



# Perry Hall Middle School PTSA



## PANTHER BEAT

PTSA Web site: [www.phmsptsa.org](http://www.phmsptsa.org)

March 2008

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### **PTSA Board Members 2007-2008**

**President:**

Terri Smith  
410.256.5482

**1st VP:**

Teri Bibeault  
410.592.2693

**2nd VP:**

Sharon Rogowski  
410.256.3776

**Treasurer:**

Nancy Smith  
410.256.8147

**Rec. Secretary:**

Bonni Wittstadt  
410.529.5232

**Corr. Secretary:**

Kathy Case  
410.256.2902

**Editor:**

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## **A Message From the President**

Well, here we are in March already. Time to get really serious about planning for next year. We have four individuals that will be leaving Perry Hall Middle School after years of service to the school and PTSA.

Angela's dad, Glenn Kraus, has served on the Business Liaison and Ways and Means Committee. Brian's mom, Debbie Martin, has served on our Spirit Wear Committee. Derek's mom, Teri Bibeault, is currently serving as our First Vice-President but has served on many committees throughout her years at Perry Hall Middle School. And last, but not least, Brady Schiefer "Class of 2008" student representative has served on the PTSA Board of Directors for the past two years. These individuals have been an important part of the success of PHMS and the PTSA and their contributions are very much appreciated.

This brings me to a very important point; we need to fill these and several positions on the PTSA Board of Directors for 2008-2009. These committee chairman positions will need to be filled, not to mention, my term as President will end on June 30, 2008. We need parents and concerned citizens to step up and continue the leadership of this important organization.

If you are interested in serving as an officer or committee chairman for 2008-2009, please contact our nominating committee chair, Teri Bibeault (410.529.2693) today.

As always, thank you for reading. Thank you for being involved.

Terri Smith,  
PTSA President

## **Teacher/Staff Appreciation**

The Perry Hall Middle School PTSA will host a **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, April 18th**. We are looking for volunteers to assist us in this very worthwhile endeavor. Please contact Bonni Wittstadt at [bonni@jhu.edu](mailto:bonni@jhu.edu) if you are available to help. You will be glad you did.

Teachers can instruct our students in math, science, and language, but more than that, teachers can give our children the will to continue learning for the rest of their lives. The gift of never-ending education is one for which we cannot show enough gratitude—but we can certainly try. Please join us in recognizing the imperative and inspiring work our teachers do every day. Working together, teachers, parents, and communities can make every child's potential a reality.

*Jan Harp Domene  
PTA National President*

## Beautification Committee

Over the Holiday Season, our Beautification Committee organized our first holiday decoration event in many, many years. It could not have accomplished without the support of the local businesses whose donations made this possible. The following items were donated for our "Inaugural Holiday Decoration" of Perry Hall Middle School:



Chapel Hill Farm & Nursery  
 Coker's Florist  
 Ferguson Landscape Service  
 Huber's Produce (Raphel Rd)  
 Kingsville Market  
 Weis Market (Honeygo Blvd)

Fresh Wreath  
 Holiday Floral Arrangement  
 Poinsettias  
 Fresh Wreaths  
 Bows & Garland  
 Gift Card (used to purchase wreaths)

We thank the following individuals for their generosity and support of Perry Hall Middle School's PTSA event.:



Michael Berk of Chapel Hill Farm & Nursery  
 Russell Berk of Chapel Hill Farm & Nursery  
 Thea Coker of Coker's Florist  
 Adam Ferguson of Ferguson Landscape Service  
 Huber's Produce (Raphel Road & Philadelphia Road location)  
 The Kurrle's of The Kingsville Market  
 Greg Harper, Manager, of The Weis Market (Honeygo Boulevard location)

If you have the opportunity, please patronize these businesses to show our thanks for their kind donations.

Heather Patti,  
Beautification Committee Chair

### More News From the Beautification Committee

#### Spring Clean Up

The Beautification Committee is beginning to plan a general "Spring Clean Up". Specific information will be available soon. If you think you would like to help out, please contact our Beautification Committee Chair, Heather Patti, at: hp2970@yahoo.com or (410)335-5613.



