

Pinecrest School

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

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 2, 2017-18 – Thursday September 14, 2017

Introduction/Reminder

This newsletter is produced by the Head of School every other Wednesday and distributed to parents via our school email list, PinecrestSchool@GoogleGroups.com. If you have email and are on the list-serv, but still wish to receive a paper copy, please send an email letting us know. The goal is for this newsletter to help keep you connected to the Pinecrest community.

Growing Our School

Per my email on September 10, our updated completion date from ModSpace is Wednesday, September 20. We are getting *really* close to the finish line!

Because there is much to be done once we take occupancy, we cannot yet set a move-in date. Everything is largely dependent on county and zoning approvals (many are required to follow up on our Special Exception Agreement the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors granted us in June 2014) as well as necessary things we need to do before we can move in like make sure telephone service is connected and our phone system is installed, move in furniture and much more. We want to have a ribbon cutting ceremony too. We will provide more information on all of this as soon as we have it.

We will continue to provide more updates when we have them.

As we make this final push to finish this project, there are still opportunities to contribute to the capital campaign. You can do that [online](#) or by check to the school. Specifically, we are looking for **contributions for the last furniture purchases**. In particular, we need cubbies for the classrooms, office chairs for the teachers and conference room, as well as a new conference table. We are reusing and repurposing many things from our old building and from many donations, but additional furniture purchases will still require approximately \$1000 / room. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who have made generous contributions! We would love to receive more as well. Of course, any contribution will be appreciated. Donations towards furniture will be recognized on the donor wall separately – as well as donations towards appliances from last spring. You can make a donation online with the above link or by check; please note when donating that you wish this gift to be towards furniture purchases.

Ten children are Signing Our School later today – thank you to the generosity of these parents! We raised \$750 for the capital campaign with this special opportunity.

Photos are updated regularly to [this album on Facebook](#) (it's a big album as this process has been going on for quite awhile!).

News and Notes

Our annual Back-to-School Nights are in progress this week. On Tuesday, we welcomed parents of children in Preschool 3/4, Preschool 4, Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes and it was a great turn-out! Thank you to all who joined us. TONIGHT – Thursday, September 14 – we will welcome parents of Grade 2/3, 4 and 5/6 students. It begins at 7 p.m. at Pinecrest. We will begin with a brief whole-group gathering in the multipurpose room, and then parents will proceed to their child's classroom to hear a presentation by the classroom teacher. (Ms. Pence and Ms. Mitlo will be borrowing classrooms at Pinecrest for the night to do their presentations.) Teachers will have handouts and their daily schedules for you at this time as well. Back-to-School Night is for parents/adults only. If you are not able to attend Back-to-School Night, the packet from your child's teacher will come home to you in the next Wednesday Envelope.

We are offering a fall session of RunFit Kidz for 1st-6th graders coached by Mrs. Vogus beginning Monday, September 18. Parents of children signed up will receive an email from me later today with details.

We are also offering a fall session of Preschool Science Seed beginning Monday, September 18. Parents of children signed up will receive an email from me later today with details.

Friday, September 22 is a half day dismissal; all students will be dismissed at 12:05 p.m. After-care is offered as usual for preschoolers. After-care beginning at 12:05 p.m. is also offered for K-6 students.

If you intend to use K-6 after-care beginning at 12:05 p.m. on Friday, September 22, please let us know by [signing up here](#). When you sign up, it is helpful if you can indicate how long you think you will use it, i.e. "Grace Jones (12-3:30pm)."

Here is a [link](#) to sign up for help at future PPFs. Thank you in advance! Right now, all the help is at Pinecrest on the sign-up sheet except for October, which is Pinecrest and Peace. (This may need to be adjusted later.)

The 2017-18 School Directory was distributed via Google Drive file folder link emailed out by me on September 11. If you did not get it, please let me know.

