



PANTHER BEAT

PTSA Web site: www.phmsptsa.org

April 2009

In this issue:

- Star Search Talent Show 2009
- Market Day
- PTSA Scholarship
- Perry Hall High School Needs You
- PTSA Student Recognition Awards, March 2009
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Connecting to Wired Parents, but Working with All Parents
- and much more

**PTSA Board Members
2008-09**

- President:**
Heather Patti
president@phmsptsa.org
- 1st VP:**
Kathy Fox
- 2nd VP:**
Terri Smith
- Treasurer:**
Nancy E. Smith
treasurer@phmsptsa.org
- Rec. Secretary:**
Renee Papavasiliou
- Corr. Secretary:**
Michele Burbridge
- Editor:**
Joe Regan
editor@phmsptsa.org

A Message From the President

Is it just me, or did the year just fly by? We are all so busy, going in a million different directions, it seems we blink and a year has passed. In the springtime, for my family, and I'm sure many of yours, things really kick into high gear. With so much going on, it's difficult to stay informed and keep track of what's going at home much less trying to keep up with what's going on at your child's school. Yet, communication is so important—now more than ever. The Perry Hall Middle School PTSA works very hard at making information readily available to our school community through a variety of mediums: this *Panther Beat* monthly PTSA newsletter, our Web site, e-announcements, morning announcement, and signs throughout the school.

This monthly newsletter is just one way we communicate with our members. Each newsletter is full of valuable information including committee reports, upcoming event dates, meeting reminders, timely parent articles, student, volunteer and donor recognition, volunteer opportunities,

and much more.

Unfortunately, we realize the “backpack express” is not the most reliable way of getting information to parents and guardians.

I hate to think about how many newsletters are shoved in a dark locker or bookbag somewhere...or worse yet, still sitting on a teacher's desk or counter. Our PTSA Web site and e-announcements are a contemporary, innovative way to reach caring adults, students and community members—24/7. Our periodic e-announcements are a nice, quick little reminder delivered right to your desktop. If you're not already receiving these weekly emails, send us a note at info@perryhallmiddleschoolptsa.org.

Well, the good news is, if you're reading this newsletter then your copy made it from the print shop, to Ms. Messier's life skills class, to the teacher, to your student, to you...quite an accomplishment. Thanks for taking the time to read about your PTSA. [reprinted from April 2007]

April 2009



Star Search Talent Show



Coming Soon! Mark your calendars now for the 2009 Star Search Talent Show on Friday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m.! Tickets can be purchased for \$5.00 in advance during lunch May 6th – May 8th, or for \$7.00 at the door. Come and cheer for your favorite PHMS performers!

Just as a reminder...

Our next PTSA Board of Directors meeting will be on **Thursday**, April 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room.

Article Deadline...

for the May issue of the *Panther Beat* is April 26, 2009.



Perry Hall High School Needs YOU!!!



Perry Hall High School is looking for volunteers who would like to serve on the Perry Hall High School PTSA. Below is a list of the committees with a brief description.

After Prom – Plans the annual party of seniors. Solicits donations, shops for prizes, decorates and arranges entertainment and food. Event is supervised by PHHS faculty/administration. Open to parents in all grade levels. (Work is year-round for event in May)

Battle of the Bands – Coordinates band lineup (at least one member must be a PHHS student), creates posters and tickets, coordinates ticket sales, serves refreshments. (Work begins in January for event in April)

Cell Fund Exchange – Promote and coordinate the drop off of cell phones for PTSA fundraiser. Brainstorm ideas for increased awareness of program. (Work is year-round)

Health & Safety – Work with school health personnel on teen well-being issues, provide teen health related brochures to school, plan Girl's Night Out and Men's Health Day. (Work is year-round)

Hershey Park Ticket Sales – Creates advertising, distributes sales information, collects and processes orders for discount ticket program as fundraiser for PTSA. (Work begins in February)

Hospitality – Coordinates refreshments for several events throughout the year, including Friday morning coffee, American Education Week, Registration Information Night. (Work is year-round.)

