



# Panther Press

Paint Branch High School PTSA

November 2006

Issue 2



Inside This Issue ..	
President's Letter	1
Principal's Message	1
PTSA Officers	2
PTSA Meetings	2
PBHS Cluster Representatives	3
Help the PTSA Decide How To Allocate \$10k	4
Important Places to Hang out	5
Links to Important Information	5
Volunteer for Terps Concession Stand	5
Citrus Fruit Sale	6
Help Plan for the Jr/Sr Prom and After Prom	6
Class of '07- June 6th Graduation	6
PBHS NAF News	7
California Dreaming?	7
Giant A+ Bonus Bucks	7
PBHS Students Continue to Excel	8 – 10
PTSA Membership	11
<p><b>Next Newsletter Deadline: Jan 16</b></p> <p>Submit articles to B. Haymon at: <a href="mailto:bjh4535-2@comcast.net">bjh4535-2@comcast.net</a> or drop in the PTSA Newsletter box located in the Main Office.</p>	

## From Your PTSA President

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Paint Branch PTSA President's letter can be tough to write. At least for me, anyway. Not because I'm obligated to "spin" my message to make it sound more appealing – the truth is Paint Branch is a truly excellent school, with excellent staff, hard working students, supported by an amazingly dedicated number of parents who share their gifts in countless ways. And not because I don't have the time – yes, my time is limited (as I'm sure your time is) by job, by family, and by life (not to mention suffering through each passing Redskins' loss). Yet, I squeeze this letter-writing into my to-do list, just as you make time for those things you must do.

The truth is, writing this "From Your PTSA President" letter at Paint Branch is particularly difficult because of one thing: Because it's tough to speak for "the school." This letter does not pre-suppose to speak *for* everyone at Paint Branch, but it is suppose to speak *to* everyone. *Who exactly is Paint Branch?*

Paint Branch is a setting of diverse interests . . . just look at how and where we choose to spend much of our time, energy, and money, and the truth is clear.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Exciting things are happening at Paint Branch. We are now in the third phase of our modernization---the design phase (having completed the educational specifications and feasibility study). If you have ideas about what you think our new facility should look like, I invite you to join us for one or all of the meetings posted on our school's website.

On November 2nd, we held our annual Open House for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents. These 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be the first class to occupy and graduate from the new Paint Branch. While it will be wonderful to have a new building, and will no doubt place us on a level playing field in terms of facilities, I hope students will choose our school based on our outstanding instructional and extracurricular programs. I could not be more proud of our students and staff.

*(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)

We're made up of soccer families and drama club families, baseball families and band families. We are a step team, anime, cross country team, newspaper award winners, a field hockey team, mathlete, swimming team, pompon team, NJROTC, wrestling team, and color guard families. And so much more. We are an incredible mix of races and religions, of A students and C students, of every level of economic income, and of people representing literally dozens of cultures and countries. Paint Branch is a school of almost two thousand *individual* students and staff, and all of this diversity is exactly what I and so many others love about our school . . . but it's also why writing this President's letter can seem to be such a daunting task. To speak with a unified voice on a unified topic is at best a challenge, and at worst, seemingly impossible.

So, what does one say? Well, let me try, and let me use just one word to convey my message: *community*. Paint Branch is recognized for its rich diversity and it is indeed cause for celebration. But, our sense of *community* - the uniting of all this diversity for the good of all, the idea that we're working together for the good of *everyone* - is what will guide Paint Branch as it continues to be an even better school. And how do we nurture this idea of "community?" By what we say and what we do - through genuine compassion, appreciation, respect, and support for every student, every staff member, and every aspect of our school community. These words - compassion, appreciation, respect, and support - aren't just convenient buzzwords, they are words of action and intent. These are guiding principles from which to live and to lead, and these principles will guide your PTSA this year. Do not misunderstand me . . . the expectations for the individual are not negated by this commitment to community. The bar is still set high. We all must continually seek and expect the highest levels of responsibility and dedication to excellence from everyone - students, staff, and parents - in every aspect of their school experience. But we know that for *all* to succeed, then *every individual and every group* needs to know that they have the support, the respect, the appreciation, and the compassion of their fellow students, staff, and parents as they strive to meet their goals. They need community. We are not, and cannot be, us and them. Who is Paint Branch? We are one *community*.

