



Palmetto Middle School

7351 SW 128th Street, Pinecrest FL 33156  
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

September 2009 Volume 30 Issue 2

## PMS / PTSA calendar September 2009

9/17	PTSA meeting, 9:15 am Early release
9/7	No school
9/17	Open house
TBA	Required reading book sale
9/28	No school

### Message from the PMS PTSA president:

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

Thanks to all of our wonderful parents, teachers and students, we were well prepared for the opening of the 2009 – 2010 school year! I am pleased to see that students (and teachers) are already settling into their classes and schedules. (I know that us parents are still working on our work, kid and school commutes!)

As I've mentioned previously, our PTSA here at Palmetto Middle School is very strong! The strength of our PTSA comes not only from the number of members but also from their enthusiasm, drive and energy. I invite each of you to join our team and help us in our quest for continued focus on education.

As you know, being a PTSA member and a volunteer at the school 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 at Palmetto Middle School gives you insight into what is happening at the school at many levels and shows your children that what they do every day matters. If you are stretched for time because of other demands, there are many different ways in which you can help. You can assist while at home, on the phone and during the day or the evening. If you have a passion or a talent, I bet we could use your help...our children need you!

Lately, we have some special volunteers that I want to highlight:

Monique Jimenez-Patino led the effort in pulling together the materials for the

welcome back packets and the Lancer Letter summer mailing.

Mindi Notrika has graciously accepted the task of putting together this newsletter.

Diana Tejada led the decorations and set up for the fantastic teacher welcome back breakfast.

Marcia Choiseul ensured that we had parents on hand for assisting kids to class and sorting through PTSA materials upon their return.

Maureen Piero and her "posse" of very helpful young ladies redecorated and adorned the PTSA bulletin board (just on the right of the breezeway) with new information.

Cindy Luksomboon cleaned out and organized the school store so that we will be ready to sell on Fridays...bless her!

Bring your ideas to our next PTSA meeting at 9:15am on September 17<sup>th</sup> in the Media Center. In the interim, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the executive officers that were voted in at the end of last school year:

Monique Jimenez-Patino, VP Organization; Darla March, VP Education; Maricel Lam, VP Ways and Means; Maria Castiello, Treasurer; Susan Fusfield, Recording Secretary, and Mary Warrell, Corresponding Secretary.

Talk to you soon!

– Melissa Montovino

### A note from Mrs. Noffo

After the first few weeks of school, we are definitely seeing many Lancer Rodeo Stars as our students work towards Rounding up "A" #9. This is evident throughout the school.

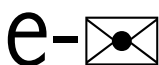
Our teachers are available (in the classrooms) to your children every Friday morning from 8:25 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. They can provide assistance with assignments, homework or guide your child in his/her class work. TEAM parent conferences can be scheduled on Tuesday mornings.

Also make sure to log on to the Miami-Dade District Parent Portal, [www.parents.dadeschools.net](http://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.

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

– 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



## Volunteers already hard at work at PMS

That wonderful but trying time of the year is once again upon us. Yes, a new school year is under way!

Our children are excited and hopeful, and so are we. What better way to help them succeed in school than to become involved?

Volunteering some of your time and talents will not only help you stay in touch with those who help shape our children's lives, but also help Palmetto Middle maintain its long standing tradition of excellence.

There are many opportunities to volunteer, whether you are a working parent or not. If you are interested, please contact us and we'll find the perfect spot for you.

The following volunteers have already helped to get this year off to a great start, and it's greatly appreciated:

Angel Alicea (and his daughter), Maria Balladares, Julia Breslaw, Maria Castiello, Juliette & Etienne Choiseul, Diana Demandt, Mari Fernandez, Lauren Gillette, Helena Gonzalez, Sharon Hickey (and her daughter, Kathryn), Monique Jimenez-Patino (and her kids: Kaylin & Robert Jimenez, Joshua & Rickie Lindstron and Austin Patino), Sherrial Jones, Karen Ladis, Martha Limner, Cindy Luksomboon (and her daughter, Caroline), Darla March (and her kids: Luis, Tomas & Daniel Goiccouria and cousins, Sophie & Kyle), Norma Meyer, Melissa Montovino (and her kids, Jonas, Tristan & Adrien Vandelanotte), Mindi Notrika, Maureen Piero (and her daughter, Annie), Hope Phillips (and her daughter, Savannah & cousin Natasha Rosario), Nadine Rosario,

Emily Schroeder, Laura Schwartz, Diana Tejada and Mary Warrell.

And those whose names might have escaped us, you know who you are. Thanks again!

