To the Pine Crest Community,

The month of March has set the stage for new beginnings. I was humbled and honored to receive the medallion of office during the investiture ceremony last week, and I appreciate the collegiality and sense of community demonstrated throughout our Pine Crest family. Thank you to all for your participation and warm wishes.

As we craft the next chapter of Pine Crest’s history, the upcoming weeks will be extremely important. On March 25-27, two teams of educators will visit our school – one per campus – to conduct a five year reaccreditation review, as part of our continued membership in the Florida Council of Independent Schools, the Florida Kindergarten Council, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Southern Association of Independent Schools. Since last August, under the direction of Fort Lauderdale Academic Dean Anita Tychsen and Boca Raton Middle School Head Tammy Stamm, the entire faculty has been engaged in a self-study that has encouraged each of us to think deeply and reflectively about how we serve our students.

This is the culmination of our school-wide self-study, where all teachers participated in a review of the myriad functions of the school. Part of the self-study included an update of our curriculum, and we look forward to continuing this reflective process to inspire new initiatives and approaches to teaching.

While on campus, the visiting teams will meet with members of our community to discuss the strength of our academic program, technology services, development and alumni relations programs, and the School’s fiscal management and leadership. They will solicit feedback on our admission process, safety and security team, food services, and on the quality of our facilities, and will review responses from surveys administered last fall to students, teachers, and parents. Every facet of our School will be evaluated, and in turn, the team will offer insight into what we do well and how we can tackle the challenges we face as a community.

I anticipate that the visiting team will recognize the richness of our academic program and the caliber of our faculty and administration, as have past visiting
teams. As we continue to carve out a path for our future, we eagerly welcome the feedback from the visiting team on how we can even more effectively imbue our students with the skills necessary to tackle the global challenges of their future: the capacity for critical thought, creativity, and the ability to adapt.

The self-study is a celebration of our school - who we are and what we do. As we commend all of the participants involved, I would like to highlight a few events that illustrate the dedication and support for our School community. The Boca Raton Parents’ Association event, *House of Rock*, will include a silent auction at 6:30 p.m. on March 24, at The Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach. Proceeds from this event provide funding for a variety of projects, including need-based financial aid, support for the new Lower School building in Boca Raton, and projects that enhance the educational process at Pine Crest School. In addition, the upcoming Pine Crest School Auction 2012, *Champagne Wishes and Caviar Dreams*, will take place at 7:30 p.m. on March 30, at the W Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. The online component of the Fort Lauderdale auction began on March 18, and will continue with staggered closings on March 26–28. For 31 years, the Pine Crest School Auction has enhanced our general school endowments and increased our need-based financial aid funds. On behalf of Pine Crest School, I would like to express my warmest appreciation for the members of the Boca Raton Parents' Association, and the Fort Lauderdale Lower School Mothers’ Club, Middle and Upper School Parents’ Association, and the Founder’s Council, who all have worked together to ensure the auctions will be a great success.

The Pine Crest story will continue to unfold as we make the final preparations for the FCIS team’s visit. Our reaccreditation visit comes at an opportune moment as all of us are eager to explore the countless and exciting possibilities for our future.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Pine Crest story.

Dana Markham, Ed.D.
President