I announced at Back to School Night that we were seeking to break the 500-member mark in the PTSA this year. As of this writing, we are well past 400 members and our goal of 500 members is very much within our reach. If you haven't yet gotten around to joining, I ask that you do so now. (See page 11 of this newsletter for the form.) Please join your PTSA as we continue to work for you, for your child(ren), and for all those who make up our Paint Branch *Community*.

**Don Hauprich, PTSA President**

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

(home) 301-476-9228

PS - If, during this mid-term election season, you've become (understandably) leery of virtually anything anyone says, and you're thinking to yourself, "Nice article, Don, but these are just words" . . . then please check out the article on page 4 of this newsletter. Your PTSA is seeking *your input* as to how, in your opinion, \$10k could be best allocated to serve your Paint Branch Community. You are a part of our community, and we'd love to hear from you.

### 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, November 21  
 Tuesday, December 19  
 Tuesday, January 16  
 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.
- Descriptions of all the PTSA committees are posted on the Paint Branch web site at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/paintbranchhs>—click on PTSA.
- If you would like to help, please contact the committee chair or PTSA President, Don Hauprich at 301-476-9228.

*continued on next column*

## Principal's Message

(Continued from page 1)

We administered approximately 800 advanced placement tests this year and had 109 students who were named Advanced Placement scholars including three National AP Scholars. Twenty nine students won Maryland Distinguished Scholar Awards, our SATs are 1548 out of 2400, and students improved on all of the High School Assessment Exams in Algebra, English, NSL and Biology. Our data and that of all schools in Montgomery County and the state of Maryland can be found at [www.mdreportcard.org](http://www.mdreportcard.org). Check it out! See how we compare with like schools for a true appreciation of how well our students are doing.

A big THANK YOU for your support in ensuring that your 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders were in school on October 18<sup>th</sup> to take the PSAT. I am pleased that our participation rate increased from 85% last year to 97% this year. When we receive the results, we will have a PSAT Day to follow-up with students to help them understand their individual results.

In addition to our academic goals, the longer I serve as principal the more I believe that students also benefit from the opportunity to go places where they learn new things and experience other countries/cultures, art museums, historical sites and plays. Exposure to all of these experiences makes for a well-rounded student, builds a sense of community, and helps enrich our lives. Thanks to Pam Leffler, and our Smaller Learning Communities Grant, our 9<sup>th</sup> graders went on a field trip to the Maryland Science Center and had a wonderful experience and established a new tradition at Paint Branch. Our NJROTC traveled to the naval base at Norfolk, Virginia at the end of October under the auspices of Commander DeCavage and Chief Williams. We had 35 students and 5 teachers from France visit for two weeks during October 5<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>. Our students will get to travel to France in March as a part of this exchange arranged by Ms. Schwartz-Menyuk. Our students traveled to Japan this summer for several weeks with Ms. Raser and Ms. Whitney and had the opportunity to meet the new Japanese Prime Minister Abe. Students will be traveling to Greece and Italy during spring break with Ms. Paoloni. Students in the Gilder-Lehrman American History Scholars Program will be traveling to San Francisco with Ms. Jones, and to New York City with Ms. Johnson. We appreciate the willingness of staff who give of their time to sponsor these trips.

We had a wonderful Homecoming. It kicked off with Spirit Week, which occurred from November 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and culminated with the Varsity football game against

Northwood H.S. The JV played on Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> and the parade began at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday along Old Columbia Pike from Banneker M.S. to Paint Branch H.S. The Homecoming Dance was held in our gym from 8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. This year's theme was Super Heroes. We hope everyone had a good time and we appreciate your support in talking with your student(s) about ensuring that all of our festivities were drug and alcohol free.

