



Palmetto Middle School

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305-238-3911

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

[www.pmsptsa.org](http://www.pmsptsa.org)

Lisa Noffo, Principal

Melissa Montovino, PTSA President

August 2009 Volume 30 Issue 1

## PMS & PTSA calendar - Aug. 09

- 8/18** 6th grade orientation  
5:00 pm and 6:30 pm
- 8/20** Teacher & staff welcome  
back breakfast, 9:00 am
- 8/24** First day of school for  
students, 9:00 am
- 8/27** PTSA meeting, 9:15 am  
and 7:00 pm
- 8/28** Parent welcome back  
coffee
- 9/17** PTSA meeting, 9:15 am

### Message from the PMS PTSA president:

#### Hello, parents, students, teachers and community members!

Welcome to Palmetto Middle School and our first edition of the Lancer Letter, our monthly newsletter to advise you of what is happening at and around the middle school.

At Palmetto Middle School, we have a spirit of positive energy coupled with driven students, teachers and parents. In keeping with this tradition, your PTSA has many exciting plans for the upcoming school year. Along with providing important services at the beginning of the year, such as spirit shirts and required reading book sales, we have yearlong goals that will have an impact on all members of our school community.

These goals include continuing to improve the middle school experience through more advanced technology, easily accessible communications and programs that help every middle school constituent yield the best experience out of their three years at Palmetto Middle School. Besides this monthly newsletter, there are also weekly e-newsletters (PTSA Link) that you can opt in to receive. Go to the PTSA Link navigation bar on our website, [www.pmsptsa.org](http://www.pmsptsa.org) and request to be included. This e-blast will be very helpful in staying on top of important events at the middle school.

We all recognize that the middle school years are a challenging time, not just for students but for parents as well. One of the most important things that we can do as parents is to be informed – it is critical to know what is going on in our

children's lives. Stay attuned to their friends, their Facebooks and their schooling.

Becoming a PTSA member in the middle school provides a link into school. PMS's first PTSA meeting will be held at 9:15 am and / or 7:00 pm on August 27<sup>th</sup> in the Media Center. I will also host a Parent Welcome Back Coffee on 8/28 at my house (12801 SW 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue). Anybody looking to meet new parents and / or get involved should come to both.

PTSA membership is key at Palmetto Middle School; as a PTSA member, your voice joins those of all members nationwide and makes our messages heard. For those parents that are willing and able to volunteer through the PTSA, there are many opportunities. Even if you work, assistance can be provided during evenings or other "off times." The volunteer check sheet will be sent home the first week of school along with a myriad of other very important papers. Be on the lookout!

A list of the PTSA Board and Committees has been mailed with this newsletter; it contains numbers and dates that may be useful for you. Feel free to contact me at [melissamontovino@yahoo.com](mailto:melissamontovino@yahoo.com) with any questions, feedback or comments. I am both honored and excited about my second year of service to the Palmetto Middle School community.

– Melissa Montovino

### A note from Mrs. Noffo

With the approach of the 2009-2010 school year, I would like to welcome all of you to Palmetto Middle School; one of the most outstanding middle schools in Miami-Dade County. It is an honor for me to be the Principal of a school with the tradition and reputation of Palmetto Middle School.

Last year, Palmetto Middle received a grade of "A" for the eighth straight year. Eight is great, however, now it's time to **Round up "A" #9.**

I can assure you that Palmetto Middle School will continue to promote high academic standards and provide a safe learning environment for our children.

I look forward to an exciting year and hope to meet all of you personally. I encourage all parents and students to join the PTSA, which has done so much to contribute to our school.

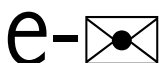
So watch out; Palmetto Middle's gone country as we Round up "A" #9!



– Mrs. Lisa Noffo



Please e-mail articles, dates and important information for the next Lancer Letter by the **10th** of the month to [mindinotrika@bellsouth.net](mailto:mindinotrika@bellsouth.net) with **PMS Newsletter** typed into the subject line. Thanks! Mindi





More than 30 years of research shows that children do better when their parents and families are involved both at home and at school. Grades are higher. Test scores rise. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve.

