



Palmetto Middle School

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

www.pms.dadeschools.net

Lisa Noffo, Principal

Melissa Montovino, PTSA President

www.pmsptsa.org

September 2008 Volume 39 Issue 2

PMS & PTSA Calendar, Sept. '08

9-17 Open House, 7:00 pm

9-18 PTSA meeting 9:15 am Cafeteria and 7:00 pm
EESAC meeting 8:00 am, Room 113
Early release at 1:30 pm

9-30 No School/Teacher Planning Day

9-23 to 9-26 Required Reading Book Sale

10-1 School pictures

PMS is again an A+ School!!

Message from the PMS PTSA President

Hello Parents, Students, Teachers and Community Members!

Wow! Thanks to all of our wonderful parents, teachers and students we have had a good, uneventful opening of school once again. After the threat of Fay, the doors were finally opened to welcome in the new classes. I am pleased to see that students are already settling into their classes and schedules.

As I've mentioned in various venues, our PTSA is very strong here at Palmetto Middle School. The strength of our PTSA comes not only from the number of members but also from their enthusiasm and energy.

As you know, being a member and a volunteer are different but part of the same equation. Having a large membership population gives us a voice in Tallahassee and other venues where we need to make a difference. Being a volunteer, gives you insight into what is happening at the school at many levels and shows your children that what they do every day matters. There are things to do at home or at school, during the day or evening. If you have a passion or talent, we can use your efforts, your children need your efforts.

We've got some special volunteers that I want to highlight:

- Maricel Lam spent time over the summer designing new spirit shirts for the students to show their Lancer pride.
- Before school started, Laura Schwartz and Susan Montesino's Teacher and Staff Appreciation committee threw a "welcome back breakfast" that absolutely rocked! They had breakfast food of every sort,

drinks and spirit shirts for the teachers, administrations and staff.

- Thanks to Mary Warrell, we had parents helping administration and security in directing students the first day, collecting science and band fees and helping out in the office.
- Maureen Piero has organized our PTSA Bulletin Board which is just across from the security desk in the breezeway.
- The weekly e-newsletter, PTSA Link, is drafted and distributed by Martha Limmer.
- Diana Tejada coordinates the Monthly Mailing committee that folds, packages and posts each Lancer Letter to families like you. (If you have an hour, this is a great time to meet parents and talk over coffee and refreshments.)
- During the first week of school Maricel Lam and new parents at Palmetto Middle School, Cindy Luksomboon and Diana Husson, relentlessly sold spirit shirts and hooded sweatshirts to students and parents.
- Riva Steinman decorated the bulletin board in the Attendance office to recognize students who are successfully rockin.

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A Note from Mrs. Noffo

After the first few weeks of school, we are definitely rockin' out and jammin' our way to new heights of success! This is evident throughout the school.

Our teachers are available (in the classrooms) to your children every Friday morning from 8:25 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. They can provide assistance with assignments, homework or guide your child in his/her class work. TEAM parent conferences can be scheduled on Tuesday mornings.

Also make sure to log on to the Miami-Dade District Parent Portal, www.parents.dadeschools.net. If you have not established a parent password, you will need to do that before you get started. You will need to get your child's student ID and PIN numbers from the main office (make sure to bring a valid photo ID when you stop by). There is a wealth of information located in the Parent Portal for you as parents as well as for your children. You can see students' daily progress in class, attendance reports, have access to available online books and many other resources. If you need help accessing the site and have technical difficulties, please call 305-995-3705 after 5:00 pm.

Our school spirit and team pride are shining through in every way; stop by sometime and see for yourself!

- Mrs. Lisa Noffo



Teachers proudly wear their Palmetto Middle School Spirit Shirts that were their welcome back gift from the PTSA.



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

Palmetto Middle School Drama Presents

Alice's Adventures In Wonderland

November 6th and 7th, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Palmetto Middle School Auditorium • Tickets \$5.00

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	\$ 290	\$ 430	\$ 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

Email: bach1123@dadeschools.net

WOW!

Make a difference by participating in PMS Reflections 2008!

Get those creative juices flowing in a hurry because the deadline for submitting an entry into this year's **REFLECTIONS** program is September 26. This year's theme is "Wow!"



REFLECTIONS provides students the opportunity to create art for

fun and recognition. Students are encouraged to submit works of art in six areas: **literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts** (which include but are not limited to, art forms such as drawing, painting, printmaking and collage). Only original entries will be accepted. Complete rules can be found on the PMS PTSA website. Entries are judged anonymously at the school level, locally, statewide and nationally. In 2007, the **REFLECTIONS** program in Miami-Dade County had over 20,000 participants. Through the excellence and encouragement of our PMS teachers, six PMS students won at the county level and went on to state competition.