I am pleased to announce that the 36<sup>th</sup> Paint Branch High School Commencement for the Class of 2007 will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall.

Finally, we are having a great school year. On behalf of my staff, thank you for your support. We all hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving sharing time with friends and family.

*Jeanette Dixon, Principal*

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### Paint Branch Cluster Representatives

Anne Carson and Patti Twigg will be representing Paint Branch HS at the Northeast Consortium Clusters meetings this school year. The meetings are held monthly and are open to anyone that wishes to attend. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the cluster or the Consortium, please let them know.

Be sure to visit the Northeast Consortium website for the latest information on the choice process:

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/nec/>

*Patti Twigg*

301-384-3847

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

*Anne Carson*

301-890-6785

[annezangari@yahoo.com](mailto:annezangari@yahoo.com)

# Help the PTSA Make a Difference at Paint Branch!

This year, our PTSA is planning to make a significant financial contribution to benefit our Paint Branch educational community. The PTSA Executive Committee is seeking your ideas and suggestions regarding how to allocate what should amount to approximately \$10,000 in funds.

Please take time to brainstorm with your child/student for ideas . . . ask your child’s teachers for suggestions, and also give some serious thought to how you, our parents, would like to see the excess funds allocated. When thinking about how best to use these funds, please consider the goals listed below, which are stated in the PTSA By-laws:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship,
- To raise the standards of home life,
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth, and
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Your PTSA has a genuine concern and vested interest in the personal and educational well-being of all students and staff at Paint Branch. We value any and all input from members of this community! **Please send your ideas - by November 17<sup>th</sup>** - to Elaine Hill, PTSA Treasurer, either via e-mail at [chrisnelaine@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisnelaine@yahoo.com) or by completing the form below. Send the form to school with your child to put in the PTSA mailbox. The Executive Committee will compile the suggestions and present ideas to the membership at the November 21<sup>st</sup> PTSA meeting. We look forward to receiving your suggestions and seeing you at the next PTSA meeting.

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## Suggestions for Allocating PTSA Funds

I suggest the PTSA use the surplus funds in the following way(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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I am a (*please check one*):       Parent                       Student                       Staff

## Important Places to Hang Out

**PTSA Meetings**—Attending PTSA meetings is a good way to connect with other parents and with the school, and a good way to meet wonderful people who share similar interests. Refer to page 2 for dates of meetings.

**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)

Please be sure to include your name and phone number in the body of the message.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If you are not receiving paintbranchnet messages but you signed up, there is probably a problem. Maybe we could not read your email address, or your anti-spam settings are not allowing the messages through. SpamCop frequently includes Yahoo on its blacklist, so if your email service uses their list, your messages are probably being blocked. If you change email addresses and want to continue getting messages, please let me know so I can subscribe your new address. If you think you should be getting messages and are not, please email Patti Twigg, Communications Chair, at [ltwigg@erols.com](mailto:ltwigg@erols.com) ASAP so we can figure out what the problem is. There are currently about 20 email addresses that are bouncing.

**PBHS Website**—The school's website has a lot of great information, from sports to the school calendar. The website address is:

<http://www.paintbranchhighschool.org>

## Other Links to Important Information

- **New Grading & Reporting Information**

New documents outline for parents the standards-based grading and reporting system.

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/info/grading>

- **Special Needs Committee**

The MCCPTA website has good, up to date lists of upcoming meetings and seminars. The main page for the MCCPTA Special Needs Committee is:

<http://www.mccpta.net/specneeds.html>

A comprehensive list of workshops and seminars can be found by either scrolling to the bottom of the page listed on the website's main page, or going directly to:

<http://www.mccpta.com/speedCal.html>

A list of Next Steps School to Adult Living Workshops from MCPS Transition Services can be found at:

<http://www.mccpta.com/nextSteps.html>

**Patti Twigg**

Communications Chair

## Volunteers Still Needed for UM Terps Concession Stand

The PTSA still needs parent and student volunteers to work the concession stand for the following games (time TBA):

- Saturday, November 25th (Wake Forest)
- Saturday, January 6th, 12 pm (Lady Terps Basketball game)

This is a major fundraising project for the year. Twenty to twenty-five volunteers per game are needed to run the stand with the help of a stand manager provided by the University. A volunteer must be able to commit to arrive at the stand approximately 3 hours before game time and stay one hour after the game ends to help clean up.