Palmetto Middle PTSA is one of the largest PTSA's in Dade County and Florida! Our PTSA provides approximately \$25,000 in donations to our school for technology, curriculum enhancement, etc. We have sponsored candidate forums as well as forums on state and local school budgeting, bullying, internet safety, to name just a few.

Everyone benefits from your involvement in PTSA. Here are 7 great reasons to join:

1. **BE IN THE KNOW.** Palmetto Middle PTSA helps you keep up with what's happening at YOUR school. You'll find out what you can do to make a difference for your child and to make your school an even better place.
2. **ACCESS GREAT RESOURCES.** When you are part of PTSA, you have access to resources on topics ranging from school funding to bullying to talking to your child about drugs and alcohol.
3. **MAKE CONNECTIONS.** Whether you attend PTSA meetings and events or just link via PTSA link email or our Lancer Newsletter, through PTSA you'll connect with others who share your concern for children and their education.
4. **HONE YOUR SKILLS.** In PTSA you'll have the opportunity to use what you know, try new things, and develop your skills.
5. **SPEAK UP.** PTSA is a forum for exchanging ideas. Your membership can be a means to effectively suggest changes at our school and to be involved to make it happen.
6. **BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.** PTSA has been a driving force in establishing school lunch programs, after school programs, communitywide safety initiatives, TV and Internet rating standards, and more. You can play a part in improving the world for your child.
7. **BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR CHILD.** Through your involvement in PTSA, not only will you help your child and all children receive a better education but you'll show your child how much you value education.

Because of the size of our organization, PTA is able to partner with businesses and negotiate special discounts, fundraising opportunities, and other valuable benefits exclusively for PTA members. When you make purchases from these companies, not only will you receive a discount, but National PTA will also receive a percentage of royalties from the sale. Please visit [http://www.pta.org/member\\_benefit\\_providers.asp](http://www.pta.org/member_benefit_providers.asp) for further details.



Please complete the attached envelope with your membership information. Also visit our website for further details at [www.pmsptsa.org](http://www.pmsptsa.org).

Palmetto Middle School PTSA Membership co-chairs  
Kim Fairman 305-663-3070 [kfairman@bellsouth.net](mailto:kfairman@bellsouth.net)  
Diana Reeves Tejada 305-439-8274 [tejadareeves@aol.com](mailto:tejadareeves@aol.com)

## A few bike safety reminders

Most kids really enjoy riding a bicycle. But, it's important to ride safely.

Here are some rules to follow when riding your bike:

- **Always wear a helmet** – A bicycle helmet reduces the risk of serious head injury by **85 percent**. It's not enough just to wear it, you have to make sure it fits properly. Ask your parents to make sure yours is on right.
- Stay on the right hand side of the road—traveling in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Always be careful when moving into the street from a driveway or sidewalk.
- Never dart into the street from between parked cars.
- Use hand turn signals.
- Watch out for potholes and obstacles on the road in front of you.
- Be respectful of other bikers, cars, and people on the road.
- Don't ride after dark.
- If riding with friends, stay in a line, one behind the other.

For more information on bike safety, log onto <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/bike/KidsandBikeSafetyWeb/>

## Required Reading Book Sale

All students will receive a required reading book list from their language arts teacher during the first weeks of school. Students can buy all their books, as well as *Wordly Wise* workbooks, during the PTSA's **Required Reading Book Sale** held during September. All books will be priced the same as in the stores, so you can save time and gas and support your school!



## PTSA Link: Weekly news and your link to important school information

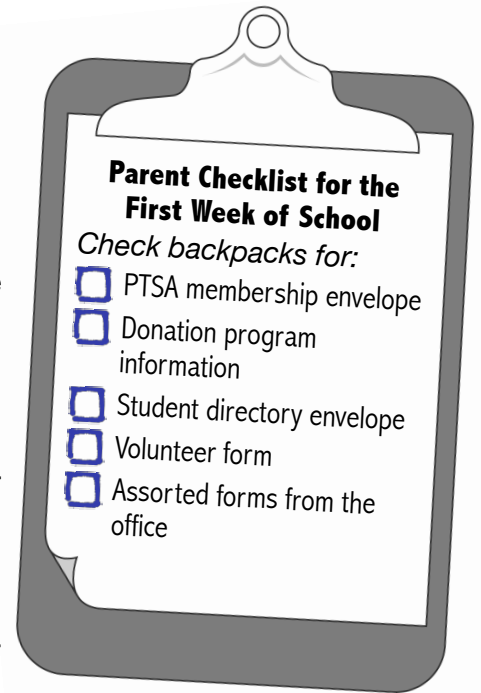
Do you know what's going on at your child's school?

