



The Mustang

The newsletter of the Myers Park High School PTSA

December 2009

Principally Speaking

We were very disappointed with the School Board's 5-3 decision to remove our current IB feeder schools. Dr. Gorman had earlier recommended the Myers Park IB program, recognized as one of the most successful in the United States, not be altered. The decision impacts more than 400 IB students that live in either the Ardrey Kell, South Meck, Olympic or Waddell boundary zones. Myers Park will continue the IB program for our home students and for rising 12th grade grandfathered students. In addition to the loss of IB students, staffing will also be impacted.

While disappointed, we will continue to provide the highest quality education to each student and are already developing plans for next year, including strategies to increase IB participation for Myers Park zoned students. As plans for 2010-2011 are finalized, I will keep you informed. The IB program has been an integral part of our success since 1992 and each of us will have to work harder to fill the void. We are all committed to maintaining the academic success currently found at Myers Park.

Core Academy for 2nd quarter has started. It is available for each student in danger of failing an EOC course (Alg, Geo, Alg 2, Biology, US History). Students are registered for either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. Tutoring is being provided Civics and Economics, Chemistry, Physics and English 10. We will also offer Core Academy during fourth quarter. Please contact Dr. Thomas for additional information.

On November 14, Greg Clewis, Athletic Director, attended the North Carolina/Miami football game to accept the Wachovia Cup from the NCHSAA. The cup recognizes the top 4A athletic program. We are so proud of our student athletes and coaches. Myers Park also won the award last year.

Student-led conferences for 9th grade students were held on

October 29 and I hope many of you were able to participate. We also reviewed and signed Personalized Education Plans (PEPs) for students in danger of failing an EOC. Mr. Grant coordinates the PEP process and works closely with your child's counselor. Please contact Mr. Grant or your counselor if you were invited but unable to attend.

All visitors to the campus during school hours are reminded to first report to the main office. We have added several new safety measures this year to address a loss of security positions. These measures may present a minor inconvenience to parents, staff and students but are making a difference with student safety. Parents are also reminded that each student has two late passes for each 1st period class to address traffic issues but students must first report to the attendance office.

Recruitment/open houses for 2010-2011 have started. The dates are as follows:

January 7: Campus tour 4:30 p.m., Art Gallery

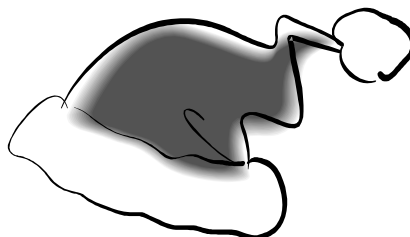
January 28: Prospective Parents' Coffee 9 a.m., Media Center

IB participation for Myers Park zoned students will be emphasized.

Graduation for the 2009-2010 senior class will be on June 12, at Time Warner Cable arena. The time is 4 p.m.

As we enter the holiday season there are a number of school activities you don't want to miss. Basketball, swimming and wrestling are in full force. Dates of competitions can be found at www.myersparkhighschoolsports.com. The week of December 14th is a busy week with the Band Concert on Monday, Orchestra Concert on Tuesday and the Chorus Concert on Wednesday. Please come out and enjoy the holiday season with our students and staff.

— Tom Spivey
Principal



PTSA News

The winter holidays are just around the corner but never too soon for our MP students! Fall has flown by and the second quarter is nearly over. The PTSA has been hard at work with our fall programs such as Fall College Night, Handling High School Forum, a Senior Essay Writing Workshop and Prospective Parent and Student tours just to name a few.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and guardians who have given so generously of their time as well as contributed financially to our school. We are continuing to collect contributions to the MP Priority Fund. At this time, we have crossed the halfway mark toward our goal of \$95,000. If you have not already made a donation, please do consider supporting the MP Priority Fund. It is our only fund raiser that benefits all of our students and staff.

We want to thank all those who have joined the PTSA. The PTSA belongs to you and dedicates itself to advocating for your

child. We also want to thank the many folks who have volunteered countless hours helping with staff luncheons and meetings, staff appreciation, the copy shop, the Future Center, attendance, counseling, the front office, beautification, bulletin board, directory, media center, Mustang Express, outreach, volunteer coordinator, programs, Priority Fund, PTSA membership, tours and the website. We could not do all we do at MP without the great volunteers we have. Thank You!!

Be sure to check out the PTSA website at www.mphs-ptsa.org to stay updated on all of the happenings at MP. You can also stay connected by reading the Mustang Express (MX) online twice a week. If you are not yet receiving the MX, you can sign up for it from the homepage of the website. Both of these valuable resources will keep you up to date on everything you need to know.

Stay tuned for upcoming events:
Campus Tours for Prospective Students: Jan. 7, Art Gallery, 4:30 p.m.
College Night and General PTSA meeting: Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Check out the Future Center for updated information on College Research. The volunteers there will help you with college applications and scholarship information.

Look for MP directories in the Front Office. Also, please remember that as we approach the holiday season, our Outreach committee will be asking for your help in support of some of our disadvantaged MP families. The needs seem to be greater every year and your help is greatly appreciated.

In closing, please remember to thank our staff and teachers for the hard work they do everyday. In light of the budget cuts that we have experienced this year, the staff is working twice as hard to give your child the best education they can give.

Enjoy a safe holiday season.

