



# Panther Press

## Paint Branch High School PTSA

March 2007 Issue 4

<http://www.paintbranchhighschool.org>



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### Next Newsletter Deadline: May 11

Submit articles to B. Haymon at: [bjh4535-2@comcast.net](mailto:bjh4535-2@comcast.net) or drop in the PTSA Newsletter box located in the Main Office.

## From Your PTSA President

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended a 3-hour meeting of Montgomery County High School PTSA Presidents (FYI - the opportunity and expectation to attend lengthy meetings at inconvenient times and faraway locations is just one of the many perks of this position ☺). In all seriousness, it was a good meeting (my thanks to Phil Kauffman and the MCCPTA for hosting and organizing this event) . . . our time together was very informative, very collegial, and a great many issues of interest and importance were discussed, some of which I will touch on at our March 20<sup>th</sup> PTSA meeting. But I'd like to make note of what I was struck by as I drove home processing all I had just heard during the meeting: What I took from this meeting was just how grateful I am, and should continue to be, for the countless number of active and involved students, parents, volunteers, and truly committed staff we have at Paint Branch. I was struck by how many PTSA Presidents have to work much harder than I do . . . tirelessly trying to get more parents involved, to get more staff to join the PTSA, to "make things happen" and to get the county to start/fund new programs for their schools.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

During the three snow days in February, one of our counselors reflected on how much she appreciated the three day "gift of time" that students and staff had as a result of school closing. She allowed as to how she enjoyed reading, organizing her office at home and doing things she otherwise would not have had the time to do. It struck me that all of us should give ourselves the gift of time to do things which enhance the quality of our lives. I hope as parents you will also spend some time praising your child for the great job that they have done in school if they have done well, or encouraging your child if they need to do a better job.

**This section of my letter is addressed to parents whose children are on the Ineligible List as the result of the last report card or who have failed one or more of the high school assessment tests.** One of the frustrations for

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Paint Branch High School

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

### Jeanette Dixon, Principal

John Haas, Assistant Principal ▪ Kevin Howard, Assistant Principal  
Cheryl LaSota, Assistant Principal

## From Your PTSA President

(Continued from page 1)

As I drove on, I recalled the Paint Branch International Night I had attended the evening before, and a smile of appreciation and gratitude slowly crept across my face as I remembered the packed-house turnout, the large number of families and parents who attended and lent a hand, and the feeling of genuine celebration for our diversity which defined the evening. And that was just one of literally dozens of examples from this year of things worth celebrating.

Paint Branch is a wonderful school, and is part of a wonderful community. Is everything that everyone wants to do/see happen at Paint Branch always happening or working flawlessly? No, there's always more to do, always more that could be done better. But the truth is that, due to passionate and gifted people – many of whom are volunteers - a great many things worth celebrating are taking place in and through Paint Branch. So let me offer my deep appreciation and thanks to you, the Paint Branch community, for supporting your children in their educational and extracurricular pursuits. And to those who would like to see even more happen, I say "bring it on." Bring your energy and enthusiasm and excellence to the school, to the PTSA, to the community, and make your passion and dream a reality.

At our 2<sup>nd</sup> Back to School Night on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, I opened my remarks with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations in this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." Emerson knew that if you were sincere in trying to help – not to get pats on the back or a write-up in the paper, but rather solely because you want to have a positive impact on the life of another – then you often get back so much more than you give. And a great many of the more than 6,000 people who make up the students, staff, and parents of Paint Branch who currently give so selflessly of their time and talents already know this. Thank you for your support of your Paint Branch High School and your PTSA.

