

THE ARROWHEAD



Issue 6 Volume 2006-2007

February 2007

The Principal's Pen

by Dr. A.F. Merante and Dr. M. D. Monsour



MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULING OVERVIEW

Over the months of March and April, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teachers, counselors, and administrators will be preparing for the middle school scheduling process. There will be specific information sent home with your child, information listed on the web site, discussions at PTA meetings, and an evening orientation meeting for parents of grade six students on April 2, 2007, from 7:00-9:00 P.M. in our auditorium. We thought it would be beneficial to review the most commonly asked questions. Please feel free to call our guidance office for further information.

Q. How do the recommendations take place for subjects such as math/math enrichment, world language/reading?

A. These recommendations are based on criteria, which you will receive with your child's scheduling forms. These criteria have been developed over the years based on student PSSA achievement data, nine weeks grades, teacher recommendation, and daily student performance.

Continued on page 5

Notes from the President

by Lori Cuervo

Dear Parents and Fellow PTA Members,

Next month, the PTA begins its planning stage for next year. At the March PTA meeting, the membership will select a nominating committee. As many of you know, the nominating committee is responsible for proposing new leaders. Their job is one of the most important aspects of running the PTA.

I would like to share with you a selection from the January 2007 Pennsylvania PTA newsletter. The article was titled "Strengthen Your PTA with Sound Nominations" and outlined the responsibilities of the nominating committee.

1. Identify the characteristics and skill sets of potential PTA leaders that are needed to meet the needs of the organization.
 - Interact with the board to identify needs and potential leaders
 - Perform a gap analysis of board needs (current vs. future)
 - Be sure to evaluate the level of diversity among the PTA leaders
 - Provide input into the development of job descriptions, qualifications, and criteria
 - Establish that applicants for elected positions have qualifications as outlined in the bylaws

Continued on page 4

Inside this issue:

What's up at PTMS this month?	2
9th Grade Schedules	2
Student Faculty Basketball Game	3
MS Musical	3
Spring Dance	3
Boy's Lacrosse BINGO	4
Brunch with Principals	4
Operation Safe Surf	6
MS Advisory Committee	7
Taste of Township	7
Cashback	7
PTA Nominations	8

The NEXT MS PTA Meeting will be held on

MARCH 20th at 9:15 A.M.

Followed by Brunch with the Principals

Please join us !

THANK YOU FROM THE PTA

Many thanks to the following individuals who donated either food or money for the teacher appreciation breakfast on January 29th.

Liz Arnita	Amy Lewis
Marcia Bastyr	Hongli Li
Becky Berquist	Sarah Lindsay
Claudia Bertoni	Shuping Liu
Carolyn Bukovich	Lois Maggs
Gail Cellini	Valerie Marsh
Carolyn Counihan	Michelle Miller
Lori Cuervo	Kim Nathanson
Dee Dee Dray	Sue Ralston
Theresa Dunlap	Jackie Ranalli
Ellen Franty	Mary Ranallo
Cindy Golembiewski	Linda Roach
Mary Grace Hunter	Gail Schlafman
Maegan Kern	Rhonda Stasik
Jane Kirtley	Dianne Thomas



WHAT'S UP THIS MONTH AT PTMS

March 2

PTA Spring Dance—Grades 7 and 8

8:00—10:00 P.M. PTMS Gymnasium

March 2-9

Middle Level Education Week

March 7

Student—Faculty Basketball Game

PT High School Gymnasium

7:00 P.M.

March 12 - 23

7th and 8th Grade

PSSA Math & Reading

March 16

PTMS Assembly

March 19

PTSD School Board Meeting

7:30 P.M.

March 23 and 24

PTMS Musical: Oliver

7:30 P.M. Friday • 2:00 & 7:30 P.M. Saturday

March 24

National History Day—Regional Competition

6:45 A.M.—4:45 P.M. Heinz History Ctr.

PSSA TESTING TIME

Required PTSD Testing will be occurring on the following dates.



March 12 - 23

7th and 8th Grade

PSSA Math & Reading

April 23-27

8th Grade

PSSA Science

2007-2008 PTHS SCHEDULING

Here is some additional information regarding the High School scheduling process. Please keep in mind that the dates and times may change depending on any changes the high school guidance department may enact.