NEW ADDITION TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR: We are excited to announce our Celebrate Pinecrest Wine Tasting event on Saturday night, November 11, from 6:30-9 p.m., at Total Wine on Little River Turnpike in Alexandria. This is an adults-only night of fun and fundraising for our school. Space is limited (due to the capacity of the Total Wine room) – buy tickets [here](#)! (This does not replace our Celebrate Pinecrest Auction which will take place at the end of April; this is an additional social event for parents. When it's your 60th anniversary, we feel it makes sense to Celebrate Pinecrest as much as we can! ;))

As part of our 60th anniversary celebration, we are collecting 60 reasons why we love Pinecrest School all throughout this school year! You and/or your child(ren) can submit responses [here](#).

Pinecrest School has a [Facebook page](#) and a [Twitter page](#); please like and/or follow us if you're on these social networks!

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!). Congratulations to Anastasia D. and Joy M. – they were our winners from the last newsletter!

Support Pinecrest When You Shop

GIANT A+ BONUS BUCKS

To participate in this year's Giant A+ BonusBucks program, register your card at www.giantfood.com click on SIGN IN (top right) to log on to your online account or click REGISTER to create your on-line account. Once you are logged in to your account, you can select a school for A+ Rewards.

Pinecrest's BonusBucks school ID number is 01834.

If you registered your card last year for A+ Bonus Bucks, you do not need to re-enroll.

We received \$1021.90 from this program in 2016-17!

HARRIS TEETER TOGETHER IN EDUCATION

To register your Harris Teeter VIC card, please visit <https://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education#/app/cms>

OR send in your 11-digit VIC card number and last name under which the card is registered we will register you.

Pinecrest's Harris Teeter Together in Education ID number is 5160.

You must relink your VIC card number each year.

We received \$127.04 from this program in 2016-17!

AMAZON SMILE

You can designate Pinecrest in your Amazon account for our school to automatically benefit from any eligible purchases you make on Amazon.com. This is not something you have to do with each purchase you make.

The instructions to link your account are here: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1055578>.

You do not need to re-link your account each year.

We received \$168.33 from this program in 2016-17!

In addition to this, we have many collection bins for various items if you are so inclined:

- **Box Tops for Education** (we receive 10 cents for each Box Top we turn in - we received \$136.20 in 2016-17!) You can find a list of products with Box Tops on them [here](#). (A list of participating products was also sent home in last week's Wednesday Envelope.) New this year: I have a limited number of stickers to give kids who bring in Box Tops to us! :)
- **used printer cartridges** (we receive a small amount for these when we turn them in - we received \$28.60 in 2016-17!)
- **soda can tabs** (this is a K-Kids initiative and they are donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Merrifield, which receives funding for them; we do not receive any funding for them)
- **bottle caps** (also a K-Kids initiative; no money is involved, but most recycling companies do not recycle these but we bring them a local place that does recycle them to help the earth).

Finances

If you signed up for ACH for tuition payments, the invoice is sent to you five days before the first of each month. The email comes from *Pinecrest School* <quickbooks-email@intuit.com>. Please add this address to your approved senders/contacts list and, if you have not received an invoice shortly before the first of the month, please check your spam or junk folders. This first month, it is possible the invoice only went to one parent (please check with each other); going forward, invoices will be sent to both parents each month. If you signed up for Unlimited After-care, your payment for this was included in your tuition invoice.

If you signed up for ACH for tuition payments and are using before-care and/or after-care on a drop-in basis, you will have the option on your invoices for care to pay by ACH with the transaction fee added. (You will not have the credit card option because it's either one or the other with each family's account. We appreciate your understanding.)

If you did not sign up for ACH for tuition payments and are using before-care and/or after-care on a drop-in basis, you will have the option on your invoices for care to pay by credit card with the processing fee added. (You will not have the ACH option because it's either one or the other with each family's account. We appreciate your understanding.)

If you did not sign up for ACH for tuition payments, you will not receive any sort of reminder for tuition payments. Tuition installments are due on the 1st of every month September – January and March – June. A \$50 late fee is charged if tuition payment is not received on or by the fifth day of the month.

