



Palmetto Middle School

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

www.pms.dadeschools.net

www.pmsptsa.org

Lisa Noffo, Principal

Melissa Montovino, PTSA President

November 2008 Volume 29 Issue 4

Message from the PMS PTSA President

Hello Parents, Students, Teachers and Community Members!

We have once again rounded out a very successful grading period here at Palmetto Middle School. Thanks to students and parents, the after school tutoring program is progressing very nicely; talented students are helping with the hands on tutoring and generous parents have provided snacks to tide the attendees over until dinnertime.

You all have indicated via the returned program surveys that there is a desire for further education at many levels. In addition to the last two programs on "Talking to Your Tweenager" and "Educating Ourselves on the Florida Candidates," we are also continuing to provide programs and services for the students, staff and parents here at Palmetto Middle School. Be on the lookout in the PTSA Link for our next program that will be presented around the time of our next PTSA meeting on November 20th.

The entire PTSA is very proud of our Reflections winners! The following students developed Literature, Musical Compositions, Photography, Visual Arts and Dance Choreography material

within the "WOW" theme, submitted entries to compete and were chosen as winners. They will be forwarded on to the District for further consideration: **Hannah Richter, Caroline Boone, Sophie Wild, Jessica Tan, Camila Mirow, Luis Goicouria, Jodi Palenzuela, Audrey Gonzalez, Hannah Zosman, Christopher Aitken, Prudhvi Lokireddy, Chaitanya Lokireddy, Sarah Waters, HeeJin Kim, Seline Trinidad, Samantha McGilvray, Jorge Cruz, Alyssa Lanza, Guido Bissi, Natasha deGuntan, Annabel Chyung, Jin Shuchang, Rachel Shapiro, Jessie LaMacchia, Sabrina Zequeira, Samantha Rosen, Victoria Sharam, Anannie Pena-Aleman, Heidi Castellanos, and Isabella Estevez.**

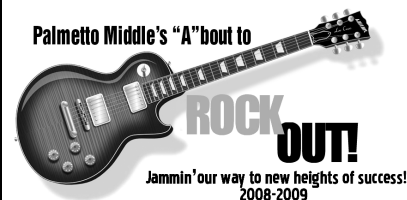
November brings us lots of excitement! November 17 – 20 is the Scholastic Book Fair and November 24 – 26 will be Spirit Week at the school. See inside this edition for more details on these and all upcoming events.

– *Melissa Montovino*

PMS & PTSA Calendar - Nov. 08

11/4	No school - Teacher Planning Day
11/11	No school - Veteran's Day
11/18	School Board Meeting
11/20	Secondary Early Release
11/17-20	Scholastic Book Fair
11/24-26	Spirit Week
11/27-28	No School - Thanksgiving

PMS is an A+ School, again!!



A Note From Mrs. Noffo

It is really hard to believe that we have completed the first nine weeks of school and we're "jammin' our way to new heights of success" as we start the second grading period.

We have implemented a Vocabulary Across the Curriculum program. Each week, students are exposed to new vocabulary words they can use in their everyday writing activities. The students are given one word that they frequently use and five synonyms. For example, the format is: instead of using *a lot*, try using *plethora, cornucopia, copious, abundant* or *myriad*. Ask your child to use a sentence using one of the new words!

On Tuesday, October 21, 2008, Palmetto Middle School welcomed Judge-Elect Stacy Glick as our Principal for a Day. The event provided an invaluable opportunity for our students to shine and benefit from her leadership skills. Ms. Glick has promised to visit again!

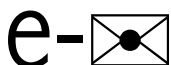
Mid-term exams are scheduled for the week before winter break. Students will take one exam in the afternoon of 12/16, two on 12/17 and 12/18, and one in the morning of 12/19.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. The students, faculty, parents and community truly ROCK!

