

Pinecrest Headlines

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 6, 2018-19

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

News and Notes

General Reminder: Please use the white doorbell if you need to be let into the lower school building; this is the best way for us to know you are there (vs. knocking on the door).

One of our second graders is a finalist in the WTOP Junior Reporting Contest! Please read more and access the voting link here: <https://www.pinecrestschool.org/2018/10/29/pinecrest-school-student-finalist-for-wtop-contest/>. You can vote daily now through this Friday, November 9. Thanks to those who have been voting and sharing the information on Facebook. If our second grader wins, he wins a monetary prize and our school does too – plus the chance for him to be on WTOP!

Our Run Club is participating in a local 5K together on Sunday morning, November 11, in Tysons. Registration and information about the 5K can be found [here](#). Each family must sign up for the 5K individually but everyone will meet as a group beforehand. A team has already been set up for us so please select that when you register – Pinecrest Run Club. Parents and other families are welcome to join the Pinecrest 5K team as runners too as well as anyone else from the Pinecrest community. Run Club families received an email from Mrs. Siegel yesterday about it.

Pinecrest School is open for a regular school day (with before-care and after-care offered as usual) on Monday, November 12 (Veterans' Day).

We have our first open house of the season on Monday, November 12, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. This one is special because it's our only one during school hours where prospective families can see us in action! Thank you in advance for spreading the word about this to any friends, family or neighbors looking for a quality and affordable private school. We would also love if you would share [this image on Facebook](#) – it helps us spread the word and there is no better promotion than word-of-mouth from happy parents. ☺ The image is also on Instagram and Twitter.

It's our five-year re-accreditation year with AdvancED, and our engagement review visit will take place next week on Tuesday, November 13 – Wednesday, November 14. All of the required reports and evidence have been submitted online in advance (it must be submitted 4-6 weeks prior to the visit), and now we look forward to the visit itself. A team of two other educators will be here talking with different members of our community, observing our classes and seeing our school in action to ensure that we are meeting and continuing to align with the [AdvancED standards for accreditation](#). We are proud to be accredited by AdvancED and look forward to this process – although it is intense (a lot goes on in a short time period). I am confident our school will shine and that it will be a valuable experience focused on continuous growth and improvement.

Wednesday, November 14, will be a regular day of school for all students. (K-6 students will not have an early release that day.)

Our individual and class photos will be taken on Friday, November 16 by Creative Images. [Creative Images asks for no green clothing](#). Children will be photographed individually. If applicable, children will also be photographed together with their sibling(s) who also attend Pinecrest. Class group photos will be taken that day too. After the photos are taken, you will receive proof sheets and have the option to buy photos and other items. Anyone who orders will receive a complimentary class group photo. Those who do not order individual photos but would like to buy the class group photo can do so once all of the photos come in. If orders are placed by the deadline (TBA once the proof sheets are here), the items are supposed to arrive before our winter break. Creative Images gives our school a percentage of all of the orders received so we thank you in advance for your orders when the time comes!

Our K-6 Thanksgiving Feast will take place on Tuesday, November 20, at 12 noon. An orange note is going home in Wednesday Envelopes today with all of the details. I am glad to be bringing back the feast to its original state and look forward to a terrific event. (In 2016, we did it very differently because of construction, and in 2017, we did not have it because we were moving into the new lower school building.) Parent volunteers are needed for this special event and can sign up [here](#) – thanks to those who have already signed up!

The preschool Thanksgiving Feast will also take place on Tuesday, November 20, at 10 a.m. in the preschool 4 classroom. Details from the teachers will be available next week on Wednesday, November 14.

Pinecrest School is closed for Thanksgiving from Wednesday, November 21 – Friday, November 23. There is no school or care.

Each year, we partner with Skill Builders to offer occupational therapy (OT) and speech/language screenings at Pinecrest. This year, the screenings will take place in early December. If parents opt in, the screenings are free to preschoolers. There is a small fee for K-6 students whose parents choose the screenings. All of the information is coming home in today's Wednesday Envelopes to you – the preschool letter is white and the K-6 letter is yellow. Please follow the deadlines listed closely and understand they are firm deadlines. If K-6 families want to opt in, the sooner you submit the form back to us the better as there are other forms that are required that we will send you after we have your initial form and check.

