

Palmetto Middle School

PTSA[®]

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www.pmsptsa.org



LANCER LETTER

John Lux, Principal
Darla March, PTSA President

Palmetto Middle School

7351 SW 128th Street

Pinecrest FL 33156

305-238-3911

www.pms.dadeschools.net

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Message from the PMS PTSA President

Thank you parents, students, faculty and staff for your team effort for a successful beginning of our 2010-2011 school year.

Implementation of Florida's Class Size Amendment and the potential financial penalties for failure to comply, have impacted our students and teachers with unintended consequences. Parent donations, volunteer hours and the creative problem solving skills of our administration and staff have mitigated the negative impact to our students. However, as the mother of three boys, I share your concern about the future of quality, public education. During our September meeting, we met candidates for elected offices across the 33156 zip code. Parents and students were able to question them about their vision for the future, if elected.

If you want to learn more about funding for Miami Dade County Public Schools, I encourage you to attend the **Advocacy Forum** at Palmetto High School Auditorium

on **Oct 18th at 7:00 pm**. In spite of budget shortfalls, our students continue to excel in a safe learning environment.

Learn more during our Oct 21st General Meeting as we discuss "School Safety." We welcome all stakeholders in public education to attend our events and learn more about the inspirational achievements of our students.

Adolescence is a challenge for parents and students alike. A team of teachers, parents, students and the community is critical to enabling every child to attain his/her full potential. Success begins with each team member's ability to master the fundamentals. Become involved at Palmetto Middle and refine the skills you need to navigate the teenage years! You can learn more about at our website www.pmsptsa.org or check us out on Facebook! See you on campus!

- Darla March

Principal's message

Now that we have begun the 2010-2011 school year, we have our sights set upon the academic goals that are in place for your children, our students.

As you know, we have been designated an "A" school from the state for nine consecutive times. I am confident that the students at Palmetto Middle School will carry us to a decade of an "A" designation. Our staff is second to none and our students' scores speak for themselves. We are underway with our mandatory uniform policy. It has truly made Palmetto Middle school a safer place and our students are more easily identified throughout the school as a result.

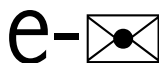
I have recently attended a Cross Country Meet and a Girl's Soccer game. Our students are not just academically exceptional, but they also excel in athletics. We have many different athletic teams and a variety of after school clubs that students can participate in. I strongly encourage our students and their families to take a look at the offerings we have and to get involved. As I said before, this year, together we will:



Mr. John Lux

Dates to remember

- 10/12** Listener Training 9am - 12pm
- 10/18** Picture Day
- 10/18** Advocacy Forum (PHS) 7:00 pm
- 10/21** PTSA General Meeting 9:15 am
- 10/28** Early Release Day 1:30 pm
- 10/25-29** Red Ribbon Week
- 10/29** End of the Grading Period
- 11/2** GENERAL ELECTION! VOTE!
- 11/18** PTSA General Meeting 9:15 am
- 11/22-24** Spirit Week



Thank you to Mindi Notrika for her support as editor of the Lancer Letter for the last year. Mr. Sean Keenan has volunteered to assume this position. Please e-mail articles, dates and important information for the DEC/JAN Lancer Letter by Nov 19, 2010 to sean@keenankreative.com with PMS Newsletter typed into the subject line.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

DON'T LET THE PROCESS DISCOURAGE YOU!

Many people have signed up to volunteer or have expressed interest in volunteering at Palmetto Middle, but only a few have cleared the official registration process. There are several events coming up and volunteers are always needed and welcomed. However, PTSA cannot recruit or solicit support from non-approved volunteers. The safety of our campus is paramount! Fortunately, Volunteer Registration is on-line and it's a simple process.

New School Volunteers

1. You need to register on the "Parent Portal." You set up a username and password before you can register. Use this web address: myportal.dadeschools.net. If your spouse or someone else in your family wants to register as a volunteer, you can use the "Community Portal." This will also require a separate username and password to be set up. Use this web address: myportal.dadeschools.net/community/

2. If you have successfully logged on to the "Parent or Community Portal", you can click on the Site/Services tab and then click "Be a Volunteer" in the "My Services" section.

-- Do you plan to be a volunteer at different schools? On the on-line registration it asks you to indicate at which schools. You select the names of the different schools where you wish to volunteer.

-- During the on-line process, there will be a section to indicate what level volunteer you are. If you want to be a Level 2 volunteer, you need to be fingerprinted. (Level 2 is for sleep away fieldtrips and Listeners program). *Recommend you check Level 1 initially, and pursue Level 2 after you begin volunteering. Need to be fingerprinted? Contact (305) 995-7472

3. Once you have completed all the information on-line, you must bring a copy of your driver's license to Mr. Sosa's office to complete the registration process.

