

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 14, 2009-10 – Wednesday, May 5, 2010

News and Notes

THANK YOU to everyone who joined us, bid generously, made a donation to, and/or donated an item to the 2010 Pinecrest Royale Fundraising Auction on May 1! To say it was a success would be an understatement. Over \$30,000 was raised in one night from our small community! This is AMAZING, and we are so appreciative of the way everyone participated and BONDED for the cause.

There were a number of auction items that received no bids. We are selling them now and an email will be sent out shortly with the details.

If you were not at the auction and would like to purchase a 5x7 matted photo of your child, please stop by the front office. Photos are available for \$20 each, and unmated reprints are available for \$15.

Before the live auction began on Saturday night, there was a wonderful slideshow of photos from this past year, set to music. The slideshow is available in either DVD or CD format for \$15 each. Please stop by the front office to purchase one of these as well.

The second and third grade classes went with Mrs. Davis and Ms. Bleggi to see a play at George Mason University today. Thanks to Menne Dodd (parent of Wilson, grade 2) and Eleni Jakub (parent of Alex & Anastasia, grade 3) for also attending.

On May 2, many of us from the Pinecrest community joined Ellie Hohenstein (grade 4) and her family at the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes in D.C. Ellie was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just before her second birthday and has been a Pinecrest student since she was four. The JDRF Sneaker Sale in her honor will continue through Friday, May 14. All of the money raised will go to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to support research for a cure and better treatments for the complications of diabetes. The sneakers are posted in the front entryway/office of the school as a visual reminder of our community's support for Ellie. You can also donate online at <http://tinyurl.com/elliejdrf>

The spring session of K-6 after-school activities began this week. We are offering K-6 Jetsetters with Mrs. Davis on Tuesdays, Grade 2-6 French Cooking on Thursdays, and Super Sports on Fridays!

Our spring Spruce Up Day will take place this Saturday, May 8, from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Volunteers will be planting new flowers, weeding flower beds, power-washing the walkways and buildings and more. Please bring tools. Annual flowers are needed, especially those that come in multi-cell packs. If you are not able to make it and would like to make a donation of plants or funds to help purchase plants, please contact Spruce Up Day Chair Tim Boyer (parent of Nicholas, grade 4) at tboyerva@yahoo.com or 703.941.2167. And, even if you did not sign up to help in advance and would like to come help in the morning, please just come on by! Everyone is welcome, including children.

The spring Scholastic Book Fair will be open Monday, May 10 through Thursday, May 13. Volunteers are needed to help set up the book fair on Friday, May 7, at 2 p.m., and during the week to sell books. Please contact Book Fair Chair Vicky Carmody (parent of Brooke, grade 3, & Chase, K) if you are able to help – vicky@carmody.ws or 703.533.9339.

The first – sixth grade authors' teas will be held on Friday, May 14, in the individual classrooms. Tea times are as follows: Grade 1 – 2:30 p.m.; Grade 2 – 2:15 p.m.; Grade 3 – 1:30 p.m.; Grade 4 – 2:15 p.m.; Grade 5/6 – 1:30 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 their writing portfolio binders as well.

Mrs. Vogus and I will host a Kindergarten Open House on Thursday evening, May 18, here at school. If you know anyone who might be interested in hearing about our kindergarten program and/or Pinecrest in general, please let them know about this special opportunity.

Make sure your calendar is marked! The next K-6 Movie Night will be Friday, May 21, beginning at 6 p.m. Information will be sent home in next week's Wednesday Envelope.

On Sunday, May 23, we will have our annual Ice Cream Social from 2-4 p.m. on the back playground or in the multipurpose room if inclement weather. More details will be coming home in the Wednesday Envelope soon about this event. Please note that we are again inviting new families who are joining our school community for the 2010-11 school year to join us at the Ice Cream Social!

A reminder that Pinecrest School will have a K-6 full day of school on Friday, May 28, and a regular day of school for all students on Monday, May 31. Although this is Memorial Day, this is a make-up for the blizzard days. We understand that many had already made travel plans when we announced these schedule changes in the winter and that your children may not be able to come to school; that is fine.

The fourth grade class journeyed to Jamestown with Ms. O'Hara on April 23. They had a great day on this trip that ties into the social studies curriculum of Virginia history. Thank you to the following parents who also participated: Susan Akers (parent of Ellie, grade 4), Grace Becker (parent of Scott, grade 4), Tim & Denise Boyer (parents of Nicholas, grade 4), Paula O'Grady (parent of James, grade 4, & Freya, grade 1), and Mark Pasierb (parent of Jesse, grade 4).