### Scholarship Committee

#### PTSA Award and Scholarship

This year the Perry Hall Middle School PTSA is awarding three \$1,000 academic scholarships and one \$500 humanitarian award to former PHMS students. The applicant must be a graduating high school student and must be a member of his or her high school PTSA. An applicant may apply for both the academic scholarship and the humanitarian award.

The application deadline (3:00pm, April 15, 2008) will be here before you realize it. If you know of a deserving student please encourage him or her to apply.

The applications can be printed from our Web site: [www.phmsptsa.org/Scholarships.htm](http://www.phmsptsa.org/Scholarships.htm)

Terry Koogle, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

# PTSA Student Recognition Awards, January 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 91 students received a "red bag" award. A total of 439 bags have been given this year. Congratulations to these deserving students!

Mina A.	Mark H.	Nick R.
Victoria A.	Adam J.	Jonathan R.
Alexandra A.	Megan J.	Bridget R.
Brandon B.	Kimanie J.	Hannah R.
Derek B.	Thomas K.	Joseph S.
Kathleen B.	Courtney K.	Kim S.
Catherine B.	Jeremy K.	Eric S.
Jimmy C.	Maggie L.	Joshua S.
Ishtar C.	Sam L.	Carey S.
Kyle C.	Kevin M.	Teshawn S.
Zach C.	Jordan M.	Erin S.
Danielle C.	Ryan M.	Jade S.
Megan C.	T.J. M.	Jamie S.
Pamela C.	Angela M.	Desmond S.
Phillip D.	Zoe N.	Courtney S.
Shea D.	Jimmy N.	Kelli S.
Michael D.	Eren N.	James S.
Will E.	Ayodoyin O.	Michael T.
Chinasa E.	Sofiya O.	Gregory T.
Daniel F.	Greg O.	Rob Turner
Amber F.	Elera O.	Lauren V.
Anthony G.	Kemi O.	Sydney V.
Jessica G.	Quintin P.	Nick V.
Chris G.	John (Wesley) P.	Kevron W.
Jimmy G.	Ashley P.	A.J. W.
Taylor G.	Nick P.	Kandi W.
Melissa G.	Hope R.	Jessica Y.
Stacey G.	Nikki R.	Savannah Y.
Katelyn H.	Christopher R.	Sean Z.
Sarah H.	Kelsie R.	Chad Z.
Calvin H.		



## PTSA Gold Card Recipients Second 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 720 students out of 1,505 students with this distinction.

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

**Keep up the good work Panthers !!!**

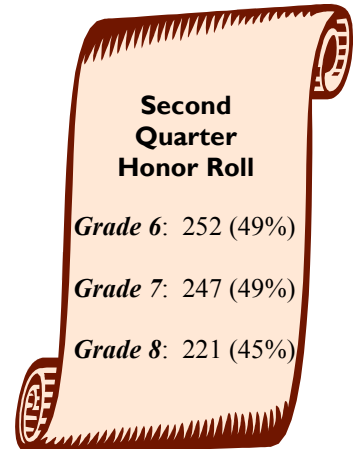
Rita Weber  
Gold Card Chairperson

### Second Quarter Honor Roll

**Grade 6:** 252 (49%)

**Grade 7:** 247 (49%)

**Grade 8:** 221 (45%)





The Toys For Tots campaign for 2007 was a huge success! Perry Hall Middle School contributed so many toys we filled the back of a pick-up truck and the back seat too! Thanks to everyone who generously donated toys. Special thanks go out to Mrs. Carole Huselton, Mrs. Pat Edelmann, and Mrs. Annamarie Hogue for tagging the toys with student names as they were delivered to the office. More special thanks go out to Mrs. Barbara Ketchum for volunteering to help transport the toys in her truck to the Marine Corp collection center.