**Don Hauprich, PTSA President**

[Hauprich4@verizon.net](mailto:Hauprich4@verizon.net)

(home) 301-476-9228

## 2006-2007 PTSA Officers

President	Don Hauprich
Vice-President	Michelle Patterson
Treasurer	Elaine Hill
Corres. Secretary	Saba Tesfayohannes
Recording Secretaries	M'Liss Dematatis Jean Slater

## 2006-2007 PTSA Meetings

PTSA meetings will take place on the following dates this school year. Please mark your calendar:

Tuesday, February 20

Tuesday, March 20

Tuesday, April 17

Tuesday, May 15

PTSA meetings will be held in the Paint Branch Media Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending not later than 8:30 p.m. All meetings are general membership meetings.

### **Important Notes:**

- ALL parents, students, and staff are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in all meetings.
- Child care is provided.
- Descriptions of all the PTSA committees are posted on the Paint Branch web site at:  
  
[http:// www.paintbranchhighschool.org](http://www.paintbranchhighschool.org) — click on PTSA
- If you would like to help, please contact the committee chair or PTSA President, Don Hauprich at 301-476-9228.

## Principal's Message

(Continued from page 1)

us as educators is that while we have all of the resources (both human and material) we need to help our students achieve, including after school programs to provide additional support, some students don't seem to want to take advantage of these opportunities. **We need the support of all parents** if our students are going to continue to achieve, and if we are going to close the achievement gap that exists between our ethnic groups.

**It should not be acceptable to see "Ineligible for extracurricular activities" on your child's report card.** If this is the case, insist that they become involved in our George B. Thomas Extended Day program which provides help for students after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you have questions about this program, please contact Mr. Howard, our assistant principal. If your child failed a high school assessment test, insist that they take advantage of the sessions being planned to help students pass the High School Assessments (HSAs) which are a requirement for graduation for students in the Class of 2009 and beyond. Students who have failed these tests have been sent letters with information about the specific dates for remediation topics. If you have questions about this program, please contact Ms. LaSota, our assistant principal. Both she and Mr. Howard can be reached by calling 301-989-5600. These programs are available in addition to the regular opportunities for students to get extra help from their regular teachers.

In order for students to achieve, they also need to attend school on time, and be on time to class. It is not possible to learn if one is missing out on the instructional program because they are not in class, involved in some "he said, she said" gossip or have been referred to the office for some disciplinary infraction. Please help our teachers and your child by making it clear that you don't want them to be involved in any of these sorts of activities which detract from learning. There are a lot of staff members working very hard to help our students be successful. We want to see an equal commitment from all students to do their best work and achieve academically.

Despite the snow days, we have been very busy at Paint Branch. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, we hosted an evening for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents to learn more about our instructional program. We are very pleased with the students in the Class of 2011 who have chosen to attend or been assigned to Paint Branch. They will make positive contributions to our school over the next four years and will make Paint Branch history in that they will be the first students to graduate from the new school. We are in the design phase of the new building with Moseley Architects, and on February 28<sup>th</sup>, our

Business Manager, Mrs. Camp, and I attended a meeting to select the Construction Manager for our project. An announcement will be made about which company will construct our new building after the Board of Education approves the recommendation of the interview committee in April.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we hosted our Advanced Placement Fair, and first ever second semester Back To School Night. By our count, 193 parents attended this second Back To School Night which was considerably fewer than attended in September. Our Instructional Council will make a decision on whether to continue this next year given the turnout because we had to give up 120 teacher chaperone duties in order to comply with the teacher contract in order to make the second Back To School Night possible.

The Class of 2007 is busy preparing for their Senior Banquet at Martin's Crosswinds on March 22 (7-11 p.m.). Tickets are \$40.00. All students will travel to the banquet by motorcoach. **No student attending the banquet should drive there.** The junior class is busy preparing to host the seniors and juniors at Prom on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Pooks Hill Marriot in Bethesda, and a very active group of parents led by Connie Ewart have been working to make the After-Prom the best ever. Our winter sports teams are doing very well in wrestling, track, swimming and basketball and were honored at the Athletic Awards Night on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Other upcoming events include Junior Parent Orientation (March 21); Spring Break (April 2-9<sup>th</sup>); Spring Musical "Once Upon A Mattress" (April 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>); Shakefest, (a celebration of the birthday of William Shakespeare), (April 23<sup>rd</sup>); Senior Parent Graduation Meeting, (April 26<sup>th</sup>); Academic Awards, (May 1<sup>st</sup>) (for the first time this will be held during the day because we want to inspire our students); Advanced Placement Picnic, (May 17<sup>th</sup>); Top Scholars Dinner, (May 22); and Graduation, June 6, 2007.