- The high school guidance counselors will have presented the 9th grade course selection process to current 8th grade students on February 21, 2007, during their social studies classes. During this session, the students received their course selection sheet, materials to prepare for the high school transition, and an explanation of the step-by-step process on how they are to complete their course selection sheets.
- The 8th grade students will have approximately one week to have their current 8th grade teachers complete their recommendations on the course selection sheet. The students will be required to have a parent's signature on the sheet before it is turned in to the middle school guidance counselors.
- The high school course selection book is available on-line through the high school website. The link is available under the counseling section of the high school web page — <http://www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/pths/>



STUDENT / FACULTY BASKETBALL GAME

This is the one special school event that you don't want to miss!

The Annual PTMS Student—Faculty Basketball Game.

This year's game will be held on **Wednesday, March 7th, 2007** from **7:00—9:00 P.M.** in the **Peters Township High School Gymnasium**

- Bring the whole family!
- Ticket cost: \$3 per person.
- Pre-sale of tickets will be held during lunch on March 6th and 7th. Tickets will also be available at the door.
- Refreshments are available during the game and there will also be drawings for a several prizes!



Come and cheer for your favorite student or teacher!



PTA SPRING DANCE

Sponsored by PTMS PTA

Date:

Friday, March 2, 2007

Time:

8:00 P.M.—10:00 P.M.

Where: **The PTMS Gym**

Cost of admission:

\$3.00 with student I.D.

\$4.00 without I.D.

This Spring event is filled with dancing, food, refreshments, and tons of fun!

Volunteers are wanted and needed (especially male chaperones) so please contact: Margo Blasiak 724-942-0993



SEVEN SPRINGS BUS

Catch the Ski/Tubing Bus to Seven Springs

Friday, March 2, 2007

Here's hoping the temperature and snowflakes keep falling.

The next PTMS Ski Bus Trip is scheduled for **March 2 (weather permitting)**. The Bus leaves at **3:15 P.M.** and returns around **12:00 A.M.**

All participants must hold a paid reserved spot.

Discounted tickets also available for families driving up every weekend.

Saturday

Day Session- \$38.00

Rental- Ski \$15.00 /Board \$29.00

Sunday

Day Session- \$35.00

Rental- Ski \$15.00 /Board \$29.00

Sunday

Twilight- \$24.00

Rental- Ski \$11.00 /Board \$21.00

Questions? Contact Mrs. Hanley at 941-2688 ext 4510 or hanleys@pt-sd.org or pick up a form in the MS office.



PT BOYS LACROSSE

Come out for an evening of fun and support the

PT Boy's Lacrosse Association

A NIGHT OF BINGO

Saturday, March 10, 2007

St. Louise Community Hall

320 McMurray Road

Doors Open at 6:00 P.M.

Games 7:00 – 11:00 P.M.

Silent Auction, Gift Basket Raffle, 50/50

All Night Regular & Special Bingo Games

For more information contact
Cathy & Larry Luzier

cathluzier@comcast.net



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

For the 8th Grade Dance

Contact Robin Golias: 724-942-1989

For the 8th Grade Picnic

Contact Cathy Luzier: 724-942-0788

SEEKING Volunteers for Fundraising Committee

If interested, please contact

Lori Cuervo loricuervo@comcast.net or 724-941-1574

Carolyn Bukovich gopitt86@comcast.net or 724-348-6458

Carol Aurin ca0460@verizon.net or 724-348-4714

PTA Brunch with the Principals

At the next PTA meeting (March 20th), the PTMS PTA will host a "brunch" to meet with the Principals. Please pass the word to those of you who know 6th grade parents! This is a great time to meet the PTMS PTA and meet Dr. Monsour and Dr. Merante to prepare for next year!



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

2. Find the best, qualified people to lead your PTA.
 - Develop a process to recommend nominees with the following qualities:
 - Vision and leadership: the ability to see the big picture and the courage to set direction to achieve the PTA missions
 - Stewardship: The integrity to serve the interests and pursue the goals of the organization
 - Knowledge: Knowledge of PTA, its operations, and organization
 - Diligence: Dedication and commitment to the PTA's goals
 - Collegiality: Possessing a sincere and respectful attitude toward fellow PTA members and their views
 - Communicate with all members of the PTA to identify a diverse but representative group of potential leaders
 - Continue to establish the pool of potential leaders from inside and outside the PTA
 - Create a pipeline for future leaders by being forward-thinking
 - Be well-versed in the responsibilities and skill sets required for all positions
3. Screen, evaluate, and select potential leaders.
 - Screen and interview potential leaders prior to putting them on the slate
 - Determine the slate and seek the consent of each candidate
 - Announce the slate of candidates according to the procedures in the bylaws
4. Recommend opportunities for training to enhance leadership development for the newly elected officers and board members.
5. The work of the nominating committee is not complete until all officers are elected.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the nominating committee, please let me know as soon as possible. Your responsibilities will begin upon being selected in March and will end after the election of the officers at the May meeting. All work done as part of the nominating committee can be performed according to your time and schedule. You do not have to be at the school to perform this function. At least one member of the nominating committee must attend the April and May PTA meetings.

