

# PARENT NEWSLETTER

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***December 2018***

Dear Pinnacle Families,

Please see information below. We are closing in on Winter Break and it seems like yesterday that we started school for the year. I used to hear my grandparents laugh at me when I was young about saying that Christmas would never get here. They'd always tell me that time would speed up when I got older. Once again they were correct. While our break is rapidly approaching, there are some things that we really do need to know about and keep in mind, and some other items that are a repeat of last month.

*Robert W. Brown Jr.*

## **Dates**

- December 4 Progress Reports go home
- December 4 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Winter Musical at 6:30pm
- December 6 Home basketball game against Grace Christian Academy
- December 7 Parent conferences (no school for students)
- December 7 NHS student / faculty volleyball game
- December 10 PEAK meeting
- December 11 Home basketball game against Masters Academy
- December 18 Home basketball game against Cherryville
- December 18 Early Release – 11:30 at 3-12 campus and 12:00 at K-2 campus
- December 19 Winter Break begins
- January 1 Winter Break ends

## **Parent – Teacher Conferences**

Friday are our parent – teacher conferences for the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks. Progress reports go home on December 4<sup>th</sup> and the school will hold conferences on December 7. Teachers will notify you if there is a need for a conference, or if you would like to have a conference please request one. It is always a good thing when teachers and parents are on the same page.



### **Thank You Parent Volunteers!!**

What in the world would this school do without our wonderful parent volunteers? The answer is, not much. When it comes to parent participation, this school is blessed with an embarrassment of riches. From helping with parades to assisting with luncheons and class parties to making copies to class activities to field trips – our parent volunteers are the best. Thank you for all that you do, we could not do it without you!

### **Inclement Weather**

This year seems to have had a number of unusual weather occurrences. We had two hurricanes and black ice already, and now there is talk of winter weather over the latter part of the upcoming weekend. If there are any changes to our normal school schedule, several things will take place. One is that the school will send out a One Call to let everyone know. The next is that we will post the message on the Pinnacle Facebook page, then it will be posted on the school website. We also make every effort to inform local news media – but that can be problematic. Please remember that we do NOT make One Call announcements for regular schedule.

### **Cold And Flu Season Is Upon Us**

It seems that the cold and flu season is hitting us early this year. We are seeing cases of colds, stomach bugs, and even a couple of cases of the flu. With that in mind there are a few things that we can do to help combat the spread of germs.

- Make sure that children frequently wash their hands with soap and water. (Hand sanitizer will do in a pinch.)
- Use a tissue, or cough and sneeze into their arm instead of the hand. (I know this is a bit odd but the CDC swears by it.)
- Do not use a tissue more than once.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth – these are easy conduits for viruses and bacteria to transfer.
- Don't share cups, straws, glasses, utensils, etc.

We all need to do what we can to help prevent the spread of sickness and disease as we move into the heart of the cold and flu season.

### **PCA Spirit Wear**

It is a sure sign that the school is growing and maturing when there is a definite need for items such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, etc. with the school logo on them. While these are not appropriate for daily school wear (i.e. they are not an approved part of the uniform) they are perfect for showing school pride, attending sporting events, and wearing during spirit week activities. Please see the following link for the online store. <https://pinnacleclassical.itemorder.com/sale>



## **Student Gateway**

If you want more practice or enrichment for your student, please visit their teacher's website and <https://www.pinnacleclassicalacademy.com/gateway> On the gateway page you will find links to iReady's online instruction, Reflex Math, and Khan Academy. These are incredibly useful tools for helping students master concepts and practice with material on which they may be struggling.

## **Attendance**

It should go without saying that attendance at school is necessary to maximize learning and achievement. In fact it is so important that North Carolina has codified it in law (G.S. § 115C-378). Of course there are instances where students must be out of school, such as when they are sick, etc. but otherwise they need to be in attendance to the greatest extent possible. Current research on school attendance tells us...

- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade.
- Missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days, severely affects a student's academic performance for that year and beyond.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic performance.
- Missing even a little school has negative effects on performance.
- High absenteeism in early grades has been consistently linked to lower achievement levels in later grades.
- Missing three or more days of school per month can set a student back from one to two full years of learning over time.
- By high school, attendance is a better dropout indicator than test scores.

We have sent out too many attendance letters already this year. We are just now at the halfway point of the second nine-weeks, so having so many attendance issues thus far is concerning.

## **Coaches and Club Sponsors**

Once again we want to say a big THANK YOU to our coaches and club sponsors. These people are volunteers and give of their time to coach, mentor, and help our students succeed on and off the field. If you see one of them on campus or "out and about" please let them know how much they are appreciated. Without them we could not offer the experiences that are afforded to our students.

## **Drop Off and Pick Up**

Students must not be dropped off before 7:30am each day at both campuses. Over the past week a few students have been dropped off earlier than 7:30am – and that cannot continue. There is no teacher or staff supervision prior to 7:30am at either campus. If K-2 parents are getting students between 2:30 and 3:30 they need to park in the spaces, go in and sign out their child, and proceed around the back to the parking lot to exit (not cut through the grass or exit through the entrance.) At the 3-12 Campus parents need to be in the pickup line by 3:30pm each day. There have been a number of students who have not been picked up in the office until 4:15pm. Thank you for your understanding.



### **Athletics**

Please be sure to check the PCA Athletics Facebook page for up to date information about games and matches, practices, and cancellations. At the present time we have basketball and swimming practicing and competing.

### **England and France 2020**

Pinnacle Classical Academy is taking the show on the road! In 2020 the Junior and Senior classes will be eligible to take an 8-day trip to Europe. We have travelled throughout the eastern half of the United States with our students, but the trip to Europe is a first. London! Paris! The Louvre! The Eiffel Tower! What is not to like here? Trip dates are April 3, 2020 – April 10, 2020. Please see the link below or contact Mr. Alex Rowe for more details.

<https://www.explorica.com/my-account/my-tours/tourcenter.aspx?tourCenterCode=PCA-6988>