



The Mustang

The newsletter of the Myers Park High School PTSA

April 2010

Principally Speaking

We have completed registration of our students for the 2010-2011 school year and are currently working with our rising ninth graders. We started the registration process earlier this year in anticipation of expected budget cuts and the need to address enrollment changes in the MYIB/IB program. During April and May we will be analyzing course tallies, addressing changes in teacher allotment and working with students to review course requests while encouraging participation in higher level courses. Recently, 16 teaching positions were lost for 2010-2011 due to student reassignment and the loss of reserve positions funded for only one year. We expect additional staff losses due to county and state budget reductions. Obviously, additional teacher losses will impact class size and could impact course offerings. Department chairs are working closely with administrators to address options for retaining our current courses. The master schedule will likely be tighter than we have ever experienced and it will be imperative that we work closely with families this summer.

International Baccalaureate numbers for next year are actually much higher than reported earlier this month in the Charlotte Observer. Rising ninth graders and many current Myers Park students had difficulties applying online and we will continue to make additions this spring. Numbers are expected to be around 500.

Last week we completed our School Quality Review. The reviewers noted the following strengths: 1) Safe, orderly and efficient learning environment 2) Broad curriculum with high student engagement 3) Strong staff collegiality 4) Mutual trust /relationships between students and adults 5) Diligent administrative team focused on improving instruction and 6) Faculty committed to the school and focused on student learning. A full report, including areas for improvement, is anticipated by the end of April. We also had our Central Learning Community (CLC) audit the week be-

fore. They also noted the strong instructional program and the positive relationships between staff and students.

Thanks to all parents that participated in the MYIB/IB survey. Data is being analyzed and we are using the data to improve our current program. The budget may impact changes for the Fall but we anticipate presenting a thorough proposal during the MYIB re-authorization in November.

There was a senior class meeting on Tuesday, March 9. All seniors were given written information concerning graduation, financial obligations and final transcript requests. A copy of the memo was sent on Mustang Express for parental review. Please check the dates of the various activities. Caps and gowns should have been ordered months ago. If you have a student that has not ordered a cap and gown, please contact Josten's at 704-871-8504 immediately. Graduation is Saturday, June 12 at 4 p.m. at Time Warner Cable Arena. Attendance at the rehearsal is mandatory if your student plans to participate in the graduation program on June 12. We will send you the time and date of the rehearsal as soon as this information is made available. All financial obligations must be cleared in order for your child to participate in any end of year activities including the prom, having final transcripts sent and receiving the actual diploma. Students were informed in writing of any obligations at the March 9 meeting.

Our students have been very successful in contests and competitions this semester. We will highlight our many successes in the next newsletter. I hope you are able to spend some quality time with your child during Spring Break. Thanks for all your continued support.

— Tom Spivey
Principal

PROM 2010!

Silver Screen Spectacular

May 1, 8 p.m. to midnight, Hilton Center City

Tickets on Sale: April 19-23 during all 4 lunches
\$ 45.00 each Monday; \$ 50.00 each Tuesday & Wednesday; \$
55.00 each Thursday & Friday
CASH or BANK CHECK ONLY- personal checks will not be accepted

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 are located in the Media Center and the Main Office.

PTSA News

Second semester at MPHS heralds the arrival of warm weather, spring sports, the music and drama department's annual musical, senioritis, and much, much more. Time is flying by and it won't be long before Prom is here on May 1st. Then our 2010 graduates will be preparing to walk across the stage to receive their diplomas on June 12. Graduation will be held at 4 p.m. at Time Warner Cable Arena.

Our PTSA is staying equally as busy as our students are. We just completed a very informative curriculum night and want to thank the counseling department and all department chairs for invaluable information for our rising 9th grade students and families. Last week was Staff Appreciation week and our PTSA provided a variety of treats for all of our staff. All of our employees at Myers Park work hard and we can never thank them enough for all they do to keep our students learning in a safe and stimulating environment. Senior Exits will coming up in May and our SE committee is working hard to get volunteers to help with this. Please think about donating just 3 hours for one afternoon to help with this project. You will be glad you did as you may learn more than you think!! Also, please set aside time if you can to be a test proctor. It takes hundreds of volunteers to keep our end of year tests running smoothly. It is really the one chance you have as a parent to get into the classroom.

Thanks to everyone who has so generously contributed to our one PTSA Fundraiser—the Priority Fund. So far we have raised \$79,000 and donations are still trickling in. This is fantastic!!! With this money we were able to help just about every

department at Myers Park.

One of our most significant purchases was Naviance. This computer software collects historical data about where MPHS seniors are applying to college, being admitted or denied to colleges and enrolling upon graduation. This data helps counselors and families further define the college application process for younger students. Students can see how they compare to other MPHS students who applied and /or were admitted to a specific college. Naviance helps students begin the college search process earlier. Students can begin exploring colleges in the 9th grade and developing a long list of schools they may be interested in visiting and exploring further. Naviance enhances communication between students and counselors. It captures more information about the student at the click of a button. The more information students enter about themselves, the better the counselors will know about them and their caseloads. The benefits from Naviance are endless!

