



# Panther Press

Paint Branch High School PTSA

February-March-April 2004



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### Next Newsletter Deadline: **April 16**

Submit articles to: PTSA Newsletter box located in the main office or electronically to: darci.pickering@comcast.net

## Heritage/International Night

March 19  
Details page 7

## From Your President's Pen

It is hard to believe that by the time you read this, the school year will be a little more than half over! Because this a three month newsletter, and the next one will not come out until early May, I want to make sure that everyone is aware of some noteworthy events this winter/spring.

Our April 20, 2004 and May 18, 2004 meetings have been designated in advance as general meetings. This means that at these meetings, as permitted by our by-laws, we can hold elections, modify the budget, and/or proceed with other items that require advance notification of the PTSA members. Specifically, at the May meeting we will be electing PTSA officers for the next school year. This means that at the April meeting we will be presented with candidates for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. Which of course means that we will be forming a nominating committee in February or March. Please consider either being on the nominating committee or running for an office. Or, see if you can talk that friend of yours who has always secretly wanted to be a PTSA officer into running!

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that this school year is already half-way over. As I reflect on the first semester and the many wonderful things that occur at Paint Branch, I recall the handout I developed for our very successful Open House that was held for 8th graders on November 20th at Paint Branch. As principal I would like to share with you the list on the following page - my sincere thoughts on "What is Special About Paint Branch."

*Jeanette Dixon, Principal*

### **Jeanette Dixon, Principal, Paint Branch High School**

Renay Johnson, Assistant Principal  
Karen Racer, Assistant Principal  
John Haas, Student Support Specialist

### **Paint Branch High School**

14121 Old Columbia Pike  
Burtonsville, MD 20866-1799  
301-989-5600, phone 301-989-5609, fax

# What is Special About Paint Branch High School?

By Jeanette Dixon, Principal

1. Our students, our future
2. Our staff who teach an outstanding, rigorous academic program
3. High expectations for student achievement and the expectation that students will make a positive contribution
4. Academy of Science and Media Signature Program:
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Physics
  - Biotechnology
  - Accelerated Biology & Chemistry in One Year
  - Television Production
5. Gilder Lehrman American History Scholars Program
6. Academy of Finance – Business Program
7. NJROTC Program
8. Advanced Placement Program, Advanced Placement Fair, and Advanced Placement Picnic
9. π (Pi) Day – Math, March 14<sup>th</sup>
10. Science Expo
11. Shakefest – April 23<sup>rd</sup> (celebrating the life of William Shakespeare)
12. Art Exhibit
13. Medical Careers Program
14. Internship Program
15. On The Job Training and Cooperative Work Experience Program (OJT – CWE)
16. Child Development Program (inc. Nursery School)
17. Panther Paw Restaurant Management Program
18. Jazz Singers
19. Greenhouse
20. Japanese Language Program (one of two in MCPS – the other is at Whitman HS)
21. Panther of the Month Awards
22. Straight A / Most Improved Pizza Party
23. Opportunity to take classes at Montgomery College and University of Maryland
24. Monthly Calendar for students and staff
25. Marching Band
26. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade School-wide Mentoring Program
27. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic
28. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting
29. Senior Parent College Night
30. Senior Parent Graduation Meeting
31. Junior Parent College Night
32. Financial Aid Night
33. Senior Unity Day at Smokey Glen Farm
34. Top Scholars Dinner – celebrating the top 5% of the graduating class
35. Homecoming and Prom Dances
36. Club Fair
37. Powder Puff Football
38. Student-Staff Basketball Game
39. Outstanding Athletic Teams
40. Band Boosters
41. Athletic Boosters
42. School Store
43. Inclusive PTSA
44. Parent Volunteers
45. WPBH TV Station
46. School Website – [www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/paintbranchhs](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/paintbranchhs)
47. Student Publications – Yearbook, Newspaper, Literary Magazine
48. Student Government Organizations
49. Starstruck
50. College, group, and personal counseling
51. SAT Prep Program
52. George B. Thomas Saturday School
53. Senior Talent Show
54. Principal’s Open Door Policy
55. LAP – Lunch activity period and open lunch privilege for seniors only with signed parent permission
56. Media Center Program
57. Tech Mod (Modern Computer Technology)
58. Well maintained and clean building
59. Teachers are given time to team plan
60. Psychology Fair
61. Math Honor Society
62. 75 Extracurricular Programs for students
63. Business and Community Advisory Council
64. Popcorn for staff and students on special occasions
65. Monthly collegial breakfast for staff
66. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade common reading – incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders are given a book to read over the summer and keep.

