On March 6th through 10th, students from our Upper School PCTV program and students from both of our Middle School PCNN programs traveled to Los Angeles, California to participate and compete in the 2013 Student Television Network annual convention. As the students competed in various categories, they did an incredible job of communicating and working together, thinking on their feet, meeting deadlines, showcasing their creativity, and representing our school. From what I understand, it is the first time that students from both of our Middle Schools have traveled together with our Upper School students on the same trip. Both the Middle School and Upper School teams did an incredible job and turned in exceptional work. The competition was fierce and the talent level from all schools was amazing. At the High School level, it was a thrill to receive a first place award in the category “Upper School Man on the Street.” At the Middle School level, Pine Crest students proved to be some of the best early broadcasters and filmmakers in the country. They truly achieved a high level of success with four Middle School awards:

“Sweet 16” - 3rd Place
“Spot Feature” - 2nd Place
“Music Video” - 1st Place
“Movie Trailer” - 1st Place

All of the students should be commended on their accomplishments as they truly proved their mastery of the most important traits for success in the 21st century: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Creative Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Global Citizenship. Mr. Burgess stated, “I am so very proud of each and every student and each and every entry.” We are all very proud of them. Their entries can be found at the following URL:

https://vimeo.com/channels/stn2013pinecrest/videos

Pictures of the event can be found and downloaded here:

http://tinyurl.com/STN2013PICS

Thanks goes to Dave Burgess and faculty members Anna Carello, Kathleen Blandford, Marci Danzanski, Scott Weil, Jared Swendsen, John Kranstover, Phil Consuegra, Joanna Szymanski, and volunteer parent drivers Monique Edep, Nel Bloom, Paige Hackman, and George Khoriaty for their help in making the trip successful.
Snow White Wows!

The original ballet, *Snow White*, choreographed by Dance Director, Ms. Kim Vlcek, was performed on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 14-16. Students in grades 4-8 performed beautifully in this spell-binding rendition of the Snow White story. Ms. Vlcek not only choreographs each dance, but compiles and arranges all of the music as well. Congratulations and kudos goes to Ms. Vlcek and all of the dancers!
Boys Basketball Update

Congratulations to our Boys Basketball team: Gold Coast League Champions - 2013

The boys beat St. Andrew's in the semi-final round. This set up a rematch in the finals against St. Joan of Arc, the only team to beat us in the regular season. Pine Crest was ready for the re-match and won 47-27, completing back to back championships.

Final record 9-1

Spelling Bee Update

Congratulations to sixth grader Clara Nguyen and fifth grader Madison Rosenfield who represented Pine Crest in the Regional Spelling Bee last Thursday. Both girls made it into the Top 20 Final Round, out of 139 spellers. They both managed to spell five words correctly in the final round, ultimately getting out on the words flexuosity and adipose. Therefore, they tied for seventh place, along with ten other spellers who got out in that same round. We are very proud of Clara and Madison!

Holocaust Speaker Mr. Kuba Beck

To complement the study associated with the holocaust exhibit, as well as the reading of A Diary of Ann Frank in Seventh Grade English, the seventh and eighth grade students will hear from Mr. Kuba Beck, a holocaust survivor. Mr. Beck and his wife, Helen, were both teenagers when the Nazis marched into their hometown of Cracow, Poland. Their families were decimated, but they escaped the death sentence themselves through the assistance of Oskar Schindler, a Czech businessman. Their story, along with many others, became known through a book and movie, Schindler’s List. Mr. Beck, brought to us by Janet Stratt, is now 90 years old, but when he tells his story, it is still very powerful. We are pleased to give the seventh and eighth grade students this opportunity; our youngest In the near future, our children will not have the chance to hear the stories personally from a survivor.

Kuba Beck will be addressing the students on Thursday, March 21. Please ask your child about his talk, and be prepared to have a discussion; Mr. Beck’s story will certainly stir emotions.
On Saturday, March 9, The Middle School Jazz Band performed at the Parents’ Association auction, and put everyone in an *Empire State of Mind*. Performing jazz selections such as *New York, New York, The Pink Panther,* and *Jazz Police,* our students were every bit as good as a professional ensemble, and were a highlight of the evening’s festivities. Thanks so much Mr. Aiello and the Jazz Band for coming out and performing.

The Middle School Chorus performed at their Music Performance Assessment on Friday, March 8, at Bak Middle School of the Arts. This is a required performance for all Middle School Choruses in Florida. Choirs perform classical selections onstage for a panel of judges, then proceed to a sight-reading room, where they must perform rhythms and melodies that they have never seen before. With Miss Bisco conducting, and Ms. Craik accompanying on piano, the students performed at their best and received a Superior rating. Congratulations, Middle School Chorus members!

This year a record number of Middle School Chorus members were selected for the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) Honor Choirs. These students auditioned, along with thousands of singers from across the country, for the opportunity to rehearse and perform with world-renowned conductors and clinicians. The Honor Choir events took place in Dallas, Texas, on March 13-16. This is an enormous honor for our Pine Crest students who have gained national recognition as the best singers in the country. Please congratulate the following students:

**Community Youth/Boychoir Honor Choir:**

**Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir:**
Hannah Printz

The Middle School Band Music Performance Assessment was held Friday, March 15, at Santaluces High School. This is an adjudicated event required by the Florida Bandmasters Association. Under the direction of Mr. John Aiello, students performed three concert selections and sightreading. Despite several sick musicians, very limited rehearsal time, and challenging music, the Band performed beautifully. The have once again earned the highest possible ranking of "Superior." Congratulations to our Middle School Band!
Upcoming Important Dates:

March 19  Seventh Grade Viewing of *A Twelfth Night*
March 21  National Spanish Exam; 8th grade Spanish students (7:50 A.M.)
          Grand Concours; 8th grade French students (7:50 A.M.)
March 21  Kuba Beck, Holocaust Speaker to Address 7th & 8th Grade Students
March 25—April 1  Spring Break—No School; No Homework
April 2  School Geography Bee
April 4  Woodman Speech Contest for Eighth Grade Students
April 5  After-School Dance Showcase, PAC, 6:00 P.M.
April 5  End of Quarter 3;  Spirit Day
April 9  Beta Club Banquet at Melting Pot
April 10  Faculty & Staff Brunch
April 10  Baseball Championship at St. Andrews School
April 11  Boys Lacrosse Championship at St. Andrews School
          Girls Lacrosse Championship at S.R.C.S.
April 12  Quarter 3 Grades and Comments available on My Backpack
April 12-13  Band and Orchestra—Orlando Music Festival
April 15-19  Try-outs Boys and Girls Tennis and Coed Golf
April 27  Seventh Grade Open Mic

Guest Speakers Ethan Skolnick and Andrea Corn

On Wednesday, April 17, we are hosting a book talk by Palm Beach Post sports columnnist Ethan Skolnick ’90 and Dr. Andrea Corn.  Mr. Skolnick is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins University with a master’s degree from Columbia University.  Dr. Andrea Corn is a graduate of Nova Southeastern University and is a licensed psychologist. The book, titled *Raising Your Game*, is about "the value of sports, in terms of commitment and resilience, but also about the dangers, such as overspecialization or poor parental behavior." The authors will discuss the types of guidance that can ignite inspiration and foster participation, practice, and progress versus the types that can create frustration and dejection. All parents are invited to this event, which is being held in Hollander Hall from 8:30 -10:00 A.M.