Existing School Volunteers

1. Volunteers approved by Dade County Public schools during the 2009-2010 school year WILL NOT have to re-register for this year.

2. Volunteers have to log into the "Parent Portal" or "Community Portal" and re-select the school(s) and activities that they wish to participate in this year. Then, they will have to be re-approved at each school where they want to volunteer.

ALL VOLUNTEERS

If you have questions or need help to complete your registration, call Marcia Choiseul at 305-338-1086 or e-mail at marcia@choiseul.org

All volunteers in the Miami-Dade County Public School System must be registered and cleared before they may begin serving on our campus. 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 should get their picture taken at the school on **Picture Day, October 18**. Their photo will be made into a Volunteer ID badge, which is necessary to wear when volunteering at school.

Welcome to all our new volunteers who attended Volunteer Training on Sept 30, 2010. It was wonderful to see 6th grade parents with new ideas and a fresh perspective. Parental involvement directly contributes to student success!

JOIN PTSA

We invite you to join the Palmetto Middle School PTSA. The PTSA is a Parent, Teacher and Student Association 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, step-parents, 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. Membership envelopes are available at the school.

If you have any questions or would like to assist with our membership drive, please contact Mrs. Diana Bryan, Membership Committee Chairperson at Dianasfg@bellsouth.net.

STAY CONNECTED

with PTSA LINK

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.

By receiving PTSA Link, you also help us in our efforts to reduce the cost and volunteer hours of sending hard copy documents.

To be added to our distro list, visit www.pmsptsa.org and click on PTSA Link, or send an email to ptsalink@pmsptsa.org.

GO GREEN 

If you would like to opt out of receiving future editions of this Lancer Letter's via snail mail, then send an e-mail with **PTSA Link/Opt-out Hardcopy** in the subject.

Questions? Contact Diana Husson at dianahusson@gmail.com

2010-2011 Parent Donation Program

Your Contributions to the PTSA through the Parent Donation Program! Make a Difference!

We are pleased to report that the Parent Donation Program has gotten off to a good start for the 2010-2011 school year! As of September 17, 2010, we have raised just over \$10,000. The support of our Palmetto Middle School families has been phenomenal! Over 100 families have donated so far. While we continue to meet our goals for the Donation Program, we have much work to do. We rely on your support and dedication to continue the Palmetto Middle School tradition of excellence.

Please consider making a donation now if you haven't already done so. Together we can "all be All-Stars"! An envelope has been included in this monthly mailing. You can snail mail your donation or have your child turn it in to their homeroom teacher. We gratefully acknowledge the following families whose contributions were received through September 17th (please contact me directly if anyone has been inadvertently omitted)

-- Dyan Carness, Chair, Parent Donation Program (Lewdyan1@aol.com 305-279-6385)

Abinader	Harris	Nankin	Aklepi
Alexander	Hasty	Nepomechie	Beaugard
Alvarez	Heller	Ohayon	Paredes
Askowitz	Ilina	Ozuna	Arias-Montero
Avila	Iriarte	Peacock	Sotomayor
Bryan	Balboa	Pita	Spector
Bunce	Kinkade	Reiser	Martinez
Corradino	Knopf (Clarabelles	Rousseau	Chase
Dahbura	Cupcakes)	Sanchez-Suro	Benjamin
DeAguiar	Kong	Saruski	Brosius
DeLaurier	Ladis	Silver	Chyung
Demandt	Lam	Sorensen	Alonso
Dowis	Lavine	Spigelman	Salas
Escobar	Lopez	Sterling	Cowan
Finazzo	Lovo	Stone	Hussaini
Fletcher	Martin	Warrell	Barber
Flores	Martin	Wiedman	Huber
Girnun	Martinez	Yaya	Parker
Goicouria / March	McGilvray	McCarthy	Lanzas
Graesser	Mirow	Indewey	Erickson
Green	Montovino	Gruener	Fernandez
Guisasola	Moon	Young	Khayat
Hallstrand	Moss	Dembrow	Rodriguez

School Store

Need all of your class supplies?

Forget a pencil or paper?

Need a Spirit Shirt for Friday?

The School Store is open 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 too close!

Contact Cindy Luksomboon
665-7135 luksomboon@comcast.net
Chairperson, School Store

DONATIONS

Thank you to **AA Uniforms** and **Kings Bay Athletics** for donating school shirts and uniform logos to our economically disadvantaged students!! Palmetto Middle School appreciates your support!

