



Palmetto Middle School

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305-238-3911

www.pms.dadeschools.net

Lisa Noffo, Principal
Randi Trazenfeld, PTSA President

August 2007 Volume 38 Issue 1

Message from the PTSA President

Welcome to Palmetto Middle School! I invite you to join our community of parents, students, teachers and support staff who are eager to make this another outstanding year at PMS. As we gather in preparation for another successful year, we pause for a moment to remember a dear member of our faculty who passed away on July 8. Marcee Berman was a cherished Language Arts and Creative Writing Teacher who shaped many students during her ten years at Palmetto Middle. Her energy, patience and caring nature, not to mention her endless support of the PTSA will be dearly missed. Her spirit and devotion to children inspired parents, teachers and students to strive for excellence.

In keeping with this tradition, your PTSA has many exciting plans for the upcoming school year. In addition to providing important services at the beginning of the year such as PE uniform sales and required reading book sales, we have year-long goals that will impact all members of our school community. Our goals this year are to facilitate communication, support school spirit and promote parental involvement. Our desire is to expand these goals beyond the school campus and directly impact our local community and beyond.

To facilitate communication we will continue to mail our PTSA newsletter, the school calendar and other important information from the principal to each student's home monthly. The PTSA will continue to update information available on the Palmetto Middle School website. Check it often for school and PTSA information at <http://pms.dadeschools.net>. An additional resource is our weekly E-newsletter. Simply send your name, your student's name and grade and your email address to PTSAlink@bellsouth.net. Part of our expanded goal is to facilitate communication between parents, school board members and legislators. Since advocacy is a key part of the PTA's mission, we will strive to assist parents communicate with these decision-makers.

We all recognize that the middle school years are a challenging time, not just for students but for parents as well. One of the most important things that we can do as parents of middle school students is to be informed—it is crucial to know what is going on in our children's lives, even if they don't want to tell us! Becoming a PTSA member provides that link into the school. Membership is key; as a PTSA member, your voice joins those of all members nationwide and makes our messages heard. Volunteering is important but not necessary to being an involved parent. Parent involvement can be as simple as spending 15 minutes daily with your child talking about his/her schoolwork. Of course, there are numerous volunteer opportunities for those wishing to take a more active role. Your passion for quality education and positive attitude spark student enthusiasm and school spirit.

All parents and teachers are invited to our PTSA meetings. In order to make the PTSA accessible to each and every parent, our first meeting of the year will be repeated. That is, if you are able to attend the morning meeting on August 30 it will take place at 9:15am in the Media Center. Or you may attend the evening meeting at 7:00pm that same day. We will approve the budget and discuss exciting plans for the school year. In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet the principal. We are always looking for input and participation from parents. The volunteer sheet will be sent home the first week of school so look for it together with the student directory envelope, the membership envelope and fundraising information, all of which should be returned to your child's fourth period teacher.

I encourage you to contact me (randibr@bellsouth.net) or any of the other PTSA board members (whose names you can find on the orange directory mailed together with this newsletter) with any suggestions or questions that you might have. Keep the orange directory handy—in addition to important phone numbers, it contains the PTSA calendar.

I am honored by the opportunity to once again serve the Palmetto Middle School community and look forward to a great year!

— Randi Trazenfeld



Please e-mail articles, dates and important information for the next Lancer Letter to kfdesign@bellsouth.net with PMS newsletter typed into the subject line. Thanks! Kim Foster

PMS and PTSA Calendar

- Aug. 14** 6th grade student and parent orientation at PMS at 11:00 am for last names A-L and 3:00 pm for last names M-Z. (P. E. uniforms will be for sale)
- Aug. 16** Teacher Welcome Breakfast
- Aug. 20** School Starts
- Aug. 23** PTSA Board Meeting, 9:00 am
- Aug. 30** PTSA General Meeting 9:00 am Coffee and Chat 9:15 am Meeting (Media Ctr) and 7:00 pm (Media Center)
- Sept. 4** PTSA Monthly Mailing
- Sept. 20** PTSA Board Meeting, 9:00 am
- Sept. 27** PTSA Meeting, 9:15 am (Media Center)

