

PALMETTO  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
PTSA



# LANCER LETTER

**Palmetto Middle School**  
7351 SW 128th Street, Pinecrest FL 33156  
305-238-3911  
www.pms.dadeschools.net

Lisa Noffo, Principal  
Randi Trazenfeld, PTSA President

December 2007 &  
January 2008 Volume 38 Issue 5

## Message from the PMS PTSA President

### Hello Parents, Students, Teachers and Community Members!

The month of November was full of PTSA events that created school spirit. Students, parents, faculty and community leaders participated in Spirit Week, the nationwide PTA Reflections Program, the Scholastic Book Fair and our Emerald Garden dedication ceremony. (We were honored to include Region 5 administrators, school board members and Village of Pinecrest councilmen.

During the first few months of the school year, the PTSA concentrated on membership, volunteer development and fund-raising to create the infrastructure of our organization. Now that those aspects of our group are well established, we turn our energy to the mission of PTA which is: To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children; To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation. In furtherance of the PTA's mission we are planning a series of programs which promises to empower parents by helping them advocate on behalf of their children.

The first in the series is on January 23 when the Palmetto Feeder Pattern will host a Town Hall meeting to be held at Palmetto High School at 7:00 pm (hospitality at 6:30 pm). The purpose of this meeting is to provide a forum to inform residents about the implications of the Tax Reform Amendment that is on the January 29 ballot. Being an informed voter is critical to casting a vote the ramifications of which you truly understand. A panel discussion that evening will help us become informed voters. The next morning, January 24 at 9:15 AM, is the monthly PMS PTSA meeting when we will discuss "special projects." Now that our fundraising has reached a plateau, we will focus on allocating all available resources to enhance the learning environment at PMS. Simultaneously, we are planning a Legislative program where we can become aware of what to expect during the Legislative Session beginning March 1. The decisions that are made during the two month session have a tremendous impact on our children's education and our the community in general. Now is the time to prepare to participate in the process of effective governance. By attending this meeting, you will understand proposed changes in the law the legislature will be contemplating.

Culminating our advocacy planning, we have added an evening PTSA meeting hosted by guest speaker, Jack Levine, Founder of 4Generations Institute and President of Advocacy Resources on February 27th at 7:00 pm. Mr. Levine is known throughout the state as a child advocate. He is a motivational speaker dedicated to empowering communities to articulate a message and to raise our voices. His points are non-partisan, focused on the vital role we all have to express ourselves to community decision-makers, especially candidates for office, elected officials, the media, business and civic leaders. Given the importance of his message, Mr. Levine has agreed to continue the

*Please continue page 4*



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

## PMS and PTSA Calendar December 2007 & January 2008

- 12/13 PTSA Board Meeting, 9:00 am
- 12/13 PTSA Committee Chair Holiday Breakfast in the Emerald Garden 10:00 am  
RSVP by 12/10
- 12/19 -21 Spirit Week
- 12/14 Faculty and Staff Holiday Luncheon
- 12/24 -1/4 Winter Recess
- 1/17 PTSA Board Meeting, 9:00 am
- 1/23 Palmetto Feeder Pattern & Town Hall Meeting at Palmetto High School 7:00 pm (hospitality at 6:30PM)
- 1/24 Palmetto Middle School PTSA Meeting 9:15AM, Program: Mothers' Voices
- 1/24 Dade County Reflections Presentation Coral Reef Senior High
- 1/28 Monthly Mailing

## A Note from Mrs. Noffo

Congratulations to all students, staff, parents and community members for assisting us with the three "A"'s, academics, attendance and activities! Academically, our students continue to thrive. We have successfully completed the first district interim assessment test by going into complete FCAT mode. I am very proud to announce that Palmetto Middle School achieved second place out of 55 middle schools for attendance during the first nine week grading period. Our students, staff and parents renewed our school spirit during Spirit Week – a good time was had by all!

During the next few weeks we will be ushering in the holiday season with many events. These events would not happen without the support of the PTSA. Many, many thanks to the PTSA parent volunteers who organized and carried out Spirit Week, the Book Fair, Reflections, the rebirth of the Emerald Garden and all the other things you do on an everyday basis. The PMS PTSA truly "rides the wave"!

Each and everyday you help make our school an exceptional place for learning and growing – WOW, What a TEAM!!!



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

# Get Weekly PTSA E-Mail Updates

Each week, nearly 800 PMS families receive PTSA Link with valuable information for parents, students and faculty, and links to the Lancer Letter and monthly calendar of activities.

To receive PTSA Link, please send an e-mail to ptsalink@bellsouth.net, including your name and e-mail address.

We can help get your message out, too! If you have an important announcement specific to Palmetto Middle School (sports tryouts, yearbook sales, activities, study tips/online resources, etc.), send your copy by Friday of each week to ptsalink@bellsouth.net.

## Drama Club Winter Performances

Don't miss the Drama Club's winter performances of **"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,"** Monday, Dec. 17 and Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and are available the night of the show.

