



# The Mustang

The newsletter of the Myers Park High School PTSA

March 2009

## Principally Speaking

There have been a number of questions regarding the budget for 2009-2010 and the possible impact on Myers Park High School. Superintendent Gorman has been very transparent in communicating proposed budget cuts and recommendations for addressing the shortfall. The superintendent has shared publicly the likelihood of a \$55 million to \$90 million reduction in funding for 2009-2010. A \$55 million reduction plan has been developed to address initial budget cuts. This reduction would have minimal impact on teaching staff at Myers Park. A four tier system has been recommended by the superintendent to address any additional county and state monetary cuts. Tier 1 and Tier 2 have minimal impacts on teaching positions at Myers Park. If we reach Tier 3 or Tier 4, teaching positions at Myers Park will be significantly impacted.

The superintendent and the Board are continuing discussions on the budget and hopefully staff reductions can be avoided. We will continue to plan for the worse possible funding scenario while hoping for the best.

With so much uncertainty regarding the budget and the possible impact on course offerings for next year, it is imperative that student registration forms be completed in a timely and accurate manner. Counselors are working diligently to input student requests for current 9th-11th graders so we have accurate course tallies. Keyed student requests will be sent home on May 6 so that parents and students can check for accuracy. Rising 9th graders will also be registered with course requests entered by the end of April.

Friday, March 27 is the last day of third quarter and report cards will be distributed on April 3. Applications for Core Academy will be available beginning Friday, March 27. Support will be provided for the five gateway EOC courses. Students with 10 or more absences in a class are reminded to work with their teacher to recoup absences in order to receive class credit. Recovery must be on an hour for hour basis.

We experienced a wonderful Winter Athletic season and Spring sports are underway. Please come out and support our Athletic program. Schedules can be found on [Viewmyschedule.com](http://Viewmyschedule.com).

Currently, plans for renovating the LA building and adding to the Gymnasium are on hold. The decision was made not to sell bonds this spring. We hope the delay will be short and progress can begin next spring.

Myers Park received the 2009 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement from the Siemens Foundation and the College Board. This is an outstanding accomplishment! There were only 50 high schools chosen nationally. Myers Park was recognized in *USA Today*

and will receive a \$1,000 grant to support Science and Math education.

The school's literary magazine, *Pegasus*, has been selected to receive the Highest Award rank in the 2008 National Council of Teacher of English (NCTE) Program to recognize Excellence in Student Literary magazines. *Pegasus* was 1 of 59 chosen in the United States for the award.

Myers Park won the Physics and Comprehensive Math competition at UNC Charlotte on March 9.

Four Odyssey of the Mind (OM) teams placed first in their problems/divisions at Regionals and one team placed second. As a result, five OM teams from Myers Park advance to state finals. We also had the only High School team to receive an award for most creative.

The Chess team defended their State Championship in the V1300 division. Students will now participate in the Super Nationals held April 2-6 in Nashville.

Angelica Acosta, Civics & Economics teacher at Myers Park, was selected as the Teacher of the Year for the Central Learning Community. She is now a finalist for the CMS award.

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- **Magnet Schools of America's National Conference will be held in Charlotte on April 26, 27 and 28. Participants will visit Myers Park on the 29<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Required graduation rehearsal: June 11, 5 to 6:30 p.m.**
- **Graduation: June 14, 2 p.m. at Time Warner Cable Arena.**
- **The musical, *The Wiz*: April 16 -19, Auditorium.**
- **Senior Exit presentations: April 13 and 14**
- **Spring College Night for Current Juniors: April 16**
- **Talent Show: April 22**
- **Senior Portraits for current juniors will begin the week of April 27**
- **AP exams: May 5 - 15**
- **Underclassmen Awards: May 1**
- **The Senior Prom: May 2**
- **Senior Awards are tentatively scheduled for May 29 (may be affected by final exam schedule)**

## PTSA News

Spring is around the corner and we've moved our clocks forward to daylight savings time. Only two months until the end of school! Time is just flying by and it won't be long before our 2009 graduates will be walking across that stage with their diplomas in hand! What an exciting time! Spring is a busy time around the Park with spring sports, staff appreciation, senior exit projects, prom, choral, band and orchestral concerts, theatre's spring musical, and graduation. Your PTSA has been, and continues to be hard at work to help make all these things possible.

