



# Perry Hall Middle School PTSA



## PANTHER BEAT

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

May 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:**

Joe Regan  
410.529.4026  
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## **A Message From the President**

I had the honor of representing the Perry Hall Middle School PTSA at two very special events as we were recognized for our good works on behalf of children and youth in Baltimore County. The first event was held on April 18, 2008 as I had an opportunity to enjoy outstanding performances by area Elementary Honors Bands, the 8 Panther Band, and the Perry Hall High School Wind Ensemble. Mr. Brian Balmages, a nationally renowned composer, conductor, and clinician, and Director of Instrumental Music Publications at FJH Music in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, presented Perry Hall Middle School PTSA with a Certificate of Distinction recognizing the generous support of the Perry Hall Middle School Band Program through the commissioning of *Moscow, 1941* (see the detailed article on page 4).

Then, on April 24<sup>th</sup> the PHMS PTSA was once again recognized at the Baltimore County Council PTA Awards Ceremony. Kathy Barbour, MaryAnn Zugates, Karen

Wisniewski and I were on-hand to accept three trophies: Best Student Recognition Program (Red Bag Character Recognition Program); Best Legislative Action Program; and Best PTSA Web site.

I would like to thank everyone for their involvement, support, and commitment. To share with you the sentiment expressed on the program at the Council Awards...

"It takes a positive relationship between parents, teachers, and community groups to build successful partnerships which enhance the lives of our children and youth. By working together we can help today's student become tomorrow's leaders in school and in life."

Thank you to everyone. You make Perry Hall Middle School great!

Terri Smith,  
PTSA President

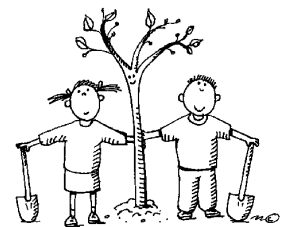
## Spring Clean Up

**Sunday, June 1, 2008 from 9:00 am until  
1:00 pm**

Come join us for our Inaugural Spring Clean-Up on Sunday, June 1, 2008. Volunteers are needed to help with weeding flowerbeds, planting flowers, spreading mulch, and other general clean up activities. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a small shovel, gardening gloves, and knee pads/kneeling pads. Refreshments will be provided.

Please contact Heather Patti at (410) 335-5613 or [hp2970@yahoo.com](mailto:hp2970@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer your time, donate materials, or have any questions.

Thank you for helping to make Perry Hall Middle School a more beautiful place! See you at the Spring Clean up!



## Nominating Committee Report

### Nominations for PTSA Officers 2008-2009

The nominating committee nominates the following eligible individuals for officers of the Perry Hall Middle School PTSA for 2008-2009:

**Corresponding Secretary**  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Second V.P.**  
**First V.P.**  
**President**

**Michele Burbridge**  
**Renee Papavasiliou**  
**Nancy Smith**  
**Terri Smith**  
**Kathy Fox**  
**Heather Patti**

These names will also be reported to the PTSA general membership at the May 22, 2008 general membership meeting, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Respectfully submitted by the 2007-2008 Nominating Committee,

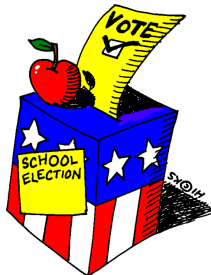
Teri Bibeault  
 Joe Regan  
 Leeann Whitaker

### General Membership Meeting

#### Nomination and Election of 2008 - 2009 PHMS PTSA Officers

We will be holding our **PTSA General Meeting** on **Thursday, May 22, 2008**. The nomination, election, and installation of the 2008 - 2009 PTSA Officers will be held during this meeting. The revised budget for 2007-2008 will also be presented. The Grade 6 Spring Concert will commence immediately following the PTSA General Meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there.



### “Top Twelve” Awards for PHMS PTSA

Congratulations go out to our award winning committee chairpersons for winning a “Top Twelve” award and being recognized as the best among PTA/PTSA programs in Baltimore County.

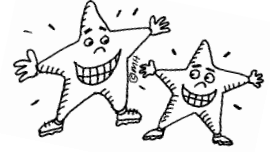
**Kathy Barbour and MaryAnn Zugates**, Co-Chairs of our Red Bag Program, for being selected for the Best Student Recognition Program.

