



Perry Hall Middle School PTSA



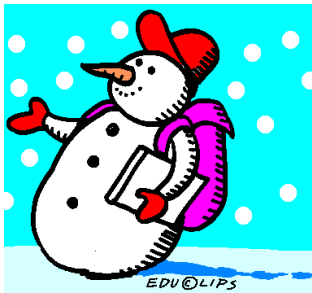
PANTHER BEAT

PTSA Web site: www.phmsptsa.org

December 2008/January 2009

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A Message From the President

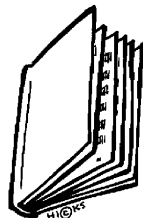
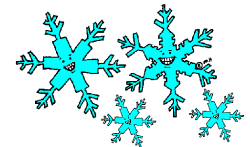
I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the many volunteers who make the Perry Hall Middle School PTSA such a success. I know many parents feel that when their children begin middle school, less parental involvement is needed through the PTSA. While it might be true that our children are seeking more independence from parents, and wish to rely more on the influences of their friends, a decrease in parental involvement is not the answer. For instance, our PTSA sponsors many educational and social events to enhance our children's middle school experience. To make such opportunities possible, we are constantly working to generate the needed revenue to fund such activities. There are many, many opportunities for parents to help "behind the scenes" in coordinating current programs, assisting with clerical needs, and staffing events. Please contact me if you are able to help in any way, large or small. Just one hour would not only lighten the load for current volunteers, it

would also make a tremendous difference!

As the holiday times embrace us, I would like to wish one and all a very happy and prosperous holiday season. We live in an increasingly diverse society and one of the greatest benefits of such diversity is the opportunity to learn about others in our own community. While we spend time with our families during this holiday season, I encourage you to take time and learn about other cultures and their observances. Helping our children to appreciate diversity is the first step toward preventing bullying behavior, an increasing problem among youth. The National PTA encourages us to visit <http://www.adl.org/prejudice/default.asp> for more information.

Happy Holidays!

Heather Patti
PTSA President



Yearbooks On Sale Now!

Save \$5

The yearbook staff is already hard at work on the 2008-2009 yearbook. In addition to the vivid pictures and articles, having friends and faculty write messages in the yearbook will make it a unique and personal keepsake with which to remember this school year.

This year's edition of *The Panther's Tale* is just \$25.00 if you order online by December 19, 2008. You can go to www.smart-pay.com to order. The customer number is 5672827

Orders placed after December 19, 2008 will cost \$30.00. Checks need to be made payable to PHMS and given to Ms. Nastalski in room 134. Please put your child's name and grade level on the check.

Offer Expires: December 19, 2008

Beautification Committee

The Perry Hall Middle School PTSA's (PHMS PTSA) Beautification Committee would like to thank all of the many volunteers who participated in our First Fall Clean Up on Saturday, November 1, 2008.

Approximately 20 volunteers arrived early and began removing trash and debris. Within a few hours, volunteers had successfully removed over 25 bags of leaves and debris. Next, 40 seasonal plants and over 100 spring bulbs were planted, before final touches were added by spreading 4 yards of mulch.

Participants were then invited to stay and enjoy pizza and drinks as a small token of appreciation for their hard work. Students accrued community service hours for their volunteer time.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to Senator Kathy Klausmeier and Delegate Joseph Boteler, who both took time from their busy schedules to help make a difference and volunteer their time. Special thanks are also in order to former Perry Hall Middle School alumni David Marks, Perry Hall Improvement Association (PHIA) President, for offering his time to assist with our project. We had originally planned to coincide our First Fall Clean Up with PHIA's "Greening of Perry Hall" project, but our original date was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

It is noteworthy that the following businesses donated

materials and/or labor, or discounted merchandise:

- Chapel Hill Nursery & Farm, Chapel Rd.
- Don's Produce & Flowers, Belair Rd at Reckord Rd
- Ferguson Landscape Service, Philadelphia Rd.
- Papa John's Pizza, Belair Rd.
- Stuckey's Lawn & Garden, Philadelphia Rd.
- Rommell's ACE Hardware, Ebenezer Rd.

Of course, none of our accomplishments would have been possible without the support and dedication of our students and parents who volunteered their time and energy. Therefore, I would like to offer a sincere thank you to each and every student, parents, business owner, and community leader for their efforts and donations toward this event.

In harmony with the Beautification Committee's goal, which is to promote school pride and academic enhancement by providing an appealing environment for learning, we will continue to plan similar events for the future. Please check our Web site (<http://www.phmsptsa.org>) often for updates.