The following students and faculty gave generously to the children in need in our area.

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>	<u>No Grade Given</u>
Connie A.	Danielle B.	Randall G. (5 toys)	Daniel B. (2 toys)
Jake B. (5 toys)	Jordan B.	Adam J.	Eric C. (2 toys)
Eliza C.	Taylor B. (2 toys)	Amy L. (3 toys)	Jaelyn S. (4 toys)
Ally D.	Michelle C. (2 toys)	Kate L. (4 toys)	Molly L.
Megan DiV. (3 toys)	Pamela C.	Heather M. (3 toys)	Patrick S. (3 toys)
Zachary F. (2 toys)	Nicole D.	John N. (4 toys)	Rachel (10 toys)
Cody G. (5 toys)	Megan E.	Hope R.	Chris Gibson
Becky H.	Kimberly F.	Nikki R. (10 toys)	Abbey Ketchum (3 toys)
Noah J.	Alexa G.	Kara S. (3 toys)	Chelsea Raff
Imani K. (2 toys)	Tyler G. (14 toys)	Hannah W. (2 toys)	Ella Raff
Michelle K.	Kaitlyn K. (4 toys)	Laura W.	Erin Raff
Sarah L. (2 toys)	Rose K. (6 toys)	Rob W. (6 toys)	Michael Raff
Chloe M. (2 toys)	Megan K.		Jeff Raff
Crystal M. (2 toys)	Mike K.		Eileen Raff
Kevin M.	Kyle K.		Lauren S.
Jillian P. (3 toys)	Ryan K. (16 toys)		Megan Willig (2 toys)
Vinny P. (7 toys)	Megan L. (3 toys)		Nikki Willig (2 toys)
Erin S. (5 toys)	Kasey M. (2 toys)		Josh Willig (2 toys)
Jack S.	Samantha G.		Kevin Becker (2 toys)
Valerie S. (4 toys)	Justin O'B.		Jackie Nelson-Becker (2 toys)
Alexis V.	Alexis S.		Teddie Nelson-Becker (2 toys)
Kaitlyn V.	Chris S.		Sharon Mizel
Danny W.	Josh S.		Anonymous (57 toys)
Julia W.	Laura S.		
Miranda W.	Stacey S. (4 toys)		
	Allison T. (2 toys)		
	Paul W.		
	Sam W. (3 toys)		



During 2007, The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation was ranked # 66 in the Chronicle of Philanthropy's "Philanthropy 400". This was the seventh consecutive year that the Foundation has been recognized in the "Philanthropy 400". The Foundation also received Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating for sound fiscal management and has been designated as an Accredited Charity by the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

## Are You the Parent of an Invisible Child?

By Margaret Sagarese and Charlene C. Giannetti

On the last day of 6th grade, the teacher cheerfully bid Samantha good-bye saying, "You were a pleasure to have in my classroom!" The surprised child confided to her mom later that day, "Mom, I thought she hated me all year!"

*How could Samantha, who made good grades and never got in trouble, think that?,* her mom wondered.

What could account for a perception gap as wide as the Grand Canyon between teacher and student? The 6th grader's belief resulted from her teacher's actions—actions of omission, not commission.

Samantha, as neither a validation-seeking star nor a time-consuming troublemaker, traveled the entire school year underneath the educator's radar. Such girls and boys are considered *invisible*. The invisible ones fail to get noticed, complimented, or criticized. Minimal interaction equates to never establishing a personal connection with the teacher. The conclusion these children often make is that they must have done something wrong to warrant being ignored.

Invisible children come in many varieties. These boys and girls can be academic successes or average performers in class. They may be quiet or have shy temperaments, but still be outgoing and chatty within their small circle of friends. What determines a child's barely-there status depends entirely upon teacher priorities.



### Tending to the neediest

Teachers can be distracted by the extremes in their classes. Children laboring under the weight of learning problems, discipline issues, or difficult home circumstances take up a large part of a teacher's time and energy.