We are continually looking for ways to improve communication in the Paint Branch community. From time to time you will receive a message from me via telephone using the new Connect Ed system. Please take time to listen to my message because I will use it only for very important events. Another source of information is the *Burtonsville, Gazette* which is published every Wednesday. Our Signature Coordinator, Brian Eichenlaub, continually sends information about the achievements of students and staff to the newspaper. The February 28<sup>th</sup> issue has a wonderful article about SGA President Sean Dzierzanowski.

(continued on page 4)

Finally, I am very proud of our Panthers and all that they have achieved. They are taking more rigorous courses, winning National Merit Corporation scholarships (Peter McGrath and Saumil Sheth), registering for a record number of Advanced Placement tests, identifying career pathways related to our Smaller Learning Communities grant, taking classes at Montgomery College, playing at Solo Ensemble Fest, observing open heart surgery at Inova Fairfax Hospital, giving back to the community by sponsoring blood drives (National Honor Society), and coming together to celebrate what is best about Paint Branch at International Night--- our diversity. I appreciate all that our PTSA does to support our students and staff and want to thank Kathy Cook, the Hospitality Chair, for coordinating the wonderful Staff Appreciation Luncheon on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in addition to all of the other thoughtful staff appreciation events each month. Paint Branch is a great school (our students and staff make it so) and a great community ( you make it so). Thank you for your support and your trust.

Thank you for your support and the opportunity to educate our wonderful Panthers. They amaze me every day with all of the outstanding contributions they make to not only our school but to our community.

Sincerely,

*Jeanette Dixon, Principal*

## paintbranchnet

Paintbranchnet, our PTSA sponsored email listserv, provides quick access to information. In addition to sending the daily morning announcements, as broadcast via Paint Branch's internal TV station, minutes from PTSA meetings, important schedule changes and much more are delivered to your email inbox. To sign up for paintbranchnet, just send an email to [paintbranchnet-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:paintbranchnet-subscribe@yahogroups.com). Then, be sure to respond to the reply email you will get asking for your name and phone number. Until you provide the requested information, you will not be subscribed.

The school website has a lot of great information, from sports to the school calendar. It is:

<http://www.paintbranchhighschool.org>

SPECIAL NOTE: I have finished entering all the email addresses from the PTSA membership forms from back-to-school night. There were a few addresses that I could not read, so if you want to be on paintbranchnet, you will need to follow the instructions above to get on the list.

**Patti Twigg, Communications Chair**

[LPTwigg@erols.com](mailto:LPTwigg@erols.com)



## *Spring Musical*

Paint Branch Perspectives is proud to present the spring musical, Once Upon A Mattress, on April 13th, 14th, 20th, and 21st at 7:30 pm. Please join us for this comedy as we tell the musical tale of "The Princess and the Pea."

**Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.**

## Special Needs Committee

*Excerpted from the MCCPTA President's letter, dated Feb. 20, 2007:* “The Board of Education did approve the FY 2008 budget as presented by the Superintendent and is set to move forward with its plan to phase out the learning centers over the next six years. They reversed course on extended school year (summer school) for special education students—ESY will continue to be a five day a week program and money was restored to fund buses for the fifth day. It is our understanding that all secondary learning centers will be moving more toward a model of co-teaching and it is important that each individual school has a process in place to monitor whether students do indeed increase their performance when placed in a co-teaching setting. MCCPTA will continue to press MCPS to demonstrate that individual student performance increases with these changes and not claim success solely because the number of schools making AYP increases. Since over 600 students are currently enrolled in SLCs it is likely that there would have been more than 45 current fifth graders placed in learning centers in 2007-08. These students need to be monitored also. Local elementary PTAs should make sure that they are forwarding information on this issue to their list serves.