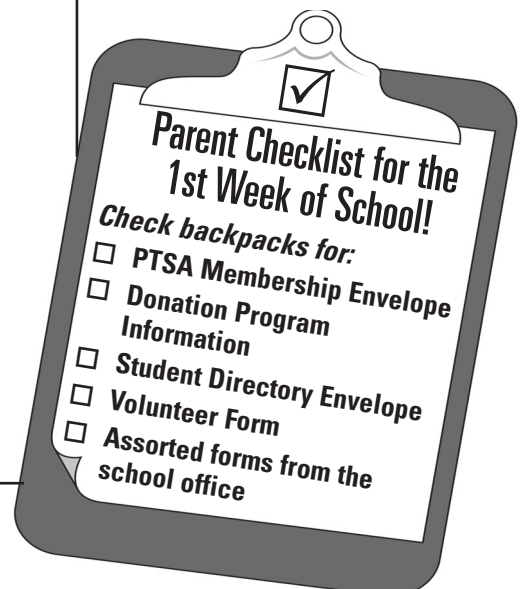
6th grade T-shirt/ P.E. uniform sales

6th grade spirit t-shirts as well as **P. E. uniforms** will be on sale during **6th grade orientation on August 14th**. Spirit and P. E. t-shirts are \$7.00 each and P.E. uniform shorts are \$8.00 each. Cash or checks accepted. The PTSA will sell t-shirts/ uniforms during the first week of school in the auditorium. Volunteers needed for Tues., Wed., and Thurs. the 1st week of school in the auditorium to sell P.E. uniforms.

Any questions, please call Chrissy Padron at 305-807-2920 or mpadron6@bellsouth.net

Emerald Garden

The Emerald Garden (across from the main entrance to the Media Center) is in the midst of renovation. Funded by the PTSA and the "Taste of Pinecrest," new pavers were installed over the summer. Students, teachers and parents have volunteered to weed and clean-up the existing plants. In-kind donations of plant materials, mulch, soil and garden furniture are needed to finish beautifying this area. To volunteer or make a contribution, please contact the Beautification Committee co-chairs, Lauren Mayer (laurenmayer@bellsouth.net), Cyndi Eisenberg (GDESEA@aol.com) or Christian Armstrong (armstrongclan2@hotmail.com).

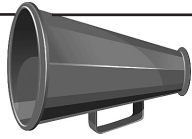


PTSA Hosting Welcome Back Breakfast for Teachers on 8/16

Volunteers and food donations needed! Call or e-mail Paula Kivlahan at Pkivlahan00@msn.com or 305-234-3288! Thank you!!

Paula Kivlahan, *Teacher/Staff Appreciation chair*

Cheers!



Anyone interested in trying out to be a cheerleader is invited to attend a meeting on August 27, 2007. Parents must attend this meeting in order for their child to tryout for the squad. Tryouts will be August 28-30. Tryout packets will be available in room 205 on the first day of school. If you have any questions, contact Ileah Frost, the cheerleading squad sponsor.

Ileah Frost (ifrost@dadeschools.net), 305-238-3911

School Store



*Need all of your class supplies?
Forget a pencil or paper?
Forget your gym shorts or need a new pair?*

The School Store has it all and is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30-9:00 am in the cafeteria. **Volunteers and a chairperson are needed to continue this valuable service!**

It is a great way to get involved, be on campus, but not crowd your middle schooler!

Call for information 305-498-3327
Darla March, *3rd Vice President*

PTSA E-mail Directory

One of the PTSA's primary goals is to enhance communication between parents, faculty, students and administration – strengthening the home/school connection which has made our school so successful! To this end, we distribute monthly mailers, as well as communicate with you via both e-mail and our web site.

To receive weekly e-mail announcements from your PTSA, please send an e-mail to ptsalink@bellsouth.net; include your name, e-mail address, and grade(s) of your PMS student(s).