At the other end of the spectrum are the easy students. These are the children whose hands are always raised to answer or ask questions, the ones who charge the teacher's desk to volunteer or chat. They serve as a relief, a respite from the trying ones.

When a teacher needs help or is asked to make a recommendation, the most outgoing and accomplished students often come to mind first. Popular types are confident and enjoy their status and recognition. Teachers play favorites without realizing they do so, and this focus comes at the expense of other, less attention-seeking, but deserving candidates.

### Recognizing your invisible child

Few, if any, children are invisible to their parents. In fact, most children experience a great deal of pressure from their parents to be superstars. Children get the message. In Kathleen Cushman's book, *What We Can't Tell You: Teenagers Talk to the Adults in Their Lives*, a teen confided, "Every parent wants their kid to be a famous doctor that discovers cures and all. But it's a lot of pressure, even if you don't realize it. If your mom says, 'You're going to be great, you're going to do wonderful things,' you're like, 'Well, what if I don't? Do you *not* want me anymore?'"

Your child may be trying hard to make you proud, and yet still go unnoticed or unrecognized by school personnel on a daily basis. How can you tell?

- Look for conversational clues. There are things kids might say to tip off that they are perceived as invisible. "I thought I did really well on that essay, but there was nothing written in the margin. My friend had tons of comments scribbled in his," or "No matter how well I do out on the field, the coach never pats me on the back."
- Keep track of your child's attendance at school events. Kids who are overlooked tend to lose interest in going to school activities.
- Ask, "Do you and your teacher connect well?"

Watch for signs of withdrawal. Girls and boys who remain out of the social loop may be teased and stigmatized as "misfits." Boys are less likely than girls to confide this to you. Ridiculed kids work hard to become invisible.

(continued on next page)

## Are You the Parent of an Invisible Child? (continued)

### **Advocate for your child.**

If you suspect that your child moves in the invisible zone at school, consider taking one of the following actions:

**Ask your child's teacher for a "social" evaluation.** Teachers are familiar with conveying to parents a student's academic performance. They also will report on misbehavior when a student disrupts the class flow. Go to the next level and request an evaluation of your child's social behavior. Inquire about class participation. This will help bring your child into focus. Once he or she is on the teacher's radar, the teacher is more likely to encourage your child to participate and compliment or assist your child.

**If you have a child who prefers being alone, mention this to the teacher.** Determine the teacher's attitude regarding loner behavior. Ask the teacher how such a child can be accepted as he or she is, and still get validation in the classroom. By pursuing this line of questioning, you are giving the teacher permission to develop inclusive strategies.

**Suggest that quiet personalities be discussed during class, if it fits the curriculum.** For example, if your child learns about the accomplishments of renowned poet Emily Dickinson, a notorious recluse, his or her self-esteem may soar.

**Inquire if the teacher creates a "classless classroom."** Teachers need to be made aware that favoritism, even if unconscious, can be damaging to your child and other invisible children. Talk about the caste system that exists in most middle schools and high schools, and how popular kids receive the most rewards. Find out what the teacher does to ensure that no child is short-changed of the attention and positive reinforcement needed to succeed.

A teacher's recognition wields enormous power and influence. According to the 2005 *MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Transitions and the Role of Supportive Relationships*, students who report having teachers who made a difference in their lives report a more positive school experience. Children who admit to having three teachers who made a difference accrue a variety of benefits. Twice as many (36%) reported being more interested in classes than those with no connection (18%). They feel cared about and important (34% versus 16%.) The report also showed that connected children feel safer, and are more likely to envision higher education in their future.

For children to receive these benefits, they need that student-teacher connection. Teachers juggle so many demands. They are not perfect. If you have a child who slips through the cracks like Samantha did, it's your responsibility to alert the teacher and help her or him learn a new lesson: how to make the invisible child visible.

