

# Pinecrest School

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

## PINECREST HEADLINES

*Communication from the Head of School – Issue 3, 2017-18 – Wednesday September 27, 2017*

### **Growing Our School**

Per Nick Wakeman's email on September 25: ModSpace has updated the completion date to Thurs., 9/28, and they are hopeful we will have an occupancy permit on Mon., 10/2. One of the last steps is the fire marshal coming. A complication currently being worked through is tying the two fire alarm systems together so that both buildings will be on one fire alarm and sprinkler system. This is in progress and they hope to have this all done and complete prior to Mon., 10/2, when they hope to have the fire marshal's next visit.

We will continue to keep everyone updated and we value your support and patience very much.

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 – beyond the building itself – 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 (this is scheduled to happen early next week), move in furniture and much more. We also need to have our Social Services inspector out to see the building; we are not allowed to use the space with children until Social Services has signed off, and we cannot have Social Services out until we have the occupancy permit. Finally, we want to have a ribbon cutting ceremony too. We will provide more information on all of this as soon as we have it.

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 many parents and grandparents who have already made generous contributions towards this cause!

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

### **News and Notes**

Here is a [link](#) to sign up for help at future PPFs. Thank you to the parents who have already signed up! 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.)

Our next PPF is Friday, October 6. Pinecrest Pizza Fridays (PPFs) are available to all K-6 students, preschool students in after-care and all staff. 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. A morning snack is still needed on PPF days. Fill out the form via the link below and you are minutes away from not having to pack lunches once a month on Friday mornings. :) The link is [here](#). You will have the option of selecting one, some, or all Fridays. Orders must be placed by 2:00 PM the Thursday prior to each PPF.

**CHANGE TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR:** The K-6 Color Run will not take place on October 13 as originally scheduled; this is going to be rescheduled once we are all back together on one campus; new date TBA. We appreciate everyone's patience.

Creative Images will be here on Friday, October 20, and every child will be photographed. Parents will have the option afterwards to order photos (or not). The school receives a portion from every order placed with Creative Images so this is also a way to support Pinecrest. Each class will take a group photo that day too. The photographers ask for no green clothing, please. \*\*Details will follow for families at Peace about logistics for this day.\*\*

Monday, November 6 and Tuesday, November 7 are no-school days for students. Monday, November 6 is a professional development and work day for the faculty and me, and Tuesday, November 7 will be the fall parent conference day. Care will be offered at \$10/hour on both days if needed. A link will be forthcoming to sign up for care.

Parent conferences will take place on Tuesday, November 7. A link will be forthcoming to sign up for a time slot to meet with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) on this day.

**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 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we feel it makes sense to Celebrate Pinecrest as much as we can!) ;) Thanks to those who have already purchased tickets and are making plans to join us!

As part of our 60<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

We have a small number of adult sizes of the blue Pinecrest 60 t-shirts available for purchase. We have 1 or maybe a couple more of the following sizes: Ladies S, Ladies L, Ladies XL, Unisex Adult S, Unisex Adult M, Unisex Adult L and Unisex Adult XL. We also have 1 Youth S hooded sweatshirt. The [t-shirt link](#) has been updated with the quantities that remain if anyone would like to order from what's left.

We also likely will be placing another order soon to include only the Pinecrest 60 t-shirts and either hooded or crewneck sweatshirts (not the zip-up sweatshirts). If you would be interested in being part of this order, please let me know. It is possible the price may increase because of the smaller quantity that will be ordered this time around.

Faculty and staff members engage in regular professional development throughout the year. Recently, Ms. Sambro completed her Social Services-required Medication Administration Training (MAT) class; Ms. Pence completed the 8-hour online Daring Schools class by Dr. Brene Brown (all of the faculty and I took this class last school year, and new teachers and are staff are in the process of taking it this year); and Mrs. Edwards attended a Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Orff Schulwerk Association music workshop. I am taking a four-class Positive Leadership Certificate program at George Mason University this fall. My first class was yesterday and the next sessions are October 10, October 24 and November 7. On these days, I will be arriving to Pinecrest between 1-1:30 p.m. I am particularly excited about our second class which will focus on mindful leadership; obviously, this is a timely and familiar concept for Pinecrest!