Market Day – Assist with collection and distribution orders. (Work is year round)

Membership – Promote PTSA membership, assist with collection/accounting of dues, issue membership cards, plan Student/ Faculty Membership breakfast. (Work is August through March)

Newsletter – Collect and articles and work with Principal's secretary to coordinate publication of combined school/PTSA newsletter. (September, November, January and March)

Reflections – Promote and coordinate submissions for national PTA recognition program of excellence in the areas of musical, literary, visual and performing arts. (September through March)

SADD – Send birthday cards to new 16 year olds to promote safe driving decisions. (Work is year-round, including summer.)

Scholarship – Establish guidelines, review and score applications for PTSA granted awards. (Work is March through May)

Staff Appreciation – Coordinate appreciation treats and staff luncheon. (Work is year-round, luncheon in May.)

Website Liaison – Solicit input and create content for PTSA pages of PHHS website. (Work is year-round.)

General – For those who just can't decide or commit this far in advance, sign up here!

If you feel you may be interested in any of these positions or have any questions, please contact Jeanne Biemer at 410-529-1621 or biemer4@verizon.net.

Connecting to Wired Parents, but Working with All Parents

PTA has something of a reputation. It's as American as baseball and apple pie, but also known as something your mother did—whether you were in grade school 30 years ago, or in the 1930s. This image of PTA as an “old school” organization, if you'll pardon the pun, is only exacerbated when [stories like the one last week in the Post](#) suggest false choices like this: you're either a “well-wired activist” or you're “just involved in the PTA.”

The mere fact that you're reading this right now on PTA's blog should indicate that perhaps you're not dealing with “your mother's PTA” anymore. In truth, if you really are a well-wired parent, odds are you've already seen evidence of this, be it on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Fotki](#), or [Twitter](#). And if you're not a well-wired parent, you're missing out on great updates like those PTA National Secretary-Treasurer Betsy Landers made from the Inauguration via her own Facebook page. But getting caught up in all this terrific new technology misses the larger point. Betsy wasn't just posting photos of DC monuments, she was sharing with members her meeting with Linda Darling-Hammond (head of Obama's education policy working group), the National School Boards Association, and the American Association of School Administrators. Maybe you weren't aware of it as a child, but PTA parents *are* activists—always have been, and always will be. PTA does nothing if not urge parents to get involved, and that means talking to superintendents, working with businesses in your community, and forming partnerships with anyone else willing to work on behalf of children. And this goes for families on both side of the digital divide: more than anything, PTA wants parents to do more than simply “write checks.”

If you belong to one of those “other” parent groups, with an agenda limited to helping only your own school, I strongly encourage you to give PTA a second look. During President

Obama's transition period, the PTA public policy team had a one-on-one meeting with his education team and presented the [2009 PTA Public Policy Agenda](#). The new administration was thrilled with the idea that PTA was rejuvenating its advocacy efforts, and Secretary of Education [Arne Duncan has already made clear](#) what an important role PTA can play in improving education.

If you're wondering how No Child Left Behind came to have the parent involvement policies it currently has (including provisions which require schools to publish information for parents), you can thank PTA members for their efforts during President George W. Bush's term. If you're wondering how you can help No Child Left Behind have even better parent involvement policies during President Obama's term, [we're looking for a few good advocates](#).

Labels: [education advocacy](#), [PTA](#), [social networking](#)

**National
PTA®**

everychild. one voice.®

Reprinted with permission, National PTA blog:
<http://www.pta.org/blog/2009/02/connecting-to-wired-parents-but-working.html>; February 6, 2009

http://www.pta.org/pta_blog.asp

PTSA Scholarships

It's that time of year again when high school students are seeking financial support for college choices. One way to obtain some funding is to apply for the PHMS PTSA Scholarships that are being offered once again. There are three \$1,000 academic scholarships that are available. In addition, there is a \$500 “American Spirit” humanitarian award that is being awarded in memory of a former PHMS student, Bryan Palmer. The Bryan Palmer Fund will be matching the award this year to bring the total award to \$1,000.

You must hurry to meet the deadline of 3 pm on April 15, 2009. No late submissions will be accepted. Details and applications are available on the PHMS PTSA website. Or you may contact Terry Koogle, scholarship committee chairperson at terry.koogle@verizon.net.