**Jim Ports**, Chair of our Legislative Action Committee, for being selected for the Best Legislative Action Program.

**Terri Smith**, Webmaster, for being selected for the Best Web Site.



# PTSA Student Recognition Awards, April 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 86 students received a "red bag" award. A total of 690 bags have been given this year. Congratulations to these deserving students!

Joseph A.	Jasmine G.	Hunter N.
Zohra A.	Gina G.	Steven N.
Bart A.	Megan G.	Karly O.
Patrick A.	J.R. H.	Chris P.
Rachel B.	Breonna H.	Andrew P.
Aiah B.	Caran H.	Cody P.
Dan B.	Josh H.	Kaitlyn R.
Mike B.	Alex H.	Datwain R.
Kaitlyn B.	Brooke H.	Shakira R.
Umar B.	Brenna J.	Kevin R.
Leah B.	T'Leah J.	Stephanie R.
Dan B.	Eunice K.	Sheryl S.
Ginny B.	Ryan K.	Scott S.
Bri B.	Sarah K.	Luke S.
Joe C.	Martin L.	Timmy S.
Maggie C.	Peter L.	Phobe S.
David C.	Molly L.	Jenny S.
Katherine C.	Damien L.	Keli S.
Marquise C.	Byron L.	Cara S.
Allyssa D.	Esther L.	Anthony T.
Sydney D.	Brian L.	Jai T.
Greer E.	Sarah L.	Kevin V.
Josh F.	Brianna L.	Cameron W.
Cayla F.	Katie M.	Conor W.
Patrick F.	Eric M.	Greg W.
Kathryn G.	Ross M.	Sarah W.
Adam G.	Elsie M.	Carrie Z.
Brandon G.	Ronald M.	Colin Z.
Najee G.	Shawn M.	



## 2008 National Convention Connect for Success

112th Annual PTA National Convention & Exhibition. Friday, June 20–Monday, June 23, 2008

Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, CA

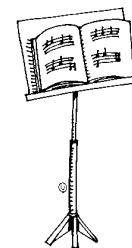


You Are Invited!

Join thousands of parents, teachers, students, and leaders who come to the national convention each year to enhance their skills, connections, and success.

Reprinted with permission from the National PTA Web site, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) "2008 National Convention", April 2008.

## Perry Hall Middle School PTSA Supports Music and the Arts



On April 18<sup>th</sup> Perry Hall Middle School held its Second Annual Perry Hall Area Band Festival. This concert featured the Perry Hall Area Elementary Honors Bands, the 8 Panther Band, and the Perry Hall High School Wind Ensemble, as well as alumni from last year's festival. This year's concert concluded with a combined performance of all three bands of a selection written by Mr. Brian Balmages. Mr. Balmages is currently one of the most sought after composers, conductors and clinicians in the United States. He is also the Director of Instrumental Music Publications at FJH Music in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Here is an excerpt of a letter dated April 6, 2008 to the PHMS PTSA from Ms. Clavell and Mr. Fishler:

"In 2005, the Perry Hall Middle School Band commissioned Mr. Balmages to write a piece of band music to honor Mr. Larry Bondar, former music teacher at Perry hall Elementary School. With the generous help of the PTSA we were able to financially undertake this project. In January of 2006, Mr. Balmages delivered his work, Moscow, 1941. The 8 Leopard Band premiered the work at a special concert in March of 2006 and performed it again to rave reviews at the North American Music Festival in Norfolk, VA. In the summer of 2006 Moscow, 1941 was published and available for purchase through FJH Publications."

"In a recent communication with Mr. Balmages, we learned that this piece has sold over 1,000 copies **internationally**. The impact of this commission in the band community has been substantial. At our concert on April 18<sup>th</sup>, the 8 Panther Band will be performing Moscow, 1941. Mr. Balmages and FJH Publications would like to honor the Perry Hall Middle School PTSA for their support of this commission and their support of the band program at Perry Hall Middle School."

Thanks to the support of so many parents, teachers, students and community members this PTSA is one of the strongest parent groups in Baltimore County. We are happy to support the arts and music at Perry Hall Middle School.

