

# Miami Palmetto Senior High School

7460 SW 118 Street Pinecrest, FL 33156

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NOVEMBER 2009

## PTSA Newsletter

7460 SW 118 St., Pinecrest, FL 33156 • Phone: 305-235-1360 • Fax: 305-235-7169 • mpsh.dadeschools.net

### CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!

SUNILAND PARK

US 1 AND SW 128 STREET

GRAND OPENING AT NOON ON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

(THE WEEKEND BEFORE THANKSGIVING)

HOURS: WEEKDAYS 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SATURDAYS 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

SUNDAYS 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

LARGEST SELECTION OF  
FRASER FIR TREES FROM 6-12 FT  
HANDMADE WREATHS, TREE BAGS,  
STANDS AND TREE PRESERVATIVES



**\$5.00 OFF WITH THIS AD**

SPONSORED BY THE  
PANTHER INSTRUMENTAL & AUXILIARY PARENT BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Interims

(Progress Reports)

9/24/09 12/03/09

02/25/10 05/06/10

#### Report Card Distribution

11/16/09 02/08/10

04/19/10 06/25/10

#### Mid Term Exams

Essay Exams

1/13/10 1/14/10

1/15/10

#### Objective Exams

1/19/10 1/20/10

1/21/10

#### Weekly Test Days by Department

##### Monday

Mathematics

Consumer Sciences

##### Tuesday

English

Physical Education

##### Wednesday

Foreign Language

Business

Cooperative Education

##### Thursday

Social Studies, Health,

Performing Arts

##### Friday

Science, Music, Fine Art,

Tech/Voc Education

Quizzes and other assignments can be scheduled for any day of the week



# Miami-Dade County Public Schools

*giving our students the world*

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Alberto M. Carvalho

**Miami-Dade County School Board**

*Dr. Solomon C. Stinson, Chair*  
*Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair*  
*Agustin J. Barrera*  
*Renier Diaz de la Portilla*  
*Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman*  
*Perla Tabares Hantman*  
*Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway*  
*Dr. Martin Karp*  
*Ana Rivas Logan*

November 2009

Dear Parents:

As the month of October slowly comes to an end, the realization is upon us that the 2009-2010 school is moving along rapidly. The end of the first marking period signifies the formal completion of a quarter of the school year. This first quarter has been filled with a number of positive experiences for our entire school community. First, and foremost, the implementation of our mandatory uniform policy has resulted in a dramatic change in both student behavior and appearance, while creating a culture of pride and school spirit. I am proud to say that our student body has embraced this program with efficacy and I sincerely appreciate their commitment and your support of this initiative.

In addition, the opening quarter of the school year included a variety of student centered events organized by our Activities Director, Ms. Angie Felipe-Lima. These events are planned with student interests in mind as a way to get them involved in school life after the sounding of the dismissal bell. Activities such as class elections, the annual Club Fair, Homecoming, and Spirit Week are just a few examples of extracurricular activities made available to make the high school experience as memorable as possible. I encourage you to share this information with your children to insure that they take full advantage of these types of experiences, while at the same time, establishing relationships that could last a lifetime.

For parents of our seniors, please mark your calendars to note that graduation is scheduled for June 10, 2010, at 3:00 PM at the University of Miami Arena. Information regarding ticket distribution is forthcoming.

In closing, as we approach the holiday season, I hope that you plan for and enjoy an abundance of quality family time. Please keep in mind that if for some reason I can be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Howard Weiner  
Principal



# A Message from the Miami Palmetto Senior High PTSA President

## *Dear Palmetto Family,*

Our PTSA began the school year with numerous goals focusing on volunteering, membership, programming and funding. I am delighted to report that the response from our parents has been admirable. Each facet of our PTSA has produced remarkable results and I would like to take this opportunity to share them with you. Our PTSA members are what provide the foundation for these results. Currently we have 1,023, but there is still room for many, many more. Thanks **Mercedes Sorensen** (Membership) for making the process of becoming a member very simple and for keeping us informed about our progress.

Before the school doors opened for our students, **Carolina Friedhoff** (Staff Breakfast) welcomed our teachers with an amazing "Back to School" breakfast. Thanks to all the volunteers that supported Carolina in making this a very special welcome back event for the teachers. Knowing that many more events like this would be coming up, as well as the daily activities at the school, **Elaine Quartin** (Volunteer Coordinator) quickly got to work establishing an arsenal of volunteers ready for action – including navigating them through the new volunteer process. With the help of some key people in different areas, **Cecilia Prah** (Guidance), **Martha Salazar** (Main Office), **Julia Shestopalov** (Media Center) and **Lynne Schafer** (Attendance Office), we have a continuous supply of volunteers for our school, as well as a means for adding those still interested in volunteering.

