



**Palmetto Middle School**

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

[www.pms.dadeschools.net](http://www.pms.dadeschools.net)

Lisa Noffo, Principal  
Randi Trazenfeld, PTSA President

February 2008 Volume 38 Issue 6

## PMS and PTSA Calendar February 2008

- 2/18 No School – Presidents' Day  
2/21 PTSA Board Meeting 9:00 AM  
2/27 PTSA Evening Meeting 7:00 PM  
(refreshments at 6:45 PM)  
Guest Speaker—Jack Levine  
2/28 PTSA Meeting 9:15 AM  
(refreshments at 9:00 AM)  
Guest Speaker—Jack Levine

### Message from the PMS PTSA President

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

It is hard for me to believe that we have rounded the bend and are already into the second half of the school year. For the PTSA it means that our membership campaign is winding down (although you can still join until March 31) and fundraising is primarily behind us. We will continue to accept Parent Donations, sell pizza, collect BoxTops and offer the service of our school store. However, as we dive into 2008, we seek creative and innovative solutions to overcome any obstacles that may impede our children from reaching their full potential.

We turn our focus toward advocacy and planning. Why advocacy? Because progress is not achieved by intention alone. Strategic advocacy is the only way wrongs can be righted and ideas can be transformed into action. To assist our community in becoming effective advocates, the PMS PTSA has invited Jack Levine to speak at Palmetto Middle School on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 6:45 P.M. and again on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 9:00 AM. All Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA members, parents and community members are invited to attend this inspiring and informative discussion entitled *Advocacy Lessons Learned at My Grandmother's Kitchen Table*. Jack Levine is the founder of 4Generations Institute, President of Advocacy Resources, a Tallahassee-based consultancy, and past-President of "Voices for Florida's Children." The focus of his presentation will be on the "rules of the road" for how to work with public officials, their staff members, the media, business and community leaders to inspire and empower positive outcomes for families while we delicately balance our personal and professional lives.

We have entered what some are calling the most important political year in our lifetimes. With so many elections ahead, including vitally critical ballot initiatives, voter attention and action in 2008 will have implications far into our future. All of our voices and votes are needed. Please plan to attend to learn how to influence and inspire others to be informed and engaged voters. We encourage you to begin by bringing a friend and spreading the word about this motivating presentation. We all want to make a difference in the lives of our children, grandchildren and community. Your attendance on February 27 or February 28 can transform the intention to act into real action. Please RSVP by February 25 to [Randibr@aol.com](mailto:Randibr@aol.com) and advise which program you plan to attend. If you would like to contribute baked goods or refreshments for the guests that will be attending, please email Carrie Boone at [RBoone1961@msn.com](mailto:RBoone1961@msn.com).

Beside advocacy, the PMS PTSA is also focused on planning. We are planning which special projects to support with the funds raised this year over and above our budgeted programs. We have invited all teachers and staff to submit their requests for PTSA funds which will be reviewed by Mrs. Noffo and our Special Projects committee and voted upon by the membership at the general PTSA meetings in March and April. If you would like to participate on this committee, please contact Darla March at [landdgoi@bellsouth.net](mailto:landdgoi@bellsouth.net).

*please continue, on page 3*



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



## A Note from Mrs. Noffo

As we start the second semester, I am so proud of our students. They continue to meet the challenges of the curriculum that is presented. Please be reminded that your child is part of a "TEAM" which includes a common group of teachers. Each team of teachers is available on Tuesday mornings for team conferences. The week of January 28, 2008, we will be taking Interim Assessment Tests. These tests provide valuable information for teachers as they continue to prepare students for the upcoming FCAT. As always, attendance is crucial to the continued academic success of your child.

In addition to the after school tutoring, our tutoring services will expand to include Saturday mornings. Beginning February 2, 2008 and running through March 8, 2008, tutoring in Reading, Writing and Math will be available from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This is a great opportunity for your child to receive that extra assistance as the FCAT approaches.

