



John Lux, Principal
Darla March, PTSA President

Palmetto Middle School

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Message from the PMS PTSA president:

Welcome Back to School!
This will be an incredible year at Palmetto Middle School.

In the fourth largest school district in the nation, Miami can be a city with life in fast forward, but Palmetto Middle School incorporates all stakeholders in building an oasis for growth and learning.

This year we will continue to develop green gardens with orchids and butterflies, a media center teeming with books, classrooms with the latest technology, and a fine arts and athletic program that rivals many middle schools in our county. There are new initiatives to help every grade level, every special student population, every teacher, and each student achieve

their full potential. Doors are open for parental involvement, community partnerships and advocates of all ages.

In Malcolm Gladwell's book, *The Tipping Point*, he highlights that children are powerfully shaped by their external environment, that the features of our immediate social and physical world – the streets we walk down, the people we encounter – play a huge role in shaping who we are and how we act.

I invite you to actively join in building a positive learning environment and directly contributing to our children's success and overall well being.

Volunteer your time, energy or

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Principal's message

With the 2010 – 2011 school year on the horizon, I am so very excited to welcome your children, our students, to Palmetto Middle School.



We have just been designated an "A" school from the state for the ninth consecutive time. This is a feat that few schools in Miami-Dade County can claim. I feel privileged to be the new Principal at Palmetto Middle School.

Together, the students, staff, parents and community will make this school the best it has ever been. I look forward to many exciting activities as well as the academic challenges this year is sure to bring.

Our students are second to none and deserve the very best of all we can offer. What we instill in them today, we will reap tomorrow as they will be our global community's caretakers and leaders. It is an exciting time and I will work diligently to continue to promote a safe learning environment and to preserve our school's high academic standards.

The PTSA has a long tradition of supporting academic endeavors and student success. I encourage everyone to join and actively participate in our PTSA! In order for our school to be the very best it can, we need each of you to become active and engaged PTSA members. This year, together we *will* score "A" ten!

- Ms. John Lux

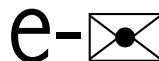
Dates to remember

8/23 – 9:15 am – First Day of School
(Coffee for parents in cafeteria)

8/24 – Primary Election Day

8/26 – 9:15 am – PTSA General Meeting

9/16 – 9:15 am – PTSA Program



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.

Required Reading book sale coming soon

Changes are coming to the Required Reading Book Sale! The goal of the book sale is to provide students with a simple way to buy the required reading books they will need for Language Arts and other classes.

Within the first few weeks of school, students will bring home a form which will identify what titles their teachers will require them to get for class work. Sometime in mid-September (specific dates to be announced), the books will go on sale at school. Each class will have a specific day to

visit the book sale. Financial assistance will be available to students as needed. Parent volunteers are needed to assist the students in making their selections and in ringing up the sales. If you can help, please let us know. Thanks.

Kim Martin, 305-213-1665

Emmie Upshaw, 305-903-5683

Book Sale Co-Chairpersons



(President continued)

environment and directly contributing to our children's success and overall well being.

Volunteer your time, energy or talent to create a climate conducive to learning, not only for our students, but also our staff and our parents. Support from the community and the Village of Pinecrest has been a cornerstone for bringing resources and expertise to our campus. I hope we can add four new community businesses or organizations as partners with our school. During this election year, it is critical that our PTSA increases membership by 10 percent in order to make sure our newly elected officials recognize our strength in numbers. Our PTSA members should have 100% participation in the 2010 election of local, state and federal officials. This will be an incredible year, indeed!

Our PTSA general meetings are open to all stakeholders. In order to make the PTSA accessible to each and every parent, our first meeting of the year will be both a morning meeting on **August 26 at 9:15 am** in the **Media Center**, or you may attend the evening meeting at **7:00 pm** that same day. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at darla.march@bellsouth.net

In my time as a member of Palmetto Middle PTSA, I have been on a journey to learn the needs and abilities of each of my children, the role of parents in supporting our teachers, and the importance of sound education practices for the betterment of our society. I ask that you join me on that journey. I look forward to a great year!

