



Palmetto Middle School

7351 SW 128th Street, Pinecrest FL 33156
305-238-3911

www.pms.dadeschools.net

Lisa Noffo, Principal
Randi Trazenfeld, PTSA President

November 2007 Volume 38 Issue 4

Message from the PMS PTSA President

Hello Parents, Students, Teachers and Community Members!

First, let me say "thank you" for reading my article and the others contained in this newsletter. Board members and committee chairs work hard to keep parents and teachers informed of the activities of the PTSA and this newsletter is one of our primary means of communication. However, we are planning a change. That change will save trees as well as dollars but hopefully not have any negative impact whatsoever on our ability to communicate which is so important. Starting immediately, if any parent would like to forego receipt of the "Monthly Mailing" and instead receive an email with a link that places the Lancer Letter and all other mailed items on your computer screen, simply send an email to the Monthly Mailing co-chair, Mariela Ray at mdray@bellsouth.net. Advise her that you would like to opt-out of the mailing and provide her the names of your students. As you know, the postage for our mailings comes out of the PTSA budget. Every page and ounce we can save will allow us to put that money back into other programs at the school. Thank you for considering this option!

The PTSA continues to plan programs and provide services for the students, parents and staff at Palmetto Middle School. In response to the surveys returned by parents we are planning presenters to come to each of our PTSA meetings to educate and enlighten parents on topics that they have told us are of interest. These programs will include School Overcrowding, New Schools and New K-8 programs; Stress Management (How can parents help kids alleviate stress); Making your Voices Heard (How to advocate for children), Mothers' Voices (Workshops about parent-child communication, sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention); Preparing for High School (What you need to know before you go). In addition to the calendar of PTSA meetings provided at the beginning of the year, we are planning to add additional 7:00 pm evening meetings throughout the year. Susan Sirota, LMHC of "Safe Schools" will conduct a presentation on Bullying & Cyber Bullying at our PTSA meeting on Thursday, Nov. 29th at 9:15 am. This eye-opening presentation should not be missed!

The end of this month promises to be a very exciting time at Palmetto Middle. We have two nights of fun, festivities and food! November 28 is the annual Reflections Night, an evening not to be missed. See details about that night in the complete article inside this newsletter. Additionally, on November 29 we will celebrate the dedication of the Emerald Garden, complete with its furniture, lighting and waterfall. The PTSA expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Kaplan for the countless hours he has spent in lighting the garden and revitalizing the waterfall. Come see it for yourself! The ceremony will be a lovely way to begin the evening, the highlight of which is the Music Department's Holiday Show. I look forward to seeing many of our PMS families at these events.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions please feel free to E-mail me at randibr@aol.com.

- 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 November 2007 Calendar

- 11/12 No school
- 11/15 PTSA Board Meeting, 9:00 am
Conference Room
- 11/19 -21 Spirit Week
- 11/22 -23 Thanksgiving Holiday, no school
- 11/26 -30 Book Fair, 9-4 daily, Media Center
- 11/28 Book Fair Evening Event, 5:30-6:30 pm
- 11/28 Reflections Night, 6:15-8:30 pm
- 11/29 PTSA Meeting, 9:15 am,
Cyber Bullying Program, Media Center
coffee & chat, 9:00 am
- 11/29 Emerald Garden Dedication, 6:30 pm
- 11/29 Orchestra and Chorus Holiday Show,
7:30 pm
- 11/30 Articles due for Dec. *Lancer Letter*
- 12/7 Monthly mailing 9:00 am, Media Center



A Note from Mrs. Noffo

What an incredible year so far! Our students, parents and staff are definitely riding the wave of excellence and are not looking back.

On Wednesday, October 24, 2007, Palmetto Middle School welcomed Mr. Carlos Torre, Resident Director of Merrill Lynch, as our Principal for a Day.

November marks the return of our Interim Assessments for the 2007-2008. These assessments will be administered on November 6, 7 and 8th in Reading, Mathematics and new this year, Science for 7th and 8th graders. These assessments are used by our teachers to further enhance the educational curriculum at Palmetto Middle School.

The school's United Way Drive was once again a phenomenal success! Thanks to everyone for showing that Palmetto Middle gives back to our community.

Remember, Surf's Up at Palmetto Middle School and we are riding the wave of excellence!



PTSA LINK

To receive weekly e-mail announcements from your PTSA – including upcoming activities, volunteer opportunities and “need-to-know” information – please send an e-mail to ptsalink@bellsouth.net; include your name, e-mail address, and grade(s) of your PMS student(s).