It is important to realize that the budget process is not over; the BOE's request still needs to be funded by the County Council so continue to advocate with council members.”

All letters sent to Council President, Marilyn J. Praisner, [councilmember.praisner@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:councilmember.praisner@montgomerycountymd.gov) are shared with all other members of the County Council, so that makes it easy. If you really like writing, then the Chair of the County Council Education Committee is Mike Knapp, [councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov). The County Council will be hearing public testimony for 4 nights starting April 9, so sending a letter before then would be extremely useful.

For examples of letters you can use as templates, visit:

From LDAMC (Learning Disabilities Association of Montgomery County)

POSITION STATEMENTS:

**[Letter 1: OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE MCPS SECONDARY LEARNING CENTERS](#)**

**[http://www.ldamc.org/portals/14/documents/LDAMC Board Letter 1.pdf](http://www.ldamc.org/portals/14/documents/LDAMC_Board_Letter_1.pdf)**

**[Letter 2: OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE MCPS SECONDARY LEARNING CENTERS](#)**

[http://www.ldamc.org/portals/14/documents/LDAMC\\_Board\\_Letter\\_2.pdf](http://www.ldamc.org/portals/14/documents/LDAMC_Board_Letter_2.pdf)

Thanks!

**Patti Twigg, Special Needs Chair**

301-384-3847

# Student Attendance and Loss of Credit (L.C.)

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

*(for Parents/Guardians & Students)*

Paint Branch High School's instructional day begins at 7:25 a.m. and all students are expected to be in their seats, ready for instruction at that time. (A warning bell rings at 7:20 a.m. to alert students to report to their first period class.)

The attendance secretary will record a student's absence or late arrival as "excused" only if documentation is provided as follows:

- A written note, signed by the parent or guardian must be submitted to the attendance office **NO LATER THAN** three (3) days after the student's return to school.
- All Absence/Tardy Notes must include the following **SEVEN** pieces of information:
  - student's full legal name
  - student's ID number
  - student's grade
  - date(s) of absence
  - reason for absence
  - parent/guardian's work and home telephone number
  - parent/guardian's signature, or student's signature if Age of Majority is on file
- Student absences will be excused for the following reasons – **ONLY**:
  - illness
  - doctor appointment
  - court summons
  - death in the family
  - pre-authorized educational activity/opportunity (i.e. college visit)
  - religious holiday
  - late bus, or bus did not come
- The attendance secretary will call parents/guardians to verify absence notes unless the parent/guardian had called in the absence previously.

Students who report late to class without an excused pass from a staff member will be reported as "*unexcused tardy*" by the classroom teacher. Three *unexcused tardies* will count as one unexcused absence in any given class.

Five unexcused absences in any one class will cause a student to lose credit for that class for the entire semester! Loss of Course Credit policies and procedures are explained in detail in the Student Agenda, pages 18-19 and in the Parent Handbook, pages 11-12.

Unexcused absences and tardiness to school are serious concerns and are the most frequent reason for the lack of student success in high school. Parents can help by understanding attendance policies, by providing the necessary written documentation for student absences in a timely manner and by doing all that they can do to ensure that students are in class, on time, every day to the greatest extent possible.

## **AFS Host Family Opportunity**

AFS International Student Exchange has opportunities for about 15 Montgomery County families to host international high school exchange students for the 2006-2007 school year. Won't you consider it?

These are great, carefully screened kids. They 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 and have excellent health insurance. 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, contact AFS volunteer Bob Rushing at 301-236-6809 ([rushingrw@hotmail.com](mailto:rushingrw@hotmail.com)), call 1-800-AFS-INFO, or visit the AFS website at <http://usa.afs.org/>.