In addition to volunteering, providing relevant programming for our families remains a core goal of our PTSA. Over the summer we established a new leadership position to work on Programming. **Randi Trazenfeld** (Programming Chair) enthusiastically accepted this position and has made a substantial impact on our school and families with her efforts. She has expanded her efforts through an Outreach Committee to make these programs available here at Palmetto Senior High as well as in Perrine at RR Moton Elementary and the Perrine Community Action Agency. I hope that many of you have an opportunity to attend these programs.

Keeping you informed about volunteering opportunities, programming and school information is of paramount importance. We hope you enjoyed reading your first (and now second) copy of the newsletter. It begins with **Patty Shapiro** (Newsletter) who collects all the articles and sends them along to our editor **Kim Foster** (Newsletter). Their combined efforts produce newsletters full of valuable information that you can refer to throughout the year. **Denise Kranichfeld** (Newsletter) works with a team of volunteers to print and fold the newsletter so it arrives promptly in your mailbox. Thanks Newsletter Team for your hard work and dedication to keeping our parents informed. In addition to our newsletter, our E-News is up and running thanks to the combined efforts of **Lynne Schaefer** (Attendance) who worked with **Fernando Miranda** (E-Mail Communication) to establish our new system. Fernando has dedicated much time and effort to perfect the distribution system and format to be able to provide you with this valuable and timely resource.

Our direct donation program continues to be a success with nearly \$17,000 collected so far. A program that was pioneered at Palmetto Middle School with the help of **Karen Kett** (Donation Program) continues to be an effective way of fundraising here at Palmetto Senior High. Through the dedication of **Lynne Schaefer** (Book Sale) and **Jennifer Wollmann** (Book Sale), this year our Book Sale raised over \$20,000 while providing a resource for our students to obtain all their required reading in one place. Thanks to Lynne and Jennifer, as well as the team of volunteers that made this so successful.

It is critical that the money raised is used effectively and in order to accomplish this **Cecilia Prah** (Special Projects) and **Krys Sherman** (Special Projects) work together to contact our teachers and administration to determine their immediate needs. With a Special Projects Process in place Cecilia and Krys work with our Principal, Mr. Weiner, EESAC (Educational Excellence Advisory Committee) and our PTSA Board to evaluate each request. At our General Meeting in October, \$22,000 was approved to be put immediately into action for these Special Projects.

**Hal Rosenfeld** (Treasurer) works closely with our Committee Chairs to ensure that they have access to the funds that have been approved and keeps our accounts in order. He makes available at all of our meetings a clear budget for everyone's review. Hal was recently spotted, on the job, assisting **Anne Orsillo** (Kaplan Practice SAT) in administering a Practice SAT for 70 students in our Media Center. Thanks Anne for providing our students with such an excellent opportunity to take this Practice SAT and thanks Hal for always being available when we need you.

Our Executive Board members, **Diane Wyson** (VP Organization), **Susan Montesino** (VP Education) and **Nancy Harter** (VP Ways & Means), **Roxy Lancella** (Parliamentarian) and **Jennifer Solomon** (Corresponding Secretary) provide the support for all of our committee chairs, by providing resources and assistance so our committee chairs can accomplish their goals.

I hope that you will be inspired by all of these efforts. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, in the Media Center. I would like to thank **Debbie Fox** (Hospitality) for continuing to provide us the wonderful hospitality at these meetings. If you happen to miss a meeting and would like to know what took place, **Shelia Quint** (Recording Secretary) does an amazing job of taking detailed notes of all of our meetings. For your convenience, these minutes are posted on our website [www.palmettoptsa.org](http://www.palmettoptsa.org) along with other useful information. Make sure to check it out.

We really have much to be thankful for!

**Isabel McBrayer**, [mctribe@bellsouth.net](mailto:mctribe@bellsouth.net)

# Thank you to the 1,023 Members who have joined the PTSA so far!

## You can still join by mailing this page in TODAY!

**SUPPORT  
THE  
PRIDE !**



First of all Welcome to each of our members of 2009 - 2010 School year. We are off to a great start with **1,023 members** as of **October 22, 2009**.