Thank you to everyone who has purchased food during this past year from Market Day. Your purchases have helped fund student assemblies, awards, teacher reimbursements, and other PTSA sponsored projects.

There are two sales remaining this school year! Let's go out with a blast! We are only \$1,125 short of our goal of earning \$6000 for the PHMS PTSA this year.

The remaining sale dates for this school year are:

May: Internet orders due by May 7th; pick up on May 13th

June: Internet orders due by May 28th; pick up on June 3rd.

And remember, it's getting warm and lovely outside. Why are you inside cooking when you can be sitting in a lawn chair sipping a beverage of your choice with the knowledge it takes 15 minutes or less to get a dee-li-cious Market Day meal on the table?!? So order today at www.Marketday.com, school code 12331.

Thank you to all our middle school adult and student volunteers who help at the sale each month! This event would not be the success it is without YOU! Interested in helping? Contact Kathy at spicykathy211@aol.com.

March Teacher Breakfast & Coffee Service

Thank you to ...

- MaryLou Miller
- Karen Siewierski
- Suzanne Vari
- Peggy Megginson,
- Susan Smith,
- Shelley Shank
- Tina Sherman
- Luise Fortney
- Amina Feathers

...for their donations to the March teacher breakfast. Also thank you to

- Eve Bowmaster

for all her help with cleaning up the coffee service weekly.

There are two more teacher breakfasts before the end of the year. If you would like to send something in, please contact Kathy at spicykathy211@aol.com.

PTA Teacher Appreciation Week

Say 'Thanks!' During PTA Teacher Appreciation Week: May 3-9, 2009

Please join the PTSA in recognizing the imperative and inspiring work our teachers and staff do every day as we host a fun-filled week of surprises for them at PHMS. You can help in several ways:

- Send a personal card, letter, or email (addresses on PHMS website) thanking your student's teachers; encourage your PHMS students to do the same, or include their personal thanks with yours.
- Donate a chocolate dessert item for "Chocolate Day" on Monday, May 4th, to kick-off the week!
- Send a thank you note for posting to our "Wall of Thanks". Return the form from the Teacher Appreciation Week flyer, send your own note, or email thanks for posting on the wall c/o Lisa Garriques, thanks@phmspts.org.



- Assist with the staff luncheon on Wednesday, May 6th in the library during lunchtime, or with the staff breakfast on Friday, May 8th in the faculty lounge.
- Donate a gift card, a gift, or funds that can be used for door prize drawings (during morning announcements) for PHMS staff throughout the week. Items can be sent in to school or dropped off at the main office.
- Help assemble and distribute "tokens of appreciation" to staff mailboxes throughout the week.

Watch for the flyer coming home with more details on how you can help us celebrate our wonderful PHMS staff! Questions, more ideas, or want to volunteer? Contact Lisa Garriques at thanks@phmspts.org, phone 410.529.3243, or AnnaMarie Hogue at PHMS, ahogue@bcps.org, phone 410.887.5100.

PTSA Student Recognition Awards, March 2009



PTSA Student Recognition Awards are given to Perry Hall Middle School students who have shown outstanding achievements or efforts. Each month teachers are asked to nominate students for this award. This month 95 students received a "red bag" award. A total of 622 bags have been given this year. Congratulations!