*Margaret Sagarese and Charlene Giannetti are the co-authors of Keep Cliques and Bullies from Invading Your Classroom, and they lecture nationally. For more information, send an e-mail to msagarese@aol.com.*

*Reprinted with permission from "Are You the Parent of an Invisible Child?," Our Children, The National PTA Magazine, October/November 2007, National PTA Web site, www.pta.org*

## The Research is in . . .

. . . and the results are conclusive: students whose parents are actively involved in their education do better at school, regardless of their family income and background. Specifically, students with involved parents have greater academic success, better attitudes about school, and fewer behavioral problems. This makes sense, since parents are the central figures in the lives of their children.



*Excerpt from the article: Get Involved at School—You Really Can Do It! By Judy Molland, Our Children, The National PTA Magazine, October/November 2007, National PTA Web site, www.pta.org.*

## We're Still Looking For You

Our PTSA board is made up of a wide variety of parents and caring adults. We have a CPA, a veterinarian, several teachers, a nurse, a bookkeeper, salesmen, a librarian, a computer programmer, and many other occupations represented on our diverse and dedicated board. But they all have one thing in common—they all care about the children at PHMS and are committed to leading this organization and working for its success.

Sadly, the following board members will no longer have children attending PHMS and will be dropping off the board:

- 1st Vice President, Teri Bibeault
- Business Liaison & Ways & Means, Glenn Kraus
- Spirit Wear, Debbie Martin



These are all vital and important positions for us to fill next year. Please consider lending your leadership skills and time. Ideally, we'd like for the incoming chair or officer to "shadow" the current chair for the remainder of the year to learn the ropes, so please contact Terri Smith at [hawsmith@comcast.net](mailto:hawsmith@comcast.net) if you are interested in these or any board position with the PHMS PTSA.

## Meet the Superintendent!

THE PTA COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Loch Raven High School

7:00 pm: Registration and Exhibits

7:30 pm: General Membership Meeting

followed by

“An Evening with the Superintendent”

Superintendent Dr. Joe A. Hairston joins us to discuss the various educational issues impacting Baltimore County public schools. This is your opportunity to ask questions, get answers, and learn how to be more involved in the decision making process that affects all of our children's education.

This event is free and open to the public.

**All PTA officers, parents, and community members are encouraged to attend.**

Additional information: Visit [www.bcptacouncil.org](http://www.bcptacouncil.org) or contact Nancy L. Ostrow, [firstvp@bcptacouncil.org](mailto:firstvp@bcptacouncil.org).

## Perry Hall Middle School

**PTSA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice.<sup>®</sup>

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Web site: [www.phmsptsa.org](http://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](http://www.phmsptsa.org)

### Giant's A+ BonusBucks<sup>SM</sup>

At this point in the 2007-2008 school year we have earned \$237.92 from Giant's A+ BonusBucks<sup>SM</sup> Program. Of the 1000+ families that represent Perry Hall Middle School, 26 families have designated our school to be the recipient of the program. Imagine what we could earn if more of us signed up?

It's not too late! Please be sure to designate **Perry Hall Middle School** using ID # **01646**.

And don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives (and everyone you know) to do the same. It could mean the world to our children. If you have any questions, contact our PHMS coordinator Felicia Scott at [fscot002@yahoo.com](mailto:fscot002@yahoo.com) or (443) 253-5415.



**BONUSBUCKS**<sup>SM</sup>

### Upcoming Dates



**Tuesday, March 11**, PTSA Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm in the Meeting Room.

**Wednesday, March 12**, Market Day Pickup, 7-8pm.

**Thursday, March 13**, PTA Council of Baltimore County General Membership Meeting, 7pm, Loch Raven HS.

**Thursday, March 20**, Easter/Spring Break begins at the end of the school day.

**Monday, March 31**, School Reopens.

**Friday, April 4**, Market Day order forms due back to school. (Internet order deadline is Noon, April 10).

**Every Friday**, Friday Morning Coffee Service for Teachers.



### Trying to plan your calendar for the rest of the school year?

The calendar of our PTSA Web site <http://www.phmsptsa.org/CalendarList.htm> contains events through July!