We are also very grateful to every one that donated funds for our Donation Program and our Staff appreciation fund.

With donations to date as follow:

**Donation Program \$ 17,276.00**

**Staff Appreciation \$ 2,722.00**

we are just literally a couple hundred dollars short to break an all time record. This would be special anytime but this is happening in a difficult year.

This just shows how our parents and our community is committed to our students success!

**YOU ARE THE BEST!**

**OUR MEMBERSHIP GOAL:  
1,285 MEMBERS**

With this number we would surpass last year number of members and keep us in a positive trend for 4 consecutive years. We are still looking to welcome new members: Parents, Teachers and Students.

**PAY IT FORWARD!**

The PTSA is donating \$1 for every student member to Senior Class Activities at the end of the year.

**If every student joins over \$3000 will be allocated to this cause.**

### MIAMI PALMETTO SR HS PTSA MEMBERSHIP

Your Parent Teacher Student Association

Please make your check payable to: **MPSH PTSA**

Send this to school with students to give to their Homeroom Teacher or mail this in a separate envelope to:  
PTSA - Palmetto High School, ATTN: Membership  
7460 S.W. 118 Street, Miami, FL 33156

#### DUES (Please check all that apply)

<b>2 Parents/1 student</b>	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>1 parent/1 student</b>	<b>\$16</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Additional student(s)</b>	<b>\$ 6 each</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>PHS Teacher/Staff</b>	<b>\$ 6 each</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Donation Program</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Staff Appreciation*</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Total Enclosed</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

\*In addition to our ongoing projects, we honor our staff twice a year- at the Holidays and at the End of the Year. If you would like to donate at this time, please indicate this as a separate line item above, different from the General Donation. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

#### **Thank you for your support!**

Members can receive current PTSA information via  
E-mail: **PLEASE PRINT EMAIL TWICE**

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Homeroom Teacher (if known)  
\_\_\_\_\_

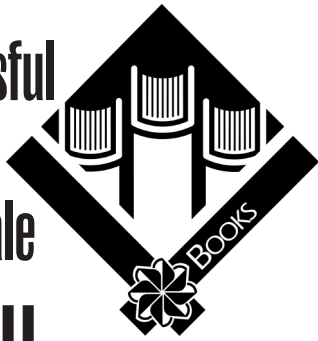
Additional Student's Name (s)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Street Address and Zip Code  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Another Successful  
Required  
Reading Book Sale  
Thank You**



**VOLUNTEERS, TEACHERS  
AND STAFF, AND BORDERS!**

Once again this year MPSH PTSA partnered with Borders to offer a week-long book sale for required reading titles. In addition to saving parents and students time and ensuring that all students have the opportunity to purchase books required in their classrooms, the book sale is a fundraiser for our PTSA. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who made this possible:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Noemi Batista         | Debra Lynch            |
| Julie Cantor-Gurin    | Connie McGehee         |
| Vivette Castro        | Mili Maldonado         |
| Marie Cupo            | Lauren Mayer           |
| Andrea Diamond-Kanter | Lisa Montes            |
| Cathy Dong            | Susan Montesino        |
| Carolina Friedhoff    | Maureen Piero          |
| May Ghraoui           | Joanne Rosenbluth-Rigl |
| Sherida Hunter        | Patty Rouco            |
| Sharon Kelly          | Marcia Rubin           |
| Mary Ann Kent         | Krystyna Sherman       |
| Karen Kett            | Jennifer Solomon       |
| Roxy Lancelli         | Lois Steers            |
| Nancy Lawther         | Lori Welbon            |

A special thanks to Sima Miska, our PTSA alum who kept the volunteers well fed, and to Robin Parker and Nancy Douglas who spent a week of their lives at school learning about the book sale so they can run it next year. They stepped up to the plate and hit a home run! We also could not have done it without the help, cooperation and patience of all of the English and Social Studies teachers who participated, encouraged their students to get the books, and allowed class time for students to come to the sale.

And last but not least, thank you, thank you, thank you, to Angie Lima and Patty Valois for giving up their room for a whole week so that we can turn it into our "store".

Lynne Schaefer and Jennifer Wollmann  
*Book Sale Committee Co-Chairpersons*

**The Clinic is in need of Level 2 volunteers**

Flexible hours are available to provide TLC for our Palmetto High students. Without a volunteer to staff the clinic, students do not have a place to lie down when feeling ill.