Media Center Volunteers needed

The surf is up and the beach is crowded at the PMS Media Center. We are looking for parent volunteers to help during the reading period which runs from 11:50 AM to 1:50 PM and in the mornings between 8:15 and 9:00 AM. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to work with the PTSA Media Center chairperson, Vicky Chait at vrcd@aol.com to schedule convenient times.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication to our PMS readers. If you have not returned your volunteer sign-up sheet, please do so or email Sharon DeWitt at dsdewitt@bellsouth.net so she can put you in the database. We look forward to working with you.

Volunteers needed to stuff newsletter envelopes

We are looking for volunteers to help stuff envelopes for the monthly mailer. We will meet in the media center at 9:00 on 12/7. Coffee and some goodies will be served. If you can make it please contact Mariela Ray via email – mdray@bellsouth.net or Dawn Ratiner – DMPR@aol.com

Cheesecake & Cookie Dough

Orchestra/Chorus had a very successful cheesecake/cookie dough fundraiser. Fortunately, we have some extra cheesecakes and cookie dough available for sale. To purchase yours, contact Ms. Losada at alosada@dadeschools.net

Advertise in *The Lancer*, our student produced newspaper, read in over 1500 homes

No. of Issues	One	Two	Three	Four
Business Card	\$ 25	\$ 45	\$ 65	\$ 85
¼ Page	\$ 50	\$ 95	\$140	\$180
½ Page	\$100	\$190	\$280	\$370
Full-Page	\$150			\$500

Sponsor one issue of *The Lancer* for \$300 and receive:

- Company's name on front page
 - One full-page ad
 - Five copies of paper for your office
 - Framed certificate of appreciation
- Contact: B. Harrison 305-238-3911 Ext. 2223
Email bach1123@dadeschools.net

Emerald Garden Dedication November 29

The Beautification Committee and the PTSA of Palmetto Middle School would like to invite everyone to the dedication of our school's Emerald Garden. This dedication will showcase the hard work and commitment of many of our parents, students, teachers, staff and community members in the revitalization of our school garden. Proceeds from the 2007 “Taste of Pinecrest” were used to fund this project.



The dedication will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Program includes a special dedication of the Oak Tree in memory of Diane Pivnik. Our Music Department's Annual Holiday Show follows the dedication.

All are invited to stay and enjoy this wonderful show! Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Also, we are actively seeking teacher sponsors for a garden club. Spending time in the Emerald Garden can be very rewarding. A number of students have expressed the desire to be part of a garden club. But we must have teacher sponsors for this to happen. In years' past teachers and students have used this area to hold classes on beautiful days, study nature, sketch plants, grow spices and herbs and learn about different plant species. We're currently looking for teachers and clubs that want to adopt and sponsor a plot. This is a wonderful way to learn and do your part for our community by “Going Green”. If interested, please contact either Christian Armstrong, 305-252-7788, Cyndi Eisenberg, 305-667-6824, Lauren Mayer, 305-238-7773 or Sharon Biddix-Maessen, 305-255-7545. Together we can keep our garden beautiful.

Palmetto Middle PTSA Membership

Parents, teachers, students and associated staff members – we need your membership. Please fill out this form, take it to the school office or have your student give it to his or her 4th period teacher. You can also mail it to: PTSA, Palmetto Middle School, 7351 SW 128 St., Pinecrest, FL 33156.

We are striving for 100% support, so if you haven't joined, please do so now. The 4th period class with 100% membership will receive a pizza party next month! Don't be left out, join now!

Student's Name _____

4th Period Teacher _____ Grade _____

Student's Name _____

4th Period Teacher _____ Grade _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Check here to receive current PMS and PTSA info via E-mail

Membership Dues

Dues are \$10 per Parent and \$5 per Student

- Teachers \$7.00
- 2 parents/1 student \$25.00
- 1 parent/1 student \$15.00
- Additional Student(s) \$ 5.00
- Postage Donation \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Save the date for PTSA's REFLECTIONS 2007

Palmetto Middle School's annual Reflection's Night is on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 from 6:15 - 8:30 pm. View student exhibits of fine art, literature, photography, and more! Special performances by our Chorus, Orchestra, Jazz and Drama students. The Book Fair will be open. The Booster Club will sell refreshments, cheesecakes and cookie dough.



