



# *The Mustang*

The newsletter of the Myers Park High School PTSA

January 2009

## Principally Speaking

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. 2008 was a remarkable year for Myers Park High School and we are truly looking forward to the new year.

We have much to be so thankful for at Myers Park. The holiday season reminds me of how blessed I am to work at a school with such a diverse and unique population. Each of our students brings their own special set of talents as do the wonderful teachers and staff. Parents are only a phone call away and the support provided throughout the year is truly appreciated.

Special thanks to Phylis Hampson and the PTSA Outreach Community under the leadership of Julie Hammond and Susan Barnett. This year the Myers Park parents provided support to 68 families. Impacted families were overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity from parents/staff and the joy experienced can't be put into words. Thank you.

The Course registration process for 2009-2010 has started. Counselors have been visiting English classes and all current students should complete course registration forms by the end of February. Students will be provided an opportunity to review their requests again before the end of the current school year. Rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be registered after the lottery and formal assignment to Myers Park High School.

The actual scheduling process will begin in June after 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grades, EOC results and Pupil Assignment changes have been reviewed. We hope to finalize the process by late July. Current CMS plans are to continue with hybrid scheduling during 2009-2010.

Many of you have asked about an update on the construction process. Plans for the renovation of the LA building and the addition of the Gymnasium are in final revisions as is the rerouting of the road running between the gymnasium and Auditorium. We hope construction will begin this summer but due to economy concerns could easily be postponed to the following summer. We should have a definite by mid-February. Plans for additional mobile units, storage and traffic/parking have been finalized. All construction should be completed within one calendar school year.

Holiday activities and performances were well received and supported this year. The band, choral, dance and orchestra concerts were once again outstanding. We are fortunate to have such a strong Performing Arts program. Our students performed well in Basketball and Wrestling tournaments and the Debate tournament which brought 600 students to Myers Park from ten different states

was well received. Thanks to all involved.

Please be reminded that students do not receive credit for courses in which they miss more than 10 days. Recovery time must be arranged individually with the teacher. Daily phone calls are made to alert parents to absences. You may also check the Parent Assist Module. We ask that you keep us updated regarding accurate phone information.

Tryouts for spring sports are just around the corner. Spring sports include Baseball, Men's Golf, Women's Soccer, Women's Softball, Track and Men's Tennis. Club teams including Lacrosse and Rugby are also available. Students must have a 2.0 minimum grade point average, 14 or fewer absences from the previous semester, an up to date physical and proof of insurance in order to participate in tryouts. Tryouts can begin on February 16.

Due to the limited amount of student parking on campus, many students have recently started parking along Colony Road. The Department of Transportation has been working closely with the school and will post signs during January signifying where parking is allowed.

Mid year graduation is 5:30 p.m. Feb. 3, at Providence High.

End of year graduation is 2 p.m. June 14, at Time Warner Cable Arena.

Each month we will begin highlighting a few of our student and staff accomplishments/awards from the current school year. Please join me in congratulating:

The Marching Band was the class 3A champion at both the Butler Festival on October 11 and the Fred T. Foard classic on October 25. 40 students will audition for the South Central District Honor Band and 4 students will try out for the NC Western

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## **Upcoming Information Sessions for Prospective Mustang Parents:**

**Tuesday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m., Art Gallery**  
**Thursday, Jan. 29, 9 a.m., Media Center**  
**The January 29 coffee is for all prospective families (both IB and non IB)**  
**The January 27 session will focus entirely on the IB Program**

## PTSA News

As the chilly winds of winter blow we are reminded that we are halfway through the school year and the second semester is upon us. Your PTSA has been very busy so far this year with lots of activities taking place. None of these activities could have occurred without the commitment and dedication of **hundreds** of PTSA volunteers. We truly thank each and every one of you!