If you are willing to help, please call Elaine Quartin at 305-233-2578 or email at [elainequartin@yahoo.com](mailto:elainequartin@yahoo.com).

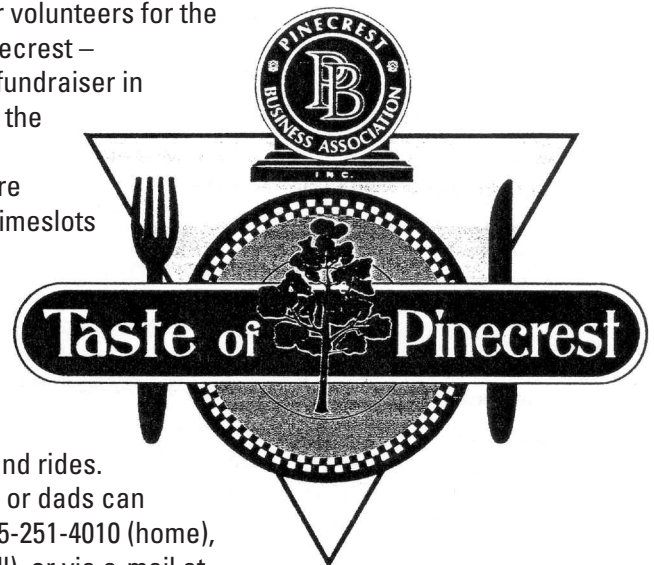
**Volunteers needed for the annual  
Taste of Pinecrest**

**Sunday, March 7, 2010, 11 am-5 pm, Pinecrest Gardens**

We're looking for volunteers for the 2010 Taste of Pinecrest – a major MPSHS fundraiser in conjunction with the other area schools. There are many volunteer timeslots available. There will be food for sale, area businesses with booths, school performances, art competition and rides.

Interested moms or dads can contact me at 305-251-4010 (home), 305-975-8949 (cell), or via e-mail at [caryn@medianetinternational.com](mailto:caryn@medianetinternational.com).

Caryn Tanis Boren



**Awards & Honors**

Senior Elsie Feliz was awarded the ProStart Hospitality Excellence Award at the Annual Florida Restaurant Awards Luncheon. Elsie is a 3rd year Culinary Operations student and the president of FCCLA. She was awarded this certificate on September 11, 2009 in Orlando, Florida. Elsie's ultimate goal is to attend Johnson and Wales University and major in Hospitality Management.



# Teacher-Staff Holiday Luncheon

This year's annual Teacher-Staff Holiday Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 16 in the Media Center. The PTSA will be serving lunch to the entire Panther Staff in appreciation for all that they do.



Contributions of desserts, soda or water, side dishes and salads would be greatly appreciated. Also, let us know if you would like to assist with decorations, set up, serving or clean up.

Thank you in advance for helping to make this another successful luncheon.

Please contact: Karen Rosen 305-667-2399 or kzrosen@aol.com or Dene Friedman 305-667-2467 or DRF19@aol.com.

# Miami Palmetto Panther Football

Congratulations to our JV and Varsity Panther Football Players and Coaches for a terrific 2009-10 football season! Visit our website at [www.miamipalmettofootball.com](http://www.miamipalmettofootball.com) to see the stats, photos from our games and important information in preparation for another great year of Panther Football!

If not too late, please plan on attending the final 2009-10 Palmetto Panther season game on Thursday, November 12 against Miami High. Kick-off is at 7 p.m. at Curtis Park. **Go Panthers!!!**

# Band News

The Marching Panther Band is in the middle of a very busy and successful marching season. The 80 member group which includes members of the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Chatonettes, and Color Guard has been perfecting their 2009 show, "Sketches of Spain" at rehearsals three times per week. In addition to performing at all Pep Rallies, and home football games, the band also performs at several area marching band competitions. They performed recently at the Falcon Sound Invitational held at Flanagan High School where they received awards for Superior Drum Majors, Superior Auxiliary, and Superior Brass. The Auxiliary and Brass also won the awards for Best in Class. Congratulations to all!

The following band members: Trevor Lundquist, Robert Schoolar-Rose, and Alexandra Ross were selected to perform in the 2009 Festival of Winds Honor Band to be held at the University of South Florida in Tampa from December 6-9.