## Spaghetti Dinner Thanks!

A very big thanks to all the parents and students who helped serve food and drinks at the Team Family Night Spaghetti dinner for the Cyclone, Tsunami, & Blue Crush teams. Food was donated by The Big Cheese, Publix, & Pizza Kitchen.

Parent volunteers included; Sharon Dewitt, Debra Dowis, Anne Orsillo, Lilly Sanchez, Maira Maguire, Marlene Espin-Lopez, Hope Phillips, Susan Montesino, Randi Trazenfeld, Gloria Diaz de Villegas. Student volunteers included; Ghazal Farajzadan, Monica LaRubia, Natanya Trazenfeld, William Schilling, Natasha de Gunten, Grace Dewitt, Jessica Tan, Christine Ellenberg, Vivian Chong, Natalie Montesino, Savannah Phillips, Jade Mullins, Winnie Chen.

We appreciate the great team work  
Nancy de Gunten & Berta Schilling

## Advertise in *The Lancer*,

our student produced newspaper,  
read in over 1500 homes

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



The Beautification Committee wants to thank all of you who helped bring The Emerald Garden to life again! So many students, parents, teachers and members of the community gave their time and talents to create a beautiful area for our children to enjoy and grow within! Thanks to the generosity of the Berman family and the Pinecrest Business Association, this area is now used as our "Outdoor Classroom". Teachers are able to bring students to the garden on a beautiful day to share a lesson plan, sketch or read a book.



A special thanks to Mrs. Hagen, Mr. Kaplan, Kim Foster Cosner, Mrs. Losada, Fast Signs, Canterbury Farms, Franks Lawn Service, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mills, Mrs. Taylor and the 5000 Role Models, Bill Berendson, and our outstanding PTSA President Randi Trazenfeld for all their hard work in making the rebirth of the Emerald Garden a reality.

**"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under whose shade they will never sit."**

Christian Armstrong,  
Sharon Biddix-Maessen,  
Cynthia Eisenberg,  
Lauren Mayer

## Palmetto Middle PTSA Membership Needs YOU!

The Palmetto Middle School PTSA is working hard for your children. Becoming a member is a simple way to help assist your school. The PTSA assists in adding those extras which all the children benefit from. If you haven't done so already please fill out the membership information below. We are counting on your support!

Please 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.

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

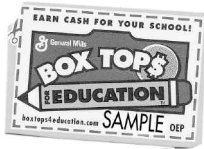
- Teachers \$7.00
- 2 parents/1 student \$25.00
- 1 parent/1 student \$15.00
- Additional Student(s) \$ 5.00
- Postage Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

To date our PTSA has 1596 members (888 adults, 655 students and 53 teachers) This is a strong start, however last year we had a total of 1662 members which made us the 2nd largest PTA in the state. Currently, we only have 655 student members but our enrollment is just about 1600 students. That means that there are 1000 students that can still join our PTSA for only \$5.00. Join today!!!

# 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.



After midterms, bring your required reading books and other novels to your Language Arts classroom collection box.

## Property tax amendment ALERT!

On January 29th there will be a special item included with the primary election ballot. This item is a property tax amendment that will cut funding from education. We urge you to get educated about the impacts of this amendment before you vote. There will be a panel discussion representing all angles/views of this issue AT PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH ON JANUARY 23 AT 7:00 PM. Please plan to be there and tell your friends!

## Yearbook Ads & Pre-Sale

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

**Yearbook sales in the breezeway during lunch the weeks of December 3 and 17!**

# 2007-2008 Parent Donation Program

## Your Contributions to the PTSA through the Parent Donation Program Make a Difference...

We are happy to report that the Parent Donation Program continues to meet and exceed the budget set for the 2007-2008 school year! As of November 26, 2007, we have raised over **\$24,000**. The support of our Palmetto Middle School families has been phenomenal, with over **235 families** participating to date.

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 PTSA relies on the support and dedication of our Palmetto Middle School families to continue our tradition of excellence. We continue to accept donations throughout the school year so please think about making a donation now if you haven't already done so. Together we can "ride the wave of excellence"!

As of November 15th, the following families, are gratefully acknowledged (please contact Ellen Widom directly at widoms@aol.com or 305-235-9854 if anyone has been inadvertently omitted):

Jayne & Timothy Brown

Debra & Daniel Dowis

Martha & Nicholas Limner

Moliver Family

J.L. Plummer, Jr.

Dawn & Robert Ratiner

## PMS Phone Directory

Our incredible new PMS Directory has been completed and was distributed the week of November 19th. If you didn't order a copy there are still some available and you can purchase a copy at the book fair. This is a huge undertaking and our heartfelt "Thank you's" go to the following parents who volunteered to input all of the information: Loretta Gino, Arlene Junco and Thais Luque, you did an incredible job. A special "Thank you" to Julia Shestopalov who did an amazing job of arranging all of the information and ads and to Darla March, who kept us all on track. A huge "Thank you" to all of our parents that bought ad space in the directory, you helped make production possible. And last, but certainly not least. "Bravo !" to the PMS students that entered the Directory Cover Art Contest. There were so many amazing entries, finding only one to put on the cover was not an easy feat. Look at all of the entrants in the Main Entrance bulletin board soon! Marie Insua, *Directory Co-chair*