## Market Day . . . Have You Tried Us Yet?

Just one more Market Day sale left so if you haven't tried our monthly, restaurant-quality, frozen food fundraiser sponsored by the PTSA now's the time to do it. You should be receiving a colorful order sheet/brochure sent home via your student each month. Don't worry if your student forgets to bring it home or keeps accidentally throwing it in the trash or the dog keeps making a meal of it, because the best way to order each month is online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com), account no. 12331. If you provide me with your email address, I can also send you email reminders each month so you won't forget to order. Just email me at [finckel@hotmail.com](mailto:finckel@hotmail.com) if you would like to be added to my list. Also, you can put paper orders in the Market Day mailbox in the 6th Grade Office, or I can always take your order over the phone, 410-661-1338. Our last date for this school year is: June...paper orders due May 28...internet orders due May 29 at 12 noon...pick up June 4, 6:30-8 pm, middle school cafeteria.

Pay online with a credit card when you place your order or by cash or check on the day of the sale. **DO NOT SEND MONEY IN WITH THE ORDER SHEETS.**

We are always looking for volunteers to make phone calls or help out on the day of the sale. Student volunteers earn service learning hours towards graduation. Contact Kathy Schwabeland at [spicykathy211@aol.com](mailto:spicykathy211@aol.com) if you are interested in helping.

On a personal note, this is my last year chairing Market Day as my daughter will be graduating in May. I just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to all who have supported me and have helped us achieve the wonderful successes we have realized for the past three years (17 straight months of earning the maximum commission...woo-hoo). I have met many wonderful people, and I encourage all parents, grandparents, and students to get involved and volunteer...it truly is a very rewarding experience.



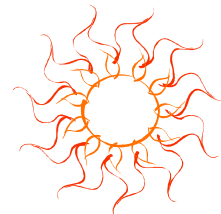
## Summer Break—The Dark Side of the Sun

By Tom Fry

Parents endeavor to stack the odds in our children's favor as much as possible. Seat belts and car seats have become dogma. The mantra of not talking to strangers is nearly ubiquitous. In countless ways we provide to our children the means to protect themselves as much as they are developmentally able. Yet, every day, parents around the world put their children at risk of a certain danger that goes unrecognized; that danger is skin cancer.

### The Dark Side EXPOSED

An estimated 10,000 Americans will die from skin cancer this year; that's one person every hour of every day. More than 1 million others (nearly 2 people every second) will be newly diagnosed with the disease.



Skin cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer in the United States today. In fact, it has reached textbook epidemic proportions, especially in the America's Southwest. While the facts are alarming enough, it is the cause of the disease that is truly frightening—ignorance. Skin cancer is largely preventable.

Researchers have determined that there is a direct correlation between the amount of ultraviolet (UV) exposure that we receive and the likelihood of developing some form of the disease later in life. Think of your skin as a living sponge that absorbs UV radiation from the sun and can never be wrung out; your lifetime exposure is cumulative and nearly 80 percent of your total lifetime UV exposure occurs in the first 18 years of your life.

At some point, our skin, the sponge, cannot further absorb the sun's radiation without causing damage. Studies have indicated that just two blistering sunburns before the age of 20 may double the risk of eventually developing melanoma (a life-threatening type of skin cancer) later in life. Approximately 25 percent of children under 6 years of age, and approximately 50 percent of children under 13 years of age, have experienced at least one painful sunburn. When that threshold is reached, we put ourselves, and our children, directly into harm's way.

The following are easy-to-implement strategies that help to ensure the daylong sun safety of our children.

### Limit the amount of time spent in the sun

Peak sun intensity hours are those times of the day that the sun's rays are at their strongest. Mary Klein Buller, M.A., former executive director of the American Sun Protection Association, explains: "Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. are generally recognized as those times that the sun can cause the most damage. Every effort needs to be made to limit the amount of time spent in direct sunlight during these hours. Playing in the shade is a wonderful means for children to play safely outside during these hours, summer or winter."

Yet, in fall, winter, and spring, parents may be lulled into a false sense of security. They may also mistakenly think that since children are in school during these hours, they are not at risk. How much time does your child spend outside during an average day at school? Does your child's playground provide adequate shade?

