August 14, 2013

Dear Pine Crest Community,

Welcome to the 2013-14 school year! I hope you had a restful and relaxing summer with your families. We have an exciting year ahead of us, and I look forward to seeing our students on campus very soon.

We are embarking upon another school year that will celebrate creativity and innovation. This summer I had the opportunity to meet with Ty Tingley, one of the country’s foremost recognized educators. Mr. Tingley headed Phillips Exeter Academy for many years and recently founded a new breed of independent school focusing on global learning using sophisticated technology to inspire and motivate today’s students. Mr. Tingley spent several days with members of our administrative team, and offered valuable insight into the strategic planning process, which Pine Crest will begin this year. In addition, Mr. Pat Bassett, a nationally renowned educator and past president of the National Association of Independent Schools, will share with our faculty his ideas on major shifts occurring in education, some of which we will explore as part of our ongoing commitment to teaching innovation.

In September, Ana Homayoun, best-selling author of The Myth of the Perfect Girl, will visit our campus. She will give a special presentation to our parents on empowering our children to find authentic success and happiness in school and in life. Ms. Homayoun’s presentation will be on September 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Institute of Civic Involvement. In addition, please check your mailboxes this fall for a copy of the latest issue of the Pine Crest Magazine, entitled, “Creativity and the Mind.” In it you will find a number of compelling examples of the inspiring and novel teaching approaches our faculty members are using every day.

As our students prepare for this school year, they can anticipate many rich opportunities for learning. These will include the analytical and communication skills that are the cornerstone of a Pine Crest education, as well as a wide embrace of what is often referred to as 21st Century Skills: exploration, innovation, and collaboration. When students’ curiosity and imagination are nurtured through project-based learning, research opportunities, and written and oral presentations, students learn to think rather than repeat.

Our students will continue to be inspired to think critically and problem-solve every day. They will explore concepts that incorporate educational technology, interdisciplinary study, and applied science disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – “STEM”). We are preparing our students to graduate with the ability to collaborate across borders and cyberspace and be confident, productive global citizens. We will work diligently to nurture the vibrant, meaningful, and fulfilling experience that represents a Pine Crest education.

We look forward to working with you throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Dana Markham, Ed.D.
President