Also, band member Kara Post was chosen by national audition to represent Miami Palmetto Senior High School in the annual, nationally televised, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade to be held in New York City. She will be marching as a member of the Macy's All American High School Marching Band. We will all be watching and cheering for Kara!

The entire Marching Panther Band was invited to represent Miami Palmetto Senior High School at the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando on December 29. The band members will perform for the Pre-Game, and Halftime of the bowl game as a part of a massed band led by a nationally known director, and will have an opportunity to visit the Universal/MGM theme parks. Great Job!



# Drama News

**Thursday, December 10th, 7 PM**

The Visual and Performing Arts Dept. presents the **2009 Holiday Show,**

*In the Holiday Spirit*

Brings together music, dance, drama, sign language, and art for a variety show and multi-holiday retelling of the classic story "A Christmas Carol". We hope to see you there and ready to get "In the Holiday Spirit".

*"Ms. Silverio and the Palmetto Drama department wishes to send a CONGRATULATIONS to the cast and crew of "Alice in Wonderland". The show was a major success. The entire department also wishes to thank everyone that attended the show for their support!"*



**The Palmetto Orchestra has several performances in November and December including the following:**

District 9 Awards Ceremony and Town Hall Meeting  
November 23, 7:00PM, Auditorium

*In the Holiday Spirit*

Holiday Concert  
December 10, 7:00PM, Auditorium

PTSA Faculty and Staff Luncheon  
December 16, 4th period, Media Center

In addition, 3 of our students, Kali Yang, Jeffrey Lin, and Jerry Xu, will be participating the the Miami Music Project Honors Orchestra on November 5, 6, and 7. They will be performing in a concert at the Adrienne Arsht Center on November 7.

# ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR PARENTS

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MAGAZINE DRIVE.**

Orders are due by

**Wednesday, November 25, 2009**



## **THE RING CEREMONY,**

hosted by Herff Jones,

will be held at 7 P.M.

on Thursday, January 7th 2010

in the auditorium.

Juniors are asked to arrive

no later than 6:30 P.M. and meet

on the south side of the auditorium.

**Don't miss out on this special class event!**



# Beauty Is... 40 Years of Achievement in the Arts



PTA REFLECTIONS  
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

For 40 years, the **National PTA Reflections Program** has encouraged students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance quality arts education for students in preschool through grade 12, encouraging them to create works of art in the areas of dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts.

More than 500,000 students participate through their local PTAs each year—millions over the course of the program's 40 years. The Reflections Program encourages the creativity and lifelong learning of students, and offers them recognition for their artistic endeavors.

**Reflections is a student contest through the PTSA to promote the arts and culture** to enhance student's learning experiences and bring their imaginations to life. All students deserve a quality arts education and cultural awareness opportunities.

**The six categories are Visual Arts, Photography, Literature Music Composition, Dance Choreography, and Film Production.**

The theme this school year (2009 – 2010) is **"Beauty Is...!"** This theme is to be interpreted by the student. It is greatly encouraged that the students include a statement to tell the judge as to why their entry supports or exemplifies the theme

**The deadline is November 20, 2009!** @ 3 pm in the Activities Room

#### What Can Teachers do?

Distribute the rules and entry forms; consider assigning it as a class project or giving extra credit or homework passes to students that submit entries.

Celebrate with your students the joy of creating their art, photos, music, dance, video or literature entries!

#### What Can Students Do?

Start working on your entries. Review the rules of the program at [www.ptareflections.org](http://www.ptareflections.org)

Last year Palmetto High had twenty eight entries and four won at the county level: Elaine Zho for Visual Arts, Elizabeth Elmaleh for Literature, Raquel Astree for Dance Choreography and Rachel Astree for Dance Choreography. Both Rachel and Raquel went on to receive honorable mention honors for Florida State PTA.

For more information, contact:  
Sandra West 305-301-3325, [swest@med.miami.edu](mailto:swest@med.miami.edu)

# FREE Internet-Based Tutoring Available 24/7

For Miami Palmetto Senior High Students  
in grades: 9, 10, 11, & 12  
**24 HOUR INTERNET-BASED TUTORING**  
is available in the following subject areas:

Biology	Language Mechanics
Chemistry	Language Usage
Math	Physics
Science	Social Studies
Algebra	Leadership
Vocabulary	Sentence Structure
Clear writing and paragraphs	
Reading Comprehension	
Decoding/Spelling	
Financial management AND MORE!	