THANK YOU

to the following candidates for participating in our PTSA General Meeting in September. Ms. Richardson's 1st period Civics class, Ms. Castillo's Homeroom, and over forty parents enjoyed the opportunity to engage you in conversation.

Gustavo A. Barreiro - State House District 107 (Republican)

Luis R. Garcia, Jr. - State House District 107 (Democratic)

Denny Wood - State House District 114 (No Party Affiliation)

Jose F. Diaz - State House District 115 (Republican)

Jeffrey Solomon - State House District 115 (Democratic)

Lisa V. Lesperance - State House District 117 (Democratic)

Thank you to Eugene Flinn, candidate for Miami Dade Commission District 8 for sending a representative.

Corey B. Poitier - State Senate District 35 (No Party Affiliation)

Les Gerson - State Senate District 38 (Democratic)

Joe Corradino, Vice Mayor Village of Pinecrest



SPECIAL THANK YOU to

Dr. Larry Feldman, School Board District 9

Mayor Cindy Lerner, Mayor Village of Pinecrest

for participating with parents and students in their capacity as elected officials, although not currently candidates for office!

Palmetto Middle School Calendar of Activities for October 2010 • PTSA Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 FBLA to FIU 7:45am-3:pm PTSA Oct/Nov Mailing Drama Club 6th Auditorium 3:55om	2
3	4 Chorus to Westminster 4-7pm Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Shenendoah Drama Club 7th-8th Auditorium 3:55pm Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm TSA-Rm 216 3:55pm	5 Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm	6  Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Kinloch at home Drama Club 7th-8th Auditorium 3:55pm	7 PTSA Board Meeting Girls Varsity Soccer at Carver Student Commission-Rm. 714 3:55p	8 Cross Country Invitational Music Presentation 9:40 -10:50 am Drama Club 6th Auditorium 3:55pm	9
10	11 Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Citrus Grove TBA Drama Club 7th-8th Auditorium 3:55pm Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm	12 Listener Training – 9-12pm Media Center Faculty Meeting 3:55 pm	13 Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Carver at home Drama Club 7th-8th Auditorium 3:55pm FBLA-Rm. 238 3:55pm	14 Weather on Wheels Angelillo 9:30am-2pm Foreign Languages Club-Rm. 104 3:55pm	15 Scoliosis Testing 6th Graders Weather on Wheels Angelillo 9:30am-2pm Drama to Miami Children's Theater 9am-2pm Cross Ctry .Jr. Orange Bowl	16
17	18 Picture Day in Auditorium United Way Fundraising> Drama Club 7th-8th Auditorium 3:55pm Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm TSA-Rm. 216 3:55pm	19 United Way Fundraising> Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm	20 Coral Gables Sr. High IB Program Orientation Auditorium 1pm Drama Club 7th-8th Auditorium 3:55pm FFEA-Rm. 202 3:55pm	21 PTSA General Meeting United Way Fundraising> 5000 Role Models-Rm. 708, 3:55pm	22 United Way Fundraising Cross Country Youth Fair Invitational Drama Club 6th Auditorium 3:55pm	23 
24/31	25 College Prep to Miami Dade South Book Club-Rm. 210, 3:55pm Drama Club 7th-8th Auditorium 3:55pm Math Club-Rm. 103 3:55pm	26 Coral Reef Senior High Orientation 2pm Auditorium Faculty Meeting 3:55 pm	27 Drama Club 7th-8th Auditorium 3:55pm	28 Cross Country County Championship Early Release Day 1:30pm	29 End of 1st Grading Period Drama Club 6th Auditorium 3:55pm	30

Red Ribbon Week

GREEN WEDNESDAYS AND WEEKENDS

We have beautiful gardens and green areas that we need assistance with in order to prune and cleanup for school beautification and student/community enjoyment. Volunteers are needed for "Green Wednesdays" (First Wednesday of each month) Oct. 6 and Nov. 3 to help spruce up green areas of the school. If you can spare part of your morning, meet us in the Emerald Garden beginning at 9:00 AM. Bring a pair of gloves and garden clippers. We are also hoping for any assistance that can be offered on Saturday, October 23, 2010. If you or any students, in need of community service hours, are interested please contact Christian Armstrong at armstrongclan2@hotmail.com.

The Listener's Training Coming to our Campus

The Listener's Program training session is coming to our campus. Palmetto Middle School is hosting The Listener's training on Campus on Tuesday, October 12th, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. If you would like to register or assist with hospitality, please contact me. If you cannot attend, but would like more information - join our Listener's Committee.

Linda Diamond, ldiamond26@aol.com