## **Academy of Engineering Comes to PBHS**

The Academy of Engineering (Project Lead The Way) is a new program that started at Paint Branch High School this school year. The first course, Introduction to Engineering Design, uses a computer program, Inventor. Comments from the students taking the class include: "It has motivated me to pursue a career in Engineering Design." Another student responded with, "My friend at the Air Force Academy is learning the same program and doing things similar to what we are doing in class at PBHS." Another student commented, "We can make something as simple as a puzzle cube to something as complicated as a train engine."

For a brochure or more information, contact: Rebecca Baber at (301) 989-5618 or [Rebecca\\_F\\_Babeer@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rebecca_F_Babeer@mcpsmd.org)

## Money Cents for College

### What is the Panther Trust (MCT)?

The Panther Trust is Paint Branch High School's own branch of the Montgomery County Teachers Federal Credit Union (MCTFCU). It is a bank personalized for students where they can save money for the future. The Academy of Finance students supervised by a teacher are the bank tellers. MCTFCU offers student auto loans, as well as loans for colleges.

### Where can I find a MCT Bank?

You can find a MCT bank at 7 different locations in Montgomery County. They are Rockville, Aspen Hill, Kensington, Germantown, Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, and Cherry Hill Road.

### How Can a Student Join?

It is easy. All you have to do is fill out an application and deposit \$5 into a student account at any MCT location. There are no monthly and annual fees, no per check charges, and a free visa check card!

### Why should you join?

The Panther Trust is committed to excellent customer service. It is a great way to help students build for their financial future.

### When is the Panther Trust open?

It is open every Wednesday and Friday at LAP (Lunch Activity Period).

*Get started today on becoming financially fit. Come on down and open an account today!*

## Academy of Finance News

Several graduates from the AOF program at PBHS, who are college freshman, attended a luncheon at Paint Branch High to share the pros and cons of college life. The graduates commended the Academy of Finance program for helping to give them a jumpstart to the rigor of college work. We are very pleased with the progress that the AOF students continue to make.

Resume Writing and Interviewing workshops continue during LAP to prepare students for interviewing for the paid summer internship.

As a way to prepare for the internship piece to the AOF program, students who are juniors participated in mock interviews on March 7th, which were conducted by business managers from the Montgomery County Business Advisory Council. Over forty students will intern this summer at various financial institutions.

AP Microeconomics is being offered this year at PBHS as the college course requirement to the AOF curriculum. Thirty eight students are enrolled and working very hard to succeed.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Rebecca Baber at (301) 989-5618 or

[Rebecca F Baber@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rebecca_F_Baber@mcpsmd.org).

## GRADUATION 2007

### Financial Matters

#### FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS



- Seniors must clear all financial obligations and purchase a cap and gown in order to participate in graduation ceremonies at Constitution Hall. Graduation tickets will not be issued until obligations are paid and a cap and gown is purchased. Also, students may not attend After-Prom unless financial obligations are cleared.
- Financial obligations may be cleared before school, after school and during LAP in Room B117. Ms. Saul, financial assistant, will be in the cafeteria after the Senior Parent Graduation meeting on April 26, 2007, to accept payment from those parents who wish to clear obligations.
- Personal checks will be accepted for payment of senior obligations through Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Beginning May 14<sup>th</sup>, only cash, money order or certified check will be accepted from seniors.

#### GRADUATION BUSES



- Again this year, Paint Branch has contracted with a charter bus company to provide transportation from Paint Branch to Constitution Hall & back on June 6<sup>th</sup> for graduation.
- Tickets cost \$15 per seat and are sold on a first come-first served basis.
- Graduation bus tickets will be on sale in the cafeteria after the Senior Parent Graduation meeting (April 26, 2007).
- Remaining bus tickets will be sold from May 14 – May 18<sup>th</sup> in the business/financial office – only cash will be accepted. Tickets sold out fast last year. Don't wait!
- We ask those riding the buses arrive by 11:45 AM for loading; buses will leave promptly at 12:00 noon.