**One-on-one tutoring, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – anywhere there is internet access!**

Go to [www.myskillstutor.com](http://www.myskillstutor.com)

Log in using the following information:

User name: (type in your student ID#)

Password: (type in your student ID#)

Site ID: (type in miami14)

For more information, contact:

Ms. G. Coggins, Ed.S., Reading Coach  
[gcoggins@dadeschools.net](mailto:gcoggins@dadeschools.net), Room 502

## FREE HOME LEARNING HELP .... IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY. Dial-a-Teacher

**Monday – Thursday, 5 p.m - 8 p.m.**  
**Dial 305-995-1600**

- Language Arts and Reading
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Bilingual Assistance

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.

# Palmetto High School PTSA 2009-10 Donation Program

Last year the PTSA's very successful Donation Program generously received nearly \$18,000 in direct donations from Palmetto High School families and community members. Donations go to support need-based purchases for the students, faculty and academic environment. All purchases are evaluated and approved by the Principal and the PTSA Membership. No donation is too small or too large. Alumni, business, community and grandparent donations are also welcome. **All donations are 100% tax deductible.**

## Sponsorship Categories

**Up to \$99**  
**Bronze**

**\$100-\$249**  
**Silver**

**\$250-\$499**  
**Gold**

**\$500-\$999**  
**Diamond**

**\$1000+**  
**Platinum**

**YES**, I will support Palmetto High School with my donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by check or cash is accepted.

**Make checks payable to: MPSH PTSA**

Student name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you receipts will be sent to the address on your check unless otherwise noted here: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form and your donation to the main office or mail it to:  
PTSA Palmetto High School, 7460 SW 118<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33156

**Thank you for supporting Palmetto's students and academic environment!**

Karen Kett, Fund Raising Chairperson Nancy Harter, PTSA VP Ways and Means  
Isabel McBrayer, PTSA President

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## ***PURPOSE AND MISSION OF THE DONATION PROGRAM***

While the PTSA is not specifically a fundraising organization, we must raise money to continue to provide programs and support to the school for campus improvements, technology enhancement, communication, educational programs, special purpose funding and appreciation of our well deserving staff and students.

Last year, the PTSA Special Projects Committee coordinated needs-based purchases with Principal Weiner and EESAC (the school's educational advisory council). Our resources were pooled, along with a Village of Pinecrest grant and the Pinecrest Business Association's *Taste of Pinecrest* donation. Together we were able to fulfill approximately \$63,200 worth of teacher and department proposals for our school, students and staff which included:

<b>\$22,000</b>	<b>Educational materials including Media center and classroom books, magazine subscriptions, science lab tables</b>
<b>\$18,500</b>	<b>Technology enhancements including Smart Boards, document cameras, language listening centers</b>
<b>\$16,000</b>	<b>Student recognition, Student activities, Athletic department needs, Physical education and Special education proposals</b>
<b>\$6,700</b>	<b>Professional Development</b>

This year, the Special Projects Committee will again request proposals from teachers and staff for their needs and will coordinate fulfilling their wishes with all resources available. Much publicized budget cuts have affected public education today, and the more donations we receive, the more PTSA can help satisfy the needs of our school. Your generous contribution is greatly appreciated and we thank you for your support.

# Special Projects Update

The special projects process is in full swing for the 2009-2010 school year. 40 project requests, totaling over \$75,000, were received by the October 1st deadline. The committee carefully reviewed each request and then selected those that would be funded by PTSA funds and Village of Pinecrest Grant money.

On October 21 at the PTSA General Membership meeting, the membership voted to allocate \$22,000 from Unallocated Special Projects to Allocated Special Projects. The projects that were funded this year include Smart Boards, Document Cameras, Auditorium Headsets, supplemental reading materials for over 850 students in reading classes, and books for the library. The committee is in the process of purchasing the approved items. It hopes to have most of the equipment in use at the school by the end of November or early December.

The Special Projects Committee and PTSA Board would like to thank all of the PTSA members, parents and community members who donated to the PTSA. As the PTSA is still receiving donations, the Special Projects Committee will determine if additional projects can be funded later in the school year.

Cecilia Prah & Krys Sherman

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## PTSA Program News

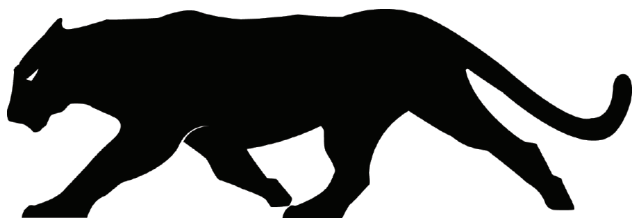
The PTSA has been working closely with MPHS administrators and faculty to provide programs of interest to and accessible by parents and guardians of MPHS students.