For those of you who already receive PTSA Link, please make sure our address is in your Address Book or Safe Sender list. This ensures your e-mail is delivered to your In Box and not sent to your Bulk or Junk Mail folders.

Martha Limner, *E-mail Directory chair*

Stay Connected with Peers through the Student Directory

Homework questions? Missed class? New friends? The best way to keep in touch is through the PTSA published Student Directory. Information release envelopes will go home the first week of school. Only parent approved contact information will be included. Please make sure you print legibly. Directories cost \$5 each and can be pre-ordered. Advertisement opportunities are available!

Contact Marie Insua (ainsua@aol.com) and Julia Shestopalov (juliash@excite.com), *Student Directory co-chairs*

Parent Donation Program 2007-2008

The PTSA's primary fundraiser is through direct parent donations.

A donation letter and envelope will be sent home with your child during the first week of school, and can be returned to your child's home room or by mail. Corporate and grandparent donations are welcome. Last year, over **240** families participated, with donations ranging from \$10 to \$2,000! No donation is too small or too large, and is fully tax deductible.

PTSA sponsors this fund raiser instead of gift wrap, catalogue or Entertainment book sales!

Thank you in advance for your support,
Ellen Widom (ellen.widom@mastec.com),
Chair, Parent Donation Program

Last year, we raised over \$30,000 which funded academic and enrichment activities such as Media Center support, Health Fair/Red Ribbon activities, faculty/staff/student appreciation, school beautification, technology, and the monthly and year-end mailings to parents as well as many other worthwhile projects.

Required Reading Book Sale

Changes are coming to the Required Reading Book Sale! The goal of the book sale is to provide students with a simple way to buy the required reading books they will need for Language Arts and other classes. Within the first few weeks of school, students will bring home a form which will identify what titles their teachers will require them to get for class work. Sometime in mid-September (specific dates to be announced), the books will go on sale at school. Each class will have a specific day to visit the book sale. Financial assistance will be available to students as needed. Parent volunteers are needed to assist the students in making their selections and in ringing up the sales. If you can help, please let us know. Thanks.

Jayne Brown (jaynethepirate@hotmail.com)

& Jill Rubin (jrubin@jud11.flcourts.org), *2007-08 Book Sale Co-Chairs*



PTSA Membership

We invite you to join the Palmetto Middle School PTSA. The PTSA is a parent, teacher, student association that provides information to parents of important happenings at school in addition to providing services, equipment, supplies and improvements that benefit all students in the school throughout the year. This is a great way for parents, faculty and staff who are not able to devote time to volunteering to be involved in supporting the PTSA efforts.

The cost is only \$10 per parent, \$7 per teacher/staff and \$5 per student. We encourage all adult family members, students, teachers and staff to join. This year, membership invitations will go home during the first week of school. Please look for the GREEN membership envelope and return it with your cash or check as soon as possible. The first homeroom to reach 100% membership will receive a pizza party. We will also have a membership table set up at both orientation sessions on Tuesday, August 14th.

Together we can reach our goal of 100% membership. Please show your support for your school by joining the PTSA. Thank you....

Marge Jenetopulos (marge_miami@yahoo.com)

and Sherida Hunter (sheridahunter@bellsouth.net), *Membership co-chairs*

Volunteer Sign-Up

The Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet will come home in the PTSA Packet the first week of school. This form contains a list of numerous services and events that the PTSA hosts or supports. Each one of these events needs volunteers to make it successful. When you receive the Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet, please take a few moments and look it over to decide which events or programs interest you. Perhaps you have some experience or talent that you can share with our organization which in turn, benefits all of the students. Every offer of assistance is appreciated—no time contribution is too large or too small. There is something for every parent and grandparent, even aunts and uncles can volunteer. Get the whole family involved!! The only requirement is that each volunteer must have a Miami-Dade County Public School Volunteer Number which can be obtained by completing the MDCPS Form that will be in the packet. If you have a number from another school, that can be used at PMS as well. Winston Churchill said "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give." If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Lilly Sanchez at 305-273-0787.