancer doesn't have a well-recognized icon or a color like some other diseases or illnesses, but one of Mrs. Vogus's icons is a sunflower. We are selling yellow paper sunflowers (\$1.00 each) in the front office to benefit the Light of Life Foundation. The mission of this 501(c) (3) non-profit organization is to improve the quality of life of thyroid cancer patients through continual education of the lay public and the medical community and by promoting research and development to improve thyroid cancer care. For more information, please visit www.checkyourneck.com. The sunflowers, similar to last year's pink paper ribbons for Mrs. Wheeler (grade 1 teacher) or the annual paper sneakers for diabetes for Ellie Hohenstein (grade 4), are hung up in the front office as a visual show of support for our beloved kindergarten teacher and her family. To purchase a sunflower (or more), please stop in the front office. Cash or check

News and Notes – continued

payable to Light of Life Foundation is accepted. You can write your own name (or your child can write his/hers) on the sunflowers you buy to be hung up in the front office. Thank you to all who have supported Mrs. Vogus and this cause so far! Mrs. Vogus returned to school on January 20 after her surgery; she is doing well, but will need to be out again later this winter for additional treatment. More details to follow for the kindergarten families.

Calendar Date Change (first announced 11/18/09): 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, which is why we changed the date.

School Policy Highlight from page 27 of the 2009-10 Community Handbook: *Please do not send umbrellas to school with your child. They are often difficult to handle and can pose a danger to others when the students try to open them in close quarters, such as on the bus or in the hallways.*

Pinecrest Summer Pavilion

PSP registration is open and we are truly amazed and so proud that already 112 campers are registered! Some classes will be closing soon (specifically Star Wars – week 1 afternoon and Beach Week – week 8 morning); these classes will be announced on the website. We are running eight weeks of camp this summer beginning the week of June 28 and ending the week of August 16. Preschool Pavilion for rising pre-kindergarten/preschool 4 children is available all eight weeks, mornings only, and is almost full itself. If your child is interested in camp classes, please do not delay in registering. We don't just say that we close classes due to full enrollment, we actually do. We hate for anyone to miss out on something s/he really wants to do. PSP is a blast, and we hope to see many Pinecrest students for what we know will be another great summer!

Upcoming Dates

Thurs., Jan. 28	K-6 Quarter 2 Ends (48 days)
Thurs., Jan. 28	2010-11 Kindergarten Back-to-School Night – 7 p.m. – kindergarten classroom (For parents of Rising Kindergarten students to learn more about their child's <u>next</u> grade level)
Fri., Jan. 29	K-6 Quarter 3 Begins
Fri., Jan. 29	Grade 4 and 5/6 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Wed., Feb. 3	Quarter 2 Report Cards and Preschool Narratives Distributed
Fri., Feb. 5	Grade 1 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Sun., Feb. 7	Open House for Prospective Families – 1-4 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 12	K-6 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Mon., Feb. 15	Presidents' Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Fri., Feb. 19	2010-11 Registration Contracts & Fees (\$150/returning student) Due
Fri., Feb. 19	Grade 2 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Fri., Feb. 19	100 th Day of School Celebration (barring no inclement weather)
Tues., Feb. 23	Ledo Pizza Night – 5-10 p.m. – 7510 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
<i>SAVE THE DATE: Sat., May 1 – Pinecrest Annual Auction Fundraiser – evening – adults only</i>	

Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to those who contributed a dish to the International Dinner! I think the dinner is a special tradition at Pinecrest, and I am so glad so many families attended. Thank you those who helped set up – especially Madelynn Arnold and family for securing so many tables for us – and helped clean up and break down the tables. Most importantly, a standing ovation for Mark Patterson and Trisha Serven (parents of Garrett Patterson, grade 3) for organizing and chairing the successful event!

Kudos to classroom teachers for their preparation for and presentations at the recent 2010-11 Back-to-School Night!

Thank you to the parents who attended our 2010-11 Back-to-School Night on January 13. Your interest and participation is appreciated!

Happy Belated Birthday to Ms. O'Hara (January 26)!

Thought for the Day

"How we think shows through in how we act. Attitudes are mirrors of the mind. They reflect thinking." (D. Schwartz)