Unfortunately, sun safety is not often a consideration in the construction or maintenance of our children's playgrounds. The applicable regulations and standards only passively mention the need for shade. All is not lost though, as local PTAs can be very successful in persuading the local municipalities to reconsider a playground's effectiveness in promoting shade. Several organizations exist that are able to provide the requisite background information. Two of these include KaBOOM! ([www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org) or (202) 659-0215) and the National Program for Playground Safety [www.uni.edu/playground](http://www.uni.edu/playground) or (800) 554-PLAY). In addition, the AMC Cancer Research Center provides a no-cost Sun-Safe School Guide to interested individuals and institutions. This guide effectively details those areas of concern as well as easy-to-implement suggestions for improvement. Call (800) 321-1557 for a free copy. Additional copies are \$1 each.

The bottom line is that if our children are to be outside during these peak sun intensity hours then shade must be available. Just as it is ritual for children to shun contact with strangers, so too must it be second nature that they seek shade.

*continued on next page*

## Summer Break—The Dark Side of the Sun (continued)

### **Wear protective clothing**

Think of clothing as shade that you wear. Simple decisions about dress can greatly add to the protection of our children. An ideally sun-safe outfit will leave little skin exposed. And don't forget about a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

Be wary though of the color and type of fabric you choose. Loosely woven fabrics, like lighter weight cottons, often allow a potentially dangerous amount of radiation through. Darker colors are more adept than lighter colors in absorbing radiation, thereby providing more protection.

In recent years, apparel manufacturers and retailers have begun to address the sun safety of their products and have specifically tested garments to determine the level of protection offered. When shopping for your child's clothes, pay attention to the sun safety claims made by the manufacturer. If a UPF (ultraviolet protection factor) is noted, shop for a maximum rating of 50+. Be aware of erroneous claims though. UPF ratings of more than 50+ do not provide a statistically significant increase in sun protection.

### **Use sunscreen**

Sunscreen, without question or pause, should be used on a daily basis and its use should be as reflexive as putting on a seat belt. Yet, the use of sunscreen is not foolproof. Not all sunscreens are created equal and their use needs to be closely monitored.

To provide your child with the greatest amount of protection, sunscreens labeled as "broad spectrum" with an SPF (sun protection factor) of 15 or greater should be the first choice. Broad spectrum simply means that the product is designed to block the broadest spectrum of harmful UV radiation. It was long believed that UVA radiation, that is, radiation that causes the skin to tan, did not lead to cancer. Researchers have reconsidered this and now strongly caution against overexposure to either UVA or UVB radiation.



SPF is a ratio that illustrates how long it takes skin to burn. For example, if your child has fair skin, eyes, and hair and usually burns after 10 minutes of being in the sun, then an SPF 15 would allow your child to go unburned for 150 minutes (10 minutes usual burn time multiplied by SPF 15).

Although children need to be slathered in sunscreen thoroughly and often with a broad spectrum SPF 15 or greater, parents should be aware that no sunscreen blocks an absolute 100 percent of the harmful radiation from the sun.

Remember, when skin is exposed to the maximum amount of time the SPF offers protection against, it's time to get out of the sun, no matter the SPF. Reapplying sunscreen doesn't indefinitely extend or enhance the protection.

While the chemical make-up of sunscreens tends to be generally benign in nature, sunscreen should not be applied to infants under 6 months when other forms of protection are available. Yet, use of sunscreen on those less than 6 months is preferred to no sunscreen at all, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

### **Knowledge: The power to protect**

Parents have grand aspirations for their children. No parent wishes a future as a statistic for his or her children. Recognize that the danger of skin cancer exists, and take pro-active and simple steps to protect children today against becoming tomorrow's statistic. A parent armed with the knowledge of the disease and its prevention is a child protected.

*Tom Fry is a research assistant and market coordinator for Partners for Health Systems, Inc., a health communication organization, partnered with the AMC Cancer Research Center located in Denver, Colorado. AMC is the nation's largest independent, not-for-profit cancer research facility that focuses exclusively on cancer and chronic disease prevention and control. Fry can be reached at (303) 239-3342 or by e-mail to fryt@amc.org.*

## School Year for Baltimore County Schools Shortened Three Days

### *Adjustment made for unused emergency closing time*

The school year for Baltimore County's public school students will end on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 - three days earlier than originally scheduled. (The 2007-2008 school year had been scheduled to end on Monday, June 16, 2008.)

The schedule for the final days of school will be as follows:

- **Monday, June 9** - All schools will remain on a regular schedule; teachers on duty.
- **Tuesday, June 10** - Assessment Day for all schools. All schools will close three hours early for students; teachers on duty.
- **Wednesday, June 11** - Final day of classes for students and teachers - All schools will close three hours early; teachers on duty.