**PBHS Class of 2007 Commencement**  
**Wednesday, June 6th**  
**2:30 p.m.**



Thank You!!

► **FROM: PBHS After Prom Committee**

A very special thank you to everyone who ventured out on a snowy night to support the After Prom Fundraiser — a wonderful meal prepared by OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE of Wheaton. They came with 320 meals—we had 319 reservations!! We made \$2078.00 towards our \$10,000 goal.

Thank you all!

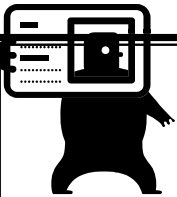
Connie & Barb



We still need your support to make this a wonderful high school memory! If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, complete the form on page 11.

Please contact: Connie Ewart 301-236-0955 or Barb Turner 301-421-1740.

Let make this the best party yet!!!



## Cafeteria Snap Accounts & Students ID Cards

All Paint Branch HS students are required to scan their student ID card in order to access their cafeteria snap account. This new policy has been implemented for the protection of student accounts – to ensure that only the student account holder has access to his/her own account funds.

Students who do not have their student ID card should report to the Media Center to have their picture taken and receive an ID card.

All students receive a new ID card each year at no cost. There is a \$5 replacement fee for those who have lost their ID card.



**Paint Branch Parents!**  
**Please donate or help with the After-Prom!**

**PROM: Junior/Senior Prom, Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 to 12:00 PM at the Pooks Hill Marriott**

**AFTER-PROM CELEBRATION:** "007 Adventures" Theme, immediately follows the Prom, 12:00 midnight to 5:00 AM, at Resurrection Church Hall, corner of Old Columbia Pike and Greencastle Road. Attire: casual. This year's activities include: Casino with Black Jack, Texas Hold'em and Roulette, Caricature Artists, Theme Photos, Air Brush Tattoos, DJ with light show, Virtual Reality Car, prizes, plenty of food, chocolate fountains and ice cream sundaes, Italian Ice, coffee bar and much more! All this is FREE to juniors and seniors and their prom dates. Tickets will be available the week before the Prom.

We would like to thank the following families that donated at the Spring Back-to-School Night:  
the Carr Family, the Argue Family, the Dzierzanowski Family, the Michnewich/Moschella Family, the Gudenius Family, the Jolly Family, and the Twigg Family. THANKS SO MUCH for supporting the After-Prom!

*Please cut off and return to the address below with your contribution or volunteer request.*

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

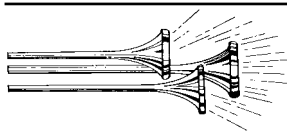
(Checks should be made payable to "Paint Branch PTSA After-Prom".)

I would like to volunteer to:

- Set up before the After-Prom (6:00 to midnight)      Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Work during the After-Prom (12 to 5 am)              Email \_\_\_\_\_
- Clean-up after the event (5 am - 6am)                  Home phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Donate a gift certificate or prize.    Details: \_\_\_\_\_

***Return to the Main Office or mail to:***

***Paint Branch High School, ATTN: After-Prom, 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866***



## Teachers and Students Continue to Demonstrate Why PBHS is a Nationally Recognized School of Excellence

### **Paint Branch Athletic Director Named Athletic Director of the Year**

Jeff Sullivan, Athletic Director at Paint Branch High School, has been named Athletic Director of the Year for District II B by the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association. Mr. Sullivan was selected by his peers for his significant contributions to the Paint Branch community, as well as the impact he has on the lives of his student-athletes.

Mr. Sullivan has been Athletic Director for the past four years at Paint Branch. Under Mr. Sullivan's leadership, the Paint Branch athletic department has made several strides. In addition to success on the playing field, Mr. Sullivan has overseen several facility improvements and department improvements during his tenure. Mr. Sullivan has also established a strong relationship with the Paint Branch All-Sports Booster club.

Prior to receiving the AD of the Year Award, Mr. Sullivan received his national certification in Athletic Administration (CAA) from the NIAAA in October 2005.

