

Pinecrest School

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

PINECREST HEADLINES

Communication from the Head of School – Issue 10, 2017-18 – Wednesday February 14, 2018

News and Notes

Happy Valentine's Day! :)

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. Thank you to those who have already sent us gifts!

Thank you to everyone who shared information about our camp open house on February 4 and our school open house on February 11 – we appreciate the support! Our next school open house for prospective school families is Sunday, March 18, from 1-4 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who came to our last Ledo Pizza fundraising night on January 22! Ledo has recently changed their process for distributing funds at these fundraising nights (we were not aware of this until last week) and we received \$71.98. This is 10 percent of the sales rather than the usual 20 we typically receive. We do have one more Ledo Pizza fundraising night already on the calendar for Monday, April 23, but we will consider future participation. Please save the date for April 23!

Re-enrollment materials for the 2018-19 school year were distributed January 31 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. Please let us know if you have any questions.

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 16. (This is one of our newly-added dates.) 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 the March and April 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.

We would love your support in these 4 subcategories of the Education & Activities section of [Washington Family Magazine](#) survey. The survey link is <http://va.secondstreetapp.com/Best-for-FAMILIES-2018-2/> and the four votes you can enter for Pinecrest are:

- Best Private School (overall) - Pinecrest School
- Best Day Camp - Pinecrest Pavilion
- Best Preschool - Pinecrest School
- Best Private Elementary School - Pinecrest School

Thank you in advance!

Faculty and staff members engage in regular professional development throughout the year. Recently, Mrs. Ferrier attended a Fairfax County Office for Children literacy session, and Ms. Mitlo participated in an Institute of Educational Development workshop about motivation, mindset and grit. I was remiss in not mentioning this sooner: Mrs. Cullen is in her first semester at George Mason University working to get her Master's in Early Childhood Education!

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.

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!

Camp – Pinecrest Pavilion

We are running 9 weeks of camp this summer beginning Monday, June 18 and ending Friday, August 17, and all details are on the website [here](#). Registration is now open to the public with no password needed. The registration link is <https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/summer2018/index.html>.

Please continue to share the information with local friends, family and neighbors. Word-of-mouth is always our best form of promotion.

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.

June Care

We are offering June care from Monday-Friday, June 11-15. This is part of the period of time between the K-6 last day of school and the first day of summer camp. (Note that there is more of a gap for preschoolers as the preschool last day of school is June 1 and June Care does not begin until June 11. All of these dates were on our original calendar.) The June Care registration link is now open at <https://fs9.formsite.com/pinecrest/junecare2018/index.html>. You can sign up for all 5 days or pick and choose what you need per day. The price will increase after May 25.

Photos

From Facebook:

Scenes From Our Classrooms [2/5](#) and [1/29](#)

[Preschool & K Dentist Visit 2/8](#)

[Pinecrest Love from a 1st Grader 2/1 :\)](#)

[K Field Trip 1/31](#)

[Video - 4th Grade Class Presentation 2/9](#)

Upcoming Dates

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

Wednesday, February 14	Summer Camp Registration Begins for General Public
Friday, February 16	Pinecrest Pizza Friday – sign up here
Friday, February 16	Preschool Pink & Purple Day
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)
Wednesday, February 28	2018-19 Registration Contract, Registration Fee, 1 st Tuition Installment Due

Thursday, March 1	2017-18 Tuition Installment 7 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, March 2	Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration of Reading
Friday, March 2	Pinecrest Pizza Friday – sign up here
Friday, March 9	K-Kids Service Trip after school – space still available – sign up here
Wednesday, March 14	Board of Directors Meeting – 7 p.m. – conference room
Friday, March 16	K-6 Quarter 3 Ends (38 days)
Friday, March 16	Grade 1 Class Presentation – 9 a.m. – multipurpose room
Friday, March 16	Pinecrest Pizza Friday – sign up here
Sunday, March 18	Open House for Prospective Families – 1-4 p.m.
Monday, March 19	K-6 Quarter 4 Begins

Tuesday, March 20	Preschool 4 Field Trip – Children’s Science Center Lab in Fairfax
Wednesday, March 21	K-6 Quarter 3 Report Cards Distributed Via Wednesday Envelopes
Thursday, March 22	Preschool 3/4 Field Trip – Children’s Science Center Lab in Fairfax
Mon.-Mon., March 26-April 2	Spring Break – No School
Monday-Friday, March 26-30	Spring Break Care

Sunday, April 1	2017-18 Tuition Installment 8 of 10 Due (A \$50 late fee is charged if tuition payment is not received on or by the fifth day of the month.)
Tuesday, April 3	School Resumes

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 field trips last week and this week – we could not do it without you!

I’m grateful to Angela M for taking over the K-Kids trip last week when my schedule changed and I could no longer make it!

Much appreciation to those who gave tours at our recent open houses on February 4 and 11: Cathy B, Jaime K, Lou B, Ms. Hohenstein, Ms. Mitlo, Nick W and Somer C!

60 Reasons We Love Pinecrest

#7: “There is a warmth and caring at Pinecrest that makes it very special. My kids actually complain if I pick them up early, they love it so much.”

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

FYI – Upcoming Parent Programs

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 two upcoming events as FYI:

Understanding Your Twice Exceptional Child: Strategies to bring out the best and raise self-esteem

Presenter Julie Skolnick, M.A., J.D.

What is 2e? Twice Exceptional/2e describes a person who is gifted in any area (academically, athletically, artistically or charismatically) who also has a learning difference or learning disability.

When: Friday, February 16th, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Where: The Sycamore School, 4600 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203

Parking: Our building shares a parking lot with the Holiday Inn. Enter using the Holiday Inn gated entrance on Fairfax Drive. You'll take a parking ticket and we'll validate your ticket.

RSVP: This lecture is open to the public. Click here to [REGISTER](#).

“Why Is My Kid Acting Like This?: Unraveling the Mysteries of Sensory Processing Disorder”

The featured speaker for the event will be occupational therapist Michele Dausman, OTR/L who practices in Annandale, VA and is the occupational therapist at Oakwood School. Event topics related to sensory processing and the difficulties that some face related to it:

- Identifying factors of sensory processing difficulty...what does it look like?
- Understanding the brain and sensory processing...what's going on?
- Knowing one's child and oneself...are we a good match?
- Developing strategies to deal with life's requirements...it's all about function

Event details: Thursday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Oakwood School, 7210 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003.

Free and open to the public with reservation. Bring a friend! Space is limited / [click here](#) to register.

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.

[Stop, Breathe & Think for Kids - A Free Mindfulness & Meditation App for Children](#)

(Thanks to Ms. Sambro for sharing this with me!)