



LANCER LETTER

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

March 2010 Volume 40 Issue 5

PMS / PTSA calendar March/April 2010

- 3/18** EESAC Meeting 8 am
3/18 PTSA Meeting 9:15 am
3/29 -4/2 Spring Break
4/5 Teacher work day - no school
4/15 Early Release
4/22 EESAC Meeting 8 am
4/22 PTSA Meeting 9:15 am

Message from the PMS PTSA president:

Hello, parents, students, teachers and community members!

It is hard to believe that we already into 2010 and the beginning to the end of the school year. For the PTSA, it means that the crux of our membership campaign is winding down (although you can still join until March 31st!) and fundraising is primarily behind us. We do, however, continue to accept parent donations, sell pizza on Fridays, collect Box Tops and offer the service of our school store on Thursday and Friday mornings. However, as we dive into 2010, we seek creative and innovative solutions to overcome any obstacles that may get in the way of our children reaching their full potential.

We turn our focus toward advocacy and planning for the future. As we all know, school budgets are tight; we continuously look for initiatives to enrich the school program on campus and off! As parents, it is our obligation to ensure that we let our Florida constituents know that we care about public education for our children. Take a moment to contact our legislatures and let your voice be heard. It is important that we take these steps to ensure that our children have a chance against other states and countries that value education. If you

are interested in making your voice heard but don't know what to do, please contact Eileen Faradji, (efaradji@comcast.net) our legislative Chairperson; she can help to direct your energy in the most efficient use.

In addition to advocacy, the PMS PTSA is also focused on ensuring that our school is a better and more competitive institution to attend. We recently approved new smart board technology, study books and reading materials to be purchased. Focus now is on ordering all materials and getting it in the classrooms.

Lastly, we must begin planning for next year. At the last meeting, we appointed a nominating committee that will reach out to PTSA members to identify PTSA leaders for the 2010 – 2011 school year. Listed below are the Palmetto PTSA Board positions that are available:

President, 1st Vice President (PTSA Organization), 2nd Vice President (PTSA Education), 3rd Vice President (PTSA Ways and Means), Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Chairperson, Legislative Chairperson, and Volunteer Coordinator Chairperson.

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A note from Mrs. Noffo

Palmetto Middle School has been very busy working on "Rounding Up 'A' Number Nine"! Ms. Cristine O'Hara has been caught in our corral by winning the Teacher of the Year for Miami Dade County Schools. We are so proud of her and the entire school celebrated with her as she was presented a brand new Toyota! We wish her the best of luck as she now competes at the State level.



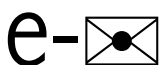
The Math Team was also busy winning all four categories of the Middle School Math Counts competition. Way to go Ms. Charles and the Math Club.

The FCAT test is upon us. We know our students have worked very hard and we know they are prepared. Parents, please assist us in letting your child know that they are ready for the test and that you are proud of them. They will need a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. It is our wish that students come to school very confident and relaxed.

I would like to thank the parent volunteers who make all the extracurricular events happen. Our eighth grade students were able to see the premiere of The Lightning Thief and read the book as well. The seventh grade students were invited over to Palmetto Senior High School to view one of only 25 original copies

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Please e-mail articles, dates and important information for the next Lancer Letter by the **15th** of the month to mindinotrika@bellsouth.net with **PMS Newsletter** typed into the subject line. Thanks! Mindi



(President continued)

With all of the wonderful volunteers that have crossed my path over the last few years, we should have no problem filling the slate with qualified individuals.

Please contact me at melissamontovino@yahoo.com if you would like to serve in a leadership position for 2010 – 2011 or have any questions about what it entails. Thank you for your continued support and involvement. You help us to make a difference!

– Melissa Montovino

Thanks to volunteers

Thanks very much to all the volunteers who helped with the teacher/staff appreciation luncheon in December.

Whether you donated food, donated money, donated a raffle gift, helped set up, clean up or serve, your help with this was greatly appreciated. The teachers & staff had a wonderful luncheon thanks to you.

– Mary Warrell and Maria Castiello

(Noffo continued)

of the Declaration of Independence. Both trips were very successful and could not happen without parent participation.