We are excited to be part of Minted's Fundraising Program which allows organizations the opportunity to fundraise by shopping with Minted all of November. If you are ordering photo cards for the upcoming December holidays, please consider getting them from Minted.com with our code. Each participating organization receives a unique promo code offering 15% off Minted orders, and 15% of the sales go back to us – a win-win for all of us! Our promo code is *FUNDRAISEPINECREST*. The promo code is valid toward holiday card and holiday gift purchases (excludes stamps & limited edition art). Our unique promo code is only valid during the month of November but can be used an unlimited amount of times throughout the month. You can also share this information with family, friends, neighbors et al who may use this site for any orders; anyone can use our promotional code and the school will benefit. There is a white flyer in today's Wednesday Envelopes about it and there will be a Facebook post about it tomorrow morning.

Our Annual Fund Campaign will be kicking off soon and will go through August 31, 2019. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 and achieve 100% current parent and staff participation, although we have many alumni families and grandparents who give generously each year as well. All independent schools and non-profits run annual fund campaigns each year. The importance of Pinecrest Annual Fund cannot be overstated; it helps us close the gap between tuition and the actual operating costs of the school.

Our K-6 coding teacher from Coder Kids has changed from Ms. Wang to Ms. Altassan.

Thanks to everyone who uses AmazonSmile to support Pinecrest when shopping on Amazon. We received our most recent distribution check for \$37.09 (from July 30-September 1)! You can connect your Amazon account to our AmazonSmile account at smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1055578. After you do that, you have to go to smile.amazon.com to make your purchases and you will know you're linked to us when, under the search bar, you see "Supporting: Pinecrest School Inc."

Our online auction committee will begin soliciting businesses soon in preparation for our annual online auction that will happen in the spring. Please consider participating – parent volunteers will receive assignments of businesses to contact, and this can be done on your own time. Erin (parent of a third grader and a first grader) will be planning a meeting soon for those interested in helping, but please sign up online in the meantime: <https://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/onlineauctionhelp>.

Please DO NOT CLICK on any Pinecrest ads you may see on other websites, on Facebook or Instagram, in any apps or anywhere else. The way this particular digital marketing works is that we pay per click. We are eager to pay for clicks of prospective parents but not for those who are already sold on our school or camp. ☺ **Thank you for NOT clicking on the ads!**

Last year, we started an Amazon Wish List with the idea being that we know many parents and grandparents want to generously contribute to our school. This wish list allows us to let everyone know exactly what we need so gifts can be targeted to really make a difference to our students and teachers. You can view the wish list [here](#). We have recently received some awesome purchases from our wish list, and we are grateful!

We are looking for more PPF dessert sponsors from February 1 – May 31. PPF dessert sponsorships are not tax-deductible donations because in return for the dessert, the school allow the sponsor's child(ren) to eat free pizza on the day the parent provides the dessert. The dessert item should be nut-free, and the dessert sponsor is provided with the quantity needed the day before the PPF just after 2PM when the sign-up link closes. The sign-up link is here: <https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/eventsponsor/index.html>. Thank you to the seven families that have already signed up as dessert sponsors – we appreciate your involvement! This generosity allows us to maximize profits from this fundraiser and we are so appreciative.

If you need a Pinecrest car magnet, they are in the office at the front desk. We can easily send them home – just let us know if you need one (whether it be a new one for the first time or a replacement because of fading)! ☺

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 “retro” Pinecrest shirt for your child (or maybe you!). Limited sizes and colors available. Kathy (parent of a preschooler) was the winner last time – thank you for reading the newsletter and congrats!

Follow us on [Facebook!](#) [Instagram!](#) [Twitter!](#)

Winter Break Care

Pinecrest School is offering 5 days of Winter Break Care in 2018-19. Winter Break Care will be held at Pinecrest School and is open to preschool through sixth grade students.

Dates:

- Thursday, December 27, 2018
- Friday, December 28, 2018
- Wednesday, January 2, 2019
- Thursday, January 3, 2019
- Friday, January 4, 2019

Registration:

- Online at <https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/wintercare/index.html>
- You may sign up for 1 day, some days or all days as needed
- You can add more days later as needed as well if you sign up for some now and something changes

Fees:

- K-6 Care – 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. – \$75/day (After November 27, \$85/day)
- Preschool Care – 8:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. – \$35/day (After November 27, \$55/day)
- Before-care for both age groups – begins at 7:30 a.m. – \$12/day, prepaid online or \$12/day drop-in

- After-care – K-6 After-care runs 3:45-6 p.m. / Preschool After-care runs 12-6 p.m. – \$12/hour, billed after use

Photos

From Facebook:

Scenes from Our Classrooms [10/29](#) and [10/22](#)

[Help Us Promote Our Nov. 12 Open House](#)

[Grade 1 STEAM Video 11/4](#)

[PPF 11/2](#)

[Halloween Parade 10/31](#)

[Happy Halloween 10/31](#)

[Grade 5/6 Field Trip 10/29](#)

[Spruce Up Day 10/28](#)

[Grade 5/6 Class Presentation 10/26](#)

Upcoming Dates

More details will follow soon about upcoming events/activities if not included here.