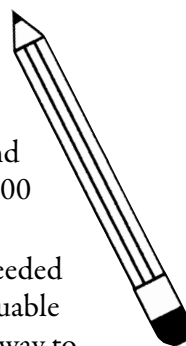
- Darla March

School store open Thursday & Friday

Need all of your class supplies? Forget a pencil or paper? Forget to buy your spirit shirt? The School Store has it all and is open Thursday and Friday from 8:30-9:00 am in the cafeteria.

Volunteers are needed to continue this valuable service! It is a great way to get involved, be on campus, but not crowd your middle schooler!

Contact Cindy Luksomboon at 305-665-7135 or luksomboon@comcast.net.



Student directory connects peers

Homework questions? Missed class? New friends? The best way to keep in touch is through the PTSA published Student Directory.

We need a Committee Chairperson to volunteer in order to continue to provide this service. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Whalen, 786-972-9802, Interim Vice President, Ways and Means Committee, Llwhalen@aol.com.

Keeping Palmetto Middle School strong through Parent Donation Program

The PTSA's fundraiser is through direct parent donations. A Donation Letter is included in the welcome back packet. Donations can be returned to your child's homeroom teacher or sent in by mail. Envelopes are available in the main office.

Corporate and grandparent donations are welcome. Last year, over 200 families participated, with donations ranging from \$10 to \$2,000!

No donation is too small or too large, and is fully tax deductible. PTSA sponsors this fund raiser instead of gift wrap, catalogue or Entertainment book sales!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Dyan Carness, Chair
Parent Donation Program
lewduan1@aol.com

Beautification Wednesdays

Come help the Beautification Committee maintain the green areas of our school. on the first Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 to 12:00 am, in the Emerald Garden.

Bring gloves and garden clippers. Water will be provided.

For more information email armstrongclan2@hotmail.com or call Christian Armstrong at 305-588-0934.

Also needed is a co-chair who is enthusiastic, likes to spend time outdoors, and does not mind sweating.

PTSA membership vital to our school

We invite you to join the Palmetto Middle School PTSA. The PTSA is a parent, teacher, student association that provides information to parents of 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 parents, faculty and staff who are not able to devote time to volunteering to be involved in supporting the PTSA efforts. The cost is only \$10 per parent, \$7 per teacher/staff and \$5 per student.

We encourage all adult family members, students, teachers and staff

to join. This year, membership invitations will go home during the first week of school.

Please look for the membership envelope and return it with your cash or check as soon as possible. The first homeroom to reach 100% membership will receive a pizza party. We will also have a membership table set up during the first PTSA meeting on August 26!

Together we can reach our goal of 100% membership. Please show your support for your school by joining the PTSA. Thank you for joining.

Monique Jimenez
Membership Chairperson

PTSA Link provides connection

One of the PTSA's primary goals is to enhance communication between parents, faculty, students and administration – strengthening the home/school connection which has made our school so successful! To this end, we distribute monthly mailers, as well as communicate with you via both e-mail and our web site.

To receive weekly e-mail announcements from your PTSA, please send an e-mail to:

ptsalink@pmspts.org. Include your name, e-mail address, and grade(s) of your PMS student(s).

For those of you who already receive PTSA Link, please make sure our address is in your address book or safe sender list. This ensures your e-mail is delivered to your inbox and not sent to your bulk or junk mail folders.

Diana Husson
E-mail Directory chair

PTSA[®]
everychild. one voice.[®]

Students to chair Red Ribbon Week and Spirit Week

This year PTSA is proud to have student chairs for Red Ribbon Week and Spirit Week. PTSA hopes to empower students to participate in making Palmetto better.

Please contact Christina Arias - Red Ribbon PTSA Chair for more information.

Reflections committee needs chairperson

National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections program.

The upcoming 2010-11 theme is "Together We Can." Students from all over the country in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to



PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

create and submit works of art in six areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage).

Students will be informed of this year's rules and deadline. Chairperson for Palmetto is open. Please contact Maricel Lam, 2nd VP programs, at 305-613-0843 or whoil@bellsouth.net.

PTSA held breakfast for faculty and staff

Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with the Faculty and Staff Breakfast August 19th! Thank you to the Lucas family for their generous donation of restaurant.com gift certificates for the PTSA teacher membership raffle.

If you are interested in assisting the Teacher/Staff Appreciation Committee, please contact Justine Knecht or Mariana Montero Arias at justineknect@bellsouth.net or marmont28@aol.com.