With more than 30 committees working hard this year to make things happen for PTSA, several have been particularly busy in recent months. Back in the fall Counseling, Attendance, and Front Office geared up for helping in each of these important areas ongoing. The Future Center continues to help students with their college search and applying to colleges. Media Center continues to work diligently to help in the media center, while Senior Exit and Hospitality committees coordinated about 250 volunteers and provided refreshments for the November senior exit reviews. Mustang Express always keeps us updated on current MP happenings, and the Copy Center is buzzing along making thousands of copies for the staff. Membership reports 1852 members from MP which is an increase of 200 over last year. Yea!! Our SLT liaisons continue to meet with the SLT to help them with some of their initiatives, like tutoring. The Programs group along with Counseling had its Fall College Night, and in January hosted a PSAT and Financial Aid College Night for parents. The Staff Meeting committee continues to provide refreshments for monthly staff meetings, with Corporate/Community Sponsorship adding nice door prizes for the December meeting. Staff Appreciation always remembers teachers during their birthday month and hosted a festive holiday party including gifts in December. Our Outreach committee coordinated over 100 sponsors who provided gifts to 70 MP families! Some MP clubs helped in collecting items for these families, and several of the staff, led by Phylis Hampson, delivered to all the families.

What a real blessing for these families! Prospective Parent committee has been hard at work with campus tours and an open house in November and more campus tours, a parent coffee and IB information sessions slated for January. Test Proctor committee solicited almost 70 volunteers to help with EOC testing. And finally Priority Funds has been processing, and continues to process, donations to our only school fundraiser. We are close to \$72,000 (including matching funds) towards our \$95,000 goal. We're only halfway through the school year, so it's not too late to contribute and help reach our goal. We are continuing to purchase items necessary for academic support for MP students.

We want to thank each and every volunteer who has contributed in some way to our many successes so far. Without your PTSA volunteers working so hard, Myers Park would not be the outstanding school that it is!

Many events will take place in the spring, and you can stay updated by visiting our website at [www.mphs-pts.org](http://www.mphs-pts.org) for upcoming events. Also Mustang Express will continue to keep you updated on a weekly basis. Plan to attend the next General PTSA meeting on Spring College Night Tuesday, April 16. A slate of PTSA officers for next year will be presented, and our by-laws will be re-adopted.

**Thank you** to everyone who has supported Myers Park in some capacity whether it has been volunteering, giving money to our fundraiser, or attending an athletic or performing arts event. The support you give your children through these activities will enhance their school experience. We look forward to a wonderful second semester working with you as our partners.

— *Donna Aliotti and Leslie Perlik*  
2008-2009 Co-Presidents

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### *Principally Speaking, continued*

Region Honors Jazz Band. The Jazz Band has been chosen to perform at the CMS Emmy Awards on April 20.

· Ten Myers Park students are regional semi-finalists for the Morehead-Cain (UNC-Chapel Hill), an unprecedented number:

Suzanne Fleishman	Rachel Myrick
Allison Hofmann	Patrick Snyder
Tollison Humphrey	Suman Sivasubramaniam
Amanda Johnson	Vignesh Sivasubramaniam
Katherine Knight	Bo-Tsoungh Xiang

· Allison Hofmann and Laura Carpenter are semi-finalists for the Park Scholarship (NC State) and Elena Botella is a semi-finalist for the Jefferson Scholarship (UVA)

· The 2008 Mustang yearbook was selected to be in the prestigious Herff Jones annual edition of Ideas that Fly. Less than 10% of schools are selected.

· The Myers Park chess team won the NC Southern Scholastic Tournament qualifying them for the Nationals.

· Myers Park won the Wachovia Cup (top athletic program in 2008-2009) and leads again after the fall 2009 season.

· Fall all conference athletes are:

Volleyball: Olivia Humphries, Destin Baker, Katherine Fisher; Girls Cross Country: Alexa Gellman, Allison Hofmann, Emily Zizzi, Sammy Giggey; Boys Cross Country: Patrick Sidlovsky, John Childress, Alex Smith, Tyler Phillips; Girls Tennis: Grace Baker, Kelsey Sherck, Emily Carpenter, Debolina Banerjee; Soccer: Josh Brown, Casey Caronis, Jordan Dabstani, Justin Davis, Alex Henry, Spencer Monroe, Ruben Perez; Football: Banks Jenkins, Brian Johnson, Gene Robinson, Tyree Simpson, Jaterious Gill, Jeremy Drye, Alex Lang

· Seven teachers (most in CMS) recently received National Board Certification Mikki Burgess, Hema Lalawani, Richard Lewis, Susan Shuping, James Simmons, Christopher St. Clair, Beth Brown

· Girls Tennis and Boys Soccer won state championships in the fall. Grace Baker was the 4A State Individual Champion.

· The Math Club recently won the Panthers Number Crunch competition : Stewart Bounds, Nate Mauney, Debolina Banerjee, Elizabeth Shen, Jeffrey Prouty.