# From Your President

*(Continued from page 1)*

In addition to the elections, in May we will also be voting on a policy matter that affects the usage of the PTSA student directory information. Earlier this school year, a situation occurred which has made it necessary to specify whether or not we wish to restrict the use of the information printed in the PTSA student directory for the sole use of the PTSA members. With regards to this matter, I have received the following guidance from the MCCPTA (Montgomery County Council of PTAs):

“The PTSA directory is not a public document. It is prepared by the PTSA, with the consent of the participants, for the sole use of the PTSA. It should never be shared with any commercial, partisan, or sectarian entity for any purpose. The language we use on the back of the MCCPTA Blue Book states, "This Directory is prepared as a service by the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations, Inc., and may not be used for advertising, solicitations, or any other purposes in conflict with the mission, objects, and policies of the PTA." ”

At our April meeting, we will be discussing whether or not we want to add this type of verbiage to our directory. Then in May, we will have a binding vote on the matter, to go into effect for the 2004-2005 directory. If you have an opinion on this matter, please plan to attend one or both of those meetings!

Sincerely,  
Patti Twigg, President

## Paint Branch Fleece Jackets Available!

Back by popular demand - fleece jackets have returned and they're better than ever! We now have 1/4 zip pullovers in burgundy with black trim and yellow with black trim. Also available are full zip jackets in solid burgundy, solid yellow and solid black. All fleece jackets have two front pockets and carry an embroidered PB logo with Panther written through - all styles and colors are \$38. Now you can show off your Panther Pride while staying cozy and warm! Check out the new colors and styles in the showcase across from the auditorium. For more information or to order, contact Marguerite Tom-Wigfield at 301-989-0479 or see Jeff Sullivan at the school store, which is open every day during lunch.



### 2003-2004 Paint Branch HS PTSA Executive Board

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Patti Twigg	301-384-3847
Vice-President	Jean O'Donell	301-890-1165
Treasurer	Linda Kuhn	301-890-3511
Recording Sec.	Wanda Johnson	301-890-1542
Corres. Sec.	Gail Lantion	301-305-3777
MCCPTA	Ron Leung	301-384-6958
Delegates	Jamie Mills	301-572-7523

#### REPRESENTATIVES

Cluster Rep.	Laurie Robey	301-890-7729
NAACP Parent Council	Phillipa Taylor	301-549-1963
	Tracy M. Cooper	301-890-1794
Cluster Coord.	Anne Carson	301-890-6785
	Geri Ginsberg	301-622-1822
	Renee Macklin	301-384-0568

#### COMMITTEES

After-Prom	Nancy Murray	301-989-2563
Awards	Sunny Luo	301-388-0183
Destination Imagination	Don Smith	301-384-3854
Drug/Alcohol Awareness	Bonnie Williams	301-421-1035
5K Run/Walk	Dianne Thorington	301-879-7644
Giant/Safeway Receipts	Nancy Murray	301-989-2563
Hospitality	Kathy Cook	301-549-0904
Human Relations	Remi Aluko	301-989-0016
Membership	Kate Thompson	301-236-0437
	Sue Albert	301-236-7654
Newsletter Editor	Darci Pickering	301-989-9580
Newsletter Dist.	Marie Alexandre	301-890-4937
Parent	Susan Moschella	301-236-0058
Volunteers	Weine Berhe	301-879-2231
Special Needs	Wanda Johnson	301-890-1542
Student Directory	Karen Taylor	301-384-1226

