

**PTSA**<sup>®</sup>  
every child. one voice.<sup>®</sup>  
www.pmsptsa.org



**Palmetto Middle School**  
7351 SW 128th Street  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
www.pms.dadeschools.net

**Dec - Jan 2011 Volume ?? Issue ?**

### Message from the PMS PTSA President

Happy Holidays and Blessings for the New Year! Palmetto Middle PTSA has begun the year with programs, events and activities on campus and throughout the community. Red Ribbon Week and Spirit Week were led by student committee chairs, Cristina Arias and Max Lucas. Campus Clean-up Day in the Fall resulted in mulch, pruning and trimming the plant life around campus. Mrs. Tiffany Anderson, Assistant Principal, and several devoted faculty members coordinated an outreach event for parental involvement for families in Perrine at RR Moton Elementary. Dinner and events were led by Palmetto Senior PTSA with funding and support from our volunteers and Southwood Middle PTSA. In November, we sent a delegation to attend the Florida PTA Convention to learn more about the upcoming legislative session, the MILK party priorities for children across the state, and elect the new state leaders. Throughout the year, our student athletes, musicians, thespians and dancers continue to win competitions across the county. Dyan Carness has collected a remarkable display of the talent at our school in the entries for the National PTA Reflections Fine Art and Literature contest!

Volunteerism and parental involvement is a critical component for student achievement. Marcia Choiseul and Mary Warrell have spearheaded efforts to include anyone interested in volunteering or participating in activities at Palmetto Middle. Carmen Lucas, Diana Husson, Olga Shestopalov, and Sean Keenan have lead our strategic communications efforts to keep all stakeholders informed through Facebook, PTSA Link, the www.pmsptsa.org website, and the Lancer Letter, respectively. Maricel Lam leads our programs and special events. Diana Bryan has stepped up to assist with Membership Drive, Student Assistance and process all money matters. We all wish Lisa Whalen godspeed during her move to Kentucky with sincere appreciation for everything she has done as Vice President, Ways and Means.

In 2011, the outlook for public funding for programs outside of English, Math, Social Studies and Science looks bleak. It is critical for parents, teachers, staff, students and community leaders to unify our efforts to advocate for high quality public education. EESAC and PTSA provide an opportunity to ensure that the whole is greater than the sum of each part. Read the remainder of the Lancer Letter to stay involved! We need your assistance, ideas and support. If you have any suggestions, please contact me at darla.march@bellsouth.net or 305-498-3327. Happy New Year! —Darla March

### Principle's Message

It has been a wonderful year thus far here at Palmetto Middle School. With the holiday season upon us, I spend my days speaking with students, faculty and parents. I believe we are all very fortunate to live and/or work in a community that prides itself on children and their academic endeavors. Pinecrest has many exciting things happening in the upcoming months. We too, here at Palmetto Middle School, are getting ready for our first student play, The Diary of Anne Frank. Additionally, we will be having our first curriculum Fair of the year for incoming students in the month of December. Our Orchestra is working hard on their upcoming holiday performance as well. The school clubs are meeting weekly and our sports programs are actively involved in their athletic seasons. It is with great pride that I represent your children's, our student's interests on a daily basis. Our academic as well as extracurricular activities are second to none! We will continue to prosper academically and soar to new heights. Enjoy time with your family and friends this holiday season.



—Mr. John Lu

Palmetto Middle School  
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### Red Ribbon Week

A big thanks to chair Mariana Arias and PTSA first ever student chair Cristina Arias. Cristina along with a dynamic team of wonder girls - Arantza Barroso, Roqui Wei and Beatriz Martins as well as volunteer moms Dina Lara, Emmie Upshaw, Kim Martin and Shifra Lipson worked hard to wrap the school in red bows and make the week festive. The message of the 4 Real Team also drove home the importance of staying DRUG FREE 4 LIFE, this year's theme. Thank you to all the students who submitted Poems and Posters with the anti-drug message.