Heather Patti
PHMS PTSA President
Beautification Committee Coordinator

Committee Update

Welcome to our newest committee chairperson, Delegate Joseph Boteler, who has volunteered to head our Legislative Committee. We look forward to working alongside Delegate Boteler in the upcoming months.

Business Memberships

In an effort to begin building a lasting relationship between the PTSA and the community in which we reside, we are happy to announce the decision to join the National PTA's lead in offering Business Memberships to local community leaders and businesses. More information will be forthcoming as this process evolves. Please contact Molly Fern, Business Liaison or Heather Patti, President for more information.

Membership Update

Our PTSA membership drive was a huge success this year. We have 1536 PHMS PTSA members for the 2008-2009 school year!

We would like to thank our teachers, staff, parents, students, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members for their support for such a wonderful organization. We also want to congratulate Mrs. Kraft's class for achieving over 100% homeroom participation! Her homeroom received a special "thank you" breakfast on October 29th.

Thanks again to everyone for showing your support for PHMS PTSA!



Nominating Committee Now Forming

If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee for 2008/2009, please contact our 1st Vice President, Kathy Fox, by January 15, 2009 at familyfox@att.net.

The purpose of the nominating committee is to recognize and seek qualified nominees for the elected leadership of the PTSA. The members of the committee, therefore, have a tremendous influence on the future of the PTSA and should be selected carefully. The nominating committee will seek a nominee for each of the following officer positions:

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Treasurer
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary

Serving on a nominating committee is an honor and a privilege. This committee is the PTSA's most influential internal body, and because it deals with sensitive issues, deliberations of this committee are kept confidential.

Nominating committee members should have a broad acquaintance with the membership and an understand-

ing of the organization's functions and its purposes. The committee should include both experienced leadership as well as newer members.

To meet the requirements of this position the nominee:

- Must be a PTSA member;
- Must support the purposes and basic policies of the PTSA and recognize that PTSA is an effective organization working for all children and youth;
- Should have effectively carried out previous PTSA and/or other organizational responsibilities;
- Should have knowledge of the organization and its role in the school and community;
- Should be willing to give PTSA priority and commitment including attendance at meetings;
- Must be fair and objective and concerned for the well-being and best interests of the PTSA; and
- Must understand the importance of effective teamwork

Again, if you are interested in serving on the 2008/2009 Perry Hall Middle School Nominating Committee please contact Kathy Fox by the 15th of January.

Hospitality Committee

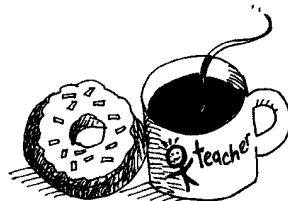
Thank you to the following people who donated breakfast items for the November teacher breakfast:

Maryann Marciszewski	MaryLou Miller
Karen Siewierski	Suzanne Vari
Shelley Shank	Tina Sherman
Luisse Fortney	Amina Feathers
Ray and Donna Hall	Susan Smith

As always, hospitality is looking for individuals to donate coffee, paper goods, and food for the teacher breakfast and coffee service. Please contact Kathy Schwabeland (Spicykathy211@aol.com) if you are interested in donating.

Thanks and have a great 2009!

Kathy Schwabeland,
Hospitality Committee Chair



Market Day

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our recent Cookie Dough Sale. While we did not meet our goal, we were still able to earn a profit for the school.

Special thanks to the following companies for sponsoring prizes for the Cookie Dough Sale:

Vocelli's
DeSantis
Charcoal Grill
Play It Again Sports
Kids First Swim School
Perry Hall Bowling Lanes
Weis Market

Our upcoming January sale will be 1/14/2009. The deadline to order is 1/8/2009 at 12 noon. You can order at Marketday.com and our school code is 12331. The PTSA receives a portion of the total sales and the money is used for funding different programs throughout the school year. Our PTSA has earned over \$2,000 this year from Market Day!!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!!!!

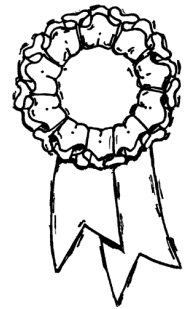
Kathy Schwabeland,
MarketDay Chair

PTSA Student Recognition Awards, November 2008



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 88 students received a "red bag" award. A total of 258 bags have been given this year. Congratulations to these deserving students!

