



Palmetto Middle School

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

Lisa Noffo, Principal

Melissa Montovino, PTSA President

May-June 2010 Volume 40 Issue 6

## PMS / PTSA calendar May-June 2010

- 6/09** Last day of school
- 8/23** First day of school

Message from the PMS PTSA president:

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

This final issue of the Lancer Letter for the 2009 – 2010 school year allows me to reflect upon my time as President as well as the many accomplishments that we have achieved together. In the beginning of the year, we committed ourselves to three overarching goals: to promote parental involvement, support school spirit and facilitate communication. It's clear that as you read through this newsletter that despite the economic and educational challenges that we have faced this year, we have accomplished our goals and more!

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the outstanding individuals who lead the PTSA. On behalf of myself, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the the PTSA Board. You all have amazed and inspired me in many ways!

- Monique Patino-Jimenez: 1st VP of Organization
- Darla March: 2nd VP of Programs and Special Projects Chair
- Maricel Lam: 3rd VP of Ways and Means
- Maria Castiello: Treasurer
- Susan Fusfield: Recording Secretary

- Mary Warrell: Corresponding Secretary
  - Marcia Choiseul: Volunteers Chair
  - Diana Tejada: Membership Chair
  - Eileen Faradji: Legislative Chair, Sharon Hickey: Parliamentarian
- Additionally, there are several volunteers who have put in countless PTSA hours and energy into ensuring that the back engine and support ran smoothly in chairing PTSA operations that are "graduating" this year. Thank you all for all that you do, at the school, in your office and home!

- Cori Strosnider: Box Tops
- Cyndi Eisenberg: Beautification
- Dawn Ratiner: Spirit Week, Red Ribbon Week, A Taste of Pinecrest, Career Day
- Diana Tejada: Awards Night
- Kelly Foreman: Book Fair
- Maureen Piero: PTSA Bulletin Board

It has been a true honor working amongst this great team. Thank you for allowing me to serve you these last two years. We've had our share of challenges but finding great support has not been one of them. I am also pleased that I "leave" you

*(continued on page 3)*

## A note from Mrs. Noffo

Our volunteers make us great! A very special "thank you" to all of you for a terrific Career Day and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Congratulations go to Mrs. Cristine O'Hara. She is a State finalist for Teacher of the Year, and the winner will be selected in July. Good Luck Mrs. O'Hara!



The drama production of High School Musical, the dance performances, and the orchestra concert were outstanding. We invite you to attend the final great performance of the year: the Band and Chorus Show on May 26, 2010.

We thank you for your support throughout the school year thus far, and ask that you continue to support your child and Palmetto Middle School. There are many instructional days left in the school year and the rigor of our curriculum will challenge our students. The final exam schedule is as follows:

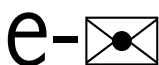
Essay Portion –  
June 1, 2, and 3, 2010

Objective Section –  
June 4, 7, 8, and 9, 2010

It's time to round up "A" #9!

*- Mrs. Lisa Noffo*

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



## Teacher Appreciation Breakfast - Thanks, Families!

Thanks go out to all the PMS families and individuals who helped to make Teacher Appreciation Breakfast a great experience for faculty and staff. In addition to all the countless volunteers who gave their time to help make the breakfast a success, the following families contributed to the event:

- Aronson Family -Flavored Coffee Creamer
- Askowitz Family – Muffins
- Ballestas Family -Panera gift cards
- Barrett Family – Mary Kay gift cards , pastries
- Bailey Family – Monetary donations
- Benjamin Family – Cantaloupe, deviled eggs
- Bouchard Family – Fruit smoothie
- Castiello Family – Egg Salad
- Chassman- Smith Family – Support
- De La Cruz-Munoz Family – Ham, soufflé ,monkey bread
- De la Torre Family -Fruit platter
- Delisser Family – Fruit salad
- Dembrow Family – Monetary donations
- Denaro Family – Publix gift card
- Doliner Family – Spanish tortillas
- Dowis Family – Quiche, pastries
- Ehlies Family – Mini blueberry muffins
- Ellinport Family – Donuts
- Esquenazi Family – Monetary donations
- Faller Family – Ham
- Fallon Family – Croissants
- Fusfied Family – French toast soufflé
- Gonzalez Family – Macy's gift card
- Harris Family – Monetary donations
- Junco Family – Ice
- Kilmer Family – Monetary donations
- Kundu Family – Marble cake
- Ladis Family – Donuts
- Lara Family – OJ, Roses for the raffle
- Lau Family – Banana Bread
- Laura Richter – Event Photographer
- Lemos Family – Pastry platter
- Levin Family – I-Tunes gift card /Banana bread
- Limner Family – Monetary donations
- Lipsky Family – Muffins and danishes
- Liu Family – Onion pie
- Lucus Family – Bacon
- Luksomboon Family – Cake, muffins ,OJ, water
- Martin Family – Donuts
- Martin Family – Ice and support
- Martinez Family – Panera gift card
- MathewValdez – Barnes and Noble Gift card
- McGilvray Family – Ham, bread pudding
- McMaster Family – Monetary donations
- Mendez Family – Publix gift card
- Montero Arias Family – Muffins
- Montovino-Vandelanotte Family – Quiches
- Nepomechi Family – Monetary donations
- Obregon Family -Danish
- Olsen Family – Get Smart gift card
- Otequi Family – Cake
- Parker Family -Monetary donations
- Patino Family – Water
- Phillips Family – Yogurt with granola and raisins
- Portes Family – Get Smart gift card
- Proenza Family – Publix gift card
- Richter Family – French toast casserole
- Rodriguez Family – Bagel and Danish
- Rodriguez Family – Quiche
- Romaguera Family – Monetary donations
- Romano Family – Coffee cake
- Rosen Family – Blueberry and cheese blintz soufflé
- Salmon Family– Croissants
- Saruski Family–Scrambled eggs and cheese
- Schwartz Family – Yogurt and granola
- Seckinger Family – Cold stone and B.B. &Beyond gift card
- Serna Family – Coffee cake
- Sirota Family – Macy's gift card
- Solorzano Family – OJ, Danishes
- Spector Family – Out back gift card
- Stienman Family – Danishes
- Trier Family – Fruit Salad
- Trinidad Family – Flan
- Tyler Family – Monetary donation
- Warrell Family – Strata of egg/cheese/ bacon
- Waters Family -Ham
- Yasky Family – Massage gift card
- Zichy Family – Flowers for the buffet tables
- Ziffer Family – French toast, muffins

## Committees on Education

Thanks to all the committee chairs and volunteers who participated in the many events, activities and programs that contributed to the positive learning environment at Palmetto Middle School. A huge THANK YOU to **Dawn Ratiner!** She did a BEAUTIMOUS job filling in while I have been on active duty during **Operation Unified Response**, the United States Government support to the Government of Haiti following the devastating earthquake. Dawn has done a tremendous job managing her own committees in addition to helping represent us at PTSA Board meetings. Her outreach efforts in the community and the remarkable success of every activity that she leads is truly remarkable.

Palmetto Middle School students and staff benefit throughout the year from the dedication of many parent and community volunteers. Specifically, our **Beautification Committee**, chaired by **Christian Armstrong** and **Cyndi Eisenberg**, has devoted countless hours to taking care of our campus. Their contribution helps make our school a welcoming place, full of quiet retreats and peaceful sites to study, chat and grow. Our **Listeners**, under the tutelage of **Linda Diamond**, capitalize on these locations to stop and listen to pre-teens in need of a friendly ear. Thank you!

One highlight of this year was **Reflections**, the National PTA competition to celebrate the arts. This year the theme was "Beauty is..." **Lisa Whalen** worked tirelessly to make sure our students celebrated the beautiful world around them. Thank you for taking on this challenging event with class and distinction.

A final moment to reflect on the extra efforts by parents to make school

*(continued on page 4)*

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*From the President (cont. from page 1)*

with a super team to continue on. The following folks have stepped up to lead the PTSA and I will continue on in true worker bee fashion as I move onto my next phase of life:

- Darla March: President
- Monique Patino-Jimenez: 1st VP of Organization
- Maricel: 2nd VP of Programs and Special Projects Chair
- Open: 3rd VP of Ways and Means

- Open (but slotted): Treasurer
- Maria Castiello: Recording Secretary
- Mary Warrell: Corresponding Secretary
- Marcia Choiseul: Volunteers Chair
- Open: Membership Chair
- Open: Legislative Chair
- To be appointed by President: Parliamentarian

Thanks to everybody for your support, involvement and inspiration and for giving me a wonderful experience! Have a great end of school year and summer!