### Congratulations to the Poster winners -

Beatriz Martin, Clarissa Gonzalez, Stephanie Levine, Helen Gail, Sarah Benjamin, Shae Demandt, Lucas Edwards, Samuel Esquerro, Ryan Blake and Dante Guevara.

Mrs. Bryant, our reading coach, judged the poem contest and awarded winners with movie tickets.

**Way to go Lancers!**  
**DRUG FREE 4 LIFE!**

### Spirit Week

This year Student Commissions with the efforts of Max Lucas, Nikki Diaz, Lucy Saverin and Sam Rosen created an amazing Spirit Week 2010 experience. The students were greeted by the sounds of the award winning Palmetto Senior High Marching Band on Monday morning and were cheered to school on Wednesday with the flips and jumps of the electrifying Palmetto High School Cheerleading Squad. Students got to dress up as their favorite super hero and of course the traditional Crazy Hat was a big hit. A BIG Lancer to Panther thank you to Mr. Smith, Marching Band Director and Ms. Mallard, Director for the Panther Cheerleaders.

### Beautification Committee

HEY, seen how great our school looks? Thanks to the green thumb of Christian Armstrong and a dedicated group of gardeners. Want to help? Contact Christian Armstrong at 205-252-7788 or armstrongclan2@hotmail.com.



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.

## Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Yoly McCarthy is Teacher of the Year for Palmetto Middle School. Her positive attitude and leaderships directly contributes to the positive learning environment at Palmetto Middle School for all students and stakeholders in our community. Yoly McCarthy has served as the Science Department Chair for three years. Her devotion to every student at our school is evident in the manner in which she brings new technology and Differentiated Instruction methodology to her entire department. During, EESAC meetings, her insights on behalf of the faculty help parents and community stakeholders appreciate the variety strategies and results that will achieve the goals of the Student Improvement Plan.



This year, her innovative recommendation to incorporate new technology and supplemental materials to the Science curriculum has enabled teachers to create a hands-on learning environment. Mrs. McCarthy's passion for teaching is evident in every aspect of her demeanor and enthusiasm on campus. As a mother of three children, she relates easily to parents in a partnership to develop the whole child.

Mrs. Yoly McCarthy is a parent first, teacher second. She puts the well-being of every student at the forefront of her recommendations and decision-making. She is an expert who leverages all resources to the betterment of the learning environment at Palmetto Middle School. She is a blessing to our faculty and our families. Palmetto Middle PTSA highly recommends her for Teacher of the Year for Region V, Miami Dade County Public Schools and the State of Florida.

## Teacher Appreciation Committee

Our next big event will be on December 16th, we will be serving breakfast, and are in need of food donations such as: hot cocoa, pastries, breakfast casseroles, fruits, yogurt, bagels, etc as well as gift cards for our raffle. All donated items (food/gift cards) are presented to the teachers and staff on behalf of your student.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us set up, serve and clean. Please contact us if you are able to volunteer and help us make our next event another great success.



Mariana Montero-Arias ..... marmont28@aol.com  
Justine Knecht.....justineknecht@bellsouth.net

## Join our PTSA Facebook Page

Now you can keep up with our latest news and events, every day. Simply log on to Palmetto Middle School PTSA on facebook. Not only will you find important information, you will also be able to share your news about school-related activities, awards and special accolades with other parents. Need information about a field trip, want to know more about Reading Plus? As the questions, get the answers. Did your child's club receive a special award or recognition? Log on and share the news.



*It's all about communication!*



The Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation will meet in December to discuss and establish its legislative priorities for the 2011 session. On Wednesday, December 17, 2010, a brief presentation of the District's legislative funding request for the 2011-2012 fiscal year to provide level funding and hold school districts harmless from declines in property values and state budget shortfalls will be made. This is a great opportunity to meet with delegation members and convey our needs.