To stay current, make sure to sign up for PTSA Link and join the nearly 800 members of the PMS family that receive school news via e-mail.

Our weekly e-newsletter provides you with up-to-date information, as well as links to our monthly mailings, Lancer Letter and much more.

By signing up for PTSA Link and opting out of our monthly hard-copy mailer, you also aid our efforts to "go green" and help save as much as \$800 each month that can directly support academics and activities for our children.

To sign up, visit [www.pms.org](http://www.pms.org) and click on PTSA Link, or send an e-mail to [ptsalink@bellsouth.net](mailto:ptsalink@bellsouth.net) with PTSA Link/Opt-out Hardcopy in the Subject.



## PTSA has open chair positions

If you are looking to be involved at Palmetto Middle School, the PTSA has two open positions that are fun to manage. Please contact [melissamontovino@yahoo.com](mailto:melissamontovino@yahoo.com) if you are interested or if you have any questions.



## Look cool and support your school

Show your school spirit with PMS T-shirts and hoodies. They will be on sale throughout the school year. T-shirts are \$10 and hoodies are \$20 and they are available at the school store in the cafeteria, every Friday morning before the bell. It will be mandatory that students wear this shirt on all field trips. Hurry and buy yours!

## Generous families keep Palmetto Middle School strong through Parent Donation Program

With school budgets being slammed, the PTSA is counting on parents to remember the importance of the **Parent Donation Program** here at Palmetto Middle School.

The only means to raise funds that have a direct impact upon PMS students, the Parent Donation Program has been very successful. Thanks to the generous support received from so many families, the PTSA has been able to provide academic and enrichment activities for your students. Unlike outside fundraising drives (from which the school receives only 50 percent of the money raised), **100 percent of the funds received go directly into the school.**

Corporate, small business, grandparent and family donations are all welcome. Donors will be recognized in the *Lancer Letter*.

A donation letter and envelope will be going home the first week of school. Please return it to your child's homeroom class with your greatly needed tax deductible donation check made out to PMS PTSA.

If you have any question, please contact our Donation Program co-chairs, Gae Shapiro at 305-254-3919, gaes@bellsouth.net, or Rachele Schneider at 305-254-9539.



## General Mills Box Tops for Education

To earn cash for Palmetto Middle School with the Box Tops for Education program, just go to the Box Tops for Education website, [www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com), and sign up today! There are three easy ways to start earning money for our school:

- 1) Clip the Box Top coupons off the products that are already in your home. Some of these products include General Mills cereals, Kleenex products, Ziploc products, and Pillsbury products (to name just a few). New this year – Avery products join Box Tops. Our school receives \$0.10 for each Box Top that we collect. Cut and save your Box Tops – teachers will offer students “no homework passes” and extra credit on collection days throughout each semester.
- 2) At the Box Tops for Education Marketplace you can shop at over 70 online stores, including JCPenney, Lands' End, Target, Nordstrom, GAP, Wal-Mart, and OfficeMax. Up to eight percent of your purchase will be automatically donated back to our school, up to \$20,000 each year, with no additional cost to you.
- 3) New this year: Earn cash for Palmetto Middle just by buying the books that you love! When you begin your shopping at the Box Tops Reading Room, our school automatically earns six percent on new book purchases and three percent on all other online purchases at Barnes & Noble.

Let's make this the best Box Top collection year yet!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer with collection days, please contact me, Cori Strosnider, BoxTops chairperson, at 305-259-3769, or at [coristros@bellsouth.net](mailto:coristros@bellsouth.net).

## On-line volunteer sign-up

Because Palmetto Middle School appreciates and welcomes volunteers, it is now easier than ever to sign up to be a part of making our events so successful.

You can now enlist online for committee and other volunteer opportunities. Please visit our PMS website, [www.pmsptsa.org](http://www.pmsptsa.org), and click on the volunteer link to fill out an online application and make your volunteer selections.

Your school needs you!