Marcia Choiseul  
305-338-1086

Jana D'Adesky  
305-799-8133

### 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](http://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.** Their photo will be made into a volunteer ID badge, which is necessary to wear when volunteering at school.

### PMS PTSA membership: Let your voice be heard

We invite you to join the Palmetto Middle School PTSA, one of the largest PTSA's in the state!

Our PTSA is a **P**arent, **T**eacher and **S**tudent **A**ssociation 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, stepparents, 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.

*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)*

*PTSA Membership co-chairs*

## Change a child's life – become a listener

Looking for a way to volunteer and really help a child? Then the Listeners Program could be for you.

A listener is an adult volunteer who provides a stable, non-judgmental environment for a child by meeting with the student once a week, just to talk. Rather than attempting to fix or rescue the child, the goal of the listener is to help build the child's self esteem by listening attentively and encouraging the student to develop his/her own problem-solving skills.

For more information, phone Linda Diamond at 305-661-1946 or visit [www.listenersprogram.org](http://www.listenersprogram.org).

The first training session in our area is Tuesday Oct. 13th 2009 at Howard Drive Elementary School, 7750 SW 136th St, from 9 am to 12 noon.

## 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 that have a direct impact on 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](http://www.pmsptsa.org) and click on PTSA Link, or send an e-mail to [ptسالink@pmsptsa.org](mailto:ptسالink@pmsptsa.org) with PTSA Link/Opt-out Hardcopy in the subject.

Questions? Contact Diana Husson at [ptسالink@pmsptsa.org](mailto:ptسالink@pmsptsa.org) or [dhusson@bellsouth.net](mailto:dhusson@bellsouth.net).

## PTSA book sale a great service

Instead of running all over town, students can purchase their required reading books and *Wordly Wise* Workbooks at school and online for the regular retail prices offered in stores! Order forms are available through the language arts teachers, the PTSA Link, and the PTSA website, [www.pmsptsa.org](http://www.pmsptsa.org). Help our school while saving time and gas money...buy books through the PTSA and make your life easier!



## Calling all green thumbs!



Please join the beautification committee at 9:30 am the first Wednesday of every month to help spruce up the Palmetto Middle School grounds. Bring drinking water, sunblock, gloves, garden clippers and a pair of scissors and meet at the front atrium (green area in front of the main office). Please let Christian Armstrong, [armstrongclan2@hotmail.com](mailto:armstrongclan2@hotmail.com), or Cyndi Eisenberg, [gdezea@aol.com](mailto:gdezea@aol.com), know if you can join in on the fun. Thanks!

## Supplies and directories

Need some paper or a pen at the last minute? Never fear – school store is here! Get supplies and student directories Friday mornings.

## Welcome and news from Public Relations



We're fortunate to have amazing students, teachers, and staff at Palmetto Middle School, with so many inspiring stories to tell. Please share with me any special achievements, accomplishments and honors that your child, teacher, student, club, or staff member has received, so that we can all be proud together! I look forward to hearing from you at [carmen@thinkfactory.com](mailto:carmen@thinkfactory.com)

If your student is into painting, drawing, jazz, rock, musical theatre and more, you'll be happy to know that the Pinecrest Community Center is offering exciting after school music and art classes, even an Introduction to the Chinese Language class. Please call 305.284.0900 for scheduling information.

Welcome new students! Together, we'll make this a great school year.

*Carmen Lucas*

*Public Relations Chairperson*

## Spirit T-shirts on sale now

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!



## 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](mailto:gaes@bellsouth.net), or Rachelle Schneider at 305-254-9539.

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## Faculty, administration and staff enjoy welcome back breakfast

The faculty and staff were welcomed back "country style" with our PTSA welcome back breakfast on Thursday, August 20th.

Thanks to Diana Tejada, Mary Warrell, Maria Castiello, Darla March, Cindy Luksomboon (and her daughter, Caroline), Karen Ladis, Melissa Montovino, Marcia Choiseul (and her daughter, Juliette) and Diana Demandt, the venue was set up and decorated cowboy style. The team welcomed and gave the PMS team eco-friendly water bottles, pertinent school and PTSA information and school supplies.

Thanks to all noted, this event was super well orchestrated, down home, yet classy. The faculty and staff are truly in the mode to rope in A #9. We really do appreciate all of the work that they do for our kids!



*PMS faculty in country attire – ready to round up "A" number 9*



## Pizza sold every Friday after school

The PTSA sells pizza every Friday afternoon. For only one dollar, you can tame those munchies and support your school!