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 Manisha B. – she was our winner from the last newsletter!

## **Support Pinecrest When You Shop**

Thank you to those who have signed up and acted on the below information – it is not too late to do so yourself and/or to share with local family and friends who may also want to support your child(ren)'s school. :)

### **GIANT A+ BONUS BUCKS**

To participate in this year's Giant A+ BonusBucks program, register your card at [www.giantfood.com](http://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**

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

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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Photos

From Facebook:

New photo album that will be updated regularly: [Scenes from Our Classrooms 2017-18](#) (last updated at the end of last week)

[Peace Organist Teaches 4th, 5th & 6th Graders About the Pipe Organ 9/25](#)

[Sign Our School: 9 children signing above the ceiling grid in the new lower school building / \\$750 was raised for the capital campaign!](#)

[4th Grade Field Trip 9/20](#)

[Video - First Grade Sings Plant Song to K Class 9/15](#)

[Student's Note to Parents for BTS Night 9/14 :\)](#)

[K Field Trip – the first field trip of the year! 9/14 \(the link did not work last time I shared this - oops!\)](#)

## Upcoming Dates

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

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 <a href="https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html">https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html</a>
Monday, October 9	Columbus Day Holiday – No School
Tuesday, October 10	Preschool 3/4 Field Trip – Burke Nursery
Wednesday, October 11	Grade 5/6 Field Trip – Bureau of Engraving & Printing
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
Wednesday, October 18	K & Grade 1 Field Trip – Cox Farm
Thursday, October 19	Happy Birthday, Ms. Pence! :)
Friday, October 20	Individual and Class Group Photos by Creative Images – morning
Wednesday, October 25	Happy Birthday, Mrs. Vogus! :)
Friday, October 27	K-6 Quarter 1 Ends (43 days)
Friday, October 27	Preschool Color Day – Orange & Black
Monday, October 30	K-6 Quarter 2 Begins
Tuesday, October 31	Halloween Parade – 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, November 1	K-6 Quarter 1 Report Cards Distributed Via Wednesday Envelopes
Wednesday, November 1	2017-18 Tuition Installment 4 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, November 3	Pinecrest Pizza Friday – sign up by 2PM the day before at <a href="https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html">https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html</a>
Monday, November 6	No School / Care Offered – a link to sign up will be forthcoming  Quarter 2 Faculty Development Time
Tuesday, November 7	Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School / Care Offered – a link to sign up for both care and conferences will be forthcoming
Wednesday, November 8	Board of Directors Meeting – 7 p.m. – upper school building
Friday, November 10	Open House for Prospective Families – 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 11	Celebrate Pinecrest Wine Tasting – adults only – 6:30-9 p.m. – Total Wine, 6240 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria, VA 22312 / space is limited – buy tickets here: <a href="https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/WineTasting/index.html">https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/WineTasting/index.html</a>
Tuesday, November 14	Ledo Pizza Fundraising Night – 5-10 p.m. – 7510 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
Thursday, November 16	K Field Trip – Hidden Oaks Nature Center
Tuesday, November 21	Preschool and K-6 Thanksgiving Feasts
Wed.-Fri., November 22-24	Thanksgiving Holiday – No School

## Calendar Changes

- Friday, October 13 – K-6 Color Run will not take place on October 13; this is going to be rescheduled once we are all back together on one campus; new date TBA
- Saturday, November 11 – Celebrate Pinecrest Wine Tasting – this is a new event that has been added to the calendar – an adults-only night of fun and fundraising for our school at Total Wine in Alexandria

## Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for Back-to-School Nights on September 12 and 14!

A tip of the hat to Elizabeth C. who joined the fourth graders for their first field trip last week and three cheers in advance to the three parents who will accompany kindergarten on their field trip tomorrow! :)

## 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.

[1.5-Minute Video - Raising Resilient Kids by Adam Grant \(co-author of Option B\)](#)