I have been remiss in not including this exciting news in past newsletters. A letter written by our fifth/sixth graders appears in the April 12 issue of Scholastic News Edition 5/6 in the "This Week's Mail Call" section. The students, under Ms. Mitlo's direction, wrote a letter to Scholastic News about their Haiti fundraiser. The letter is attached to the email with this newsletter and the text is here:

Our fifth- and sixth-grade class at Pinecrest School read the article "U.S. Kids Helping Haiti" in the February 15 issue. We also raised money in January and February for the earthquake victims in Haiti. We raised \$264 and donated the money equally among UNICEF, Save the Children, and the American Red Cross. We hope we have made a difference. Aurora B., Bobby G., Charlie A., Juberiya A., and Pieman S., Virginia

If you read this newsletter and respond by email by Friday at 10 a.m., you will be entered in a drawing to win a free book for your child at the Scholastic Book Fair opening next week! Congratulations to Alastair Neil (parent of Ishbel, grade 1) who won a free book for reading and responding to the last newsletter with the correct answer to the James Bond trivia question! (Keep reading on for this week's contest.)

Summer reading information will be distributed to returning students at the end of May.

Pinecrest Summer Pavilion

There are 317 students registered for PSP at this time! You may notice that the number of students registered for camp goes up significantly with each newsletter – does it include your child(ren)?! We LOVE to see Pinecrest School students come to camp and spend part of or all of their summer with us. The website is updated with current information about closed classes.

Upcoming Dates

Fri., May 7	Book Fair Set-up – multipurpose room – 2 p.m.
Sat., May 8	Spruce Up Day / Parent Workday – 9:30 a.m. – front lawn
Mon.-Thurs., May 10-13	Scholastic Book Fair – multipurpose room – drop-off and dismissal times
Mon., May 10	Grade 2 Field Trip – National Zoo (rescheduled)
Tues., May 11	Preschool In-house Field Trip – Miss Cathy Storyteller Show – morning
Wed., May 12	K Field Trip – Hidden Oaks Nature Center – afternoon
Fri., May 14	Grade 1-6 Authors' Teas – classrooms Authors' Tea Times: Grade 1 – 2:30 p.m.; Grade 2 – 2:15 p.m.; Grade 3 – 1:30 p.m.; Grade 4 – 2:15 p.m.; Grade 5/6 – 1:30 p.m.
Fri., May 14	Preschool 3/4 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room (note date change)
Mon., May 17	Grade 4 Field Trip – Alexandria
Thurs., May 20	Pre-K Field Trip – Kennedy Center Play – morning
Fri., May 21	K-6 Movie Night – 6-9:30 p.m. – multipurpose room
Sun., May 23	Ice Cream Social – 2-4 p.m. – playground
Tues., May 25	Pre-K Field Trip – Hidden Oaks Nature Center – morning
Wed., May 26	K & Grade 1 Field Trip – National Zoo

Upcoming Dates – continued

Fri., May 28	Preschool 3 Assembly – 9:15 a.m. – multipurpose room
Fri., May 28	K-6 FULL DAY OF SCHOOL – not a half day (snow make-up)
Mon., May 31	Regular Day of School For All (even though it's Memorial Day/snow make-up)
Tues., June 1	Annual Meeting – 7 p.m. – newer building
Thurs., June 3	Grade 3 Field Trip – Cisco
Fri., June 4	Grade 2-6 Read-in – 2-3:30 p.m. – multipurpose room
Tues., June 8	Preschool Last Day of School / Preschool Narratives Distributed Via Backpack
Tues., June 8	K-6 Spring Concert & Grade 6 Graduation–6 p.m.–John Calvin Church, Annandale
Wed., June 9	Preschool NO SCHOOL / Preschool Awards/Families' Picnic–10 a.m.–playground
Thurs., June 10	K-6 Quarter 4 Ends (44 days) / Quarter 4 Report Cards Distributed Via Backpack
Fri., June 11	K-6 Last Day of School # / K-6 Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – no after-care
Fri., June 11	K-6 Field Day

SAVE THE DATE: 2011 Fundraising Auction – Saturday, April 9, 2011! (Theme TBA)

Celebrations/Appreciations

Bravo to the pre-kindergarten class, Mrs. Ferrier, and Mrs. Narcisso for their spirited assembly on April 30 – what a great show! ☺

A standing ovation, a thunderous round of applause, and a H U G E thank you to Auction Chair Trisha Serven (Agent 006 ½ and parent of Garrett, grade 3) and the 2010 Auction Committee – Vicky Carmody (Agent 0011ty), Gauri Sakpal (Agent 009 and parent of Aardra, K), Richelle Singh (Agent 005 and parent of Raman, K), Sarah Spink (Agent 004 and parent of Benjamin, K, & Charlotte, Preschool 3), and Marina Sutton (Agent 003 and parent of Lauren, Grade 4)! I am so impressed with Trisha's leadership and the committee's organization, vision and dedication. Pinecrest Royale was a major success in terms of fun AND fundraising!

Special thanks to all those who joined the Auction Committee for set-up on Friday and break-down on Sunday: Lei Bao, Denise Boyer, Nate Carmody, Sam Carnie, Lourdes Chamorro, Michelle Gouws, Mimi Minnick, Marianne Narcisso, Brenda Neil, Mark Patterson, Rich Sutton, Ramiro Torrico, Fifi Tucker and Guy Weber. We couldn't have done it without your help!

Quote of the Day

"Reading is a means of thinking with another person's mind;
it forces you to stretch your own."
(Charles Scribner, Jr.)