If you are using Unlimited After-care, your payment for Unlimited After-care should be made by or on the 1st of the month with your tuition payment.

If you are using drop-in after-care and/or before-care, you will be billed after use and you are expected to pay after you receive the invoice by email. The email comes from *Pinecrest School* <quickbooks-email@intuit.com>. Please add this address to your approved senders/contacts list and, if you have not received an invoice shortly before the first of the month, please check your spam or junk folders.

Mrs. Sim, our finance associate, handles all questions about payments or similar. Please address questions about this directly to her. Mrs. Sim works on a part-time schedule. It is best to contact her by email at business@pinecrestschool.org. Please understand that you may not be able to receive a same-day response, but that you'll hear back as soon as possible and within a timely manner. If you are requesting a bill or a receipt or something else that you need specifically for a certain date, it is best to give us as much notice as possible.

August and September before-care and after-care will be billed together as one month after September ends.

Photos

From Facebook:

New photo album that will be updated regularly: [Scenes from Our Classrooms 2017-18](#)

[K Field Trip – the first field trip of the year! 9/14](#)

[The First Child To See the New Building \(Auction Item from 2015\)! 9/12](#)

[Happy 60th Pinecrest! 9/1](#)

Upcoming Dates

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

Thursday, September 14	Back-to-School Night 2 – Grades 2-6 – 7 p.m.
Wednesday, September 20	Grade 4 Field Trip – Great Falls
Friday, September 22	K-6 Half Day – 12:05 p.m. Dismissal / After-care offered until 6 p.m. Quarter 1 Faculty Development Time
Friday, September 22	Happy Birthday, Mrs. Edwards! :)
Thursday, September 28	K Field Trip – Heritage Farm Museum
Friday, September 29	Preschool In-House Field Trip – Ms. Cathy Show
Friday, September 29	Happy Birthday, Ms. Marble! ☺
Sunday, October 1	2017-18 Tuition Installment 3 of 10 Due (A \$50 late fee is charged if tuition payment is not received on or by the fifth day of the month.)
Friday, October 6	Pinecrest Pizza Friday – sign up by 2PM the day before at https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html
Monday, October 9	Columbus Day Holiday – No School
Tuesday, October 10	Preschool 3/4 Field Trip – Burke Nursery
Wednesday, October 11	Board of Directors Meeting – 7 p.m. – upper school building
Thursday, October 12	Preschool 4 Field Trip – Burke Nursery
Thursday, October 12	Grade 2/3 Field Trip – Butler's Orchard in Maryland
Friday, October 13	K-6 Color Run – 2-3:35 p.m. – driveway
Wednesday, October 18	K & Grade 1 Field Trip – Cox Farm
Friday, October 20	Individual and Class Group Photos by Creative Images – morning
Friday, October 27	K-6 Quarter 1 Ends (43 days)
Monday, October 30	K-6 Quarter 2 Begins
Tuesday, October 31	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m.

Celebrations/Appreciations

A tip of the hat to the parents who have agreed to serve as Room Parents this year – we appreciate your involvement! Thank you, Preschool 3/4 – Liza S.; Preschool 4 – Manisha B.; K – Aimee M. with Erin J. assisting; Grade 1 – Nicole M. with Kristen D. assisting; Grade 2/3 – Carolyn S. with Erin J. assisting; Grade 4 – Phuong O.; and Grade 5/6 – Amanda T. and Lauren M.

Thank you to the new families that joined Nick and me for the New Parent Coffee on September 8!

We appreciate the parents who assisted at last week's PPF – thank you, Anthony M., Mike V. and Victoria T! Thank you also to the Stilling family that made the September PPF dessert!

Three cheers for the kindergarten parents who were drivers and chaperones for the kindergarten field trip today!

Piece of Light

This is a regular section in my newsletter. 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.

[According to Harvard Psychologists: Parents Who Raise “Good” Kids Do These 5 Things](#)

(I like all of the items on this list but personally think #5 can be life-changing – for children and adults.)