I am confident that Palmetto Middle School will once again earn an "A" because of the great faculty, hard working students and involved parents!!!!

– Mrs. Lisa Noffo

Math Counts competition draws hundreds of kids

The Florida Engineering Society sponsored a national Math Counts competition the weekend of February 27th and 28th. Middle Schools from all over Dade county – public, charter, magnet AND private schools such as Ransom and Belen – sent teams. Hundreds of middle school students spent the day competing in both written and oral mathematics examinations and challenges.

Palmetto Middle School's team, coached by teacher Ms. Charles, made us proud!!!!

We won the 1st place trophy in the Mathematics Ciphering Competition.

The top ten individual medalists consisted of 2 Palmetto Middle Students!!!

Leia Schwartz (the only girl in the top ten) received the 10th place medal and Aaron Crair was the 1st place OVERALL individual winner!!!!

And to top it all off: our team of Aaron Crair, Kathleen Lu, Leia



Schwartz and Haojie Zhuang took 1st place overall winning the entire event!!!

They are now the Miami-Dade County Champions!!!

Aaron, Kathleen, Leia and Haojie along with alternate Chaitanya Lokireddy will now be going on to the state competition in Orlando on 3/26. Let's all wish them luck!!!

Ms. Charles

Math Coach

Palmetto Middle School

Chefs to "cook it up for kids" at The Falls

For the second year, The Falls shopping mall is organizing "Chefs Cook It Up For Kids", a culinary event for the benefit of United Way's Center for Excellence in Early Education.

The event will take place on Sunday March 14, 2010 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Numerous local restaurants and caterers will be participating.



LET'S GET ON THE ROAD AGAIN!



FLORIDA PTA'S RALLY TO TALLY

March 25, 2010

BUS INFORMATION

OVERNIGHT BUS.....\$80.00 per person/roundtrip (NO REFUNDS)

Leaving approximately 11 AM on March 24, 2010 and returning March 25, 2010 at approximately 11 PM.

You are personally responsible for your hotel/motel reservations on March 24th.

Or

EXPRESS RED EYE BUS.....\$60.00 per person/roundtrip (NO REFUNDS)

Leaving approximately 11 PM on March 24, 2010 and returning March 25, 2010 at approximately 11 PM.

Please complete and return your Bus Registration to reserve your seat on the bus.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK TO: *(Make checks payable to: M-DCC PTA/PTSA)*

U.S. MAIL:

Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA
ATTN: Mr. Taja O. Elbert
1450 NE 2nd Avenue – Room 103
Miami, Florida 33132

SCHOOL MAIL:

9999 - SBAB – Room 103
Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA
ATTN: Mr. Taja O. Elbert

The deadline is **March 19, 2010**. Remember the bus is based on **49 people**. If we do not have the numbers by March 19, 2010, the bus will be cancelled. Fax your request to 305-995-1105 and send your check or money order to the address listed above.

There will be two pick-up locations (one in the south end and one in the north end) in the county.

South Area Pick-up #1 Coral Reef Senior High School, 10101 SW 152nd Street, Miami, Florida

North Area Pick-up #2 Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School, 1410 NE 215th Street, Miami, Florida

YES, I/WE plan to attend and ride the bus!

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS City and Zip Code	CONTACT #	E-MAIL	OVERNIGHT BUS (√)	RED EYE BUS (√)

PTA/PTSA Name: _____ PICK UP LOCATION _____

Number of People taking the **OVERNIGHT Bus**: _____ x \$80 each = _____ enclosed Check#: _____

Number of People taking the **RED EYE Bus**: _____ x \$60 each = _____ enclosed Check #: _____

CAREER DAY

CAREER DAY is coming to Palmetto Middle School on FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010. Please share your career with our students and help guide them toward a rewarding future. You have the knowledge and power to change their lives! Please contact Mrs. Anderson-Dorsey (tdanderson@dadeschools.net) if you would like to be a speaker or you would like to recommend someone. Please note: If guest speakers have a child or children that attend Palmetto Middle, they is no guarantee that they will be assigned to their child's teacher.