We just completed a very informative curriculum night and want to thank the counseling department and all department chairs for invaluable information for rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and families. Folks are really stepping up to show how much they appreciate our staff by donating much needed supplies. We thank Staff Appreciation for coordinating this. It's always a good time to thank your child's teacher, as well as our wonderful staff at Myers Park. They all do such a great job keeping Myers Park the best it can be! Please make sure you take the time to thank them. Spring Break will be here before you know it, and right after it the seniors will be presenting their exit projects. Many thanks to the Senior Exit committee along with Hospitality for putting together this two-day event. The Test Proctor committee as well as Prom committee will be gearing up for soliciting volunteers to help with exams and prom. Also Hospitality will be planning for the receptions which will take place after the underclass and senior awards celebrations in May.

We also want to thank everyone for contributing to Priority Funds this year. Even in this economy, we were able to raise over \$70,000 of our \$95,000 goal. With this money we were able to help just about every department in some way from computers, printers, scanners, DVD players, and cameras to software, a sound mixer, and even a gong for orchestra! We still have some money left, and

Mr. Spivey is looking to finish the upgrades to the art gallery. We are very fortunate to have so many generous families!

We want to thank all who have volunteered so far this year, but we still have many opportunities to help. We will be scheduling a campus clean up and planting day later in April. Also, many test proctors will be needed for AP, IB, and EOC exams in May and June. This is very important for teachers so that they have an extra pair of eyes during these exams. And those who enjoy the social scene can help with prom from selling tickets to acting as chaperones. Be on the lookout in Mustang Express to sign up for these activities.

Our nominating committee, Karen Reid, Kim Peters, Kim Merrill, Beth Rayburn, and Kathy Hammack have nearly completed the slate of officers for next year's PTSA. Information will be sent out about the slate and re adoption of our bylaws soon. If you are interested in serving next year, please contact Liz Ball at [mball4@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mball4@carolina.rr.com) or Beth Rayburn at [jandbrayburn@mindspring.com](mailto:jandbrayburn@mindspring.com). They would love to hear from you, and PTSA is a great way to be involved in your student's life!

Finally, please plan to attend our next PTSA General meeting which will be held in conjunction with Spring College Night on Thursday, April 16. Not only is this event helpful for all our students, but you will also be asked to vote on next year's slate of PTSA officers and to re adopt our bylaws for another four years. This is important to keep your PTSA running smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you for all you do to help make Myers Park a great place to be, not only for the students, teachers and staff, but also for our many parent volunteers. Enjoy your spring!

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

### *Principally Speaking, continued*

The Myers Park choirs performed well at the North Carolina Choral Contest. Advanced Women, Men's Ensemble, Chamber Choir and Women's Chamber Choir all received superior ratings.

The Myers Park Science Olympiad team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in regional competition and was selected to compete at the State Science Olympiad on April 24.

— Tom Spivey  
Principal



### Prom News

**When:** May 2, 8 p.m. till midnight

**Theme:** "Bright Lights, Big City"

**Where:** Bank of America Stadium – Panthers Den

**Tickets on Sale:** April 20-24 during all 3 lunches

**How much:** \$ 45 each on Monday  
\$ 50 each Tuesday & Wednesday  
\$ 55 each Thursday & Friday

**CASH or BANK CHECK ONLY- personal checks will not be accepted**

**NEW THIS YEAR:** In order for a Myers Park student to bring a non-MP date, they must fill out a form and have it signed off by their date's home school administrator. This paperwork must be filled out **BEFORE** purchasing a second ticket for prom. Forms will be located in the Media Center and the Main Office.



## Mustang Priority Fund Update

Our goal for the 2008-2009 Mustang Priority Fund was an ambitious \$95,000. To date, we have received \$66,175 in direct donations, with an additional \$6,875 from the matching gift programs of area businesses, for a total of \$73,050. These monies will be used to fund ongoing PTSA programs and activities and to fund special technology needs and improvements to the Quad, as identified by Principal Tom Spivey.

In the current economic situation it is understandable that contributions have not been as strong as in previous years, but the needs and the desire to provide improvements for our students are still there. If you have not made a donation, or if you are able to make an additional donation, your generosity will be greatly appreciated. All gifts are 100% tax deductible and will be acknowledged.

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.