Adults and students (minimum age 14) can work and there is no training necessary. There is a meal allowance at the stand during the event for all volunteers. Students earn service learning credit and it is an opportunity to meet and work with others in the Paint Branch Community.

Last year we profited over \$6,000.00, which funded many projects, including this newsletter. Please pick one of the dates listed above and call:

**Sue Berger at 301-890-4111 ASAP**

## Citrus Fruit Sale

You can order delicious Florida citrus through the PBHS Instrumental Music Boosters now through November 10th (citrus to arrive early to mid-December). Small cartons weigh approximately 20 lbs. Large cartons weigh approximately 40 lbs.

Small Carton Naval Oranges:	\$18
Large Carton Naval Oranges:	\$28
Small Carton Grapefruit:	\$18
Large Carton Grapefruit:	\$28
Small Carton Mixed Naval/Grapefruit:	\$21
Large Carton Mixed Naval/Grapefruit:	\$31
Small Carton Tangelos:	\$18
Large Carton Tangelos:	\$28

### Send order to:

Paint Branch High School  
14121 Old Columbia Pike  
Burtonsville, MD 20866

c/o PBHS Band Boosters

or contact Ruth McFadden at:  
[mcfaden@staticpwr.com](mailto:mcfaden@staticpwr.com) or 301-890-4140.

Make checks payable to PHBS Band Boosters

## Time to Plan Junior/Senior After Prom

Yes, PBHS Parents, in less than 200 days, we will be celebrating our Jr/Sr Prom and After Prom! I know it must seem ridiculous to begin reaching out this early, but plans have to be made, money has to be raised, and volunteers need to be registered before all the fun begins and memories made.

Connie Ewart and Barbara Turner are co-chairing this year's After Prom event and have already started to implement some changes. First, they have asked the Senior Class to vote on the "theme" from a list of three (yet to be determined) for the After Prom event. Additionally, they have reached out to the Sophomore Class officers to ask their support in helping to create the decorations and to decorate the hall. We hope this is the beginning of a new tradition at PBHS.

We want to make this After Prom event the best one ever, but we need your help in both big and small ways. Sophomore & Freshman Parents, your help is also needed...we need to pass the torch on after May, so contact Connie or Barbara to learn what is involved, after all, you'll probably be helping your students decorate on May 18th!

Parents, please help us make memories that will last a life time! To find out how you can help, contact:

**Connie Ewart or  
Barbara S. Turner  
301-421-1740**

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

## Paint Branch National Academy of Finance News

### Kick-off Luncheon and Pinning Ceremony

On September 21, 2006, over 200 students attended the National Academy of Finance (NAF) kickoff luncheon. Several Academy seniors shared their wonderful summer internship experiences. The Academy held its annual Pinning Ceremony at PBHS on October 17th for seniors who completed their internships. Sixty people enjoyed a wonderful breakfast and a delicious lunch prepared by the Panther Paw Restaurant management students. Sandra Navidi and Michelle Lipscomb from MCPS central office spoke along with Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Baber and twelve Academy of Finance Students. Mr. Diamond and Mrs. Burks handed out awards and pins to 38 seniors who completed their required internship program. Many business sponsors also attended the ceremony to share in this special event and to congratulate the students.

Testimonials on their work experience and what they have learned were given by Ashero Clark and Cynthia Huynh from Montgomery Teachers' Federal Credit Union; Wayne Zhang and Jacob White from Holy Cross Hospital; Kim Jones and Dara Winley from MCPS Budget Office; Maria Aghguiguan from Riderwood; Elizabeth Gyamfi from Harker Financial; Fatoumata Tounkara from Sandy Springs Bank; Donna Zack-Williams from the U.S. Department of Commerce; and Preston Curtis from the Amish Market. The students presented themselves very professionally and their comments were very informative and impressive.