The PMS Reflections program will be held October 21. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

Parents, please join the **REFLECTIONS** planning committee and help make a difference with this special program that highlights our students. For additional information, or to volunteer to help with this program, please contact **REFLECTIONS** chairperson Mindi Notrika at 305-251-7517.



Thank you in advance for making a difference in **REFLECTIONS 2008!**

Teacher and Staff Welcome Back Breakfast

The teacher and staff welcome back breakfast kicked off our "A" mazing rockin' year on Thursday, August 13.

We had so many people help put this together it was awe inspiring. Parents who worked or couldn't attend the event went out of their way to shop for and donate items. Parents who were out of town or unavailable were gracious enough to contribute so we could "fill in" our gaps. Parents came out of the woodwork to help set up, decorate the cafeteria, and plate and prepare food items so everything looked just right. Parents stayed until the afternoon to serve and clean up. We can't thank all of you enough for this tremendous team effort to pull off the best breakfast ever!!!!!!

Thanks to those who shopped for and cooked all the WONDERFUL food:

Brenda Archer, Monica Avalos, Janet Bass, Cindy Beamish-Guilford, Maria Escoto-Castillo, Helena Castillo-Arguelles, Marcia Choiseul, Marie Cupo, Lucy Danon, Debbie Dowis, Eileen Faradji, Susan Fusfield, Claudia Gordon, Marian Hasty, Sharon Hickey, Diana Husson, Marie Insua, Ilene Kobert, Maricel Lam, Dina Lara, Vicky Lawrence, Gio Lester, Miriam Lipsky, Wen Liu-Mares, Carmen Lucas, Darla March, Valerie Marquez, Annette McGilvray, Angela Mirow, Megan Moffett, Melissa Montovino, Mindi Notrika, Cristina Obregon, Anne Orsillo, Olga Perez, Hope Phillips, Maureen Piero, Natalie Proctor-Montesino, Dawn Ratiner, Cecilia Richter, Melanie Rosen, Terri Sabbag, Rachele Schneider, David Schwartz, Gilat Schwartz, Leia Schwartz, Gae Shapiro, Marlisa Shapiro, Cristy Solorzano, Jill Sreenan, Riva Steinman, Diana Tejada, Terri Vega, Mary Warrell and Marisel Yee.

Special thanks to the following, who even though they were out of town or unavailable, kindly made a contribution so that we could go out and buy even more goodies!!!

Diane Kramer, Shifra Lipson, Carrie Millon-Niedbala, Lisa Romiguera and Kim Sterling

Last but definitely not least we couldn't have done it without the most dedicated and hard working group of volunteers ever!!! They all did anything and everything they could to make this event such a HUGE success:

Brenda Archer, Christian Armstrong, Janet Bass, Marie Cupo, Maria Escoto-Castillo, Marcia Choiseul, Eileen Faradji, Susan Fusfield, Marian Hasty, Diana Husson, Maricel Lam, Gio Lester, Lauren Lipsky, Megan Lipsky, Miriam Lipsky, Wen Liu-Mares, Carmen Lucas, Darla March, Valerie Marquez, Annette McGilvray, Samantha McGilvray, Angela Mirow, Megan Moffett, Melissa Montovino, Cristina Obregon, Hope Phillips, Natalie Proctor-Montesino, Dawn Ratiner, David Schwartz, Leia Schwartz, Cristy Solorzano, Jill Sreenan and Riva Steinman



A great time was had by all as the teachers and staff enjoyed an incredible spread of food and rocked out to our rock n roll tunes in the cafeteria. We were truly "Jammin' to New Heights of Success!"

Laura Schwartz and Susan Montesino, Co-Chairs

Remember to thank our contributing sponsors!

The Starbucks on Old Cutler Road and SW 168th Street generously donated freshly brewed coffee for our Teacher and Staff Welcome Back breakfast. Many thanks to Denesia Ramsunder, the manager, and her staff for supporting Palmetto Middle School!!!

Offerdahl's Cafe in Sunniland Plaza at 11327 S Dixie Highway donated loads of bagels for our Teacher and Staff Welcome Back breakfast. Thanks so much to the Jackson and Stevenson families of Offerdahl's for their generous support of Palmetto Middle School!!!

Volunteer of the Month is Sharon Dewitt

Parent volunteer, **Sharon Dewitt**, spent numerous hours designing and building our new PTSA website and integrated volunteer/membership database. The database houses loads of useful information and keeps all of us informed on a real time basis. We are thankful that Sharon shared her talent with us to bring this project to fruition! Thank you Sharon and congratulations on being identified as our Rockin' Volunteer of the Month!

www.pmsptsa.org



Join the Palmetto Middle School PTSA

We invite you to join the **Palmetto Middle School PTSA**. The PTSA is a Parent, Teacher and Student Association that provides information on 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 ALL parents, grandparents, step-parents, extended family members, faculty, staff and students, even those who are not able to devote time to volunteering, to be involved in supporting the PTSA efforts. We encourage all those interested in having "a voice" to join. Together we can reach our goal of 100% membership. We already have received loads of membership forms, so we are well on our way!