— *PTSA Co-Presidents*
Margaret Marshall
Beth Rayburn



Myers Park High School Priority Fund Donor List

December 1, 2009

We want to thank all the Myers Park families who have donated to the Priority Fund to date. So far we have raised \$68,335 from 272 families. We set an ambitious goal of \$95,000 and while we are not there yet we plan to prudently spend the money you have donated thus far to positively impact the educational lives of our students at Myers Park. Plans are being made now to possibly purchase a variety of items to help students on all levels of the academic spectrum. Some of these items include smart boards for EOC classes, lab supplies, software for our guidance department that tracks the college application process, and AV equipment for the Art Gallery. The Priority Fund also funds all PTSA activities which touch all staff and students. This is an excellent way to support all the activities that go on at Myers Park!

Haven't given yet? **There's still time!!**

Don't forget to apply for matching funds if your company allows.

Please make your contributions payable to MPHS Priority Fund and send it to:

Priority Funds, c/o Jane Foebel
7106 Chadwyck Farms Drive
Charlotte NC, 28226

Our generous donors are listed as followed:

Wild One - \$1,000+

Richard & Sophie Allen, William & Joanne Bellamy, Simon & Jill Cann, Bruce & Debra Darden, Mark & Jane Fobel, Stephen & Kathryn Horvath, Jeffrey & Catherine Kneisl, Harrison & Margaret Marshall, William & Amy Massey, Lawrence & Lois Osier, James & Beth Rayburn, Elizabeth Ritchie, Gordon Roznik, Amy Thalman, Owen & Martha Whitfield, Elliott Close, Alexandra Conway, Kristen Fitzgerald, Robert & Sian Harris, The Brent Milgrom Family Foundation, Inc., Matthew & Anne Rankowitz, Shannon & Karen Reid, Dennis & Kathryn Hammack

Palomino - \$600-999

Scott & Marinn Bengel, Michael & Minna Elliott, Donald & Holley Hamilton, John & Stacie Howard, Mark & Lindsay Merritt, William & Stephanie Owens, Douglas

Join the Myers Park PTSA!

The NCPTSA is North Carolina's largest and oldest volunteer organization advocating the education, health, safety and success of all our youth. We want you to be a part. It is not too late to join the MPHS PTSA. Membership dues support PTSA programs, our students and teachers, and help to keep parents involved and informed.

Dues are \$5 per person and are especially important this year due to the deep budget and personnel cuts MPHS has faced. Parents, grandparents, students and MPHS faculty and staff can join.

PTSA Membership envelopes were included in the Back to School packet students received in August and are available in the front office. Please join and be an active part of the Myers Park PTSA. For further information, please contact: Ashley Stewart at: cstewart24@carolina.rr.com or Sophie Allen at: allenhouse@carolina.rr.com
Thank you for your support!

Mustang Donors — Thank You!

Wilkie & Elena Ibe, Nancy Bizzell, Robert & Paula Bradham, Robert & Courtney Christensen, Clifford & Donna King, Matthew & Lucie Moss, Nucor – on behalf of Gregg Lucas

Bronco - \$300-599

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Stomper - \$150-299

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Maverick - \$1-149

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A Brick makes a Great Gift!

It's always the perfect size and color ...

Place your order for a commemorative brick (or several) for your favorite Mustang. The Myers Park High School experience will always hold a special place in the heart of your graduate. Commemorative bricks are a great way to leave a little piece of that heart behind at a place that meant so much. Bricks are also a great way to honor a special teacher, administrator, or coach.

Order forms can be found on <http://www.mphs-ptsa.org/> or www.myersparkhighschoolsports.com – click on “Bricks”. Contact Gayle Baker for more information at gdavbaker@aol.com.

Senior Parents:

We've all worked hard to get here, so honor your senior and yourself with a Senior Yard Sign! These signs cost just \$10 and all proceeds go to our PTSA.

Email Karen Reid at karenreid@aol.com. Cash or check; make checks payable to MPHS-PTSA.

The Future Center Consider the big “ifs”

The Future Center Reopens-just in time for college applications and standardized tests! Please come visit us across from the Attendance Office **Monday –Thursday during all four lunch periods and every Tuesday from 2:15-3:30 p.m.** Our parent volunteers are available to help you navigate through college choices, post-high school options, college testing and even scholarships. We know that this can seem overwhelming, especially for our seniors, but we are here to help you in the process. Here are a few reasons why you should visit the Future Center:

If you are a **Senior**, now is the time to meet with college reps, finalize your application list and prepare for scholarship interviews.

If you are a **Senior**, and interested in a military career, now is the time to review serve academy, ROTC and enlistment opportunities. If you are a **Junior**, now is the time to create a schedule for standardized testing. Look at our timelines and determine when it would be best for you to take these important tests.

If you are a **Sophomore**, now is the time for you to begin planning for an academic internship. Ms. Collins is available every Tuesday to match your interests with internship opportunities.

If you are a **Freshman**, now is the time to begin exploring your future possibilities through a program called Career Cruising. We have 5 computers available for student to help you create a path for success through high school and into the world of work.

Parents are welcome to stop by as well and check us out!

For more information, please email Emily Ahlum at eahlum@carolina.rr.com, Deb Borkey debborkey@hotmail.com, or Sally Beth Sutherland sbtsutherland@bellsouth.net.



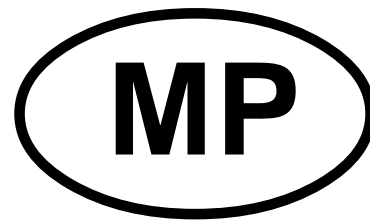
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