



Welcome to the Palmetto Middle School PTSA Link. You are one of nearly 800 members of the PMS family that has elected to receive school news via e-mail. Thank you for staying connected and for your continued support of our PTSA!

Happy Spring Break!

Important Dates at Palmetto Middle School

March 29 thru April 2 No School - Spring Recess
April 5 No School – Teacher Planning Day

Links to Monthly Mailings

Stay informed. Scroll down to the bottom of this e-mail for links to our monthly Lancer Letter, activities calendar and other important Palmetto Middle School information.

Vote NO on SB6

PLEASE CALL 1-850-488-1450 and tell them that you would like for a 'NO' vote on SB6. They are keeping track of what is being called in and emails.

We have gotten word that Speaker Cretul is keeping track of whether callers are for or against the House versions of SB6. So please call ASAP 850-488-1450 - and have your members do the same - this bill is moving fast!

After what started as a relatively respectful and orderly meeting turned ugly (see below), the House version of SB 6 (the bill will be numbered sometime this evening - currently it is still PCB 10-02) passed the House PreK-12 Policy Committee today by a vote of 9 to 6 - a lone Republican, Rep. Michael Weinstein (R- Orange Park) joined the Democrats in voting 'no.'

Ironically, just outside over 2,000 parents, teachers and students rallied on the Capitol steps in support of public education - and against the hare-brained reforms being pushed through this session.

After a battle of procedural maneuvers between Rep. Marty Kiar (D-Parkland) by Rep. Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) the next stop where the bill will be heard has not been published, but we fully expect it will be moving very soon. As public opposition to the bill mounts, their strategy is to push this legislation through quickly to keep the lid on some Republican members' votes - who are very uneasy with the bill and the methods being employed to secure its passage.

Remember: this is the priority of the Chair of the Republican Party of Florida (RPOF) - he is the bill sponsor and he controls the RPOF funds for re-election of Republican members of the Legislature. There has been a lot of arm twisting going on to keep the Republican members in line. Also remember this is Jeb Bush's education bill.

We need to keep calls and emails going to the Speaker of the House Cretul and the House members! They are hearing us - but Thrasher and Atwater have them locked down. This fight is not over by any means - even if this bill passes and is signed into law. Far too many public education employees, parents and children are depending upon us to stop this assault on our public education system. To find your legislator's contact information go to:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.com/Sections/Representatives/representatives.aspx>
<http://www.myfloridahouse.com/Sections/Representatives/representatives.aspx>

Not sure of which legislator is yours? Go to: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Legislators/index.cfm?Mode=Find%20Your%20Legislators&Submenu=3&Tab=legislators&CFID=188820308&CFTOKEN=81628477>
<http://www.flsenate.gov/Legislators/index.cfm?Mode=Find%20Your%20Legislators&Submenu=3&Tab=legislators&CFID=188820308&CFTOKEN=81628477>

John Frank of the St. Petersburg Times - Miami Herald Bureau:

House lawmakers get security after hearing teacher tenure bill

A day after passing the Senate, the bitter battle on the issue of teacher tenure came to the House on Thursday and the meeting ended with sergeant-at-arms forming a barrier at the front of the committee room to protect lawmakers.

As time expired at the House PreK-12, Chairwoman Anitere Flores and Rep. Will Weatherford forced a vote on the tenure bill by cutting off debate, ignoring amendments and further public testimony. Rep. Marty Kiar, a Democrat and author of the amendments, objected fervently and tried using a procedural move to delay the bill. But Flores ignored him, prompting an outcry from Kiar and a warning from Flores that she would call security if he didn't respect decorum. The bill passed.

The packed committee room was largely hostile to the legislation, given that public school teachers and students rallied outside the Capitol today. At the abrupt end of the meeting, a handful of security guards stood in front of the committee's dais like guards.

Read more: <http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2010/03/house-lawmakers-get-security-after-hearing-teacher-tenure-bill.html#ixzz0jDFNndTt> <http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2010/03/house-lawmakers-get-security-after-hearing-teacher-tenure-bill.html>

Palmetto Middle School PTSA Board Positions Available

Interested in becoming involved? If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Montovino at melissamontovino@yahoo.com or [click here](#) for explanation of volunteer positions.

Listed below are the Palmetto PTSA Board positions that are available:

President

1st Vice President (PTSA Organization)

2nd Vice President (PTSA Education)

3rd Vice President (PTSA Ways and Means)

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

Corresponding Secretary

Membership Chair Person

Legislative Chair Person

Volunteer Coordinator Chair Person

POP Show - Save the Date

The music department's biggest fundraiser, featuring Palmetto Middle's talented musicians and future rock stars will be happening on Wednesday, April 7th at 7:00pm.

Palmetto High School PTSA's Healthy Relationship Program

Palmetto High School PTSA's Healthy Relationships program has been re-scheduled and expanded to include a program for teens (Safe Dates) along with the original workshop for adults (Healthy Relationships). This program will take place on Wednesday, March 24 from 6:45-8:30 pm at RR Moton Elementary School. All teens and their parents are welcome to attend. If you have any questions please contact PTSA Program Chair Randi Trazenfeld at Randibr@me.com or 305-710-3450. [Click here](#) for flyer.

Career Day

Career Day is coming to Palmetto Middle School. The date has been changed from April 9th to Friday, April 30th. Please share your career with our students and help guide them toward a rewarding future. You have the knowledge and power to change their lives. Please contact Mrs. Anderson-Dorsey at tdanderson@dadeschools.net if you would like to be a speaker or you would like to recommend someone. Please note if guest speakers have a child or children that attend Palmetto Middle School there is no guarantee that they will be assigned to their child's teacher.

Dial-a-Teacher

Free home learning is just a phone call away. The Dial-a-Teacher program is a free service provided by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The program is not available on evenings, before holidays or teacher work days. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Links to Monthly Mailing & Other Important PMS Information

To view or print the March/April Lancer Letter, [click here](#).

To view or print the PTSA Directory, [click here](#).

To view or print the March Activities Calendar, [click here](#).

To visit the PMS web site, [click here](#).

To join your PTSA, volunteer or make a donation, [click here](#).

To learn more about The Listener's Program, [click here](#).

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If your child is no longer a student at PMS and you'd like to stop receiving PTSA Link, please use the links below to automatically unsubscribe from our mailing list. We also encourage you to 'Forward to a Friend' who may be interested in receiving PTSA Link.

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