Wednesday, November 7	K-Kids Trick or Treat for Unicef Boxes Due to office
Sunday, November 11	Tyson's 5K in which Pinecrest Run Club is participating – see above
Monday, November 12	Open House for Prospective School Families – 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 13 – Wednesday, November 14	AdvancED Engagement Review Visit – a visiting team of two outside educators will be here as part of our five-year re-accreditation process
Wednesday, November 14	Update from previous versions of this calendar: This will NOT be a half day of school – this will be a full day of school for K-6 students.
Thursday, November 15	Preschool Color Day – Brown
Friday, November 16	Individual & Class Photos by Creative Images – morning (no make-ups) NO GREEN CLOTHING
Friday, November 16	Pinecrest Pizza Friday Sign up to help at http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/ppfhelp! (each date is its own tab) / Buy pizza for your child(ren) at https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/schoolppf/index.html!
Tuesday, November 20	Preschool and K-6 Thanksgiving Feasts – K-6 families will find an orange note in Wed. Envelopes today
Wednesday-Friday, November 21-23	Thanksgiving Holiday / No School / No Care
Tuesday, November 27	Grades 4 & 5/6 Field Trip – Theatreworks Show at George Mason University
Tuesday, November 27	K-Kids Service Trip After School – Aarondale Retirement & Assisted Living Space still available: https://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/kkidsseiorvisits – each date is its own tab
Wednesday, November 28	Board of Directors Meeting – 7 p.m. – conference room

Thursday, November 29	Preschool Field Trip – Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert at Woodson HS in Fairfax
Saturday, December 1	2018-19 Tuition Installment 5 of 10 Due (A \$50 late fee is charged if the tuition payment is not received on or by the fifth day of the month)
Monday-Tuesday, December 3-4	Skillbuilders Screenings at Pinecrest
Tuesday, December 4	Grade 2/3 Field Trip – Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria
Friday, December 7	Pinecrest Pizza Friday Sign up to help at http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/ppfhelp/ (each date is its own tab) / Buy pizza for your child(ren) at https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/schoolppf/index.html !
Friday, December 7	Grade 2/3 Class Presentation – 9 a.m. – multipurpose room
Sunday, December 9	Open House for Prospective School Families – 1-4 p.m.
Monday, December 10	K-Kids Service Trip After School – Aarondale Retirement & Assisted Living Space still available: https://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/kkidsseiorvisits – each date is its own tab
Thursday, December 14	Preschool Color Day – Red
Friday, December 14	Pinecrest Pizza Friday Sign up to help at http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/ppfhelp/ (each date is its own tab) / Buy pizza for your child(ren) at https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/schoolppf/index.html !
Friday, December 21	No School / No Care
Friday, December 21	Preschool & K-6 Winter Concert – 9 a.m. – John Calvin Presbyterian Church, 6531 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
Monday, December 24 – Friday, January 4, 2019	Winter Break – No School
Thursday-Friday, December 27-28 and Wednesday-Friday, January 2-4	Winter Break Care – register at https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/wintercare/index.html / prices increase after November 27
Tuesday, January 1	2018-19 Tuition Installment 6 of 10 Due (A \$50 late fee is charged if the tuition payment is not received on or by the seventh day of the month *January 2019 only*
Monday, January 7	School Resumes

*** SUBSCRIBE TO OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR: <https://tinyurl.com/pinecrestgooglecalendar> ***

Celebrations/Appreciations

It is heartening to see all of our parents come in for Parent/Teacher Conferences and even better to hear from the teachers about the positive and productive discussions that took place. We value our chance to work collaboratively with you – thank you for your time yesterday!

We appreciate all of the parents and students who came to Spruce Up Day on October 28 – your time and work matter! Special thanks to Grant who organized the event!

Thank you Carolyn (parent of a first, third and fourth grader) for being our most recent PPF volunteer!

Piece of Light

I use this space to share articles or pieces that I love or that I feel are thought-provoking, valuable or useful – or some combination of all of those factors.

[Abby Wambach On The 3 Things She Tells Her Kids After Soccer Games - thoughtful advice that goes beyond sports](#)