

Pinecrest School

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

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 11, 2016-17 – Wednesday March 1, 2017

Growing Our School

We continue to be so grateful to our families for their flexibility and excitement as things move forward with our construction project. You are all always cheerful and positive. This means a great deal, and I'm thankful.

I did want to say that if there is ever a time when you are coming or going from the school, and you see something that seems concerning, please never hesitate to call the school and let me know. Our site superintendent and team from ModSpace understand the parameters around drop-off and pick-up times, but sometimes the sub-contractors coming to the site do not always know and there have been some issues. If we know about them, we can resolve them usually pretty quickly, and our site superintendent is very responsive. Never hesitate to reach out.

Please see the white flyer in today's Wednesday Envelope for a special pre-auction online bidding event to benefit our capital campaign. We are touring the modular facility making the buildings on March 27 and there's an opportunity for YOU to come with us!

We update our [Growing Our School photo album on Facebook](#) with photos regularly. The most recent updates were from a few days ago. There is also [this sweet photo](#) newly posted although it's from from January 31.

News and Notes

As you have seen from the many recent emails, there continues to be a fair amount of sickness going around right now. Please, if your child is unwell or even slightly unwell, keep him or her at home. Your child will be more comfortable and it will help protect the rest of the community. We truly appreciate your cooperation.

We will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday on Thursday, March 2, with a group read-in for all students from 9-9:30AM, in the multipurpose room. We look forward to continuing this long-standing tradition and to having preschoolers join in this year.

Drop-off on Thursday morning, March 2, will take a longer than usual because we will have all of the students from Peace being dropped off for our Dr. Seuss reading celebration. Thank you for your patience and, as always, caution!

Thank you to all who have submitted registration contracts for the next school year! We appreciate your commitment and look forward to another excellent school year.

This information was included in the re-enrollment information but we have had several questions so I am restating it here: The 2017-18 school year will begin before Labor Day – in alignment with the calendar for Fairfax County Public Schools. Our first day of school will be Monday, August 28, 2017. The school breaks will also be the same as FCPS: December 18, 2017-January 1, 2018 and March 26-30, 2018. We have not yet determined the last day of school, but a draft 2017-18 calendar will be shared by mid-July at the latest.

At this point, if you have not registered for next year yet or gotten in touch with me directly about it, we assume that your child(ren) will not be returning to Pinecrest and we are no longer space. (If this is incorrect, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.)

Our last Ledo Pizza fundraising night is on Monday, March 13, from 5-10 p.m. We hope to see another good crowd!

Thank you to all who donated to the K-Kids hat drive for [Ellie's Hats](#)! Ellie's Hats is a local organization that supports children with cancer and their families. Mr. Coakley of Ellie's Hats will be picking up the donations on Monday afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who shared (on Facebook, Twitter or in real life :)) with friends, family and neighbors about our last open house. Like in January, we had record turn-out in February too! Our next open house for prospective families is this Saturday, March 11, from 10:30AM-12:30PM. Our best form of promotion, always, is word-of-mouth from happy and engaged families. Thank you in advance.

Spring parent conferences are on Friday, March 24, and this is a no-school day for students. All conferences are expected to take place on Friday, March 24, as this is our designated time set aside for conferences. The online system is now open and you can schedule your parent conference(s). The link to sign up is <http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/conferencesmarch2017>. Each classroom teacher has his or her own tab with his or her own schedule on that tab - please make sure you sign up on the correct tab for the correct teacher. Please note that Mr. Ramsey and Mrs. Hakes will be doing their parent conferences at Peace while all of the other teachers will be conducting conferences at Pinecrest; for families with children in both locations, please remember that it takes about 10 minutes to get back and forth.

We are offering childcare on Conference Day / Friday, March 24 for preschool and K-6 children at Pinecrest. You can sign up for care here (this link opens on the same day as the conference sign-up link): <http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/march24care> - please note there is one tab for K-6 and one tab for preschool. Please use one slot per child. Care will begin on Friday, March 24, is 7:30AM. Unlimited After-care does not include this day; care will be billed after use at \$10/hour for everyone using care that day.

If you intend to use care on a drop-in basis during your parent conference(s), please do not sign up on this link. The care link should only be used for children who need care for a large part of the day or all day. We will be able to accommodate anyone who needs to drop into care during conferences without signing up. Care will be billed after use at \$10/hour for everyone using care that day even on a drop-in basis.