Friday, December 17, 2010  
10:00 a.m.  
Stephen P. Clark Center, Commission Chamber  
111 N.W. First Street  
Miami, Florida 33128

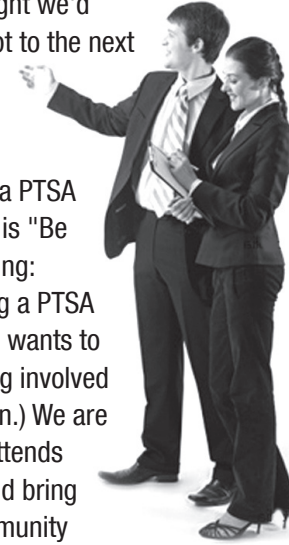
If you have any questions, please contact Darla March at darla.march@bellsouth.net or 305-498-3327.

## Be One! Bring One!

**PTSA General Meeting on January 20, 2011 at 9:15 am in Media Center**

Start the year off on the right foot! Come to our General Meeting to learn more about the happenings at Palmetto Middle!

We all love the "Buy One, Get One" deals at the store so we thought we'd apply that same concept to the next Palmetto High School feeder pattern PTSA meetings. How do you "Buy One, Get One" as a PTSA member?? The answer is "Be One, Bring One!" Meaning: Be a PTSA parent, bring a PTSA parent (or a parent who wants to learn more about getting involved in their child's education.) We are asking everyone who attends the meeting to invite and bring another parent or community member who does not usually attend PTSA meetings. This way, we will "mix it up" a bit, grow the audience and engage more parents in what school involvement and PTSA have to offer. All attending will receive a free door prize ticket. If you bring a friend you'll receive two tickets!!



## Emerald Garden

The Emerald Garden is in constant need of attention and would appreciate any help it can get!!! The first Wednesday of each month is considered 'Green Wednesday' and the co-chairs will be working in the morning to keep our green space neat and tidy. Any and all volunteers are welcome. The next official 'Green Wednesday' will be on January 5th. We really need your help and hope to see you there!

We are looking for assistance in a Spring Cleaning!

If you would like to help find donations of mulch or plants, bring your ideas to 'Green Wednesday.'

—Christian Armstrong  
Beautification Committee

## Palmetto Middle PTSA Membership Needs YOU!

**The Palmetto Middle School PTSA is working hard for your children.**

Becoming a member is a simple way to help assist your school. The PTSA assists in adding those extras which all the children benefit from. If you haven't done so already please fill out the membership information below. We are counting on your support!

Please have your student give it to his or her homeroom teacher.

**You can also mail it to:**

PTSA, Palmetto Middle School  
7351 SW 128 St  
Pinecrest, FL 33156.

We are striving for 100% support, so if you haven't joined, please do so now.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty / Staff Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to receive current PMS and PTSA info via E-mail

**Membership Dues**  
**Dues are \$10 per Parent and \$5 per Student**

- Teachers \$7.00
- 2 parents/1 student \$25.00
- 1 parent/1 student \$15.00
- Additional Student(s) \$ 5.00
- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

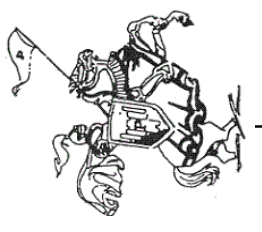
To date our PTSA has 598 members - This is the slowest start in a decade!

Don't forget the "S" in PTSA! Every homeroom class that has 100% membership by Jan 20th will receive a morning donut (with apple alternative) party! There are 1000 students that can still join our PTSA for only \$5.00.