– *Mrs. Lisa Noffo*

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



Parent Donation Program Helps Keep Palmetto Middle School Strong

Our Parent Donation Program has not met its objectives for the year -- and we need you! Your dollars are used to help our school with technology, materials and equipment. To meet these needs, all we are asking for is \$30 from every family. If you haven't already mailed in your donation, please do so by the end of November so we can begin assessing the needs of our school. If your employer has a matching donation program, please send us that information, as well.

– Gae Shapiro and Rachelle Schneider
Parent Donation Program

PTSA Membership

We are pleased to announce that we now have close to 1,100 members in the PTSA! Good news is that it's not too late to join – we would love to have participation from each and every one of you. It's a great way to help support our school and have a strong voice in the community. ALL are welcome: students, BOTH parents, grandparents, siblings, other relatives, faculty / staff and even community members. The cost is just \$5 per student / other child and \$10 per parent / other adult.

Send in your green membership envelopes ~ they are available in the school office if you need one. Support Palmetto Middle School PTSA today!

Susan Montesino
Laura Schwartz
Membership

Thank you to the following families that donated in October!

Anonymous (3)	Heller, Dan & Wendy	Romaguera
Boise	Hernandez	Scalla
Carrillo	Limner	Soden
Cupo	McCreary	Temple, Dr. & Mrs.
Doliner	Proenza, Betty & Al	H. Thomas
Dreisch	Quintana	Vega, Ivan &
Faradji	Ramon	Adriana
Finazzo, Nicolas	Ribeiro	Waldman
Goicouria	Richter	
Gonzalez	Rogers	

Mark Your Calendar for Safe Sitter™ Course



Palmetto Middle School will once again be hosting the nationally recognized Safe Sitter™ course this **February 6, 2009**.

This course is designed to teach young people how to be safe in their homes when alone or with younger sibling's, how to recognize a true emergency and react appropriately and how to be a safe and confident baby sitter. Registration forms will be available in December and will be accepted on a first

come, first served basis. There is a limit to how many students we can accept. The cost of the course is \$25.00 per child UNLESS the child is a PTSA member. Student PTSA members enjoy the discounted price of \$10.00 so make sure you join prior to registration!

Please contact Hope Phillips at 305-439-6190 or hopeanne@att.net for any questions. For more information concerning the Safe Sitter™ course log on to www.safesitter.org.

Save the Date

Career Day is planned for April 17, 2009. Mark your calendars!



Volunteer of the Month: Kim Foster

Our wonderful Lancer Letter publisher, Kim Foster, has been recognized as October's Rockin' Volunteer of the Month.

For the last couple of years, Kim has worked tirelessly to publish our very own monthly Lancer Letter.

Not only is she really good at what she does, but Kim is also easy to work with. Because of her dedication, we are able to keep parents informed about the happenings around the school.

Thanks, Kim, and keep it rockin.!



Wow! Reflections Night



The Reflections Gallery Night was a very intimate and elegant

gathering held Tuesday, October 21st, with the chamber orchestra playing under Ms. Losada's direction in the Emerald Garden, Reflections submissions displayed in the Media Center and hors d'oeuvres passed by the National Junior Honor Society.

Thanks go to Darla March and Mindi Notrika for putting so much effort into this evening. You did a great job!

An assembly was held the next day during school hours for all students who participated in Reflections this year.

Winners will go on to the county level. Good luck to all!

Volunteers in Action Really Make a Difference

Thanks to those who helped collect fees for the pictures. Diane Carness, Marisel Colon Wu, Alina Ballestas, Shifra Lipson, Jackie Wajner, Diana Husson and Jackie Hernandez-Suarez were great.

Thanks to those who helped on picture day: Alina Ballestas, Maureen Piero, Norma Meyer, Petra Bensoussan, Diana Husson, Jackie Wajner, Daria Castan and Hope Ziffer.

Coffee was enjoyed by book sale volunteers thanks to Terri Tallale and Sabina de la Torre.

Ticket sales for the faculty talent show were made possible thanks to Annette and Tim McGilvray, Diana Husson, Debra Simpson and Maria Hall.