The next Pinecrest Pizza Friday (PPF) is this Friday, March 3. Pinecrest Pizza Fridays (PPFs) are available to all K-6 students, preschool students in after-care and all staff. Thank you to the 10 families that have signed up to sponsor each Friday with pizza! This allows us to maximize profits from this fundraiser and we are so appreciative of your generosity. The pizza lunch costs \$7.50 per child and includes two slices of cheese pizza, and one dessert item (likely a brownie or a cookie). No drink is included. Order online at <https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html>. You have the option of selecting one, some, or all Fridays. Orders must be placed by 2:00PM the Thursday prior to each PPF. Proceeds from this fundraising event support the Pinecrest School Capital Campaign to *Grow Our School!* We have raised almost \$2000 so far with this effort from September to present!

Please remember to still pack a morning snack for your child on PPF days.

We are looking for two more dessert sponsors for the May 5 and June 2 PPFs. When you are the dessert sponsor, you make the dessert item for all PPF participants. You're given a final number the afternoon before the PPF when the sign-up link closes. The child(ren) of the dessert sponsor eats free on the day you provide the dessert. Please let me know if you're interested.

We will be offering a spring session of after-school activities – a 7-week session to begin the week of March 20 and end the week of May 15. To answer a frequently asked question: We are planning for 1st-6th Grade RunFit Kidz and that will be on Mondays. :) More details will follow very soon.

Our annual auction fundraiser is on Saturday night, April 29! It's not too early to make sure you have your baby-sitters lined up for this adults-only night of fun and fundraising for our school. More details will follow soon. We have a dedicated group of parents working on the auction, and we're grateful to families who have secured and offered donations too! For auction questions, please contact Pinecrest Parent & Auction Chair Katrina Hush at klyn74@msn.com.

We're thankful for our 2017 auction sponsors: Dulles Motorcars, Out of the Bubble Bakery, Skuared Photography, All Makes & Models and the Kiwanis Club of Tysons. Their websites are all listed [here](#). Support them when you can. Their kindness makes a difference not only to our auction event itself, but also to our school as whole.

Our Annual Fund Campaign is in progress and will go through August 31, 2017. 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 and is completely separate from the capital campaign which is for the new lower school building. Thank you to the many families and staff who have already given!

Faculty and staff members engage in regular professional development throughout the year. We had two different discussion sessions on Friday, February 17, during our half day about ADD and ADHD as well as about the Daring Schools class with many positive outcomes from both. Many teachers, Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Mitlo, and I are in the middle of the Daring Schools: The Four Pillars of Courage online class facilitated by Brené Brown and her training organization Brave Leaders/Courage Works Inc., although Mrs. Cullen Mrs. Vogus, Mrs. Tibbetts, Ms. Bleggi, Mrs. Hakes, Mrs. Cantor and Mrs. Giacomani have already completed it!

If you read this newsletter and respond, you will be entered in a drawing to win a retro Pinecrest t-shirt from a previous school year or summer for you or someone in your family.

Camp

Summer camp registration remains open to the general public. All details are [here](#) and the registration form is [here](#). Thank you in advance for helping to spread the word about our awesome summer offerings!

K-6 Spring Break Camp with limited space available will run at Peace Lutheran Church in Alexandria Monday-Friday, April 10-14. Register online [here](#). The price will increase on March 27.

Please contact Ms. Mitlo for any summer or spring camp questions – camp@pinecrestschool.org.

Relevant Speakers and Programs

Whenever there are relevant speakers or programs coming to our area, we often share that information if we think the message is a match with the Pinecrest School message and philosophy and/or we think parents might be interested in attending. To that end, I want to share this as FYI.

Wednesday, March 8th, 7:00pm – 8:15pm, as Dr. Oberschneider discusses “Tips for Managing Screen and Media Time in Positive Ways” — The impact of electronic entertainment and social media on our children and teens is significant. Today's technology provides our youth with a variety of resources to facilitate learning and social connectedness. However, the over-use of technology can lead to higher rates of ADHD; learning difficulties; social, behavioral, and emotional problems, as well as eating and weight issues. Learn how to manage your child's screen and media time in a consistent and constructive way so that technology has a positive impact on

your child and your family. Location: Oakwood School, 7210 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003. No cost to attend. Bring a friend! Space is limited / [click here](#) to register.