### Directory Cover Art Contest Winners

- 1) Aishwarya Masrani
- 2) Angelina Ricardo
- 3) Marlee Gleiberman

### Honorable Mention:

Chelsea Williams  
Inez Dotel  
Jacob Prusher  
Kelsey Lyons  
Jenny Kim  
Kelly Hunter  
Kevin Madriz  
Chris Lovino  
Brian Limsang  
Talia Ore'  
Natanya Trazenfeld  
Carla Remar  
Stephanie Levin

Leah Singer  
Valentina Catanno  
Rey Jaffet  
Jessica Tan  
Alexandra Gugliuzza  
Adriana Oliveros  
Rebecca Kravetz  
Khambrel Webb  
Ariyan Hashemi  
Piero Trincherro  
Elizabeth Brown  
Natasha deGuntent  
Holly Moynahan  
Hanna Ziffer  
Andrew Garcia  
Elizabeth Fitoria  
Kadina Pazcastillo  
Andres Flores  
Emily Bonner

Rebecca Haro  
Morgan Gullage  
Tyra Davis  
Madison Janney  
Tiffany Chin  
Becky Ellis  
Jessica Trivizas  
Bridget Bauer  
Tayler Helfand  
Nikke Solomon  
Amanda Widom  
Darin Weiss  
Sharon Plano  
Nikky Kramer  
Sarah Martinez  
Madison Soden  
Evan Hacker  
Natasha Goenaga  
Eric Moker

# PMS Spirit Week

This years PMS Spirit Week was a fun week. The students got to dress up as Twins, they got to mix-n-match there clothes along with wearing a hat, and they got to dress up in there favorite sports wear gear. Every student went out to the field to enjoy many field events while listening to some awesome tunes by our amazing DJ Chris, even Billy The Marlin was dancing up a storm. The PTSA handed out popcorn and they even had a few dance contest. I would like to say first off we all need to thank Mrs. Anderson for doing a great job in putting together this week filled fun time. Thank you also goes out Ms. Intermendi and the student council for helping organize the field events. Spirit Week PTSA committee members also deserve a big round of applause for helping to put together this event. Dawn Ratiner, Denise Roig, Jeanette Garcia, Thais Luque, and Susan Montesino.

Ladies, you are amazing! Thank you very much for all your hard work and help!

Monique Patino-Jimenez, Spirit Week Chair  
**GO LANCERS!**

## A BIG Spirit Week thank you

to the early morning Lancer students who helped me blow up balloons and decorate our school! You did a GREAT job!

Elizabeth Alarcon	Ashley Reynolds
Andrea Betancourt	Rony Schutz
Amani Cobbs	Coneisha Thomas
Jessica Espinoza	Demetria Thomas

-Dawn Ratiner

## Reflections Thanks

**THANK YOU to EVERYONE** who participated and supported the PMS Reflections program. We appreciate the outstanding participation of our students, faculty and volunteers... YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Thank you from Glory Diaz de Villegas and Susan Fusfield

## 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

## Message from the PMS PTSA President, *Continued from page 1*

discussion the next day, during our general PTSA meeting on Thursday, February 28 at 9:15 am.

Justice Robert Houghwout Jackson said, "It is not the function of our Government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the Government from falling into error." We look forward to your continued involvement as we heed Justice Jackson's words.

I wish you and your family a happy holiday and a safe and healthy New Year!

- Randi Trazenfeld

## A Heartfelt *Thank You* to Our Amazing Volunteers!

I would like to highlight some of the hardworking volunteers who helped make November such as successful month for PMS PTSA.

The Book Fair's success was due to the tireless efforts of co-chairs Carolyn Seckinger and Kelly Foreman. Thanks to the support of parents and students we were able to get books into the hands of students as well as donate hundreds of books to our Media Center. The Reflections Program co-chairs, Gloria Diaz de Villegas and Susan Fusfield did a fabulous job to showcase the art, music and literature of our students. Good luck to our first place winners whose entries will represent Palmetto Middle School at the Dade County Reflections Competition, the event for which will be on January 24 at Coral Reef Senior High School. A heartfelt "Thank You" to teachers Ms. Losada and Mr. Berrios for the student performances that evening. We extend our sincere appreciation to each teacher that encouraged students to participate and submit entries in the Reflections competition. A special "Thank You" goes to our extraordinary art teacher, Gail Schaefer and language arts department chair Cristine O'Hara, whose support is beyond measure. Without our teachers, "Reflections" would not have been possible!

Monique Jimenez and her committee worked wonders creating lots of spirit among our students and teachers during Spirit Week. Thank you for making Thanksgiving Week fun and festive! Last but certainly not least I am delighted to recognize the Beautification Committee who has given life to the Emerald Garden. Christian Armstrong, Sharon Biddix-Maessen, Cyndi Eisenberg and Lauren Mayer have given the students and teachers a gift the value of which is beyond measure. Thank you!!

- Randi Trazenfeld

## Save the date: February 1, '08!

### The Safe Sitter® Course



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.