Shifra Lipson, Jennifer Valancy and Gloria de

Villegas were instrumental in helping Darla March and Mindi Notrika with Reflections.

Maricel Lam, Hope Phillips, Carrie Boone, Diana Tejada, Susan Fusfield and Melissa Montovino all helped with Bookmarks.

We'd like to thank our wonderful membership committee who put in countless hours processing and distributing 1,100 membership cards: Many thanks to: Olivia Castro, Marcia Choiseul, Maricel Lam, Mia Lam, Carmen Lucas, Caroline Luksomboon, Cindy Luksomboon, Valerie Marquez, Natalie Proctor-Montesino and Leia Schwartz. Special thanks to Mrs. Parrott and Mrs. Wexler for all of their support and assistance!

Red Ribbon Week

Thanks go out to Mr. Ritchie Lucas for saving the day (Red Ribbon Day, that is). When called upon at the last minute, Ritchie stepped up to the plate and delivered an awesome speech at the October 29th Red Ribbon Rally.

More about Red Ribbon Week will be published in next month's Lancer Letter.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon



We will be hosting a holiday luncheon for the wonderful teachers and staff of Palmetto Middle

School on December 18th.

I'm sure we don't need to tell you how in these difficult times of budget cuts how much our teachers and staff have really stepped up to the plate for the benefit of all of our children. Well, here's our chance to let them know how much it means to us!

Our goal is to be able to provide each and every faculty member a gift of appreciation at this luncheon. We are reaching out to the community for support and are asking for gift certificates to local businesses. If you could assist us with this worthwhile endeavor we will be indebted to you! All we ask is that everyone obtain at least one gift.

Ask your favorite restaurant. Share with us extra tickets you have for the theater or a local sports team. Be creative! Come up with some ideas we haven't thought of!

We can also use help with the actual luncheon. We need all kinds of food (both homemade and store-bought) as well as servers the day of the event.

Laura Schwartz
Leiasmom23@aol.com
305-251-6330

Susan Montesino
Suprmom1017@yahoo.com
305-234-3212

Pizza Sales Help Beat Afternoon Hunger Pangs



Remember, pizza is sold every Friday after school. Beat your hunger and help your school for the price of \$1 per slice.

Safe Sitter™ Needs Volunteer Instructors

Do you enjoy working with kids? Do you love watching them learn and have fun in the process? Then you are the ideal candidate to become a Safe Sitter™ Instructor.

No prior experience is necessary. The instructor course is video driven and can be accomplished at your own pace. The more instructors we have the more kids we can teach.

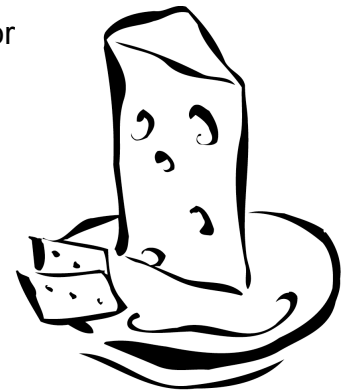
Please help us help the kids by becoming an instructor

For more information, call Hope Phillips at 305-439-6190 or email at [hopieanne@att.net](mailto:hophieanne@att.net).

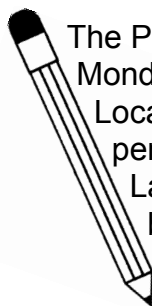
Save the Date for Taste of Pinecrest

It's never too early to start planning for good food, so save the date for the annual Taste of Pinecrest.

This tasty event is set for Sunday, March 8, 2009 from 11AM-5PM at Pinecrest Gardens. If you have any questions regarding the event, contact Dawn Ratiner, PMS Taste of Pinecrest coordinator, at 305-968-2229 or DMPR@aol.com.



Need it? Want it? Get it at the PTSA School Store



The PTSA school store is open and available to students Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8:20-8:50.

Located in the school cafeteria, the store has pens, pencils, composition books, spirit shirts and hoodies.

Large blank books are in stock now and small blank books are expected in late November(\$3 each).