Heidi A.	Luke F.	Angelique M.
Caleb A.	Stephanie F.	TJ M.
Kalah A.	Graham F.	Gabrielle M.
Jennie A.	Matt G.	Helen M.
Seth B.	Samantha G.	Bailey M.
Emily B.	Lucas G.	Cierra N.
Jennifer B.	Alyson G.	Lara N.
Josh B.	Lauren H.	Hunter N.
Piper B.	Lydia H.	Victoria O.
Carnell B.	Will H.	Maggie P.
Josh B.	Tyler I.	Sajani R.
Lauryn B.	James I.	Josh R.
Gayle C.	Tommy I.	Cory R.
Oneda C.	Allen J.	Cierra R.
Joseph C.	Emma J.	Gordie R.
Kayla C.	Nick K.	Shakira R.
Julie C.	Danielle L.	Hannah R.
Michelle C.	Katelyn L.	Destiny S.
Bria C.	Martin L.	Ryan S.
Aydene C.	Molly L.	Caitlyn S.
Rico C.	Dawn L.	Aaron S.
Morgan D.	Ilijah M.	Scott S.
Emily D.	Sarah M.	Sojel S.
Ryan D.	Laura M.	Erin S.
Braeden D.	Amanda M.	Conor T.
Sean D.	Elizabeth M.	Lee V.
Shelton E.	Kevin M.	Shannon V.
Leigh E.	Zoe M.	Kandi W.
Daja E.	Anthony M.	Tim W.
Lacey E.		



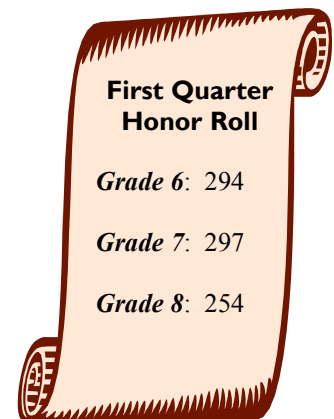
PTSA Gold Card Recipients First Quarter

The PTSA Gold Card Program is designed to award students who achieve Baltimore County Honor Roll status. Perry Hall Middle School is proud to award 845 students out of 1,525 students with this distinction.

Students eligible for the honor must have A's and B's and a maximum of one C that will be offset by at least one A. Students with a D or an E on their report card are automatically ineligible for the honor roll that quarter.

Keep up the good work Panthers !!!

Rita Weber
Gold Card Chairperson



PTSA Award and Scholarships

This year the Perry Hall Middle School PTSA is awarding three \$1,000 academic scholarships and one \$500 Humanitarian award to former PHMS students. Applicants must be graduating high school students and must be a member of their high school PTSA. The "American Spirit" Humanitarian Award application is reprinted below while the Academic Scholarship application is reprinted on page 6. Please pass these along to any qualifying high school student. These applications can also be printed from our Web site: www.phmsptsa.org/Scholarships.htm

PERRY HALL MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA "American Spirit" Humanitarian Award APPLICATION

Student's full name _____ Telephone # _____

Street address _____ City _____ Zip _____

College you expect to attend _____ Approximate tuition _____

Student's work experience (paid or volunteer): _____

Student's awards, honors, sports, extracurricular activities: _____

This award is being given in honor of Bryan Palmer, a former PHMS student, who was known for his good sense of humor, sportsmanship, camaraderie, and compassion. It is the hope of the PHMS PTSA Scholarship Committee that the recipient of the "American Spirit" Award exemplifies similar humanitarian qualities as Bryan exhibited in his life.

On a separate piece of paper, please respond to the following in essay format (in 500 words or less):

Choose a humanitarian quality that you possess and describe how you use it. How will this quality help you in your future?

Send your application, essay, two letters of recommendation: one from a high school teacher and one from a source other than a family member, and a copy of your PTSA 2008-2009 Membership Card to:

Perry Hall Middle School PTSA
Attn: Terry Koogle, Scholarship Committee Chairperson
4300 Ebenezer Road
Baltimore, MD 21236

Deadline of receipt for all award applications: 3:00 pm APRIL 16, 2009. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Please note: Requirements for application include being a former Perry Hall Middle School student, a graduating high school student, and a current member of his/her PTSA.

Student signature _____ Guardian signature _____

**PERRY HALL MIDDLE SCHOOL
PTSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Student's full name _____ Telephone # _____

Street address _____ City _____ Zip _____

College you expect to attend _____ Approximate tuition _____

Student's work experience (paid or volunteer) _____

Student's awards, honors, sports, extracurricular activities: _____

On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following question in essay format (500 to 750 words):

“What traits have you exhibited in school that contribute to your academic success and will translate to post high school-life?”