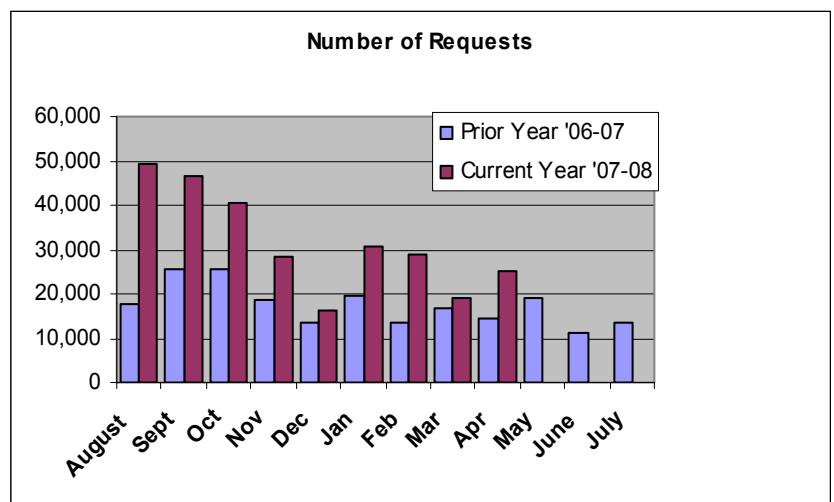
Baltimore County Public Schools officials traditionally decide whether or not to alter the calendar in late April. The adjustment to the 2007-2008 school calendar, announced at the April 22 meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Education, allows BCPS to shorten the school year due to planned but unused emergency closing time.

If you would like more information, please see the article at: <http://www.bcps.org/news/articles/article1718.html>

## PHMS PTSA Web Site Statistics

We know you have been wondering just how busy the servers operating the PHMS PTSA Web site have been. The table and corresponding chart show you just how popular our site is. Apparently many of you visit the site quite often to get up-to-the-minute information. If you have never had the chance to visit our award winning Web site you may want to try it today. <http://www.phmsptsa.org>

Month	Prior Year '06-07	Current Year '07-08	Increase in Requests	% Increase
August	17,886	49,320	31,434	176%
Sept	25,452	46,652	21,200	83%
Oct	25,504	40,481	14,977	59%
Nov	18,640	28,198	9,558	51%
Dec	13,715	16,125	2,410	18%
Jan	19,650	30,783	11,133	57%
Feb	13,435	28,939	15,504	115%
Mar	16,956	19,203	2,247	13%
Apr	14,187	25,187	11,000	78%
May	19,014		TBD	
June	11,360		TBD	
July	13,700		TBD	



Most active month August 2007 : 2,934 pages sent.

**49,320 requests handled.**

Monthly average: 1,622 pages sent. **23,542 requests handled.**

## Perry Hall Middle School

**PTSA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.one voice.<sup>®</sup>

4300 Ebenezer Road  
Perry Hall, Maryland 21236

Phone: 410.887.5100  
Fax: 410.887.5152  
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)

## 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 Perry Hall Middle School students. The applicant must be a graduating high school student and must be a member of his or her high school PTSA.

The winners for this year have been selected and their names will be announced at high school awards ceremonies to be held in May. Thank you to the applicants who submitted their essays, grades, and letters of recommendation. Good luck to all of our 2008 graduates! We are proud of you!

Terry Koogle, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

## Upcoming Dates



**Tuesday, May 13**, PTSA Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm

**Wednesday, May 14**, Market Day Pickup 7:00 - 8:00 PM, cafeteria

**Wednesday, May 14**, Outback Steakhouse Straight A Event

**Thursday, May 15**, *Paw Print*, school newsletter collating night, 6:30PM

**Thursday, May 15**, NJHS Inductions

**Monday, May 19**, Spring Concert, Grade 8

**Tuesday, May 20**, Spring Concert, Grade 7

**Wednesday, May 21**, Spring Concert, Grade 7

**Thursday, May 22**, Spring Concert, Grade 6 & PTSA General Meeting just prior to first concert (officer elections and revised budget)

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



The area where we are the greatest is the area in which we inspire, encourage, and connect with another human being.

MAYA ANGELOU