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

## Palmetto Middle School Goes Green

Mrs. Gordon's first period class is doing all it can to encourage PMS students, teachers and parents to "Go Green." Did you know:

An average American family acquires 60 plastic bags per week and rarely reuses them. Bring your own bags to the market and help save the planet, one bag at a time.

If every household reused a paper grocery bag for one shopping trip, about 60,000 trees would be saved.

## Get Weekly PTSA E-Mail Updates

Each week, nearly 800 PMS families receive PTSA Link with valuable information for parents, students and faculty, plus links to the Lancer Letter and monthly calendar of activities. To receive PTSA Link, send an e-mail to ptsalink@bellsouth.net, including your name and e-mail address. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** More than 100 families have opted out of our monthly mailing – saving nearly \$500 a year that can be used to better our school, such as underwriting the expenses for the Reading Department's Accelerated Reader program. That's in addition to the invaluable volunteer time and resources that can be used elsewhere. Help us save! The PTSA is collecting names of families that wish to forego receiving the monthly mailing which includes the Lancer Letter and school calendar. The PTSA Link includes a link where parents can read (or print out) the information online. To opt-out of receiving the monthly mailing, send an e-mail with your student(s) name(s) and your e-mail address to Mariela Ray at mdray@bellsouth.net.

## 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*. **The deadline to reserve your space is February 15.** 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. Space is limited, so don't delay!

Full Page	\$300
Half Page	\$150
Quarter Page	\$100
Eighth Page	\$50 (business card)

**All ads are full color!**

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

**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 & 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

## 2007-2008 Parent Donation Update

***It's a New Year . . . please consider the PTSA Parent Donation Program!***

We are happy to report that as of January 2008, the Parent Donation Program has received **\$25,332!** The support of our Palmetto Middle School families has been phenomenal, with **239** families participating to date.

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 January 19th, donations from 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):

Lisa and Jack Crittenden  
Lisa and Eddie Romaguera  
Julianne and Neal Pocquette  
Natalie and Virgilio Campaneria

*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.*

## 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 1601 members (888 adults, 657 students and 56 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 657 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 3rd 9 weeks will receive a gift certificate.



## Midterms are over!

Bring your required reading books (that you are finished with) and other middle school novels to your Language Arts classroom collection box.

# Parental Involvement begins with simple steps you take at home.

## The Florida PTA Website recommends:

Teach your child perseverance, the ability to follow through with a task or activity. Encourage them to finish a task.

It is important that your children see you reading. Try to include a variety of reading material, such as newspapers, magazines and books. Remember, don't have books in the house that you wouldn't want your children to read.

Know your child's friends. Encourage your child and his/her friends to spend time at your house. This may help you have a better idea of what is going on in your child's life.

Be aware of the attitudes and values of your children's friends. Make an opportunity to meet their parents. Never underestimate the power of peer pressure.

Being a parent can be very stressful. You can set a good example by finding healthy ways of relieving your own stress, such as, regular exercise, talking with other parents in similar situations and spending time taking care of yourself.

Read more at [floridapta.org](http://floridapta.org).

## Message from the PMS PTSA President

*continued from page 1*

Lastly, we must begin planning for next year. My term as president expires at the end of this school year. We have an incredible number of parents who are wonderful leaders and will continue the legacy of excellence that this PTSA has always enjoyed. To insure a smooth transition of leadership, the Nominating Committee is being formed and will begin its work soon. This committee will present a slate of officers to the membership for election on April 17.

Please be involved in this process as it is your children and all students at Palmetto Middle School who benefit from your willingness to serve. Contact me at [Randibr@aol.com](mailto:Randibr@aol.com) if you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee or assume a leadership position for 2008-2009.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. You make a difference!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please email me at [Randibr@aol.com](mailto:Randibr@aol.com).

*- Randi Trazenfeld*

## Teacher and Staff Holiday Luncheon a success!

On December 14, the PTSA hosted a holiday luncheon for the entire school staff. A buffet lunch was served, gifts were given to all staff members, music played and a great time was had by all! This would not have been possible without the efforts of many parents and the support of many local businesses.