For additional information, please call Co-Chairs: Susan Fusfield at 786-282-5991 or Glory Diaz de Villegas at 305-252-7321. Volunteers are needed to help with preparations. Please volunteer today!

PMS Spirit Week!

Palmetto Spirit Week will be November 19th - 21st. The Spirit Week Committee is working to put together a great three days for the students. It is not too late to get involved in the committee. If you have some time to spare, and would like to help out on these days, please call Monique Patino-Jimenez at 786-413-4611. A big thank you to all the volunteers on this committee!

The Book Fair begins Nov. 26

The Book Fair will begin Monday, November 26 and run through Friday, November 30 in the Media Center. The hours are 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. daily and also 5:30 - 6:30 pm on Wednesday. The co-chairs are Kelly Foreman 305-663-5855 and Carolyn Seckinger 305-666-5325.

We can use volunteers! Please call Kelly or Carolyn if you are interested in helping.

Yearbook Ads

Now's the perfect time to reserve a spot in this year's copy of Palmetto Middle School's award-winning yearbook - *the Alanceador*. You may congratulate your child or advertise your business. By advertising in our yearbook, you will directly support the students who patronize your business, and you will secure a permanent advertisement, not one that is tossed away with last week's newspaper. Space is limited, so don't delay!

For more information contact Mrs. Cindy Martin at 305-238-3911 or in room 232.
E-mail: 275361@dadeschools.net

Be featured in the yearbook!

Students and teachers, please bring your summer and weekend pictures to room 232.

2007-2008 Parent Donation Program

Make a Difference with Your Contribution to the PTSA Parent Donation Program

We are pleased to report that the Parent Donation Program continues to meet and exceed the budget set for the 2007-2008 school year! As of October 18, 2007, we have raised just over **\$23,000**. The support of our Palmetto Middle School families has been phenomenal! Over **230 families** have contributed to date.

We still have much work to do! The PTSA relies on your support and dedication to continue the Palmetto Middle School tradition of excellence. Please consider making a donation now if you haven't already done so. Together we can "ride the wave of excellence"!

Last year the Parent Donation program raised over **\$30,000** which funded academic and enrichment activities including a Journalism/Media Video and Editing Suite (\$5,000) and an additional classroom Smartboard Package (\$3,100). Every penny of your donation directly supports the positive learning environment at PMS.

The following donors were erroneously omitted from last month's Lancer Letter:

Abraham-Vogel	Ginza	Liebling	Radell
Aitken	Girnun	Lipsky	Ray
Alarcon	Gleiberman - Wexler	Lobera-Bunce	Rivandeneira
Amat	Gonzalez	Lopez - Espin	Rodriguez
Atkinson	Gonzalez	Martinez	Rosenfeld
Bass	Gordon	Mayer	Schaeffer
Benitez	Hashemi	Mendez	Sebbag
Bisbal	Haspil - Butler	Minott	Shapiro
Collazo	Hasty	Miranda	Simons
Correa	Hersman	Moring	Smith
Cutler - Falcon	Hubbard	Naidoo	Smith
Damon - Saint Cyr	Jennifer Goldstein	Niedbala	Tellam
Davis	Corp.	Ogihara	Trivizas
Dembrow	Junco	Padron	Turkel
Dreisch	King	Parker	Ubieta
Duthil	Kravetz	Piero	Villaamil
Eisenberg	Kreke	Plantada	Wang
Finazzo	Labowitz	Proenza	Warrell
Fusfield	Levin	Prusher	Wu
			Ziffer

We gratefully acknowledge the following families whose contributions were received through October 15th.

Please contact Ellen Widom directly at widoms@aol.com or 305-235-9854 if anyone has been inadvertently omitted.

Altizer – Beckham Family	Lisa & Greg Lowe
Bouchard Family	Hope & John Phillips
Claire & Cesar Ceballos	Richter Family
Chait Family	Randi & Warren Trazenfeld
Kellogg Family	Ellen & Glenn Widom
Limner Family	

A special "thank you" goes out to all those families who have contributed, but who wish to remain anonymous.

Ellen Widom, Chair, Parent Donation Program, widoms@aol.com

Thanks very much

to the Toister family for the donation of the paper for this newsletter!

Box Tops

Please remember to clip and bring in BoxTops. The teacher whose class sends in the most by the end of the 2nd 9 weeks will receive a gift certificate.