Thanks,

Lori Cuervo

PRINCIPAL'S PEN (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Q. Who do I call if I have a question on my child's recommendation?

- A. You would call your child's teacher. Please be aware that especially for grade six students, your call needs to go to **Grade 6 teachers** not to the middle school counselors or administrators. Those teachers know and teach your child on a daily basis. For all grade levels, understand that these recommendations have been very accurate over the years and are made with your child's academic success in mind.

Q. When will my sixth grade child get to visit the middle school?

- A. Your child will be visiting the middle school in March to watch the middle school musical and in June for a tour and introductory video. We will also have an orientation in August.

Q. My son/daughter wants to be on the same team with his/her friends.

- A. One of the growth opportunities provided children beginning with the middle school is the understanding that middle school is the time to meet new friends, change classes, and expand on a social level. We do not schedule friends together based on any requests.

Q. I heard that Teacher "X" is someone who my child would love. Can I have that teacher?

- A. We do not promise or provide specific teachers for students. All of our teachers care about students, teach the written required curriculum, and work very hard to meet your child's needs.

Q. I have twins: are there any special scheduling considerations?

- A. Yes. Due to the fact that you have two children at the same time in the same grade, you may have family reasons as to keeping them together or keeping them separate. You cannot pick the team they will be on, but we give you the option of having them on the same or different teams. Send this request to Dr. Merante by April 16, 2007. Please be aware that though your children may be on the same team, they may not be in the same classes together. However, they will have lunch and recess together.

Q. Does every child have study lab?

- A. No, but every child has the opportunity for one; however, if he/she chooses to have a music elective he/she may not have a daily study lab. If a child enrolls in one music elective- band, orchestra, or chorus he/she will have that course every other day opposite a study lab. If he/she chooses to have both chorus and band or chorus and orchestra, he/she will not have a study lab. Gifted and learning support classes also affect study labs.

Q. When will my child receive his/her schedule, homeroom number, locker, and locker combination?

- A. Grade 7 students will receive he/her schedule and all pertinent information during grade 7 orientation in August. Grade 8 students will come to the middle school and pick up their information on a day to be announced in August. Due to construction, we do not have those dates right now. We will advertise them before the end of the school year.

Q. What does my child need for gym class?

- A. She/he will need to have red shorts and a solid color white t-shirt. The t-shirts may contain a Peters Township Logo but the logo is not required.

"Peters Township Middle School – Our Target is Excellence"

OPERATION SAFE SURF

WHERE: Peters Township Public Library

WHEN: Monday, February 26th, 2007

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

WHO: Attorney Steve Toprani

Attorney Toprani will talk with parents and community members about Internet safety during an Operation Safe Surf presentation

Operation Safe Surf is a new program sponsored by Pennsylvania Attorney General, Tom Corbett to help educate kids and parents about the importance of being safe online. It provides parents with resources and tools to help their children learn how to protect themselves while still enjoying all the benefits of the Internet.

Mr. Toprani's presentation for parents will include:

- An explanation of Internet and computer-related terms
- How to choose Internet filtering and tracking software that is right for your family's needs
- Internet safety tips for parents

Through a special partnership with the Pennsylvania Bar Association, more than 300 lawyers were trained to serve as advocates of the Office of Attorney General. Mr. Toprani is one of the lawyers who, along with agents from the Attorney General's Child Predator Unit and representatives of the PA Coalition Against Rape, are making presentations across the commonwealth.

Register for this free program at the library's circulation desk or call 724-941-9430.



PTA REFLECTIONS COMPETITION

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the PTA's Reflections contest this year. The following students' work has placed at Peters Township Middle School:

Literature:

1st Place – Alexandra Hussey
2nd Place – Katie Shultz
3rd Place – Elena Buzzato
4th Place – Christine Dee

Music:

1st Place – Keith Saniga

Photography:

1st Place – Katie Shultz
2nd Place – Ryan Brindley
3rd Place – Ryan Brindley
4th Place – Katie Shultz
5th Place – Ryan Brindley

Visual Arts:

1st Place – Lindsey Smore

The students' work was then judged at the Area Council level resulting in additional awards for our students.