[Brene Brown's Gifts of Imperfect Parenting Online Class](#) - This is a four-lesson course that explores what it means to raise children with courage, compassion, and connection. The course opened January 9, 2017, and is available on-demand to complete on your own schedule.

Finances

If you are using drop-in after-care and/or before-care, you are billed after use on a monthly basis and you are expected to pay within a month after the invoice date. A \$50 late fee is assessed otherwise. A reminder that Mrs. Sim is emailing bills this year and the subject line of these messages is "Invoice from Pinecrest School." These invoices are sent through QuickBooks so please make sure to save this address in your contacts list to avoid having to search in spam for it. *Pinecrest School* <quickbooks-email@intuit.com>. When you receive the invoice, you will have a choice to pay by credit card with a processing fee added on or by check with no processing fee. (To pay by credit card, click View Invoice in blue, and then click Pay Now in blue on the top right.)

If you have questions about any invoices you receive, it is best to email Mrs. Sim directly at business@pinecrestschool.org. You are always welcome to CC me as well.

Photos

Album:

- [100th Day of School & Spirit Day 2/22](#)

No password or login is needed to view these photos - this photo album is not shared publicly and is only available to people who have this link.

Facebook:

- [Happy Valentine's Day 2/14](#)
- [Fabulous Valentine's Day Cookies from the Board to Staff - made by Out of the Bubble 2/14](#)
- [Happy Presidents' Day 2/20](#)
- [100th Day of School 2/22](#)
- [100th Day of School - K-6 Penny Relay Video 2/22](#)
- [Dentist Visit for Preschool and K/1 2/23](#)
- [K-Kids Visit to Ronald McDonald House 2/27](#)

Upcoming Dates

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

Thursday, March 2	Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration of Reading
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Friday, March 3	Pinecrest Pizza Friday – https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html
Monday, March 6	K/1 Field Trip – Morning Show at Lisner Auditorium at GWU in DC
Monday, March 6	K-Kids Service Project & Presentation After School – http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/event_006
Thursday, March 7	K-Kids Service Trip After School – Aarondale Assisted Living Home – space still available: https://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/kkidsgoldenliving
Wednesday, March 8	Board of Directors Meeting – 7 p.m. – art/science lab
Saturday, March 11	Open House for Prospective Families – 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Monday, March 13	Ledo Pizza Fundraising Night – 5-10 p.m. – 7510 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
Friday, March 17	K-6 Quarter 3 Ends (42 days)
Monday, March 20	K-6 Quarter 4 Begins
Wednesday, March 22	K-6 Quarter 3 Report Cards Distributed Via Wednesday Envelopes – one envelope per family
Friday, March 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences / Faculty Workday – No School / Care Offered – see links above
Tuesday-Thursday, March 28-30	Grade 2 Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) – mornings – no make-ups
Tuesday-Thursday, March 28-30	Grade 4 Stanford 10 Achievement Test – mornings – no make-ups
Thursday-Friday, March 30-31	Grade 6 Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT) – mornings – no make-ups
Friday, March 31	Preschool 3/4 Field Trip – Children’s Science Center in Fairfax
Wednesday, April 5	Board of Directors Meeting – 7 p.m. – art/science lab (note date change from April 19 to April 5)
Friday, April 7	Preschool 4 Field Trip – Children’s Science Center in Fairfax
Friday, April 7	Pinecrest Pizza Friday – https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html
Monday-Monday, April 10-17	Spring Break – No School
Monday-Friday, April 10-14	K-6 Spring Break Camp at Peace Lutheran – price increases March 27
Tuesday, April 18	School Resumes
Thursday, April 20	Preschool In-house Event – Storytime Express Show
Friday, April 21	Rising K-6 Movie Night – 6-9:15 p.m. – multipurpose room – more details coming soon
Saturday, April 22	Open House for Prospective Families – 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 29	Auction Drinks and Dessert Evening – 7 p.m. – upper school building (adults only)

Celebrations/Appreciations

Happy Early Birthday to Coach Botchway (March 4), Mrs. Hartzler (March 8) and Ms. Haden (March 9)! :)

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.

[12 Perfect Read-Alouds for Teaching Growth Mindset](#) – this is a good list for both parents and teachers

calendar changes

- Parent Visiting Morning: Centers With Your Child – canceled for November 11
- Individual and Class Photos by Creatives Images – took place October 18 (will not take place on April 24)
- Fall Spruce Up Day – added and took place on October 16
- K-6 Color Run – took place on October 14 (not September 30)