— *Tom Spivey*  
Principal

## The Priority Fund: Heading Toward The Goal

We continue to work toward our ambitious goal of \$95,000 for the 2008-2009 Mustang Priority Fund. To date, we have received \$65,275 in direct donations with an additional \$6,650 being donated by matching gift companies for a total of \$71,925!! In these uncertain financial times this is a wonderful response by our Myers Park families!

If you have not yet made a contribution, please consider making a generous donation, today, to this important fund! The Priority Fund is the only fundraiser for the Myers Park PTSA and the contributions are used to fund ongoing PTSA activities: the *Mustang* newsletter, campus beautification, PTSA scholarships, staff appreciation, academic programs, special events, and more. After the operating budget is fully funded, funds will be directed to two special projects that have been identified by Principal Tom Spivey:

\* Provide classrooms with subject-specific technology, equipment and review

## Mustang Senior Wins in Reflections Competition

Anthony Geppert, a MPHS senior, created a winning musical entry for the Mecklenburg County PTA's Reflections competition.

Congratulations, Anthony!

## Many thanks to volunteer proctors

A sincere **THANK YOU** to the sixty-nine volunteers who were proctors during the MP EOC exams in January. We appreciate the time you contributed to being the extra "eyes and ears" for teachers during the testing. We would also like to thank Jackie Cheek, MP Assessment Facilitator, for her hard work organizing the schedule and facilitating the exams.

Gratefully,

*Lisa Smith & Barbara-Ann Zizzi*  
MP Test Proctor Coordinators

materials to assure academic success for all, not only during the regular school day, but also during tutoring after school.

\* Continue to make much needed improvements to The Quad

To make a donation, make your check payable to MPHS Priority Fund and send it in through book bags to homeroom teachers or mail your contribution to Myers Park. All gifts are 100% tax deductible and will be acknowledged.

### Contribution Levels

Wild One	\$1000+
Palomino	\$600-999
Bronco	\$300-599
Stomper	\$150-299
Maverick	\$1-149

Note: If your company has a matching funds program, please double your gift by forwarding the required form with your check. Please check with your employer to see if they offer this financial support to schools. Duke Energy, Bank of America, Wachovia, UPS, Microsoft and IBM are companies that have previously participated in the matching funds program.

We extend our thanks to the most recent

contributors:

Wild One: Milt & Carol Childress, Hal & Holly Levinson, Rick & Sandra Magee, William & Karen Reid, Amy Thalman

Palomino: Stephen D. Falkenbury, Jr. Foundation, Melisa Johns, Brad & Jeanne Kutrow, James Rayburn, Scott & Cindy Schattenfield, Marcia & L.D. Simmons II, Alison Warren

Bronco: William & Margaret Ault, Walter & Michelle Fisher, Mark & Laura Furgeson, Robert & Michele Hall, Michael & Bryn Miles, Michael & Cecelia Ramsey, David & Lisa Ugland

Stomper: Eric & Elizabeth Banks, John & Ann Crehore, William & Janet DeLoache, Dana & Tom Hearn III, Joseph & Cheryl Lang, Sara Roche, John & Mary Beth Snyder, Carter & Cathlean Utzig

Maverick: Mark & Elizabeth Daniels, David & Anne Day, Abdelkader & Faten Elrahal, Daniel & Cecillia Gan, Ivan Gilland, Philip Hargett, Brian & Meryl Imbrey, Thomas & Anne Low, Camp & Michele Marks, Steve Marshall, Ed Misle, Luan Parker

## And more thanks for your sharing this holiday!

You did it! In an AMAZING effort, you provided a memorable holiday for all of our identified families this season!!! Thank you to everyone who sponsored families or donated cash, gift cards, furniture, Christmas trees.....or vacuum cleaners! Thank you to all volunteers and staff who delivered the gifts to the families.

**We especially want to thank the folks at Aldi who donated over 50 hams and 60 chickens for our families.** They include Scott Kornekay and Nancy Campbell at the Salisbury headquarters and Chris Hannus who manages the Pineville location. Shop at Aldi to show your appreciation!!

The needs of our families extend throughout the year, so there is still time to participate! Gift cards, cash... or vacuum cleaners can be dropped off at the front office ANYTIME. (Labeled "Outreach".)