### Contribution Levels

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

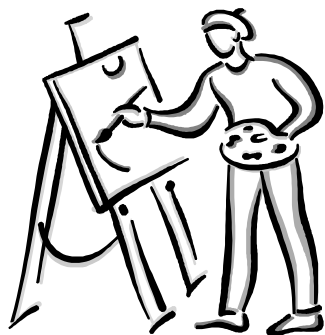
Note: If your company has a matching funds program, please double your gift by forwarding the required form with your check. Please check with your employer to see if they offer this financial support to schools. Duke Energy, Bank of America, Wachovia, UPS, Microsoft and IBM are companies that have previously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

We extend our thanks to our most recent contributors:

**Bronco:** Douglas and Michelle Thomas, Christopher and Sara Willis

**Stomper:** Rick and Page Rogers

**Maverick:** Jeffrey and Deborah Morgan, Stephen and Kay Pruitt



### Mustang Art Awards

Steven Darden was awarded a silver medal for Printmaking in a national art competition, and Whitney Templeton won a special award at the Mid-Carolina Regional Gold Key Ceremony for her work.

Congratulations to the following students for receiving awards in the Regional Scholastic Art Competition. The artwork was exhibited at Spirit Square, The Mint Museum of Art, and The Mint Museum of Craft and Design.

The artwork was scored on originality, technical skill, and personal voice.

#### **Scholastic Art Award**

##### **Gold Key**

Michael Babko, Steven Darden, Natalie Harvey (x2), Lauren Holt, Priscilla Jeong (x2), Brevard Templeton

##### **Silver Key**

Peter Carr, Madison Dixon, Erica Doyle, Jane Hall, Natalie Harvey, Lauren Holt, Cory Ring, Hailey Siplon

##### **Honorable Mention**

Carley Brandau (x2), Priscilla Jeong, Lauren Holt, Erica McCamey, Cory Ring, Margaret Schmidtke, Yoo Hwa Jang

##### **Special Awards**

Carley Brandau: Honorable Mention Art Portfolio

Natalie Harvey: Silver Art Portfolio

Priscilla Jeong: Silver Art Portfolio

Brandon Naples: Gold Art Portfolio

## Volunteers needed for Senior Exit Review Boards

Second semester senior exit presentations will take place on Monday, April 13 and Tuesday, April 14 from 2:30 to 5:30. As in the fall, many volunteers will be needed to sit on review boards with faculty members. This is a fun and interesting job that allows you to interact with students, faculty, and other volunteers. The time will fly by as you hear from 6 or 7 students on a variety of interesting topics. If you have not signed up to help but would like to do so, please contact Minna Elliott ([minna@carolina.rr.com](mailto:minna@carolina.rr.com)).

Many thanks to the volunteers who sat on review boards in the fall. The process ran very smoothly and the students appreciated your interest in their work.



## Mustang Club News

Myers Park High School Athletics are having quite the year! Girls Tennis, Cross Country, Girl's Golf and our State Champion Men's Soccer Team all started the year with a bang. The Winter Sports Teams rose to the challenge and wrote their own success stories! Wrestling, Swimming and Diving, Women's Basketball and Men's Basketball all had record breaking seasons. Congratulations to those young men and women on a great year! A special congratulation to David Reece for his All American consideration in Swimming!

Spring Sports are under way. Please come and support Softball, Soccer, Baseball, Men's Tennis, Men's Golf and Track and Field. There is nothing better than a spring evening at The Park watching our young athletes. Anticipation is high for a great season! Nothing

could be finer than a back-to-back Wachovia Cup!

Look for details on a Spring Fund Raiser from the Mustang Club. Like everyone these days our funds are limited and our needs are great. Our goal is to provide our young men and women with the items they need in order to play their sport and play it safely. Without the help of the Myers Park community, meeting those goals are impossible. Please support your Mustang Club as we attempt to support our coaches and athletes.

—Shanna Simpson  
Mustang Club President

### Senior Parents:

It may be March, 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.

### Looking for the perfect Senior Gift???? Buy a Mustang Brick – a lasting 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.

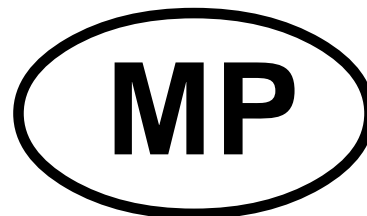
Your bricks will be engraved with up to three lines of text (20 characters per line). Special logos are also available. A letter of notification will be sent to the person being honored. You may download an order form on the PTSA website (click on "Buy a Brick") or contact Minna Elliott (704-366-5801,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

*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)*