Send your application, essay, two letters of recommendation: one from a high school teacher and one from another source (other than family members), a copy of your transcript, and a copy of your PTSA 2008-2009 Membership Card to:

Perry Hall Middle School PTSA
Attn: Terry Koogler, Scholarship Committee Chairperson
4300 Ebenezer Road
Baltimore, MD 21236

Deadline of receipt for all scholarship applications: 3:00 pm on APRIL 16, 2009. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Please note: Requirements for application include being a former Perry Hall Middle School student, a graduating high school student, and a current member of his/her PTSA.

Student signature _____ **Guardian signature** _____

What to Do About Strep Throat

by: Christopher M. Johnson, MD, MA

It's December, and that means an increase in respiratory illness among school-age children. In addition to viral colds, another common childhood infection is strep throat.

There are many bacteria in the large strep family, but only one of them, **Streptococcus pyogenes**, also called Group A strep, causes strep throat. Like common colds, strep spreads from child to child through respiratory secretions, such as when one child coughs in another's face. Crowded classrooms and other gatherings that bring children together encourage its spread. According to research, if exposed, your child has a 20 percent chance of developing strep. Within a day or two of infection, strep causes redness, painful swallowing, and swelling of the tonsils and the lymph nodes ("glands") under the jaw and down the front of the neck. There is often whitish pus on the tonsils. Nearly all children have fever, and both headache and abdominal pain are common. Some varieties of strep cause a rash; when this occurs, it is called scarlet fever. Having a scarlet fever rash does not make the case more serious; doctors will treat these cases the same way as those without a rash.

You may recognize the symptoms of strep throat, but the only sure way to diagnose it is for your pediatrician to rub the back of the throat with a cotton swab and then test the material on the swab for Group A strep bacteria. Most cases of strep throat go away on their own, but **they still should be treated with antibiotics**. Here's why:

- First, most experts believe prompt treatment generally makes symptoms go away faster.
- Second, a child with an untreated strep throat remains infectious for many days; however, after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment, the child can return to school without risk.
- Third, antibiotic treatment prevents several possible complications of strep throat.

Potential complications

Untreated strep throat can spread to surrounding neck tissues or other parts of the body. The most serious complication is rheumatic fever, which is an inflammation of the heart and joints. Fortunately, this condition is now very rare in the United States. Antibiotics given even a week or more after the onset of a strep throat will still prevent rheumatic fever, so it's always worth treating with antibiotics even if your child feels much better by the time the diagnosis is made.

Some children have repeated bouts of strep. Tonsillectomy (removing the tonsils) used to be the standard treatment for recurrent infections. This is still done occasionally, but antibiotics almost always eliminate recurrences. Each child's case needs to be considered individually, but since tonsillectomy is not without risk and does not remove all the places in the throat where strep can hide, most experts recommend antibiotic therapy, even if this needs to be done multiple times. The standard antibiotic to treat strep throat is penicillin or one of its close cousins. For children who are allergic to penicillin, erythromycin is effective.

Strep throat is a common childhood illness with effective antibiotic treatments. If your child has been exposed to strep, a trip to the pediatrician is in order.

Christopher M. Johnson, MD, MA, is a pediatrician based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. For more information, visit his Web site, www.chrisjohnsonmd.com.

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Perry Hall Middle School

PTSA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]

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Perry Hall, Maryland 21236

Phone: 410.887.5100
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Web site: 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.



We're on the Web
www.phmsptsa.org

Advocate for Your Child

Parents should feel comfortable expressing concerns at all levels of the educational system. Educators, school boards, and legislators are all understanding of the fact that a constructive and ongoing dialogue within the school community best serves our children. Learn more about how you can speak up for your child and every child at www.pta.org/advocacy.

Please accept our invitation to attend the Perry Hall Middle School's Board Meetings. This could start you on the road to advocacy. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at 7 pm. We hope to see you there.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, December 23, Christmas Break begins at end of school day.

Monday, January 5, School reopens.

Thursday, January 8, Market Day Internet orders due by noon.

Tuesday, January 13, PTSA Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00pm.

Wednesday, January 14, Market Day pick up, 7-8pm

Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—school closed.

Monday, January 26, Development Day—school closed.

Friday, January 30, Friday Morning Coffee Service for Teachers (weekly), plus Breakfast (monthly)

Box Tops for Education Update

Our goal for the year was to raise \$450 through the Box Tops for Education Program.

Thanks to you we have already raised \$522 with our first submission in October! Keep up the great work. We have another submission date in the spring. Keep clipping those Box Tops and bring them in to school.