Thank you,

*The Outreach Committee*  
*Phylis Hampson, Assistant Principal*



## Confused about the Graduation Project? Here's help!

CMS will offer information sessions about the NC Graduation Project on the following dates:

Saturday, Feb. 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Independence Regional Library

Tuesday, March 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at North Mecklenburg High School  
Tuesday, March 31, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Waddell High School

Objectives of the workshop are:

1. Become familiar with the new state mandated Graduation Project and the expectations and requirements
2. Learn about the various components of the project and the timeline for completion
3. Find out about resources available through CMS and the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to assist with this project

## Dancing for a Difference is BACK!

With the vision of Unity sweeping the nation, the Myers Park Student Government Association looks to unite high schools in the Charlotte area for the third straight year. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Dancing for a Difference will again provide to CMS and private school students a dance besides prom that is fun, safe, and raises money for a deserving organization.

The Myers Park SGA needs YOUR help, parents, to meet its last objective of raising money for either a school or medical clinic in Bayonnais, Haiti. Haiti is one of the poorest nations in the world, and in the past, Myers Park Methodist Church has partnered with OFCB Ministries to provide assistance to the Haitian people. The SGA wishes to maintain that partnership. The future of Bayonnais includes a much broader education, expanded college enrollment, trade school courses, real medical treatment for the people, and a growing economy. The Myers Park SGA wants to help shape this

future with financial support for the school and planned medical clinic. Due to attendance restrictions this year, ticket sales alone will likely produce \$10,000 for OFCB Ministries, much less than the \$15,000 raised each of the past two years.

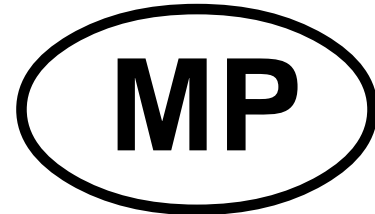
The SGA is looking for donations to make up the difference so the students can truly “dance for a difference.” Donations can be small or large, cash or check made out to Myers Park SGA and left in a box in the Main Office. Donations can also be sent safely and securely via Pay Pal at [www.dancingfordifference.com](http://www.dancingfordifference.com) starting February 2. Thank you for your generous support!

Dancing for a Difference will be held Feb. 21 from 8 p.m. till midnight in Jubilee Hall at Myers Park Methodist Church. Tickets are \$20 and will not be sold at the door. Buy them starting Feb. 2 from any SGA representative or in LA-11.

### Senior Parents:

It may be January, but it's NOT too late to honor your senior with a Senior Yard Sign! These signs cost just \$10 and all proceeds go to our PTSA.

Contact Rachel MacBain at [Rmacbain@carolina.rr.com](mailto:Rmacbain@carolina.rr.com) or 704-366-5918. Cash or check; make checks payable to MPHS-PTSA.



The best-dressed cars in Charlotte wear these top-quality Euro-style MP stickers, available through the PTSA for \$2 each. Email [karencreid@aol.com](mailto:karencreid@aol.com).

### Buy a Mustang Brick – the perfect way to honor a student, teacher or coach!!

**Mustang Alley Bricks** (located in the entry to the Gus Purcell Stadium) are a great way to honor any student or graduate of Myers Park. Many people also use these bricks to express appreciation for special teachers, coaches and friends.

**“Homeplate” Bricks** (located in the base shaped area between the bleachers at Jack Sink Field) are perfect for honoring baseball/softball players and alumni.

Your bricks will be engraved with up to three lines of text (20 characters per line). Special logos are also available. A letter of notification will be sent to the person being honored. You may download an order form on the PTSA website (click on “Buy a Brick”) or contact Minna Elliott (704-366-5801, [minna@carolina.rr.com](mailto:minna@carolina.rr.com)) with questions.

### New to MPHS? Have a question?

Maybe we can help. E-mail your questions or concerns to [newtomphs@aol.com](mailto:newtomphs@aol.com), or fill out a newcomer’s question form found at the front desk.

We will try to help!

PTSA Newcomers Committee

### The Myers Park Choral Department is **FLOCKING!**

Great for **birthdays, congratulations,  
anniversaries, etc...**

For **\$30**, you get a 6ft pink flamingo  
with a personalized poster  
and a flock of little flamingos  
set up secretly at your destination.

To order, Contact Kim Powell  
(704-552-0042)

[thepowells@carolina.rr.com](mailto:thepowells@carolina.rr.com)

