

PARENT NEWSLETTER

January 2019

Dear Pinnacle Families,

Congratulations on making it through Winter Break! We (students and staff) have had a couple of weeks to recharge the batteries and get ready for the push toward spring. We will be completing the 2nd nine-weeks and the fall semester in the next two weeks. That means report cards, and a round or two of testing is just around the corner.

Robert W. Brown Jr.

Dates

- January 3 Home Basketball vs. LLCA
- January 4 Away Basketball vs. Heritage Academy
- January 8 Home Basketball vs. Mountain View
- January 8 – 10 NC Check-In Testing (5th – 8th)
- January 8 – 11 EOC and NCFE Testing (8th – 11th as appropriate)
- January 12 Robotics Competition
- January 14 – 18 NC Check-In Testing (3rd – 4th)
- January 15 Away Basketball vs. Grace Christian
- January 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – no school
- January 22 Professional Development Day – no school
- January 24 Home Basketball vs. Challenger
- January 25 Home Basketball vs. Victory Christian Academy
- January 29 Home Basketball vs. Long Shoals

Book Mark Classroom Websites

Please make sure that you bookmark your student's classroom website. This will make it much easier and quicker to view assignments, upcoming events, class newsletters, etc. There are times when websites (including ours) have technical issues but the teachers' classroom websites are still operational.



Drop Off and Pick Up

Students must not be dropped off before 7:30am each day at either campus. The doors are not open and supervision is not available until 7:30am. 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.

Inclement Weather

This year seems to have had a number of unusual weather occurrences. We had two hurricanes and black ice, and we have already had a significant snow and ice storm. 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>



iReady, Reflex Math, Khan Academy

Practice and enrichment are absolutely necessary for a student to maximize their academic potential. There is an old saying that practice makes perfect – I wish that were true. In reality practice makes permanent. What we practice is what sticks with us for the long-term. At Pinnacle we have a number of practice and enrichment opportunities for our students in addition to what is provided in the classroom. This includes iReady online instruction in reading and math, Reflex Math, and Khan Academy. You will find links to these at <https://www.pinnacleclassicalacademy.com/gateway> These are incredibly useful tools for helping students master concepts and practice with material on which they may be struggling, or on material they want to completely master.

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.

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>