Sincere thanks go out to the following parents who volunteered, provided desserts and beverages, or donated gifts: **Dawn Rationer, Cecilia Richter, Lucy Minehan-Danon, Cristy Solerzono, Thais Luque, Lisa Romaguera, Nancy Sapiro, Tracy Kobinski, Kathy Marchus, Jill Rubin, Sherida Hunter, Greg Kilmer, Eileen McCartney-Benitez, Louisa Nesbit, Randi Trazenfeld, Mariel Ray, Liz Hubbard, Wendy Wilson, Susan Chai-Ohn, Anne Orsillo, Lori Welbon, Arlene Smith-Junco, Cindy Smith, Melissa Montovino, Lauren Mayer, Isa Goenaga, Reshma Naidoo, Martha Limner, Rose Boise, Donna Benjamin, Meryl Spigelman, Goria Villamil, Dawn Jacobson, Mary Warrell, Susan Fusfield and Debbie Albion.**

Local businesses that provided gifts include; **Kings Bays Athletics, Juice Blendz, Spa and Nail Fever, I-Hop (Suniland Shopping Center), Di Napoli Italian Restaurant, Hallmark (US 1 and 147th), Smoothie King, Wagons West (11311 S. Dixie Hwy), Sushi Maki (Kings Bay Shopping Plaza), Lots of Lox Restaurant, Ultima Medspa (14975 S. Dixie Highway), Offerdahls (Suniland), French Bakery (Kings Bay), 1-800 RADIATOR (call for auto parts), Starbucks (Suniland and Falls locations), Flemings – A Taste of Denmark Restaurant, TCBY- Suniland Miami Eurowax (11427 S. Dixie Hwy-new), .**

***We can show our appreciation by visiting these generous establishments!!***

If you want to help with the next luncheon in the spring, send an e-mail to me at [pkivlahan00@msn.com](mailto:pkivlahan00@msn.com)!

Many thanks, Paula Kivlahan, *Teacher Appreciation Chairperson*

## 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!"



# Make a Difference for Your Business & Your Community

Sponsorship & Restaurant Opportunities now available for



*A celebration of village food, culture, & education*

**Sunday March 9, 2008 11:00–5:00 pm**

**At Pinecrest Gardens**

Proceeds Benefit Pinecrest Schools

For Sponsorship Information Call

Frank Martucci (305) 252-0004

Mitchell Panter 305-662-6178

[www.pinecrestbusiness.com](http://www.pinecrestbusiness.com)

## The Pinecrest Business Association invites you to Save the Date for the Taste of Pinecrest – Sunday, March 9, 2008

Save the Date for the Taste of Pinecrest on Sunday, March 9, 2008 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The event, held once again at Pinecrest Gardens, attracts over 6,000 visitors each year for sensational samplings from area restaurants.

The Taste of Pinecrest features student art exhibits, jump rope, cheerleading and musical performances; rides, a petting zoo, face painting, and more. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit Pinecrest Elementary, Palmetto Elementary, Howard Drive Elementary, Palmetto Middle and Palmetto Senior High Schools.

The Taste of Pinecrest was developed by the Pinecrest Business Association (PBA) in 2003 and has raised more than \$150,000 to date for our local schools. The PBA is a volunteer organization involving the Village of Pinecrest and more than

600 member businesses. Its leadership provides an annual college scholarship award to a local student; volunteers for Career Day at our schools, and sponsorship for charitable and community events to better serve the Pinecrest community and establish goodwill and recognition for its members.

The event is FREE to the public with ticket sales for food tastings and beverages ranging from \$1 - \$5 Sponsorship opportunities and Business Display Booths are available.

For sponsorship information, please contact Mitchell Panter at 305-662-6178 / or by email at [mpanter@panterlaw.com](mailto:mpanter@panterlaw.com) or Frank Martucci at 305-252-0004 / [frank.martucci@citynational.com](mailto:frank.martucci@citynational.com). For Pinecrest Business Association membership information please visit the PBA website at [www.pinecrestbusiness.com](http://www.pinecrestbusiness.com).