This year you will be able to sign up online, but will still have to return the green envelope to your child(ren)'s teacher to receive your PTSA Membership card.

Please show your support for PMS by joining the PTSA!!!

- Susan Montesino: Suprmom1017@yahoo.com, 305-234-3212
- Laura Schwartz: Leiasmom23@aol.com, 305-251-6330

"You've Got Mail"

Sign up to receive all PTSA and School Information via Email

Our weekly e-newsletter, **PTSA Link**, provides you with up-to-date information on issues directly impacting our students and school, as well as links to our monthly mailings, *Lancer Letter* and much more. By receiving PTSA Link, you also help us in our efforts to "go green," and reduce the cost and volunteer hours of sending hard copy documents. **To sign up, visit www.pmsptsa.org and click on PTSA Link, or send an e-mail to ptسالink@bellsouth.net with PTSA Link/Opt-out Hardcopy in the subject.**

Questions? Contact Martha Limner at ptسالink@bellsouth.net.

Emerald Garden Update

Welcome back to school! We hope all of you enjoyed your summer! Thanks to a lot of rain this summer, the Emerald Garden is still green and lush! We're proud to announce that Dr. Cruz-Ortiz is our new Garden Club Sponsor!! Thank you so much for helping us promote and maintain our "Outdoor Classroom". Watch for updates on meetings and how to become involved. We also want to send a special thanks to Lauren Bunce, Jessica Roth, Sean Bunce, Raquel Llobera-Bunce, Debbie Simpson, and Haylee Glasel for all your hard work helping clean up and get the garden ready for the first day of school. We couldn't have done it without you!!

The Emerald Garden Committee

Christian Armstrong, Sharon Biddix-Maessen, Cyndi Eisenberg and Lauren Mayer



Becoming a Listener

Are you looking for a meaningful volunteer experience? Do you have an hour a week to devote to a child? Would you like to make a real difference? Look into the Listener's Program.

Contact Linda Diamond
305-661-1946 or Ldiamond26@aol.com

Recognize Your Child on our Student Bulletin Board

The PTSA will be recognizing our students throughout the year on the bulletin board in the Attendance Office. Parents are encouraged to submit any outstanding student academic, sports or personal accomplishments to Riva Steinman at no1mom@bellsouth.net. And make sure to stop by the office to check out our student stars!

Thank You

to the following parents who were of enormous assistance the first day of school. These moms greeted students and made sure they found their classrooms: Martha Limner, Hope Phillips, Diana Husson, Maureen Piero & Heidi deLisser.

Great refreshments

were enjoyed at the Aug 21 evening PTSA meeting which were provided by: Lourdes Arata, Rose Boise, Daria Castan, Leslie Chassman-Smith, Liliane Haspil, Sheri Keitz, Valerie Marquez, Yvonne Octiz, Bonnie Rollo, Terri Sabbag, & Marisel Yee.

Thanks ladies!



Required Reading Book Sale

Students required reading books for Language Arts, Spanish, Wordly Wise and other subjects will be available at the **PTSA Required Reading Booksale from September 23 to 26.**

Don't panic, do save gas and purchase your books directly from PTSA at school. **NEW THIS YEAR! PAYPAL!**



Purchase your students' books online at www.PMSPTSA.org. Print the receipt and have your child bring it to the booksale for pick up. **THAT WAS EASY!**

Parent Volunteers Needed throughout the week. Contact Colleen Beauregard at 305-254-3496 or gatorgrad@bellsouth.net.

President's Message continued from page 1

Bring your ideas to our next PTSA meeting at 9:15 am on September 18th in the Cafeteria. If you cannot make it and have ideas, please contact me or any of the PTSA Executive Officers:

- Hope Phillips: VP – Organization
- Maricel Lam: VP – Ways and Means
- Susan Fusfield: Recording Secretary
- Randi Trazenfeld: Parliamentarian
- Darla March: VP – Education
- Maria Castiello: Treasurer
- Sharon Hickey: Corresponding Secretary

See you around! — *Melissa Montovino*

Keep Palmetto Middle School Strong through the Parent Donation Program

Lost your donation form? No Problem - The Parent Donation Form has been added to the PTSA website www.pmsptsa.org under FORMS.

Your support is critical for the many school projects, learning enrichment, campus beautification and all the great programs that the PTSA sponsors.