**Join today!!!**

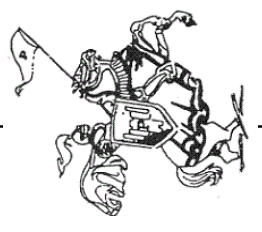
# Palmetto Middle School Calendar of Activities for December 2010

PTSA Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 Hanukkah</b> PTSA Dec/Jan Mailing Toy Drive -5000 Role Models Boys Varsity Volleyball Championship - TBA <i>Diary of Anne Frank – Auditorium 7-9 pm</i>	<b>2</b> PTSA Board Meeting Band to Coral Reef High School 9:15am -12pm Student Commission-Rm 714 3:55pm <i>Diary of Anne Frank – Auditorium 7-9 pm</i>	<b>3</b> Band Students to Portable 8 for Miami Music Project Terra High School Orientation Auditorium 2:30pm Drama Club 6th Auditorium 3:55pm	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Orchestra/Jazz Combo to Wachovia Financial Center 10:45am-12:30pm Rose Sale All Week-8th Grade Team Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm Dance Rehearsal Auditorium	<b>7</b> <b>Faculty Meeting 3:55 pm</b> Dance Rehearsal Auditorium <b>Curriculum Night 7pm</b>  Dance Performance Ticket Sales	<b>8</b> FBLA-Rm. 238 3:55pm <b>Winter Dance Performance Auditorium 7-9pm</b>  ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	<b>9</b> Music Students to Lincoln Theatre 8:30-11:30 am Int'l Studies Preparatory Academy Orientation 2:30pm Auditorium  <b>Early Release Day</b>	<b>10</b> Hearing Testing Drama Club 6th Auditorium 3:55pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Vision Testing Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm TSA-Rm. 216 3:55pm  <b>Pastelito Sale 5000 Role Models</b>	<b>14</b> NUJHS Auditorium 3:55pm Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm	<b>15</b> State Attorneys S.T.A.R.T. Program – 2 pm Auditorium  FFEA-Rm. 202 3:55pm	<b>16</b> <b>PTSA-Teacher Holiday Brunch</b> 5000 Role Models Room 708 Foreign Lang. Club – Media Ctr	<b>17</b> Drama Club 6th Grade - Auditorium 3:55pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Winter Begins</i>	<b>22</b>  <i>Winter Recess</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <i>Winter Recess</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>	

# Palmetto Middle School Calendar of Activities for January 2011

PTSA Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm Drama Club 7th & 8th Auditorium 3:55pm TSA-Rm. 216 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>4</b> <b>Faculty Meeting 3:55 pm</b> Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm  + + + + + <b>Math Club Pastelitos Sales</b> + + +	<b>5</b> Drama Club 7th & 8th Auditorium 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm  + + + + + <b>Math Club</b>	<b>6</b> PTSA Board Meeting Student Commission Rm 714 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>7</b> Drama Club 6th Auditorium 3:55pm  + + + + +	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Mid-Term Exam- Essays (Lang.Arts &amp; Math)</b> Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>11</b> <b>Mid-Term Exam- Essays (Soc.Studies. &amp; Science)</b> Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm NUJHS – Aud. 3:55-4:30	<b>12</b> <b>Mid-Term Exam- Essays (Electives)</b>  FBLA-Rm. 238 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>13</b> <b>Mid-Term Exam – Periods 3 &amp; 5</b> 5000 Role Models Room 708 Foreign Lang. Club – Media Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>14</b> <b>Mid-Term Exam- Periods 2 &amp; 6</b>  <b>A Night of Theatre – 7-9 pm</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Martin Luther King Day School Holiday</i>	<b>18</b> <b>Mid-Term Exam- Periods 1 &amp; 4</b>  <b>Faculty Meeting 3:55 pm</b> Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>19</b> Drama Club 7th & 8th Auditorium 3:55pm FFEA-Rm. 202 3:55pm <b>Philadelphia Field Trip – Mandatory Student/ Parent Mtg.- Media Center 7 Pm</b>	<b>20</b> PTSA General Meeting 9:15 am in Media Center End of 2nd Grading Period 500 Role Models, Rm. 708 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>21</b> <b>Teacher Planning Day</b> <b>No School</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Beginning of 3rd Grading Period Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm Drama Club 7th & 8th Auditorium 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>25</b> Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm  FBLA – Future Business Leaders of America FFEA – Future Educators of America TSA – Technology Student Association	<b>26</b> Drama Club 7th & 8th Auditorium 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>27</b> <b>Annual Egg Drop Competition Round #1</b> <b>MDCC PTSA Reflections Reception</b> Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm	<b>28</b> Art/Spanish Club to Epcot & MGM Animation Workshop 	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Book Club, Rm 210 3:55pm Holocaust Impact Theater Rehearsal Auditorium 6-8pm					



**MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!**

Please remember to clip and bring in BoxTops. The teacher whose class sends in the most by the end of the 2nd 9 weeks will receive a gift certificate.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, March 6 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM,  
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 S.W. 57 Avenue**

Each year, the Pinecrest Business Association along with local restaurants and businesses sponsor the Taste of Pinecrest at Pinecrest Gardens. All proceeds from the festival benefit the five Pinecrest public



schools. The festival features Pinecrest-area restaurants, entertainment for the children, a judged art show, performances by local school groups and a business showcase.



Contact Kim Martin at 213-1665 or kim@miamistagecraft.com.

**CAREER DAY** is COMING on Friday, APRIL 29. If you would like to be presenter, help out, or be a sponsor please contact Adriana Huguez at 305-213-5706 or at huguezgate@mac.com



2010-2011 "Together We Can" The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. This years Reflection entries have been received and submitted for preliminary judging to the Dade County Council of PTA. Winners will then go on to compete at the national level. This year, Palmetto student submitted fabulous entries in the categories of writing, art, and music. Congratulations to all the student that entered winners will be announced forthcoming.

If you have any question please contact Dyan Carness at LEWDYAN1@aol.com.

## Pinecrest Relay for Life event with the American Cancer Society.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours in length. Relay for Life is a worldwide movement. Join the Palmetto Middle School team at the Village of Pinecrest Relay event on April 9, 2011 at Greer Park. If you are interested in a leadership role in this endeavor, please contact Nanci Hellinger at 305-322-5354.



## 2010-2011 Parent Donation Program

Your Contributions to the PTSA through the Parent Donation Program Makes a Difference...

We are happy to report that the Parent Donation Program continues to get closer to the budget set for the 2010-2011 school year! As of November 26, 2010, we have raised over \$10,000. The support of our Palmetto Middle School families has been phenomenal.

Last year the Parent Donation program raised over \$17,000 which funded academic and enrichment activities including two Smartboard Packages (\$6,000), four projectors (\$2,400), Video/Editing Software (\$200), Radios for Security Guards (\$1559), Faculty Professional Development Courses (\$1,200), Math Manipulatives (\$150), Printers (\$1549), Science Workbooks (\$2350), Parent Communication (\$1400) and a scholarship for an economically disadvantaged student to

attend the Summer College Prep Academy (\$500).

Every penny of your donation directly supports the positive learning environment at PMS. PTSA relies on the support and dedication of our Palmetto Middle School families to continue our tradition of excellence. We continue to accept donations throughout the school year so please think about making a donation now if you haven't already done so. Together we can "Score A Ten!"

Since the Oct/Nov edition of the Lancer Letter, the following families, are gratefully acknowledged (please contact Dyan Carness directly at LEWDYAN1@aol.com if anyone has been inadvertently omitted):

Amorim	Fraser	Lipson	Shore
Anastacio	Gonzalez	Martin	Silverman
Aramburu	Govind	Martinez	Sioli
Balboa	Hartnett	McCarthy	Soto
Capote	Hellinger	Moss	Spector
Carrillo	Indewey	Noah	Spillis
Chase	Ingham	Paikowsky	Steig
Clements	Jill Heather Goldberg Charitable Foundation	Paz	Stuetz
de Soto	Kellogg	Rodriguez	Teller
Elsbree	Khayat	Rodriguez	Troen
Fallon	Kilmer	Rosen	Umana
Fernandez	Laklak	Rueda	Valdez
Fletcher	Lapin	Sanchez	Valdez
Flores	Li	Shao	Vasquez
Fojon		Shestopalov	