Lindsey Smore placed second in Visual Arts; Christine Dee placed fourth in Literature; Keith Saniga placed third in Music; Katie Shultz placed fifth in Literature and fourth in Photography, and Ryan Brindley placed second, third, and fifth in Photography.

Congratulations to all of these students. The seventh graders received their ribbons at school, and the eighth grade winners will receive their ribbons at the Eighth Grade Awards Assembly at the end of the year. We wish the students well in the District competition.

We ask all students to consider entering the PTA Reflections contest next year. The theme is: I can make a difference....

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Middle School Advisory Committee (MSAC) is having its second and final meeting of the school year on March 19th at 6:30 P.M. The meeting takes place at the Middle School.

The MSAC was established to increase dialogue among parents, teachers, and administrators. Its purpose is to provide input and ideas and create discussion in areas of importance to the school such as curriculum, handbooks, and general issues related to communication. The MSAC is not a forum for individual parent concerns/complaints related to teachers or other personal issues. The committee is not involved with decisions or input on policies enacted by the School Board or the evaluation of any school personnel.

The meeting is open to any parent or guardian of a Middle School student. If you plan to attend, we would appreciate it if you could RSVP by replying to this email or by calling Lori Cuervo at 724.941.1574.

TASTE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Mark you calendars! It is time again for the annual **Taste of the Township**.

The event is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2007, at the Valley Brook Country Club, from 7:30 P.M. to midnight. Tickets are available for \$50 and allow each attendee to sample the fabulous fare offered by several local restaurants. Additionally, music will be provided by Rick Purcell, and a Silent Auction will be held during the evening.

Ticket sales begin on March 7 at the Peters Township Public Library. Call the library at 724.941.9430 for more details.

All proceeds benefit the Peters Township Public Library and the Endowment Fund for Peters Township.



PJAS COMPETITION RESULTS

Congratulations to the following students who competed in the regional competition of Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science held on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at California University. Twenty-four students participated in this year's competition and are to be commended for their perseverance and outstanding work! Students who attained first place will compete at Penn State University on May 20 - 22, 2007.

<u>1st Place</u>	<u>2nd Place</u>	
Barczak, Sarah	Berquist, Rachel	Frings, Rachel
Bittel, Mike	Brandstetter, Gretchen	Hagman, Nevin
Cuervo, Kathryn	Burket, Tracy	Karavolis, Meredith
Lampert, Chrissy	Cowler, Trevor	Lupori, Jordan
Ralston, Robbie	Cowler, Chase	Marks, Callie
Pruitt, Mary	DeNardo, Angie	McCay, Linsey
Stasenko, Hanna	Ellis, Kimie	Nerone, Mandy
Stokan, Emily	Fecher, Beth	Portz, Melissa

PTA OFFICER NOMINATIONS 2007-2008

The Peters Township Middle School PTA is beginning the nomination process for PTA Officers for 2007-08. Nominations are accepted for each position so that elections are held in a democratic fashion and in accordance with the current PTMS PTA Bylaws.

Please fill out the form below and place in a sealed envelope marked

“PTMS PTA NOMINATION COMMITTEE” and forward to the PTA mailbox at the Middle School.

Nominations in writing must be submitted before March 30th to be considered by the nominating committee. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the April 18th and May 15th general PTA meeting. The PTA Officer's election will occur at the May 15th PTA meeting immediately following the close of nominations.

You do not have to be a PTMS PTA member to make a nomination or be nominated. You may also nominate more than one person for a position.

There are 2 Vice President positions that divide the committees among them, so it is not important to place a name beside a particular number.

I would like to nominate:

Name

Position

1. _____ President **

2. _____ Vice President #1

3. _____ Vice President #2

4. _____ Treasurer

5. _____ Secretary

** President must have chaired a committee in a Peters Twp. PTA

CASHBACK FOR STUDENTS



REMEMBER:

The PTMS PTA is still doing Cashback for Students. So, as the March winds blow in, be a lion and blow those coupons and other items right into the PTMS PTA accounts. Clip those General Mills boxtops, and snip those Tyson 1-2-3 tops, and use your Giant Eagle Advantage Card!

Also, remember that Target and Office Depot have special programs if using the Target REDCARD or earmarking your purchases by saying “PTMS.”