

PARENT NEWSLETTER

November 2018

Dear Pinnacle Families,

It is with an incredibly heavy heart that we say goodbye to Mrs. Muller. She was one of the original members of the Pinnacle family and has been a crucial part of what has made this school run and operate as efficiently as it has. I told the faculty and staff that I felt like Clubber Lang (played by Mr. T) after he was pummeled by Rocky. That is quite the visual I know. Mrs. Muller has been my right hand for five years as well as a great counselor, mentor, and friend. She will be greatly missed, but we are incredibly happy that she will be near her family once again. Please join us in wishing her safe travels and happy times in her new home in Washington in the Pacific North West.

Robert W. Brown Jr.

Dates

- November 5-9 Book Fair at the 3-12 Campus
- November 5-9 Spirit Week
- November 8 National Theater for Children at the K-2 Campus
- November 8 PEAK Meeting at the K-2 Campus
- November 12 Veterans Day Observed (no school)
- November 13-20 NC Check-In Testing (3rd-8th grade)
- November 14 Pre-ACT Test
- November 21-23 Thanksgiving Break (no school)

SRO – School Resource Officer

It is unfortunate that in today's world that schools need to have a full time law enforcement presence on their campuses. Pinnacle Classical Academy has been extremely fortunate to count a large number of children of law enforcement officers among its students. This has provided a comforting and safe presence on our two campuses for years and we thank you for that. The school recently applied for and was awarded a grant to help fund a full time SRO for our school. Deputy Casey Hopper will serve as our SRO and will have a presence patrolling both campuses throughout the school day. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Hopper to Pinnacle Classical Academy. He will be getting to know the students and the staff, and the parents in the days to come.

Cold and Flu Season is Upon Us

It seems like each year the cold and flu season gets earlier and earlier. We haven't eaten all of the Halloween candy yet and the stomach bug and flu have hit us. Battling these illnesses feels like fighting a wild fire with a garden hose sometimes, but there are a few things that we can do to help mitigate catching or spreading illnesses.

- 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.

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.

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.



Coaches and Club Sponsors

THANK YOU to our coaches and club sponsors. These people are volunteers and give of their time to coach and help our students succeed. 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 for their upcoming seasons.