#### **Parent Run Organizations Separate from PTSA**

Band Boosters Co-Presidents	Diane Gann-Hollins	301-890-2072
	Debbie Leonhart	301-498-3648
All Sports Boosters President	Bob Fetner	301-421-1303

## PBHS Animated Video Walks Away With CINE Award

"Take a Walk," an animated public service announcement created by 20 Paint Branch High School students, has been honored with a national CINE Golden Eagle Award. This is the second year in a row that a Paint Branch animated video has won the CINE. The prestigious award recognizes the excellence of the production and makes the video eligible for a Special Jury Award, to be announced at the 45th Annual CINE Awards Event on April 22, 2004, at the National Geographic Society's Grosvenor Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

The two and a half minute video was created during a five-day animation workshop in March taught by visiting artist Leila Cabib, funded by Paint Branch's Signature Program of Science and Media and by a grant from The Washington Post Educational Foundation. Each student created an original character and animated that character walking. A voiceover provided by senior Caryn Albert points out the health benefits of walking. A musical soundtrack, dubbed "Triphop" by its creator and performer, Ryan Scherer (Paint Branch '03), accompanies the characters' walks. The PSA will be broadcast on Montgomery Community Television's Cable Channel 21 and on Montgomery County Schools Instructional TV.

The animators who created "Take a Walk" are Hasnat Ali, Julian Artunduaga, Nehemiah Bernal, Chris Bope, Khellie Braxton, Kelvin Ford, Soheib Hamid, Dennis

Johnson, Derrick Jones, Ameer Kothary, Mike Kwon, Hector Neira, Mike Nelson, Dennis Nguyen, Nenita Rolakanty, Ryan Scherer, Geneah Scott, Devin Swanson, Katie Waterworth and Dru Wooton.

According to Brian Eichenlaub, Signature Coordinator and coordinator of the animation program, "This gives students an opportunity to use their creativity and artistic skills and apply them to a collaborative media project. Many of the students in this program were also part of the Summer Institute's animation class."

In the Fall 2003 Competition, over 300 judges viewed and evaluated hundreds of distinguished entries. Experienced professionals in the field of film and video production, as well as subject matter experts, serve in a volunteer capacity. They judge the entries using standards of overall excellence, evaluating such criteria as writing, sound, editing, creativity, visuals, insights, and extent to which the film meets its stated goals and communicates with its intended audience.

CINE, (Council for International Non-theatrical Events), a Washington, D.C. based non-profit organization, has recognized the work of outstanding filmmakers, video producers, directors and other craftspeople in the film and video industry since 1957. Both professional and pre-professional productions are judged for such criteria as creativity, visuals, and effective communication to the intended audience.

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## Paintbranchnet

### Paint Branch Electronic Mail Network

**What is it?** The Paint Branch HS PTSA has established *paintbranchnet* as its electronic mail network of Paint Branch families so we can exchange information related to PTSA business, school affairs, and educational topics. This is a great forum for announcing meetings and sending reminders for school events.

*New this year - when the newsletter is posted on the school website, a notice is sent to paintbranchnet. You do not have to wait for the paper version.*

**How does it work?** Anyone who is a member of *paintbranchnet* can send a message to the entire group. To do so, a member would send an electronic mail message to *paintbranchnet's* email address, *paintbranchnet@yahoo.com*, and it will be received by everyone who is a subscriber.

**How to subscribe?** Send your name, phone number and email address to Patti Twigg via email. Patti's email address is: *lptwigg@erols.com*

## After-Prom Meeting Schedule

It's never too late to get involved and you make all the difference! Please join in planning the last night together for the Class of 2004. Your support will help create a safe, sober, and FUN prom night for our teens!

Our next meeting will be a short general information meeting followed by committee planning sessions. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at PBHS.

Thursday, Feb. 26 - General Information & Planning Meeting, Media Center  
 Tuesday, March 23, Room A113  
 Thursday, April 15, Room A113  
 Wednesday, May 12, Room A113

For more information contact Nancy Murray at 301-989-2563 or by email *Nancm526@aol.com*. See also the After-Prom Flyer included in this newsletter.