On October 29 we hosted The Parent Portal Workshop at the Perrine Community Action Agency, facilitated by The Parent Academy. We owe a huge "Thank you" to Dr. Laguerre, the 9th grade counselor and Early Intervention Specialist, who assisted in obtaining Parent PIN numbers throughout the workshop and to Ms. Coggins, Chairperson of the Reading Department, who introduced parents to the computer based tutorial program "Skills Tutor." The workshop was well attended and parents left with the ability to access and navigate the Parent Portal. We are extremely grateful to the Perrine CAA for opening their computer lab for this program!

Thank you to members of the Outreach Committee for assisting with the evening: Desiree Davis, Susan Montesino, Roxy Lancella, Genevieve Coggins and Isabel McBrayer.

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming programs from the PTSA including a program on "Safe Dates and Domestic Abuse" on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

Program updates will be provided at [www.palmettoptsa.org](http://www.palmettoptsa.org) or contact the Program Chair, Randi Trazenfeld at 305-710-3450.



# Direct Donations are Off to a Great Start

Thank you for a very successful start to our 2009-10 Donation Program. Nearly \$18,000 has been donated by parents, businesses and friends of our students and school.

Due to your rapid response to the school's needs and the successful fund raising efforts during our Fall Required Reading Book Sale, the PTSA membership just approved funding the first segment of faculty requests.

- **\$12,800 worth of technology** including 2 Smart Boards for Science and Special Education, 3 document cameras for the Science dept, audio equipment for the Performing arts, 5 LCD projectors for Math and Language arts
- **\$7,600 worth of educational materials** including books, periodicals and videos for the Library, Language Arts, Special Education and the Reading program.
- **\$1900 for Student Recognition, Music and Vocational** dept requests.

This is just a start to fulfilling the nearly \$75,000 worth of valid requests this year. The PTSA's Special Projects Committee collaborates with Principal Weiner and the school's Educational Excellence Advisory Committee to also identify other financial and community resources to obtain these items.

We will continue to collect donations throughout the school year. You may make your checks to: "MPSH PTSA," Please put your child's name and home room teacher's name also on the check. Checks can be mailed to: PTSA Miami Palmetto Senior High, 7460 SW 118th Street, Pinecrest FL 33156.

***Every donation counts. There is no donation too small or large.***

Thank you, Karen Kett  
*PTSA Donation Coordinator*

# Teens Read @ Palmetto

## Teen Read Week 2009

Every October, the American Library Association and public libraries nationwide celebrate Teen Read Week. This is a time to celebrate literacy and show that reading is a cool thing to do, especially for teenagers. To celebrate Teen Read Week 2009, a number of students from Palmetto Senior attended the Word-a-Thon that was held at the Pinecrest Branch Library on October 24th. The event was a big success. A number of students attended because their teachers offered extra credit. Others attended as part of a group project for the Women of Tomorrow club at Palmetto. Students who participated simply picked a book and read to the crowd. Some shared favorite passages; some read short poems; some even read scary stories; and one selection came as a "duet" with Monica Dyches and Hannah Lutz reading together from one of their favorite children's books. Everyone enjoyed sharing the wonders of literature.

In addition to the read-aloud, all the participants were able to color and personalize the T-shirt design that was created by a local teen to illustrate this year's theme: "Read beyond Reality." The winning submission from this year's Teen Read T-shirt Design Contest was printed on shirts and given as a gift to all participants. Everyone who came to the Word-a-Thon received not only a free T-shirt, but were also entered into a drawing for tickets to a Dolphins home game. Palmetto's own Monica Dyches was the lucky winner of the Dolphin tickets. The teenagers were really happy that they could gather with other book-loving teenagers and share their joy of reading. This event also gave kids the opportunity to explore new ideas, characters, and storylines. When asked if this event would continue next year, Pinecrest Librarian, Ms. Book, (Yes, that is her real name) promised it would. She was almost as enthusiastic as the students were. "I am so glad I went and I will definitely go again next year," said Hannah Lutz.

Shaquelyn Shedrick and Monica Dyches contributed to this article.