Still time to take advantage of Sun Trust program

SunTrust Bank is offering a program called "My Cause" which demonstrates their commitment to the community. SunTrust will donate \$100.00 to our PTSA for any person (age 15 or over) who opens a new checking account and obtains a SunTrust Visa Check Card by Dec. 31, uses the debit card at least once and submits an online redemption form by Feb. 15. All you need to do is go to any SunTrust Bank to open the account and tell them that the Palmetto Middle School PTSA is your "Cause." What a simple way to help Palmetto Middle School! If you have any questions you may call Oscar Sevilla at 305-553-5505 or email Oscar.Sevilla@SunTrust.com

Book Sale *Wordly Wise* - "A sell out!"

If your student was unable to purchase the *Wordly Wise 3000 2nd edition* from the PTSA Required Reading Book Sale, they may be available from <http://www.pennywiselearning.com>.

Student Directories available soon!

Thank you to all the parents who have contributed to the process. We look forward to delivering them during the first week of November to students who pre-ordered the Directories. Extras will be on sale in the school store.

Red Ribbon Week

During the last week of October the Red Ribbon Committee helped to spread the message for students to "Ride the Wave of Excellence" by being drug and alcohol free. Our thanks go to Red Ribbon Week Committee members: Lili Agron, Julie Girnun, Marybeth Prusher, Danny Prusher, Liliane Haspil, Debra Cabrera, Lisa Pires-Fernandes, Melissa Montovino and Committee Chair Jeff Agron.

Friday Pizza Sales

"Hungry Anyone? Either way, come support your school by buying pizza on Friday afternoons after school. Only \$1.00 a slice or \$12.00 for the whole pie. Come early and get your pizza fast!"



The Safe Sitter® Course



**Save the date:
February 1, 08!**

The Safe Sitter® Course is coming to Palmetto Middle School!!! On Friday, February 1st, 2008, from 7:30 am-6:00 pm, the PMS PTSA will host the nationally recognized Safe Sitter® Course. This course is a high quality program that gives young adolescents the skills to be safe when alone or with younger siblings. It also teaches them to be safe and nurturing babysitters. Your student will learn rescue skills, basic first aid, and personal safety including the CPR portion of the course from the American Heart Association. They will gain confidence in themselves as they are learning important life skills such as introduction to employment and safe habits. And they get to do this while having fun!

Look for more information and registration forms in December's Monthly Mailer. Space is limited and on a first come first served basis. Spots will be held when the application and registration fee are received. No phone reservations will be accepted. The cost per student is \$10.00 payable by check. If you have any questions, please call Hope Phillips at 305-439-6190.

Nike Run/Walk benefits our school

Fun for the family! The Nike Run/Walk benefits school athletics programs. \$15.00 of the \$20.00 registration fee benefits Palmetto Middle School's athletics programs. And you also get a great T-shirt. To learn more visit www.nike5Kforkids.com.

Saturday, November 17th 2007

Start Time: 5K: 8 am; 1 Mile: 9:00 am

Location: NIKETOWN Miami (located at the Shops at Sunset Place)

Required Book Sale update and thanks

During the last week of September, the PTSA Required Reading Book Sale committee exceeded expectations during their sale of books for Spanish and language arts classes! In addition to providing this service to the families of Palmetto Middle, the proceeds of the sale allowed the PTSA to donate close to \$2,300 in books and literacy material directly for classroom use, \$300 in books to the media center, and \$450.00 in financial assistance books directly to students. Thank you very much to our administration, Mrs. Noffo and Mr. Cromer, for allocating space for storage and set-up of our mini-book store. We appreciate the support of our faculty and parents who participated in the sale. **A great big THANK YOU to the many parents who donating their time to fill student orders and assist in the sale.**

The Required Reading Book Sale volunteers included:

Norma Meyer, Lourdes Moenck, Abbe Liebling, Denise Gomm-Santos, Jill Rubin, Laura Schwartz, Mariela Ray, Susan Fusfield, Dawn Ratiner, Fengmei, Beatriz Marshall, Dyan Carness, Rachele, Debra Dowis, Nancy de Gunten, Lisa Waddell, Martha Limner, Hope Phillips, Cecilia Richter, Gae Shapiro, Jeanette Garcia, Lisa Weiner, Beatriz Marshall, Janet Bass, Julie Girnun, Joanne Gelberg-Justz, Lourdes Correa, Marge Jenetopulos, Addie King, Mary Jo Stiver, Martha Salazar, Amy Roth, Shifra Lipson

Jayne Brown and Jill Rubin, Required Reading Book Sale chairs