Mark Your Calendars!

4th Grade Field Trip  
Wednesday, March 6 - Thursday, March 7  
Kennedy Space Center

PA Auction  
Saturday, March 9  
Ritz Carlton Palm Beach  
7:00 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time  
Sunday, March 10

Ballet Performance  
Parents’ Association Theatre  
Friday, March 15  
7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 16  
2:00 p.m.

St. Patrick’s Day  
Sunday, March 17

Spring Vacation  
Monday, March 25 - Monday, April 1

Classes resume  
Tuesday, April 2

Dear Lower School Families,

Mr. Wing and I (Babe and Ms. Liberty) had a great time helping to promote our Spring Auction, “An Empire State of Mind” at our February Parents’ Association Meeting. This Saturday’s March 9 event at the Ritz Carlton Palm Beach is going to be unforgettable! Items like the Saks Fifth Avenue Shopping Spree, One Direction Concert Experience, and a private suite at Madison Square Garden for a NHL game, are just a few of the great items up for bid! We hope to see you all there. RSVP today if you have not already done so!!!

Congratulations are in order for our proud Spelling Bee winner, Madison Rosenfield. Madison competed with Grade 5-8 students from Pine Crest and then went on to compete in the Scripps Regional Bee on February 21 at Saint Andrews School. She successfully spelled xylophone, brackish, dross, percolate, and publicist! The Lower School is also very proud of Ms. Arias’ grade 1 and 2 students who currently have their art work on display at the Glades Road Branch Library. These first grade pieces were inspired after the works of American artist Charles Demuth. Second grade pieces were inspired by the African American artist, Romare Bearden. The fifth grade Writer’s Symposium was held last week in the fifth grade neighborhood. The students had the opportunity to learn from novelists, a screenwriter and a journalist. It was a most successful event.

Grandparents’ Day was delightful! The Jazz Band played in the courtyard while strings students serenaded us in Bernstein Family Commons as we enjoyed delicious fare. Dr. Dana Markham enthusiastically welcomed everyone in the Parent’s Association Performing Arts Center where Middle School Student Council President, Darius Kahn, and Lower School Student Council Representative, Amanda Howard, led the Pledge to our country’s flag. We were beguiled by the captivating performances of our grades 4 and 5 concert choir, grade 1 strings performers, Pre-kindergarten dancers and singers, and grade 7 and 8 ballerinas. Our students were thrilled to show off their classrooms to these very special guests as the proud grandparents beamed with pleasure over the opportunity. Thanks to you all for making this nothing short of a perfect day!

This month’s Community Building theme is collaboration. As a virtue of the overriding theme of leadership, collaboration means working together to achieve a goal. When groups of people collaborate effectively, they embrace each group member’s unique strengths. Our students will learn to listen, think, create, and share respectfully and responsibly. This month’s Community Building Assembly will be held on March 6.

I wish everyone a wonderful spring break. Enjoy your time together returning to us safely on Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

Warm Regards,

Sharon P. Schmidt  
Head of Lower School
Sant Twa Ti Flè: Our Sister School in Haiti

The 2010 earthquake that devastating many small towns and cities in Haiti effected the Pine Crest School community as well. Sant Twa Ti Flè (which translates into Three Little Flowers School) is still in the process of rebuilding their school facilities and classrooms even three years later.

Last month, our Middle School and Lower School students collaborated on a service project with a single mission: to help the students and families at Sant Twa Ti Flè!

In February, the Middle School students raised over $1,100 with an out-of-uniform school fundraiser. The proceeds from this event were used to purchase 100 new backpacks for the students at Sant Twa Ti Flè. The Lower School students continued this tremendous effort with a school supply drive. Each grade level worked together to collect school supplies that are badly needed by each of the students in Haiti. Even more impressive is the help we received as a school from the Parents’ Association and other outside vendors. The Twice by Nice committee led by Rachel Lenner, Benita Segal, and Tania Zucker, generously donated lightly used school uniforms and spirit shirts that are worn by students at Sant Twa Ti Flè. Thanks to Ryan Gallagher, Director of Facilities and Security, outside vendors donated first aid supplies and bandages.

Food for the Poor, the largest international relief organization in the world, will be taking our backpacks, supplies, and uniforms to Petit Goave, Haiti, to distribute to our sister school students and their families in March. Food for the Poor also generously donated a home to display on campus that is reminiscent of the relief homes built in Haiti after the devastating earthquake. Our Pine Crest teachers and students toured the home and used this impressive display as an educational tool in their classrooms to compliment the supply drive.

Thank you for your support and help in making this an unforgettable service opportunity for our students!

Thank you, Grandparents!

Set against the perfect backdrop of our famous Florida sunshine, a slight breeze, and beautiful blue skies, over 850 grandparents joined us on campus for this year’s incredible Grandparents’ Day event on February 22. The youthful energy, smiles, and radiating love that each of the grandparents shared with us made us even more grateful to teach your children and to call you all PC Family!

Thank you to the Development Office and Jane Salimbene for coordinating such a magical day. We also thank all of our PA volunteers who made the registration period and travel between each venue smooth and seamless.

Thank you!
World Languages in the Lower School

Last year, Congress cut over $27 million in foreign language education grants allocated to schools around the country from the fiscal year budget. At a time when our international presence as a country is growing increasingly more critical, Pine Crest School recognizes the need to provide dynamic world language classes to all of our students.

World Language Philosophy
Our world languages department exposes students to the rich and diverse cultures of the Chinese, Spanish, and French languages. Beginning in Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade, our students build phonemic awareness and receptive fluency in both Chinese and Spanish. This is to say that even our youngest students learn the sounds and prosodies indicative and specific to each language while they also develop a fluent ability to comprehend oral instructions and explanations given solely in a foreign language. In third through fifth grade, students use the skills they have developed in their previous years of language study to build strong foundational fluency and literacy skills. Students learn how to read, write, listen, and speak in Chinese and Spanish in the upper elementary grades, while our introductory French language study begins in fifth grade. At Pine Crest, all of our students leave the Lower school prepared with the foundational literacy skills they need for the deeper and more intense foreign language programs offered in our Middle School.

A Research-Based Methodology
Current research tells us that teaching languages early in childhood leads to superior language acquisition and fluency in adolescence and young adulthood. Our talented teachers instruct students using techniques that encourage speech, drawing, writing, and dramatization in each language. In this way our students learn foreign languages through social interaction with a native-speaking teacher much in the same way that babies first acquire their language skills in English. This research-based approach, coupled with our thoughtful world language continuum, compliments our challenging academic curriculum. We ensure that each Pine Crest student has the foreign language skills they need to thrive in a diverse and competitive world.

Preparing 21st Century Students
In recognition that a diverse environment is desirable for an excellent college preparatory education, Pine Crest School promotes and values diversity in backgrounds, talents, experiences, and opinions. As a community that honors and celebrates diversity, we endeavor to educate our Lower School students to value differences in the global community. Each of our world language classrooms expose our students to the rich cultural traditions and customs of the Chinese, Spanish, and French cultures so that students have a greater awareness of the world outside of our classroom walls. Not only does our world language department teach languages, they also teach a foreign language education that extends beyond academics and will prepare our students for success in the 21st century.

From left to right: Alec Schwartz (Pre-K), Kaila Lalsingh (Pre-K), Christian Chisholm (1st grade), Caleb Cyr (5th grade), Samantha Sandow (3rd grade), and Amy Lynn McKee (Kindergarten)