### The Panther Trust Bank Opens

The Panther Trust Bank opened for the new season October 25, 2006. The bank is located next to the entrance to the Counseling Office and is opened on each Wednesday and Friday during LAP. Students can open an account with just \$5 by completing an application form.

### The Academy Seeks Intern Sponsors

The Paint Branch National Academy of Finance is interested in working with local businesses who would be able to sponsor a student intern during the Spring or Summer of 2007. The paid internship experience provides an excellent opportunity for interns to apply and use skills and information learned in the Finance Academy classroom. Your company will benefit by having an available source of highly trained temporary employees during critical times. An internship is an extension of the classroom where students put their skills to use in a real-world setting. The National Academy of Finance at Paint Branch High School ([www.naf.org](http://www.naf.org)) features a three and four-year academic program that augments standard curricula. In addition to the required courses, the Academy students take one or two specialized courses each semester and a college level course their senior year.

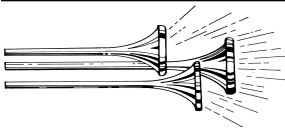
If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Susan Eckrich, Internship Coordinator, at (301) 879-1075, or via email at [Susan\\_K\\_Eckrich@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Susan_K_Eckrich@mcpsmd.org) for more information.

### Are you California Dreaming?

In connection with our Gilder Lehrman Program, a five-day, 2007 Spring Break trip to San Francisco and Monterey is available to PBHS students. The trip is coordinated by EF Smithsonian tours and will focus on the history, culture, and natural beauty of this northern California area. The trip includes flight, accommodations, ground transportation, all admission fees, and two meals a day for \$1,295.00. Check out the itinerary at: [www.efsmithsonian.com](http://www.efsmithsonian.com), then contact Ms. Jones in the Social Studies Dept. at [bonnie\\_t\\_jones@mcpsmd.org](mailto:bonnie_t_jones@mcpsmd.org) if you are interested.

### Giant 's A+ Bonus Bucks

Welcome to another year of Giant A+ Bonus Bucks. From October 2, 2006 through April 1, 2007, Paint Branch High School has the opportunity to earn cash through Giant's A+ Bonus Bucks Program. Forms are available in the school office. You may also designate our school on-line by logging on to: [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) or call toll free to register at 1-877-366-2688. Provide our school code: **00776**. Even if you designated last year, you must re-designate this year for PBHS to receive credit. Please contact Susan Eckrich, Paint Branch school coordinator for the program if you have any questions. Susan can be reach at: 301-879-1075 or via email at [Susan\\_K\\_Eckrich@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Susan_K_Eckrich@mcpsmd.org). Thanks for your support!



## Paint Branch High School Students Continue To Excel



### Paint Branch Commended Student in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program

Congratulations to PBHS students **Grace E. Cho**, **Matthew S. Copple**, and **Joseph T. Napack** on being named Commended Students in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. Letters of Commendation from PBHS and the National Merit Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, were presented by Ms. Dixon to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2007 competition for Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2007 competition by taking the 2005 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Recognition of academically talented students and the key role played by schools in their development are essential to the pursuit of educational excellence in our nation,” commented a spokesperson for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. “The young people being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their strong performance in this highly competitive program. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and that they will continue to pursue scholastic excellence.”

### PBHS Hosted French Exchange Students for Two Weeks in October

Paint Branch High School French students hosted thirty-five students from France and four of their teachers from the Lycée Claude Nicolas Ledoux in Besançon, France. The students and teachers stayed with Paint Branch French students and their families for the two-week visit October 6 – 19, 2006.

While visiting Paint Branch, the French students attended classes in Television Production, Radio, Medical Careers, Physics, Social Studies, Science, English, Literature, and a variety of other classes. The students also took numerous field trips around the area. The students science-oriented field trips included spending a day on the Chesapeake Bay performing science experiments as well as visiting NASA and the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, MD. They combined those field trips with historical interest trips including several visits to Washington, DC, and a trip to Annapolis, MD, and the US Naval Academy.

