

# Pinecrest School

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

## PINECREST HEADLINES

**Communication from the Head of School – Issue 43, 2017-18 – Wednesday October 11, 2017**

### Growing Our School

Board Chair Nick Wakeman will be sending out an update soon. The short version is that (obviously) the building is not done yet although it's very close. (You can see the most recent photos from 9/28/17 [here](#). It is very exciting to see how good it is looking!) We are pushing the team hard to finish as soon as possible. We still cannot set a move-in date because we do not yet have the occupancy permit. It was hoped that we would get that over the weekend when the fire marshal was here for testing, but, unfortunately, some issues with the fire alarm/sprinkler system were detected. These issues are currently being addressed by ModSpace and will require a follow-up visit from the fire marshal.

Additionally, we still have many county and zoning approvals ahead of us (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 needing to get 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.

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

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!

### News and Notes

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

Our K-6 facilitated mindfulness sessions with Mrs. Quick will resume tomorrow and will continue once or twice a month between now and May.

**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.

Pinecrest School will be participating as a vendor in the Taste of Annandale this Saturday, October 14. We look forward to being among the Annandale community that day. The Taste of Annandale is aimed at encouraging community engagement, celebrating Annandale's diversity, and shining a spotlight on local restaurants and businesses. It should be a great, family-friendly event. Please consider attending and stop by the Pinecrest table if you do! Details: Third annual [Taste of Annandale](#), Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., on Tom Davis Drive in Annandale; the event features food from local restaurants and food trucks, live entertainment, a 5K race, a full schedule of children's programming, and some extra features. It's free, and it's dog friendly, as well as family friendly. Tom Davis Drive will be blocked off for the event. That's the street between Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive in the center of Annandale. These [parking lots](#) have been designated for parking for the Taste of Annandale: Giant ([7137 Columbia Pike](#)), Kmart ([4251 John Marr Drive](#)), the ACCA Child Development Center ([7200 Columbia Pike](#)), Union Baptist Church ([7100 Columbia Pike](#)), and Annandale United Methodist Church ([6935 Columbia Pike](#)). During the 5K, one lane of Columbia Pike, between John Marr Drive and the entrance to Mason District Park, will be closed from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tom Davis Drive will be closed to traffic during the Taste of Annandale but businesses along that road will still be open and accessible. Visit the [Taste of Annandale website](#) for more information.

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. I am trying to work with the photographer for him or her to photograph children in both locations but have not heard back yet – I will share more information as soon as I have it.\*\***

Tuesday, October 31, at 9:15 a.m., is our Annual Halloween Parade. More details will be sent out soon. With our new parking lot configuration, we need to plan our new route and we will let you know. For now, these details are important to know: Children may come to school in costume on Halloween or change after they arrive. They will need regular school clothes to put on after the parade is over though; children will not wear their costumes all day. The parade will be held rain or shine. (If it is raining, we will do this in the multipurpose room.) We respectfully request that in honor of the multiple ages participating in the all-school parade, students considerately prepare and choose their costumes. Really gory, scary, violent or bloody face masks (like the type that pump blood through the mask) are simply not appropriate for this type of event. Neither are any kinds of inappropriate weaponry. We ask that students consider leaving frightening pieces of their costume at home. Anyone who struggles with this request may speak with me personally, and I will do my best to help you and your child. Students who do not wish to dress up may assist younger children and still participate in the parade if they'd like. If students would rather not participate in the parade, that is fine too. They may watch with parents or be dropped off at school later on in the morning. Please make the choice that is most comfortable for you and your family. Classroom teachers and/or room parents will be in touch with parents directly about any classroom celebrations that may take place after the parade. **\*\*\*Families at Peace will be contacted separately soon about how we are handling logistics for Halloween.\*\*\***

Monday, November 6 and Tuesday, November 7 are no-school days for students. Care is offered both days. You can sign up for care here:

MONDAY <http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/november6care>

TUESDAY <http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/november7care>

Please note:

- **There is limited space for both preschool and K-6. If there is demand, we can likely bring on more staff to accommodate but we are starting with limitations on numbers right now. (The number of slots on each sign-up sheet are the number of slots on each day as of now. 1 slot = 1 child)**
- There is one tab for K-6 and one tab for preschool on each link.
- Please use one slot per child.
- 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 ONLY on a drop-in basis during your parent conference(s), please do not sign up on the Tuesday 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.**

Fall parent conferences are on Tuesday, November 7, and this is a no-school day for students. Care is offered. (See above.) All conferences are expected to take place on Tuesday, November 7, as this is our designated time set aside for conferences. The online system is open and you can begin scheduling your parent conference(s) at this time. The link is <http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/conferencesnov7>.

Each classroom teacher has her own tab with her own schedule on that tab - please make sure you sign up on the correct tab for the correct teacher. **\*\*4th, 5th and 6th grade families, please note the line about the location on Ms. Pence and Ms. Mitlo's sign-up tabs.\*\*** Thank you to the parents who have already scheduled conferences! :)

**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](#). Thanks to those who have already submitted!

Faculty and staff members engage in regular professional development throughout the year. Recently, Ms. Sambro 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).

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 Sarah S. and Nick W. – they were our winners from the last newsletter!

## FYI

Whenever there are relevant speakers or programs coming to our area (or accessible online), 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 and/or participating. To that end, I want to share this as FYI:

On Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., Oakwood School Parenting Series features Weezie Parry, M.Ed, LCSW, of Weaver and Associates, who will be discussing "Anxiety and Our Children." Weaver and Associates is a child, adolescent and family psychotherapy practice located in McLean, Virginia, which uses effective, research based methods to help people make changes and feel better. Please join us on October 25<sup>th</sup> at Oakwood School, 7210 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA 22003. Free and open to the public with reservation. Bring a friend! Space is limited / [click here](#) to register. For questions, please email [janierhoads@hotmail.com](mailto:janierhoads@hotmail.com).

## 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**

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:

Scenes From Our Classrooms Album - last updated [10/6](#), [9/29](#) and also [9/29](#)

[Newest Capital Student Donor :\) 10/11](#)

[Grade 5/6 Field Trip 10/11](#)

[Preschool 3/4 Field Trip 10/10](#)

[A 4th Grader's Pencil Box 10/4](#)

[K Field Trip 9/28](#)

### Upcoming Dates

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

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	Grade 2/3 Field Trip – Butler's Orchard in Maryland
Monday, October 16	In-house Preschool & K Event – Fire Truck Visit
Tuesday, October 17	Grade 4 Field Trip – Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian
Wednesday, October 18	K & Grade 1 Field Trip – Cox Farm
Wednesday, October 18	Preschool 4 Field Trip – Burke Nursery (rescheduled from 10/12 to 10/18)
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
Friday, October 27	Grade 4 & 5/6 Field Trip – National Geographic Museum
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 – sign-up link above / space is limited
	Quarter 2 Faculty Development Time
Tuesday, November 7	Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School / Care Offered – sign-up link above
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**

A tip of the hat to all of the parents who attended the recent K and preschool 3/4 field trips and to Andy Y. who joined fifth/sixth grade in DC today!

We appreciate the parents who assisted at last week's PPF – thank you, Anastasia D., Sarah S. & Nick W! Thank you also to the Kurry family for making the October PPF dessert!

### **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.

[Mentally Strong Kids Have Parents Who Refuse to Do These 13 Things by Amy Morin](#)