– *Melissa Montovino*

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## Legislative

The end of the year is upon us ... again. Thank you to all who got involved, perhaps went to Tallahassee, visited or sent even one email to a rep or senator or educated yourself on the issues and the process. There were many victories this year, and everyone is to be congratulated for their efforts.

Make no mistake, however, there are many challenges ahead. The current situation dictates there will be changes, but we have to be part of shaping exactly what they will be. Please remain or become involved, eighth grade parents too, from wherever you are next year. Also, please be on the lookout for someone who will take the

Chair of Legislative next year. A few of you could get together and share the Chair as well. We are happy to answer questions for anyone thinking of taking this position. Be reassured that the way it's done is your way, with suggestions and support from the Board. Thanks again and keep it going!

– Eileen Faradji, M.D.

## Yee-Haw! Thanks to all for rounding up the moolah!

A bodacious thanks goes out to all the chairpersons, volunteers, and donors who contributed their effort and time.

**Gae Shapiro & Rachelle Schneider**, you ladies rock as co-chairs of our PTSA main fundraiser – the **Parent Donation Program**. This year a total of \$17,870 was donated to help PTSA continue providing materials and support to all PMS students, teachers and staff. I thank you both and all those families that donated to this program.

Chair **Colleen Beauregard**, along with co-chairs **Kim Martin** and **Emy Upshaw**, did an amazing job on the **Required Reading Book Sale**. Your efforts and that of the team of volunteers helped raise over \$9,893. PMS PTSA provided many books to students needing economic assistance, as well as to the Media Center and directly to the classroom. Colleen once again ordered the blank books for Language Arts and also ordered other required reading material throughout the school year which was made available to students via the PTSA school store.

**Carolyn Seckinger** and **Kelly Foreman** once again co-chaired the **Scholastic Book Fair**. Their enthusiasm and great organization made this event a huge success. All

proceeds were given to the Media Center toward the purchase of new books.

Incredible **Cori Strosnider** once again and for her final year here at Palmetto, cut counted and mailed off over 30,000 **General Mills Box Tops for Education** to earn our school approximately \$3,062. Parents and students – please keep collecting them over the summer. General Mills donates .10 cents for every box top. Teachers collect them and at the end of each nine week period the top three collecting teachers receive a gift as a thank you for their efforts.

**Pizza Sales** were a hit every Friday thanks to the efforts of **Cindy Luksomboon, Marlene Fletcher, Melissa Montovino, Adrien Vandelanotte, & Veronica Vazquez**. A big thanks to the **Pizza Hut** on US1 and Kendall Drive.

**Jana d'Adesky** made this year's student directory fantastic. This years winning artwork graced the cover and the insides of the directory. Thanks to **Ms. Schaefer** for inspiring students to partake and collecting the artwork. A big thanks to the UPS Store on Bird Road and 67 Avenue for the awesome layout and printing. A huge thanks to all

those who advertised in the directory.

The **PTSA School Store** was the place to be on Thursdays and Fridays with super cool school supplies and great brownies and cookies. Chair **Cindy Luksomboon** and **Martha Limner** did a fantastic job as proprietors!

The **Taste of Pinecrest** was a huge success thanks to our Chair **Dawn Ratiner**. She singlehandedly coordinated our band, dancers, and chorus performances as well as gathered volunteers for the day and also sold raffle tickets for the event. A Lancer shout out goes to the **Pinecrest Business Association** for sponsoring the Taste of Pinecrest and to **Mayor Lerner** and the **Commissioners** for their continued support of education in our community.

And finally a big thanks to **Sabina de la Torre** and **Kenia McQuire** for organizing and selling the **PTSA Spirit T-shirt** and **hoodies**. Your efforts raised over \$4100. PTSA also gave away t-shirts and hoodies at the outreach program Palmetto Middle School sponsored thru the leadership of Mrs. Anderson!

– Maricel Lam

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### *Education (cont. from page 2)*

fun. Dawn's leadership during **Red Ribbon Week, Career Day** and **Spirit Week** reminded our students that there is more to life than books and lectures. Her team's efforts to decorate, celebrate, and bring community members to our campus helped remind students that they will have a lifetime of learning ahead of them. They must make the right choices because "the road to

success is always under construction."

Finally, thank you to the unseen, quiet volunteers... some of which are devoted PTSA members who pitched in without being asked and other parents and staff personnel who are not members of our organization but who equally

contributed to our motto, "Every Child, One Voice."

Palmetto Middle School 2009–2010 school year has been educational for all stakeholders! Enjoy the summer!

– Darla March