At PMS we have one primary fundraising program and that is simply the **Parent Donation Program**. No donation is too small or too large, and it is fully tax deductible. Most importantly, 100% of your donation goes to supporting academic and enrichment activities unlike wrapping paper sales where only 50% of your checks support the school! Donors will be recognized in the monthly Lancer Newsletter.

—*Gae Shapiro and Rachelle Schneider,*
Parent Donation Program

THANK YOU To these 31 families for a total deposit of \$3,260.

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|------------|--------------|
| BASS | MIROW |
| BEILEY | MONTOVINO- |
| BENINTENDE | VANDELANOTTE |
| BENITEZ | NETTO |
| CAI | QUINTANA |
| CHASES | ROSEN |
| COSTANZO | SCHNEIDER |
| EHLIES | SHAPIRO |
| FELLER | SMITH |
| GIRNUN | SOROKO |
| HAZDAY | STEBBING |
| LIPSKY | STERLING |
| MARTINEZ | VALDERRAMA |
| MERRILL | WATERS |
| LYNCH | WAYNE |
| MATCHING | WILLIAMS |
| MEYER | ZIFFER |

Lancers Lead — Others Follow!

SPIRIT TSHIRTS are a HIT! Purchase yours for \$10 at the School Store. HOODED JACKETS are SOLD OUT and being reordered! Still available are the 2009 8th grade Orange and 2010 7th grade Navy spirit shirts for \$7.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped getting everyone outfitted with Spirit Shirts this week and during orientation: Cynthia Luksomboon, Eileen Benitez, Eileen Faradji, Diana Husson, Mariela Ray, Hope Phillips, Susan Montesino, Laura Schwartz, Mary Warrell. You guys ROCK!

Stay In Touch Through The Student Directory!

Homework questions? Missed class? Keep in touch through the Student Directory. Please complete the **yellow envelope** sent out in the welcome back pack. Only parent approved contact information will be included. Directories are \$5 each.

Advertise your business or SHOUT OUT! in the directory! You have an audience of 1500 students!

Attention Students:

Submit your best artwork to your 1st period teacher by Friday, September 19 representing this year's theme: **Palmetto Middle School is "A"bout to Rock Out! Jammin' to New Heights of Success!** Artwork will be judged and prizes awarded. The winning piece will be on the cover. Entries must be done on white NON LINED paper, artwork must be 5" x 8" and rendered in black ink only. Email Dina Lara with questions at DINA_ROB@bellsouth.net or call Maricel Lam at 305-613-0843.

Important Volunteer Policies and Procedures

All volunteers in the Miami-Dade County Public School System must be registered and cleared before they may begin serving. You may register by printing the M-DCPS Volunteer Registration form from our PTSA website www.pmsptsa.org and fill it out and return it to the main office. Once you have been approved, you will be given a volunteer identification number. If you have already registered and received an ID number from another M-DCPS, you do not need to complete the M-DCPS volunteer registration form again. If you do not know your volunteer number or are uncertain of your status, please call Palmetto Middle School's Administrative Volunteer Coordinator Allan Sosa at 305-238-3911.

Whenever you volunteer on campus you need to:

1. log your hours in the Volunteer Sign-In Book located on the security table in the breezeway.
2. wear a Volunteer ID badge or get a sticker from the security officer.

Palmetto Middle School M-DCPS approved volunteers who do not yet have a Volunteer ID badge should get their picture taken at the school on Picture Day, Oct. 1. Their photo will be made into a Volunteer ID badge, which is necessary to wear when volunteering at school.

Monthly Mailer Update

On August 1st we successfully folded, stuffed and mailed out 1340 envelopes with the August Lancer Letter, PTSA directory and other info. Thanks go out to the following: Monica Avalos, Emmi Avalos, Nicolas Avalos, Marcia Choiseul, Mary Warrell, Dainey DeDonatis, Olga Perez, Daniela Perez, Andres Perez, Daniel Tejada, Cristina Tejada, Terri Vega, Diana Husson, Maureen Piero, Annie Piero, Laura Schwartz, Leia Schwartz, Kathryn Hickey, and at home workers, Raquel Martin, Jorge Martin, and Rosa Reeves.

Then the committee worked over several days, between rain bands of Fay, to sort and staple PTSA packets for distribution during 1st period Homerooms. Thanks to the following: Samantha McGilvray, Renzi Wise, Annette McGilvray, Hope Phillips, Vicky Chait, Susan Fusfield, Marcia Choiseul, Melissa Montovino, Maria Castiello, Susan Montesino, Laura Schwartz, Mary Warrell, Cynthia Luksomboon, and Carol Castro.

The Monthly Mailer committee meets once a month over breakfast to fold, stuff, and mail the Lancer Letter and other information to our PMS family. To volunteer please sign up online at www.pmsptsa.org under the Volunteer tab or contact Diana Tejada at tejadareeves@aol.com.