Zainab A.	Shane D.	Joey K.	Min R.
Zorah A.	Gabby E.	Sam K.	Divyam S.
Mina A.	Austin E.	Amanda K.	Wesley S.
Caitlyn A.	Savannah F.	Cathy L.	Jessica S.
Jordan B.	Jacob F.	Mike L.	Rebekah S.
Kasadi B.	Hannah F.	Teiarra L.	Kaelyn S.
Rebekoh B.	Kaitlyn F.	Victor M.	Molly S.
Matt B.	Phillip F.	Kara M.	Gagandeep S.
Breanna B.	Karan G.	Detric M.	Daisy S.
Claire B.	Jake G.	Sydney M.	Evan S.
Paige B.	Vicky G.	Jada M.	Zachary S.
Nolan B.	Jordan G.	Brady M.	Savannah S.
Randa B.	Jesse G.	Jacob M.	Michael S.
Amanda B.	Da'Neira G.	Vinny M.	Lauren S.
Matthew B.	Joey G.	Rachel N.	Bianca T.
Dalvyn B.	Austin G.	Jimmy N.	Greg T.
Alyssa C.	Jessica H.	Ricky Lynn N.	Jahi T.
Shaneca C.	Nicholas H.	Emilee O.	Marcel T.
Jacob C.	Alex H.	Sean O.	Debbie W.
Bailey C.	Richie H.	Ambra P.	Cheyenne W.
Andrew C.	Elizabeth J.	Evan P.	Jennifer W.
Noah C.	Tate J.	Armon R.	Renee W.
Skylar D.	Eunice K.	Imaris R.	Auriel W.
Nick D.	Kaitlin K.	Chardonnay R.	

Star Search 2009

Congratulations to all of the students who auditioned for the Star Search talent show on Thursday March 12! We are very proud of each and every one of these students for their hard work in preparing an act, and for their bravery in getting up on stage and performing for our panel of judges. Students were notified of the audition results via "homeroom mail".

Thank you to our judges, Jill Peters, Lisa Garriques, and Dana Raab, for your time and your careful consideration of each act. Thank you to our greeters, Mary Nagle and Carol Erpenstein, for keeping the auditions running smoothly, and to our photographers, Rachel Nagle and Megan Erpenstein. We would also like to thank our DJ's, Herb Cadle and his assistant Billy Burke, for managing all the details for music, sound, and microphones on Audition Night. This event would not have been possible without these wonderful volunteers.

Star Search 2009 will be held at Perry Hall Middle School on Friday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door. Tickets will be sold in the cafeteria during lunch May 6th – May 8th.

Bring the whole family. It's going to be a great show!



Perry Hall Middle School

PTSA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]

4300 Ebenezer Road
Perry Hall, Maryland 21236

Phone: 410.887.5100
Fax: 410.887.5152
Web site: www.phmsptsa.org



We're on the Web
www.phmsptsa.org

PTSA Mission

The mission of the PTSA is threefold:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in our schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children; and
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

The Purpose of the PTSA

- To promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

PTSA Calendar of Dates to Remember

Tuesday, April 14, Schools Reopen

Tuesday, April 14, High School PTSA Meeting, PHHS 6PM

Tuesday, April 14, Life Touch Spring School Pictures

Wednesday, April 15, Market Day Pick Up 7:00 - 8:00 PM, cafeteria (volunteers, please report at 5:30 PM)

Wednesday, April 15, PHMS PTSA Scholarship application deadline, 3PM

Thursday, April 16, MSA Testing window, 04/16/09 thru 04/25/09; Grade 6, 7 and 8; Make-up days: 4/26/09 - 04/31/09 (Regular MSA)

Thursday, April 16, PTSA Board of Directors Meeting, 7PM in the meeting room (Grade 5 parents from

feeder schools welcome) Note:

Changed to Thursday due to conflict with PHHS mtg.

Friday, April 17, Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, April 17, School Spirit Day...Show your school spirit...wear your spirit wear or PHMS colors (Red, Black, Yellow)

Sunday, April 19, PTA National Volunteer Week

Tuesday, April 21, BCPS Board of Education Meeting, ESS building on Greenwood Campus

Wednesday, April 22, Hoops for Heart (New date)

Wednesday, April 22, Grade 8 Science MSA Testing, April 22, 2009 through May 12, 2009

Thursday, April 23, *Paw Print*, school newsletter collating night, 6:30PM

Friday, April 24, Friday Morning Coffee Service for teachers (Weekly Plus Breakfast (monthly)

Friday, April 24, Grade 8 Panoramic Photo Day

Friday, April 24, Secretary's Day

Sunday, April 26, *Panther Beat* article submission deadline (electronic); editor@phmsptsa.org

Monday, April 27, Distribution of Report Cards

Thursday, April 30, Teacher PTSA reimbursement voucher submission deadline