The Priority fund has also bought a Promethian Board for the Physics department. This is a Smart Board in layman's terms. We have also purchased specialized lighting for the Auditorium, LED Projector bulbs, 50 tennis racquets and assorted gym equipment, plagiarism software, window tinting for the front office, chairs for the Art Gallery, bus passes for our students who attend Core Academy, DVD VCR equipment for the Foreign Language departments, a document camera for the English Department and one for the Social Studies Department, workbooks for the Civics classes, a laser printer for Career Tech classes, DVD equipment for the Media Center, several

digital cameras for Visual Arts and and Media Center, a DLP projector for the Math Dept and various and assorted necessities that our school so desperately needs and would not have if not for the PTSA monies.

Thanks to a very generous and unexpected donation to the PTSA from the Senior Classes of 2008 and 2009, the Art Gallery will be upfitted this week with a very large flat screen television. This gift could not come at a more appropriate time as we can now use the Art Gallery as a classroom for upper level classes that are merging due to budget cuts. It also gives us the ability to use this room for staff training, workshops and meetings that require video presentations. Also, clubs and IB and tutorials. can take advantage of the equipment as well. Seniors take note: the Art Gallery will be open as a Senior Lounge during lunch periods on Fridays for seniors only. The television can be used on this day to show music videos and sports shows. We all will look forward to this great addition to the Art Gallery. Thank you Classes of 2008 and 2009!!

Lastly, the nominating committee, Sian Harris, Julie Wayne, Donna Aliotti, Margaret Marshall and Kim Moore have completed the PTSA slate of officers for the 2011/2012 school year. The slate will be voted on at the next general PTSA meeting on April 20. This is also College Night and a very worthwhile meeting for juniors as well as sophomores.

Thanks for all you do to help make Myers Park the great school that it is.

— *Margaret Marshall and Beth Rayburn*
2009-2010 Co-Presidents



Mustang Priority Fund: Still Trotting Along

We continue to work toward meeting our goal for the 2009 – 2010 Priority Fund. That goal is an ambitious \$95,000. These monies fund all the programs of the PTSA that provide support for our teachers, enrichment for all our students, and improvements to the school campus. To date we have received \$69,965 in direct donations, \$9,220 from matching gift companies, for a total of **\$79,185**.

We still hope to be able to do all that has been planned for our students and to provide improvements for the school campus, so if you have not made a contribution please consider doing so today. To make a donation, make your check payable to MPHS Priority Fund and mail to: Jane Fobel, 7106 Chadwyck Farms Dr., 28226.

Many thanks to our most recent donors:

Wild One - \$1000 +: Stanley Payne

Palomino - \$600 – 999: Christopher & Sara Willis

Bronco - \$300 – 599: Bob & Cindi Ryan, L.D. & Marcia Simmons, The Class of 1989

Stomper - \$150 – 299: Ronald & Rebecca Carriker, Bill & Laura Spencer, Reaves & Sandy Thompson

Maverick - \$1 – 149: Martin & Hilary Davidson, Amy Thomas



MPHS Graduation Project

The Graduation Project is one of the most important experiences for a senior at Myers Park High School. The Review Board provides students with an opportunity to present their findings through face-to-face interaction with adults. The community has provided wonderful support for this program through active adult participation.

If you have served as a review board member in the past, we offer our hearty thanks and a warm invitation to serve again. If you have not had the opportunity to serve before, we cordially invite you to become a review board member this year. You will enjoy having a meaningful volunteer experience.

This year, the Graduation Project Boards will take place both in the Fall and in the Spring. We are currently recruiting volunteers for the Spring presentations which will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 28 and 29 at MPHS. The approximate hours are from 2:45 to 5:30 p.m. A mandatory training session for volunteers will be held each day at 2:50 p.m. before presentations. If you will be able to serve in April, please contact Kerry Flye at profconres@aol.com or 704-366-7551 as soon as possible. Please tell Kerry which day would suit you best.

Recruiting volunteers is a large task and early commitments are vital to the success of this effort. You will receive a reminder email 10 days prior to your scheduled day. Please feel free to forward this to anyone you feel would enjoy this type of volunteer opportunity as we need 100 volunteers each day.

We appreciate your interest in the Graduation Project Review Boards. Volunteers will receive confirmation of your assignment and additional details during the first part of April. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

— *Kerry Flye, Minna Elliott, Kerry Flye, Carter MacBain*
MPHS Graduation Project Committee



Notes from the Orchestra

The Myers Park Chamber Orchestra participated in the 2010 Music Performance Adjudication hosted by the NC Music Educators Association. The Judges were unanimous in awarding the group a Superior, the highest rating. The Chamber Orchestra is one of three orchestras at Myers Park directed by Tom Lajoie.

The following students we selected for the NC Honors Orchestra: **Grace Danello, Miles Coleman, Mao Fukasawa, Andrew Keesler, and Emily Tran.** Selected for the 2010 NC Western Regional Orchestras were **Bryan Beasley, Grace Danello, Lili Driggs, Mao Fukasawa, and Emily Tran.**



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 is open - 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.

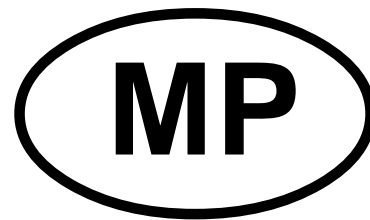
*The Myers Park Choral Department is
FLOCKING!*

*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



The best-dressed cars in Charlotte wear these top-quality Euro-style MP stickers, available through the PTSA for \$2 each. Email karenreid@aol.com.