Mr. Sullivan's award continues a great athletic tradition here at Paint Branch. He is the third Paint Branch athletic director to be named Athletic Director of the Year, the most of any school since the award was established in 1978. The other two Paint Branch athletic directors earning the award were Bob Foster in 1978 and Butch Hilliard in 1996.

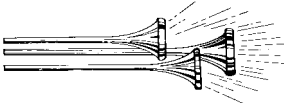
### **Paint Branch Teacher and Students Selected for Prestigious Howard Hughes/National Institutes of Health Internships**

Paint Branch High School, *Academy of Science and Media* is pleased to announce that Biology and Biotechnology Teacher **Elaina A. Berres**, and juniors **Claudia Ngo** and **Chinyere Okunji** were awarded a highly prized Howard Hughes Medical Institute/National Institutes of Health/Montgomery County Public Schools (HHMI/NIH/MCPS) Internship.

Ms. Berres' paid seven week internship will run from June 25 – August 10, 2007 and will allow her to continue her research at the National Institutes of Health. Ms. Berres will also develop an instructional unit which will be posted on the MCPS Web site so that she will be able to share her work with other teachers. Ms. Berres' research will culminate in a presentation at a luncheon on August 10, 2007.

Claudia Ngo and Chinyere Okunji, who were selected as student interns for the 2007 – 2008 school year, will start their paid, eight week summer internship in June 2007 which culminates in a presentation of their research in May 2008. Howard Hughes/NIH internships are highly prized and unique internships offered to high school students in their senior year.

Only 20 students each year are selected from Montgomery County high schools. It is rare to have two students selected from the same high school. This continues a long tradition of having two students from Paint Branch awarded Howard Hughes Internships.



## Teachers and Students Continue to Demonstrate Why PBHS is a Nationally Recognized School of Excellence

### Paint Branch NJROTC Students Awarded Scholarships

Paint Branch High School Seniors **Sean Dzierzanowski**, **Daniel Michnewich** and **Brian Yee** recently were notified of selection for Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and Service Academy scholarships worth nearly 1.5 million dollars. All three are cadet officers in the NJROTC Program.

Cadet Dzierzanowski has received an appointment (full scholarship) to the United States Military Academy at West Point. If he selects this option, he would get what many feel is an "Ivy League" education and be commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U. S. Army upon graduation. The United States government, on the average, spends a million dollars on the educational and professional development of each cadet/midshipman over his/her four years at a Service Academy. Cadet Dzierzanowski is awaiting word from the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Cadet Dzierzanowski is the current Commanding Officer of the 100 student NJROTC Unit at Paint Branch, Cadet Michnewich is last year's Commanding Officer, and Cadet Yee is the Executive Officer (second in command) of this year's unit. Cadet Dzierzanowski is the Student Government President as well, and both he and Cadet Michnewich have attained Eagle Scout rank. NJROTC is a citizenship program, sponsored by the Navy and Montgomery County, which is focused on making students better students and citizens, and not recruiting them for military service.

Cadet Michnewich has been a member of the NJROTC Program since its inception at Paint Branch four years ago. He is the highest ranking cadet and, because of his academics and well-roundedness, is an exceptional candidate for an appointment to the prestigious Naval Academy. He already has been selected to receive a full four-year scholarship to Virginia Military Institute (VMI), the nation's oldest state-affiliated military institution. ROTC Scholarships pay for all tuition, fees, and books and provide a \$350 stipend a month for essentials. The scholarships can be worth up to \$150,000.00. Cadet Michnewich is also awaiting a decision regarding admission from both the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

Cadet Yee has been involved with the NJROTC Program since his sophomore year in high school. He has been the Color Guard Commander in years past, presenting our National Colors at countless athletic contests and community events. He is currently the unit's Executive Officer, leading and coordinating the efforts of all cadets in a myriad of activities. Cadet Yee has been offered a full four-year Navy ROTC Scholarship to Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He has yet to receive a final decision on his requests for scholarships to other NROTC Universities.