### Thank you to all the Palmetto teens who participated in this year's Word-a-Thon

Diamond Berry  
Monica Dyches  
Christina Gayle  
Brian Gillis  
Hannah Lutz  
Astrid Martin-Hull  
Ashley McKay  
Tonesha Mills  
Dasha Munoz  
Alee Orsillo  
Shaqualyn Shedrick  
Bridgette Walcott

## DON'T MISS THE PTSA Program about College Admissions on December 1

### What:

**College Admissions 101: Where are you going to College?**

**Speaker:** Robert Franek of The Princeton Review and author of *The 371 Best Colleges*

### When:

Tuesday, December 1, 2009  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm (Registration begins at 6:30 pm)

**Where:** Miami-Palmetto High School Auditorium

**How to Register:** Registration required by November 20. Seats are limited! RSVP by email to [Randibr@me.com](mailto:Randibr@me.com) with parent's name(s), student's name and grade and number attending.

**Bonus:** *The 371 Best Colleges* will be for sale at the presentation, proceeds benefiting the MPHS PTSA.

**More info:** Check out the flyer that students brought home or visit [mpsh.dadeschools.net](http://mpsh.dadeschools.net) then link to College Admissions 101 with Robert Franek

### Questions:

Contact Sally Coords, CAP advisor at 305-235-1360 or Randi Trazenfeld, PTSA Program Chair at 305-710-3450



# Calendar of Special Events 2009 - 2010

December 10	Holiday Concert
January 2	Teacher Planning Day, no school
January 7	Ring Ceremony 7:00 pm
January 21	End of 2nd grading Period/Semester
January 21	Omega Jazz Concert 7:00 pm
January 21	All Senior Financial Obligations due
January 23	SAT
January 26	Blood Drive, All Day, Auditorium
January 27	Curriculum Fair
January 28	Early Release
January 29	Cap & Gown orders for Sr. & announcements
January 30	Plant The Pride
February 1 & 2	Sacs visit
February 3 & 4	Make-up for Cap & Gown Orders
February 6	ACT
February 9	FCAT writing
February 9	Senior Panoramic Pictures
February 11	Orchestra Concert 7:00pm
February 18	Band concert, 7:00pm
February 19	Senior Winter Formal, 7:00 pm
February 25	African Heritage Show, 7:00 pm
February 25	Early Release
March 2 & 3	Grad Nite Ticket Sales, 3pm
March 9, 10, 11	FCAT testing - subject to change
March 13	SAT
March 18 & 19	Drama Department Musical, 7:00 pm
March 19	Student Government Elections
March 24 & 25	Blood Drive
April 10	ACT
April 15	Early Release
April 21 & 22	Dance Show, 7:00pm
April 24	Prom-Jungle Island
April 28	Sr. Drama night
April 30	Grad Nite

*\*\*Please Note: The Above Dates Are Tentative As Of Printing Time*

## Interims (Progress Reports)

December 3, 2009  
February 25, 2010  
May 6, 2010

## Mid Term Exam Dates

Essay Exams  
January 13, 2010  
January 14, 2010  
January 15, 2010



## Report Card Distribution

November 16, 2009  
February 8, 2010  
May 19, 2010  
June 25, 2010

## Objective Exams

January 19, 2010  
January 20, 2010  
January 21, 2010

## Weekly Test Days by Department

**Monday:** Mathematics, Consumer Sciences

**Tuesday:** English, Physical Education

**Wednesday:** Foreign Language Business, Cooperative Education

**Thursday:** Social Studies, Health, Performing Arts

**Friday:** Science, Music, Fine Art, Tech/Voc Education

*Quizzes and other assignments can be scheduled for any day of the week*

# Miami-Palmetto High School and Perrine Community Action Agency

Palmetto High School Counselors are available to meet with parents and guardians every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. at the Perrine Community Action Agency 17801 Homestead Avenue Perrine 33157.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact Miami-Palmetto High School at 305-235-1360

COMPUTERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY PARENTS

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8:00AM-12:00PM and 6:00PM-7:00PM

Stop by to check your child's grades, assignments and attendance!

Students can visit the CAA for:

- Tutoring
- Employability Training
- Recapturing the Vision

## Early Release Dates

Students are released at noon on:

January 28, 2010

February 25, 2010

April 15, 2010

## 2010 Graduation Ceremony



Thursday,

June 10, 2010

3:00 pm

UM BankUnited Center