In March, 2007, Paint Branch will send a group of French language students to France. They will stay for two weeks with families of students they hosted. The Paint Branch students will attend class at the Lycée Claude Nicolas Ledoux in Besançon. They will take a number of field trips in the eastern area of France at the foot of the Jura Mountains, where the school is located. The students will also travel to Paris where they will spend three days.

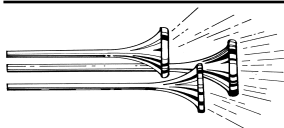
A big “Thank You” to the students and their parents for hosting our French exchange students and sharing what is best about America during their visit. The hosting students were: Angela Aloï, Sarah Blanchard, Valerie Campbell, Brianna Doherty, Ezra Douglas, Jeffrey Ekoma, Sabrina Faustin, Amy and Michelle Ferguson, Temi Fadeyi, Daniel and Brandon Gudenius, Kaitlyn Haney, Travis and Kacie Hart, Kate Hollis, Rebekah Kogok, Dania Leiva, Clayton and Sarah Lively, Jaimie Metellus, Shannon Murray, Cindy Ocran, Daniela Ochoa, Sophia Park, Beena Patel, Joanna Perry, Logan Shinholser, Evan Smith, Foluso Soniregun, Layne Tejada, Noelle Tom-Wigfield, Judith Torres, John Trotta, Emily Ulrich, Luis Valdez-Lopez, Riley Vogel, Gary Weiser and Brett Wright.

A special thanks also to the Paint Branch teachers who hosted the visiting French teachers. They included: Claire Schwartz-Menyuk, Barbara Whitney, Julie Alibrando and Randy and Bill Blair.

Paint Branch students welcomed their visitors at the Principal’s Reception Breakfast on their first day in the country, Friday, October 6. There were also pot luck dinners at the school and other social events.

The program is being coordinated by Claire Schwartz-Menyuk, a French teacher at Paint Branch High School, and the Foreign Language Department. Ms. Schwartz-Menyuk has been coordinating this program since its inception twelve years ago along with the help of other Montgomery County Foreign Language teachers and coordinators from the Lycée Claude Nicolas Ledoux. It is the only such Foreign exchange program in Montgomery County.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Paint Branch High School Students Continue to Excel



Mainstream  
Paint Branch High School  
Burtonsville, MD  
Issue Date: 10/13/2006  
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Last Update: 10/27/2006  
[Visit School Website](#)



### **Mainstream, PBHS Newspaper, Takes Top Honors**

For the second year in a row, the Paint Branch newspaper, *Mainstream*, was named a Gold Medalist in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Annual newspaper competition. *Mainstream* was commended for its "lively and entertaining" overall coverage with a "tremendous job on feature writing" and its "excellent coverage on a variety of sports." *Mainstream* earned a perfect score in "Business Operations" and near perfect scores in "Coverage, Writing and Editing, and Graphic presentation." Khellie Braxton, now a freshman at Emerson College in Boston, MA was the Editor-in-Chief of the Gold Medal winning newspaper. Journalism teacher, Brian Woodward, is in his fourth year as *Mainstream* Advisor. The *Mainstream* has won a number of awards from national and local journalism organizations under Mr. Woodward's leadership, as well as first place for its online newspaper in the Montgomery County Media Festival in 2005.

In the Towson University Journalism Competition, *Mainstream* newspaper writer, Brad Fischer, took first place in the Best Sports Feature Story category in the Towson University High School Journalism Awards. *Mainstream* also won two other awards, third place in the Best Newspaper Overall category, and second place for Best Sports News Story by Jorge Aguilera.

Mr. Fischer, a freshman journalism major at University of Missouri, was the Sports Editor of the newspaper. Mr. Fischer also participated in the *Washington Post* High School Writing Seminar and Scholarship Program which consisted of a group of Saturday seminars. He was the recipient of a \$2,500 college scholarship from the *Washington Post*. Mr. Aguilera, a freshman at University of Maryland, College Park, majoring in communications, was a staff writer.

