

Pinecrest School

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

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 9, 2017-18 – Wednesday January 31, 2018

News and Notes

A non-emergency incident occurred earlier with a neighbor on a balcony screaming obscenities. This has happened at least once before, and we have called the non-emergency Fairfax County Police number and an officer has come to look into it. This time, Mrs. Ferrier and a parent heard it outside and both reported it to me. I immediately called the non-emergency number. A police officer was on site very quickly but told me that I should have asked the people who heard it to call directly. I am sharing this because there have been a handful of incidents in the past when a parent has called me to tell me something similar and I've called it in but apparently that is not the proper procedure. Please put this number in your phone with the hope that you will never need to use it: Non-Emergency Fairfax County Police Phone Number 703-691-2131. However, if you see or hear something concerning, please call it in directly to this number and then call us to let us know.

Our recent experience with moving inspired us to create an [Amazon Wish List](#) for anyone who is so inclined. Any items purchased from the list would be tax-deductible donations to our school. The list will be updated regularly as different needs and wants arise.

Winter after-school activities began this week. We are running K-6 Sport & Fitness with Coach Botchway / Royal Athletes on Tuesdays, Preschool Science Seed on Wednesdays, K-6 Yoga with Mrs. Burke / Evolve Yoga on Wednesdays, K-6 Art: Painting Like the Masters with Ms. Sambro on Thursdays and K-6 Pinecrest Olympics with Mrs. Gallagher on Fridays. A spring session of after-school activities will be offered with registration information coming out in March and the spring session beginning after spring break.

Thanks to everyone who attended our Family Bingo Night on January 19! It was a great time. Please save the date for our second one: Saturday, May 19, 6:30-8:30PM.

Our next school open house for prospective school families is Sunday, February 11, from 1-4 p.m. We look forward to welcoming more prospective families to our school and showing off our new campus! Please consider sharing this with friends, family or neighbors who may be interested. The best form of promotion is word-of-mouth. We will have a Facebook graphic closer to that date and ask that you share it with your family and friends on your Facebook page. The more likes and views, the more exposure we receive. Thank you to those who have been routinely sharing these – it really does help us (the Jan. 20 open house image has reached 2,497 Facebook users!!)

Thank you to everyone who came to our last Ledo Pizza fundraising night on January 22! We don't have our check yet, but I'll report the number raised when we do. It is always fun to see so many Pinecrest faces when you walk into Ledo's! :) Please save the date for our next one: Monday, April 23.

Re-enrollment materials for the 2018-19 school year are being distributed today in the Wednesday Envelope to preschool through fifth grade families. An email was also sent out with the materials as attachments. Please note it is the second email that has the correct attachments.

As a reminder and courtesy to our families, the current year's payment plan was adjusted to postpone the February 2018 payment. (Final installments for 2017-18 are due in March, April, May, and June 2018.) We hope this eases any burden associated with the timing of making the initial tuition payment for next year's term. *There was confusion on this with the billing system for families paying tuition through ACH. I apologize for any confusion. There is no current tuition payment due in February. If you do pay it, then your final payments for the current school year are due March, April, May (vs. March, April, May, June). Please contact me with any questions on this.*

If there are siblings of current students who hope to join the Pinecrest community next school year, please contact us sooner rather than later so we can get you in the admissions queue of prospective students. It was great to already hear from some families about siblings joining the family! :)

The next Pinecrest Pizza Friday (PPF) is this Friday, February 2. Remember, the sign-up link closes at 2PM the day before: <https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/PPF/index.html>

We also are looking for more volunteers for upcoming PPFs. You can sign up here: <http://pinecrestschool.ivolunteer.com/ppfhelp> -- when you help us at a PPF, it is less than an hour's worth of volunteering but it truly makes a big difference.

Faculty and staff members engage in regular professional development throughout the year. This month, the teachers and I read and had a book discussion about an excellent book called Building Resilience in Children & Teens: Giving Kids Roots & Wings by Dr. Kenneth R. Ginsburg with Martha M. Jablow (3rd edition). I highly recommend this to parents; it is an easy read with many specific suggestions for parents and teachers to build resilience in children. Mrs. Ferrier also attended a Fairfax County Office for Children science session.

Friday afternoon, May 4, will be our K-6 Color Run! This is our 3rd annual and more details will follow when it gets closer.

As I have said many times, Mason District Supervisor Gross was extremely important to our Growing Our School effort. Without her, I surely would not be typing this newsletter from my new pink office in our new lower school building! If you are so inclined, please consider sending her a brief note of thanks and sharing in a sentence or two what the Pinecrest community means to you. I know it would be appreciated and it is always good for her to realize the impact of our school. You can do this by email at mason@fairfaxcounty.gov or by mail to Supervisor Penny Gross, Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. (And, if you live in the Mason District, please be sure to let her know; she values her constituents very much.) Thanks to those who have already done it. I have loved reading some of the notes I've seen.

