August 16, 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2012-13 Pine Crest school year! The moments of anticipation at the start of a new school year are like no other. As faculty, we are inspired and energized as we begin another dynamic journey of collaboration, purpose, critical thinking, and creativity.

One of the things I enjoy the most about a new school year is the opportunity to hear our students’ summer stories. Many of their experiences were far from conventional! One group of 2012 graduates launched an iPhone applications firm from their homes just a few weeks after commencement, another current student studied astronomy at an observatory in New Mexico, and several members of the swim team competed in Russia!

We have an eclectic mixture of talents and passions within our student population. In our world, which is becoming both smaller and more complex, they must operate at lightning speed to keep up not only with the global education race, but with the technology we encounter every day. The world needs artists who perform heart surgery and judges who write poetry.

To nurture our students and ensure their success, the collaboration between home and school is as important as ever. As parents, you help spark your child’s curiosity and teach them the importance of persistence in achieving their goals. As Pine Crest educators, it is our responsibility to encourage and help satisfy our children’s interests and provide opportunities that allow students to experience a true sense of accomplishment and mastery. Together we help them on their path, wherever it may lead them. This spirit of independent thinking will serve them well throughout their lives.

You may be aware of our recent reaccreditation, in which we were named “exemplary” by several leading educators, as well as our number two
placement among private schools in the nation, as published in the *Washington Post*. We earned these accolades together, as a community of learners. The story of Pine Crest’s success, however, is told in many individual ways. Pine Crest students learn how to respond effectively to unforeseen scenarios, and formulate answers to questions that do not yet exist.

We all believe deeply in Pine Crest, and we are committed to answering the question, “What can I teach my students that will help them 20 years from now?” We will continue to ask this question, among others, throughout the school year, to ensure our students are prepared for success in the 21st century. Thank you for entrusting your children’s educational experience to our dedicated faculty.

Again, welcome. We look forward to working and learning with you throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Dana Markham, Ed.D.
President