

Pinecrest School

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

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 5, 2017-18 – Wednesday October 25, 2017

Growing Our School

The latest updates were sent by email from me on October 19, and from Nick Wakeman on October 17.

Since these updates, we got word that we did pass both of our fire and sprinkler inspections on October 19 (this is a change to what was originally reported), and yesterday we passed our pre-occupancy inspection with the fire marshal. Yay!! ModSpace believes this is the last step before getting the occupancy permit and they believe we will get that permit this week. We will let everyone know when that happens – it will really be something to celebrate!

I met with Supervisor Gross on October 18, and she was, as she has always been, incredibly supportive of our project and has intervened in a positive way to get us through these last few steps a little faster than if we were on our own. We are very grateful to her.

On a different note, we have since found out that our Social Services Inspector must come and visit the building with all of the furniture and materials in it and properly set up. This was not my original understanding and has caused an adjustment to some of our tentative plans but, like every other challenge that has presented itself to us during this project (and there have been many!!!!), we will work around it and persevere.

There are still some punchlist items that ModSpace needs to address in the building and we are pushing them as hard as we can to take care of these things as soon as possible.

Things are looking really, really good though. You can see the most recent photos [here](#). If you have not been here lately, the fence is down and that makes a big difference. (You can see so in the photos.)

A lengthy email will be going out as soon as we get our occupancy permit with our moving plans et cetera so, if all goes according to plan, that email should be out soon. We value your support and patience very much.

We received a generous donation from Fox Architects of a conference room table and seven chairs – we are so grateful. This is already in the conference room and looks awesome. Thank you to the parent who arranged this and to the parents who gave up part of their weekend to go to DC and get it and bring it to the school. This is community!!

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 and other items for the classrooms. We are reusing and repurposing many things from our old building and have received some donated items, 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

We are looking for 2 parents to volunteer at Pinecrest for the next PPF on Friday, November 3. Please sign up at this [link](#). All of the PPF dates are there and while we immediately need November 3, we would also appreciate parents signing up for the future dates too. Thank you to the parents who have already signed up!

Creative Images was here Friday, October 20. When the proofs come in, they will be sent home to every family. A deadline will be included on the proof form and you must return your proof envelope with order and payment by that deadline to guarantee delivery before the school closes for winter break.

Tuesday, October 31, at 9:15 a.m., is our Annual Halloween Parade. I will send our "route" out in a separate email but parents should plan to stand on the sidewalk facing the parking lot. 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 received an email from me yesterday with details about this.***

We have signed up to be part of Minted's Fundraising Program which allows organizations the opportunity to fundraise by shopping with Minted from November 1-30, 2017. Minted.com is a site where you can order photo cards and gifts. Minted also uses technology to allow consumers to discover great creative talent, making Minted a place where artists can learn, gain exposure, and build their businesses. Each participating organization receives a unique promo code offering 15% off Minted orders, and 15% of the sales go back to us. Our promo code is **FUNDRAISEPINECREST**. The promo code is valid toward all Minted products with standard exclusions of Minted More, Commissioned Art, Art Styling Service, and Minted Photo Op. Our unique promo code is only valid during the month of November 2017 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.

Monday, November 6 and Tuesday, November 7 are no-school days for students. Care is offered both days although the Monday link has closed, and no further children can be signed up for Monday. There is still space available on Tuesday and you can sign up at <http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/november7care>. 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 schedule 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 60th 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! We are excited about this event and hope more people will plan to join us.

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](#).

Faculty and staff members engage in regular professional development throughout the year. Recently, Ms. Snyder attended a Bureau of Education & Research math workshop, Mrs. Ferrier and Mrs. Vogus attended a behavior presentation by Children Together, and Ms. Marble participated in the fall Appelbaum Training Institute conference.

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 Amy M. and Michele V. – they were our winners from the last newsletter!

Camp

Registration is now open for Winter Break Camp. **Winter Break Camp will run for 8 days: Monday-Friday, December 18-22, and Wednesday-Friday, December 27-29, from 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m. for K-6 (\$78/day prepay now or \$98/day prepay after December 1) and from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. for preschool (\$39/day prepay now or \$59/day prepay after December 1).** Before-care is available for all beginning at 7:30 a.m. (\$10/day either prepay or billed after use) and after-care for all is available until 6 p.m. (\$10/hour/billed after use). You may sign up for individual days (full day option only for K-6) or the entire duration. Space is limited for both age groups. When enrollment capacity is reached, the online form will not allow you to register. Online registration with payment required at the time of registration at <https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/wintercamp/index.html>. Please fill out a separate form for each child. Please select the discount button *only* for sibling registrations *after* the first child. **Registrations without online payments will be deleted after 30 minutes unless you reach out to me directly.** If you wish to register for additional days or items after you have already completed and paid for registration, please contact us directly and do not fill out an additional form. At this time, please direct winter camp questions to me.

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 25th 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 25th 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.

Free Screening of Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety – On Thursday, November 9 at 6:30pm, Alexandria Country Day School will host a free screening of the film Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety. The documentary looks at anxiety, its causes and effects, and what we can do about it, and the screening will be followed by a question and answer session moderated by Dr. Catherine McCarthy. The event is open to the public. ACDS is located at 2400 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22301. More information about the movie can be found at <http://angstmovie.com/>

Photos

From Facebook:

Scenes From Our Classrooms Album – last updated [10/20](#) and [10/13](#)

[Newest Capital Campaign Student Donors & Name the Walkway Sign is up :\) 10/25](#)

[Preschool 4 Field Trip 10/18](#)

[K & Grade 1 Field Trip 10/18](#)

[Grade 4 Field Trip 10/17](#)

[A great parent mindfulness note 10/16](#)

[Preschool & K Firetruck & Ambulance Visit 10/16](#)

Upcoming Dates

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

Wednesday, October 25	Happy Birthday, Mrs. Vogus! :)
Wednesday, October 25	Grade 5/6 Field Trip – National Cathedral

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 https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html
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: https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/WineTasting/index.html
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

- 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
- 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

Celebrations/Appreciations

Thank you to Phuong who drove the siblings of Pinecrest students to Peace after photos on October 20.

Three cheers for Aimee, Katrina, Nick and Victoria who joined Ms. Serven to represent Pinecrest at the Taste of Annandale on October 14.

A tip of the hat to all of the parents who attended the recent field trips!

60 Reasons We Love Pinecrest

#1: “The amazing teachers and classes make you feel involved and immersed, and you meet all sorts of great classmates.” (a Class of 2016 graduate) #60NeverLookedSoGood #ThisIsCommunity :)

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.

[Parents are exhausting their children. An eighth-grade boy explains how - The Washington Post 10/20/17](#)