Car magnets are on the front desk, and we encourage you to take one (whether new or a refresher – they do tend to fade over time) for your car. Your child(ren) will feel proud it's on your car and it helps promote us (as long as you are a good driver, haha!). If you want us to send any home to you, just let us know and we can easily do that.

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](#). Thanks to the responses we have already - it is awesome to read through them.

Our Annual Fund Campaign is in progress and will go through August 31, 2018. 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. You can donate online [here](#). 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!

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 Lemene W for winning the last newsletter contest.

Camp – Pinecrest Pavilion

We will be holding a camp open house for prospective camp families this Sunday, February 4, from 1-4 p.m. at Pinecrest. An email invitation was sent on January 23. A Facebook invitation is [here](#). Please consider forwarding the email to local friends, neighbors and families as well as sharing the image on Facebook. We thank you in advance for helping us spread the word!

Summer information will be distributed by email TOMORROW and on our website very soon after. Our registration timeline is as follows:

Monday, February 5 – registration begins for current school families with a special password

Friday, February 9 – registration begins for past camp families with a special password

Wednesday, February 14 – registration begins for the general public (no password needed)

We are running 9 weeks of camp this summer beginning Monday, June 18 and ending Friday, August 17.

If you have friends or family who are interested in our summer camp (again, word-of-mouth is the best form of promotion, and we always appreciate you talking us up!), please send their email addresses to me. We can add them to our camp Google Groups list so they will get the information when everyone else does.

Spring Break Care

We are offering spring break care from Monday-Friday, March 26-30. The registration link is now open at <https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/springbreakcare2018/index.html>. You can sign up for all 5 days or pick and choose what you need per day. The price will increase after March 5.

Photos

From Facebook:

- Scenes From Our Classrooms [1/26](#) and [1/21](#)
- [Preschool Field Trip to see Curious George 1/30](#)
- [Generous Donation from Clark Construction Thanks to a Pinecrest Parent 1/30](#)
- [Ledo Pizza Fundraising Night 1/22](#)
- [Bingo Night 1/19](#)
- [Video - end of 5th/6th Grade Class Presentation 1/19](#)
- [Video - K-Kids at local senior living home 1/17](#)

Upcoming Dates

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

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| Wednesday, January 31 | K Field Trip – Hidden Pond Nature Center |
| Wednesday, January 31 | 2018-19 Re-enrollment Forms Distributed |

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| Friday, February 2 | Pinecrest Pizza Friday – sign up here |
| Saturday, February 4 | Camp Open House for Prospective Camp Families – 1-4 p.m. |
| Monday, February 5 | Summer Camp Registration Begins for Current School Families |
| Tuesday, February 6 | Board of Directors Meeting – 7 p.m. – upper school building (this is a date change from 2/15 to 2/6) |
| Wednesday, February 7 | K Field Trip – Theatreworks Show at George Mason University |
| Friday, February 9 | Pinecrest Spirit Day – Pinecrest 60 shirts, please! :) |

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| Friday, February 9 | Grade 4 Class Presentation – 9 a.m. – multipurpose room |
| Friday, February 9 | K-Kids Service Trip After School – Aarondale Retirement Community |
| Friday, February 9 | Summer Camp Registration Begins for Past Camp Families |
| Sunday, February 11 | Open House for Prospective Families – 1-4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, February 13 | Grade 1 Field Trip – Post Office (rescheduled from last week) |
| Wednesday, February 14 | Summer Camp Registration Begins for General Public |
| Friday, February 16 | Pinecrest Pizza Friday – sign up here |
| Monday, February 19 | Presidents’ Day Holiday – No School |
| Thursday, February 22 | Grade 1 Field Trip – Mount Vernon |
| Tuesday, February 27 | 100th Day of School Celebration (date will change again if inclement weather) |

Calendar Changes / Additions

- *New:* Friday afternoon, May 4 – K-6 Color Run – more details will follow when it gets closer!
- *Change:* Friday, December 8 – Grade 2/3 Class Presentation (will not take place Friday, December 1 as originally planned)
- *Change:* Friday, December 8 – December Pinecrest Pizza Friday (will not take place Friday, December 1 as originally planned)
- *New:* Sunday, December 3 – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Pinecrest, 2 p.m.
- *New:* Monday, November 27-Friday, December 1– No School for the move / care offered
- *Change:* Tuesday, November 21 – Thanksgiving Feasts canceled / will not be rescheduled
- *New:* Monday, November 20 – Tuesday, November 21 – No School for the move / care offered
- *New:* 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
- *Change:* 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 the parents who attended our field trips this week – we could not do it without you!

60 Reasons We Love Pinecrest

#5: “Administrators and teachers work together to customize learning for each child.” (current parent)

#60NeverLookedSoGood #ThisIsCommunity :)

(You and/or your child(ren) can submit responses [here](#).)

P.S. To the current parent who submitted a very nice response about me on this form, thank you! The timing could not have been better for me to find that today (that, for sure, is today’s moment of grace!). :)

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.

[Giving Unconditional Love & Holding High Expectations by Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg \(author of Building Resilience book mentioned above\) - 4 minute video](#)