Paint Branch NJROTC was brought to Paint Branch 4 years ago by Principal Jeanette Dixon and is under the direction of Commander Joe DeCavage and Chief Scott Williams, both retired from the Navy. The NJROTC program has earned Distinguished Unit status placing the unit in the top five percent of the 630 programs nationwide. The ranking is based upon competitions in academics, military drill, color guard, athletics and community service. Being a cadet leader in a top-notch unit such as Paint Branch provides a huge advantage in obtaining scholarship offers/appointments.

NROTC is offered at 80 of the nation's foremost universities, including the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Yale. Students apply at the beginning of their Senior year and normally are notified by late Winter of the service's decision.

Students or parents interested in learning more about these scholarship opportunities or Navy Junior ROTC may contact Commander DeCavage at Paint Branch High School.

## Maryland High School Assessment Information

Beginning with the graduating class of 2009 (entered grade 9 in 2005), a student must pass the Maryland High School Assessments (HSAs) for English 10, Algebra 1, Biology, and National, State, and Local Government. A website has been developed by MCPS to help parents understand the HSAs and to help encourage student achievement while preparing for the tests each year. The website may be accessed at: [www.mcpsHSA.org](http://www.mcpsHSA.org)

The High School Assessment Information website provided by MCPS contains helpful information such as:

- what the four HSAs are all about
- when students take the tests (calendar)
- what scores are needed to pass the HSAs
- what happens if a student does not pass the test the first time
- ways parents can help encourage achievement
- the performance report for all state assessments
- samples and rubrics for scoring the brief constructed response questions on the HSAs
- HSA prep online for English and Algebra
- the latest information for graduation requirements,
- parent guides, and an overview in English, Spanish and Vietnamese

## 2007 HSAs Testing Schedule

Test	Day	Date	Time
English 10	Monday	May 21	7:25 am—10:45am
Biology	Tuesday	May 22	7:25 am—10:45am
Algebra	Thursday	May 24	7:25 am—10:45am
NSL Government	Friday	May 25	7:25 am—10:45am



Paint Branch High School  
2006-2007 PTSA Membership Form



*It's never too late to join!*

Membership is traditionally the PTSA's primary fundraiser. For each Membership of \$15 we pay fees that total \$4 to the National, State, and County PTA Organizations. Donation dollars are used only for PBHS PTSA programs. We recommend at least one Membership per family (Membership is required to vote) and will gladly accept and appreciate any additional donations. Joining the PTSA is the only way to get a Student Directory.

**Membership Dues and Donations are Tax Deductible**

**Individual Membership: \$15 for the first adult, \$10 for additional adult member, \$7.50 for each student/staff member.**

**Name(s) - Please Print.**

_____	Parent
_____	Parent
_____	Student(s), Grade(s) _____
_____	Staff

Total Individual Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation to PTSA (100% goes to PBHS)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*For every \$15 donation, your family will receive a burgundy magnet panther paw to display on your car.* **Total Amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult's E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form and your check (payable to PBHS PTSA) to:**

Paint Branch High School PTSA

*Join and Support the Paint Branch PTSA!*

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Burtonsville, MD 20866-1799

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## PBHS Calendar

### March

- 26 Third Marking Period Ends  
27 Professional Day for Teachers—No school for students

### April

- 2 – 9 Spring Break—No school for students and teachers  
13 –14 & Spring Musical—Once Upon a Mattress  
20 – 21  
17 PTSA General Membership Meeting—7 pm—Media Center  
(*childcare provided*)  
20 Shake Fest “A Celebration of Shakespeare’s Birthday & Life”  
23 Band Booster Meeting—7:00 pm—Band Room  
26 Senior Parent Graduation Meeting—7:00 pm—Auditorium

***Your PTSA dues and donations pay for the printing and mailing of this newsletter. Please support the PTSA!***