## Host an AFS Student

AFS International Student Exchange needs about 12 Montgomery County families to host international high school exchange students in the 2004-2005 school year. Students come from over 40 different countries, and are eager to learn about America and take part in the activities of the host family and local high school. When you welcome a student from another country into your home, your children and family learn about the world, your AFS student takes home a part of America, and you make a personal contribution to world peace and understanding. Two and single parent households, with or without kids, are eligible. The family provides a place to sleep (not necessarily a private room) and provides meals. Students bring their own spending money.

Spring is the time to start making the arrangements. Working with an AFS volunteer, you'll select your student from several who are a good match for the family's interests and lifestyle. All AFS students are above average scholastically and speak English. To learn more, talk to current Paint Branch students Philipp Mager (Germany) or Kinoto Saeki (Japan), contact AFS volunteer Bob Rushing at 301-236-6809 (rushingrw@hotmail.com), call 1-800-AFS-INFO, or visit the AFS website at <http://usa.afs.org/>

## Science Expo a Great Success!

The Paint Branch High School SCIENCE EXPO was held on Friday, January 9, 2004. The EXPO ran throughout the school day in the Media Center and small gym for our students and guests.

The SCIENCE EXPO combined scientific research with innovative ways to present student work. There were interactive physics demonstrations, 3-D models, green schools projects, genetic disorder displays, chemistry demonstrations, public education displays, websites, traditional science fair projects, physics computer animations, PowerPoint presentations of skin diseases, blood pressure screenings, physics games and CSI reenactments -- all of which related to scientific topics.

Area scientists, middle school students from Banneker and Francis Scott Key Middle School and teachers from the Northeast Consortium were all on hand to partake in the scholarly research, fun and wonder of the various aspects of this year's SCIENCE EXPO.

This is the second year for the school wide event. Kate Ulicny, PB Biology and Biotechnology teacher, organized the event along with Pam Leffler, Science Resource, and all the science teachers. Brian Eichenlaub, Signature Coordinator, coordinated the middle school

component, with the school busses and middle school science teachers, to have 85 middle school students attend the event. According to Ms. Leffler, "This EXPO is a great opportunity for teachers and students to display their scientific work from the first semester. Students from the various science classes can see what their friends are doing in their science classes and teach them about some of the concepts and skills they have learned. I want to congratulate Ms. Ulicny, the science teachers, and all the science students that did a tremendous job this year."

## Tech. Ed. Students Build and Donate Toys

Paint Branch High School's technology education students spent the week before winter break designing and building wooden toys for needy families in the area. They built over one hundred toys.

This is the second year for the project at Paint Branch. Last year's efforts yielded seventy-one toys. Mr. Kevin Daney, the Technology Education Teacher, had all five of his classes involved in the project. Each class decided what they would like to create, designed the toy and then used the assembly line process to produce about 20 toys per class. All the toys are made of wood and are in a variety of shapes and sizes including trucks, buses with wooden peg passengers, race cars, and a variety of animals.

Paint Branch students, parents and teachers have made suggestions in the past as to what day care centers to contact or various charities that might need the toys for needy children.

Mr. Kevin Daney, the Technology Education Teacher, commented "It's nice to see our students gain a feeling of accomplishment, and that it is for a good cause is an extra. Students at any level gain from seeing the fruits of their labors. Also the feel of an old-fashion, wooden toy is something that many kids do not get to use in our highly plastic production toy industry. The toys turned out really nice this year."

## Parents of P. E. Students

**Message from Health and Physical Education Department:** Please remind your child to purchase a combination lock for his/her P.E. locker. It is strongly encouraged that valuables be kept in the hall way locker. All items brought to the locker room need to be properly secured in a locked locker. If you have any questions please contact your child's physical education teacher.

## Giant and Safeway

There's STILL time! Sign up for the Giant and Safeway cash for schools programs! You can still help PBHS supply our school with additional materials to enhance the educational opportunities for our students.

**For Giant's A+Bonus Bucks** program visit your local store or go to [www.Giantfood.com](http://www.Giantfood.com) to renew. The PBHS designation code is #0776.