The winners and teacher were honored, along with other winners, at Towson University on October 27, 2006 at the High School Journalism Day Awards Luncheon.

Enjoy this award winning newspaper by logging on to: <http://my.highschooljournalism.org/md/burtonsville/pbhs/>

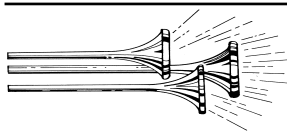
### **Paint Branch Mathematics Honor Society Inducts 45 New Members**

The Paint Branch Mathematics Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony on Monday, October 23, 2006 in the school's Media Center. Juniors and seniors were selected for this honor by earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher in all of their high school math courses taken at Paint Branch. Parents and friends were in attendance to congratulate the newest members of the society.

The Mathematics Honor Society is in its fifth year. Potential members complete an application process, must have at least a 3.5 average in mathematics, and have at least completed Algebra II. The mathematics teachers review the applications before making the final selections.

**The 2006—2007 members are:** Angela Aloi; Katherine Atallah; Kanwarpal (Paul) Bakshi; Nathalie Baptiste; Sarah Blanchard; Wai Chan; Grace Cho; Biniam Dawit; Shanu Eapen; Erick Fuentes; Kimberly Giordano; Zachary Graves; Elizabeth Gyamfi; Kate Hollis; Heena Joshi; Cina Karodeh; Christine Lay; Clayton Lively; Kyle MacNamara; Shaheen Mahmooth; Emerson Maniwang; Hirdesh Matta; Peter McGrath; Sidhartha Mohpatra; Claudia Ngo; Chinyere Okunji; Anuj Patel; Linh Pham; Stephanie Pham; Chelsea Priester; Rachel Rosario; Sehar Sabir; Saumil Sheth; Rebecca Shin; Aida Soleman; Matthew Stalbaum; Ronald Stubblefield; Sanata Sy-Sahande; Michelle Tabisz; Kevin Tang; Christine Vandeyar; Eric Vaughn; Sung Yi; Wayne Zhang; and Xuemin (Rosie) Zhang.

(Continued on page 10)



## Paint Branch High School Students Continue To Excel

### 109 Paint Branch Students Named AP Scholars By College Board

One hundred and nine students from Paint Branch High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.3 million high school students in 16,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

Students took AP exams in May 2006 after completing challenging, college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP exams.

#### At Paint Branch:

- Three students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher (on a 5-point scale) on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.
- Thirty-five students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
- Twenty-six students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- Forty-eight Paint Branch students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Examinations with grades of 3 or higher.
- Thirty-five students were sophomores or juniors.
- This is the fifth consecutive year that AP enrollment has increased and the second year in a row in which over 100 Paint Branch students were named AP Scholars. The number of AP Scholars has doubled since 2003. Paint Branch offers twenty-four Advanced Placement courses to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
- Last year, 432 students sat for a total of 755 exams with a majority of the students scoring a 3, 4 or 5, thus earning them college credit. Over twenty-five percent of Paint Branch students are enrolled in Advanced Placement classes.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement or both based on successful performance on the AP Exams. More than 1,400 institutions award a full year's credit (sophomore standing) to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades.

**Brian Eichenlaub**  
Signature Coordinator



Paint Branch High School
2006-2007 PTSA Membership Form



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.

Form with four horizontal lines for names and corresponding labels: 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
14121 Old Columbia Pike



Join and Support the Paint Branch PTSA!

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## **PBHS Calendar**

Nov	21	PTSA General Membership Meeting—7 pm—Media Center
	23-24	Holidays - Thanksgiving
Dec	14	Choral and Band Winter Concert 7 pm Auditorium
	19	PTSA General Membership Meeting—7 pm—Media Center
	25	Holiday - Christmas
Dec	26-29	Winter Break - No School
Jan	1	Holiday—New Year's
	2	First day of school after Holiday and Winter Break
	15	Holiday—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
	16	PTSA General Membership Meeting—7 pm—Media Center

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