**For the Safeway Club Card plan**, you can also sign up at the customer service desk at any Safeway store. Or visit their web site [www.Escrip.com](http://www.Escrip.com). You can also sign up by phone, call 1-800-801-4973. The PBHS code for Safeway is 6549637.

Or contact [Rebecca\\_Baber@fc.mcps.k12.md.us](mailto:Rebecca_Baber@fc.mcps.k12.md.us) at PBHS and she can enter the information for you!!! How easy is that? Just do it!

## Gilder Lehrman Scholars Visiting New York City

Our Gilder Lehrman American History Scholars will be taking a field trip to New York City from January 29 through February 1, 2004. The purpose of the trip is to enhance the objectives of the Gilder-Lehrman course "American History through Popular Movies and Documents." The students will visit the Museum of the Moving Image, a highly interactive museum housed in an authentic early 20th century movie studio. This visit will allow students to study the development of the American movie industry.

The remainder of the tour will focus on New York as the center for early 20th Century immigration and cultural change. Students will visit the Tenement Museum in the Lower East Side of Manhattan and take a walking tour of this famous ethnic neighborhood with Big Onion Tours. Our trip will end with a ferry trip to Liberty and Ellis Islands, both important landmarks for America's immigrants.

"There is no place more appropriate to visit for our students than New York City," commented Bonnie Jones, the teacher coordinating the trip. "Many historical trends and new ideas originate in New York. A large number of this country's immigrants' first experience of the United States took place in New York City. It's such a vibrant city!"

Half of the cost of the field trip (including meals and accommodations) is being sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute from New York, one of Paint Branch's educational partners.

The American History Scholars Program, is part of

the Paint Branch Media Signature, with the Social Studies department, and in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute and the University of Maryland. This was the first such program in the state of Maryland, in which students enrolled in this rigorous academic program will take a second history course each year to complement the three required history courses. At the end of his/her senior year, the student would have completed seven history credits. The extra courses all have a media connection which examines the media's role in documenting historical events in American history. This is the second year for the program.

## Volunteers Needed

Sue Brice, a third grade teacher at Galway Elementary School, has an after school math class on Tuesdays from 3:35 to 4:30 p.m. She is looking for student volunteers to help third graders with math activities on a recurring basis. Community service hours are available. Contact Sue Brice at Galway, 301-595-2930.

## PTSA All-Around-Achiever (AAA) Award

The Paint Branch PTSA is proudly sponsoring an All-Around Achiever (AAA) award for students showing great achievement in academics and active participation in school and community activities. To be eligible, you must be a **junior** or **senior** with a GPA no less than 2.5. Students who won last year are not eligible this year. Applications can be picked up from the Guidance Office starting February 13, 2004 and must be returned no later than **Friday, April 9, 2004**. Winners will be announced at the May awards ceremony and will receive a monetary award and a certificate. For further information please contact Yaguang Luo (Sunny) at 301-388-0183.

## Goal: Financially Independent Children

Students are graduating from college with an average student loan of \$30,000. The average credit card debt of college students is over \$3,000. A knowledge of finance is NECESSARY for every career. The Academy of Finance which PBHS started in September 2003, includes courses in banking & credit, financial planning, and accounting. The AOF gives a student an advantage over others when applying for a job or for college acceptance. Call Ms. Rebecca Baber at (301) 989-5618 for more information. Also, the new PBHS course bulletin will have more information.

## Safe Home Pledge

The following Paint Branch families have signed the Safe Home Pledge:

Parent(s)	Student(s)	Parent(s)	Student(s)
Darcy A. Axe	Jennifer Axe	John and Effie Macklin	Jillian Macklin
Monty & Beverly Barham	Austin Barham	James and Karen Mills	Erin & Morgan Mills
Rekha Boray	Anjali Boray	Tom & Nancy Murray	Meagan Murray
Joseph & Victoria Brimmer	Jeff and Andy Brimmer	Ann Norfolk	Ellen Griever
Linda and Mike Carey	Christopher Carey	Joe and Colleen Perret	Daniel & Kathleen Perret
Nicole Coles	Jeffrey Ferrentino	Darci and Ken Pickering	Doug Pickering
Amy and Manny Hamoy	Holly and Evan Hamoy	Chris and Lisa Rager	Ryan and Sara Rager
David and Robin Hart	Christopher Hart	Marguerite Tom-Wigfield	Dennis Tom-Wigfield
Chris and Elaine Hill	Jessica Hill	Patti and Larry Twigg	Michael Twigg
Marla Frenzel/Bill Kaylor	Amy Kaylor	Karla and Frank Walker	Kristen Walker
Catherine Hiebert Kerst	David Kerst	Ted and Roslyn Washington	Jordan Washington
Jenni and Ken King	Diana King	W. Patrick and Dana Werner	Curtis Werner
Mike and Cindy Koenig	Liz Koenig	Toni and Robert Zepp	Jonathan Zepp
Marcie Kramer	Jennifer Kramer		
Rick Lipscomb	Megan & McKenzie Lipscomb		

## Youth Works Scavenger Hunt

Join us for a day of crazy clues, cool prizes and complete fun! On Saturday, April 17, 2004, Montgomery Youth Works will host its 4th Annual Scavenger Hunt at Strathmore Hall Arts Center in North Bethesda. This exciting community event is designed to strengthen bonds between youth, families, the community and businesses.

Montgomery Youth Works is a unique employment and training initiative, serving youth and businesses in Montgomery County. Its mission is to provide critical job skills training and employment opportunities for youth ages 14 to 22. The Scavenger Hunt functions as a bridge between youth and employers in Montgomery County. Ideally, youth are placed on teams with members of the business community, family and friends. Teams of 4-8 people follow the Metro Redline in search of clues and wacky objects. Participation includes breakfast, lunch, t-shirt, tote bag, door prizes and awards for the top-scoring teams. Last year, we gave out \$20,000 in door prizes, ranging from \$100 Westfield Shoppingtown gift cards to family dining certificates to area restaurants.



### PAINT BRANCH CELEBRATES HERITAGE/INTERNATIONAL NIGHT March 19, 2004

Mark your calendars to participate in and enjoy this celebration of the unique social and cultural heritage that celebrates the beauty and the diversity of our Paint Branch community!

There will be food and artifacts representing various cultures, performances by students, the latest in fashion design hosted by the International Club and many more activities!

All are welcome! Parents, families and staff are needed to make this a successful night. Donations such as paper cups, plates, cutlery, and napkins are also needed. For more information, contact:

Anh Vu, Vuannie@hotmail.com, 301-421-4215

Remi Aluko, o4@umbc.edu, 301-989-0016

Linh Nguyen, Azndoll428@hotmail.com, 301-879-8225

Loraine Poole, Poolelm11@comcast.net, 301-890-4713



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## PBHS Calendar

- Feb.** 5 Report cards distributed  
5 AP (Advanced Placement) fair for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders and parents, 7 p.m., Cafeteria  
8 College Financial Aid Information Meeting, Wheaton HS, 2 p.m.  
16 Holiday—Presidents' Day  
17 PTSA Meeting, 7 p.m., Media Center  
18 Parent Information Meeting for Incoming 9th Graders, 7 p.m., Auditorium (snow date 2/25)  
27 Course registration forms due for 2004-2005 school year for 9th, 10th, 11th graders
- Mar.** 2 Holiday-Presidential Primary Election  
14 Pi Day!  
15 Junior Parent Meeting—College Readiness, 7 p.m., Auditorium  
16 PTSA Meeting, 7 p.m., Media Center  
25 Winter Athletic Awards Night, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
- Apr.** 1, 2 Early Release Days—End of Third Marking Period, Report Card Preparation  
5-12 Spring Break  
16 PTSA Newsletter Deadline  
20-21 College Fair—See Ms. Morse in College and Career Center for more information  
20 PTSA Meeting, 7 p.m., Media Center  
28 Senior Parents Graduation Meeting, 7 p.m., Auditorium  
30 No school for students—Professional day for teachers
- May** 3-14 Advanced Placement Tests