



Pope High School
PTSA[®]
everychild.one voice.

HOUND HIGHLIGHTS

A Weekly PTSA E-Newsletter for Pope High School Parents and Students
 3001 Hembree Road, Marietta GA 30062, 770-578-7900
 Vol. 8, No. 09 ♦ Thursday, October 8, 2009



Send submissions to houndhighlights@popeptsa.org ♦ Deadline: Tuesdays 5PM

IMPORTANT DATES

October 10	Homecoming Dance, 7:30 – 11:00 PM
October 12	Reflections Entries Due
October 14	PSAT
October 19	Blood Drive
October 21	Early Release, 1:25 PM
November 3	No School – Election Day

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION...

I want to thank our parent and teacher volunteers that made “Cool Schools” such a tremendous success. Once again, our PTSA has shone as one of the best in the country at providing our students and faculty with the support they need to be successful. Our school is fortunate to have such caring and competent individuals.

On another note, six week grades should have recently arrived home. I encourage you to give your child a pat on the back for their good work. Be proactive in helping in areas where they may be struggling by working closely with your child’s teacher as Pope has some of the best! I hope you and your child are enjoying the Pope experience and that you continue to feel well served. Sincerely, Rick Beaulieu

BENCHMARK TESTING

During the weeks of October 12 - 23, students enrolled in 9th Lit, Math I, Math II, Biology, and Physics will take the county mandated Benchmark Test #1. These tests will be taken during their normal class meeting times. There will be a second benchmark test in January in each of the above subjects to monitor progress and readiness for the EOCT on material learned up to that point. These tests are used to analyze mastery of the standards throughout the year in preparation for the End of Course Test (EOCT) in May.

SCHOOL ENTRANCE / TARDY ISSUES

We understand the difficulty of only having one entrance in and out of Pope High School and the added nuisance of the blocked turning lane. However, we are concerned with the number of students who are missing valuable instructional time by being tardy to school. Please help us maintain the integrity of first period by leaving home earlier to compensate for the additional time needed to be in class by 8:25 AM sharp.

If you have any ideas about how improvements could be made to resolve the traffic issues caused by the single entrance, please contact Dr. Gordon Pritz, Associate Superintendent and Operational Support, Cobb County School District at gordan.pritz@cobbk12.org.

PUPIL PERSONNEL OFFICE (PPO) – DID YOU KNOW?

If your student needs to be dismissed before the end of school:

- a) Write a note including the student's name, student ID number, and student grade, the time they need to leave, and the reason for leaving.
 - b) Have your student bring it to PPO before school starts and we will give them a slip to get out of class at the appointed time.
 - c) You will need to come in to PPO to show ID and sign them out. Your student will meet you in PPO.
- **If an appointment comes up during the day, call PPO (770) 578-7900 x251 and let us know. We will try to get a note to your child to meet you in PPO at the time you request.

If your student gets sick during school:

The student should go to the clinic. If they call you or text you asking you to pick them up, instruct them to go to the clinic and have the nurse call you. Your student will be in PPO waiting for you by the time you get here.

If your student is out sick all day:

You have **3 days**, after their return to school, to send a note to have the absence excused.

If your student comes in late:

The student should bring a note from a parent if they are sick, or a note from the doctor's office, or a note from court if they had an appointment. If they forget the note, they only have **1 day** to bring it in. Failure to bring in a note will result in the absence remaining "unexcused."

You can check Pinnacle for detailed attendance information:

If you get an automated call (or if you are just curious) you can

- a) Log on to Pinnacle at www.cobbk12.org, look on the left side column & it will say "Pinnacle (Parents)". Click and use your Pinnacle login and password.
- b) Click on "Attendance Report." Scroll down to see the detail by period.
- c) At the bottom, you can click on "Attendance Code Legend" to see what each of the codes mean. You can also click on "email notification" and go through the steps to be notified by email if there are any unexcused absences or if grades fall below a certain level.

PTSA NEWS

DIRECTORIES

The Pope Student directory has been distributed to those students who pre-paid and ordered a copy. If you didn't get your order in on time, or would like an extra copy, we have several on sale for \$5 at the Spirit Store (Fridays in the Main Hall). Questions? Contact Sirpa Horstman at pikisworld@gmail.com. Once again, congratulations to Rebecca Martin, Sarah Hoefer, and Avi Tohar for their wonderful artwork that is portrayed on the front, back, and inside back covers of the directory. Thank you to our art teacher Ms. Johnson for coordinating the Cover Art Contest, and also a warm thank you to Peggy Miller for facilitating every aspect of the production.

2009-10 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM THEME: "BEAUTY IS..!"

PTSA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create and submit works of art for fun and recognition in six areas: **dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which include art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage)**. Entries will also be accepted in the Georgia Special Artists division, a division for students with special needs. Pope winners will receive a gift card and advance to the county level. All participants will receive recognition.

Information flyers are located in the Media Center. The **due date for entries is October 12**. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Wardlaw at kasjw@bellsouth.net or Sharon Dershowitz at shadersh@aol.com.

BLOOD DRIVE

Parent volunteers are needed October 19 to pass out drinks and snacks to the blood donors. We need 2 parents for each 2 hour shift: 9:30-11:30; 11:30-1:30; 1:30 -3:00. Please contact Pam Ziskend at 770-645-7763 or pamziskend@yahoo.com.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE AT POPE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

Is your teen **READY AND PREPARED** to drive on Georgia's roads? As parents, we have the responsibility to make sure our teens know how to drive safely, not only to protect their lives, but also the lives of other people on the roads! Teens need formal driver's instruction, behind-the-wheel training, and lots of everyday driving experience before they are able to drive responsibly and safely. The PTSA promotes safe teen driving and advocates teen driving educational programs in order to reduce the risk of teens being involved in traffic crashes. Our upcoming course will be conducted by Larry Musselman of Safe America, a licensed instructor certified by the Georgia Department of Driver Safety. The program will focus on driving safety, hazard recognition, visibility, maneuvering in urban, rural and expressway situations, adverse conditions, and being a defensive driver. Alcohol, drugs, distractions, fatigue and aggression/road rage will also be discussed. Course participants will have the opportunity to experience "driving simulators" which replicate what it is like to drive in adverse driving conditions. Please complete the registration form on the last page of this email and return it to the PPO office with your payment.

FOUNDATION NEWS

GOLF MARATHON

Many of you may already be aware of the Foundation's Golf Marathon, scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Marietta Country Club. On that day, representatives from 15 different booster clubs and the Foundation will be playing 54 holes of golf in ONE day....all while trying to raise much needed funds for their clubs. This golf marathon is similar to a walk-a-thon or jog-a-thon with players (and their booster club members) soliciting pledges based on the number of holes that the golfer completes. What does this mean for YOU? We hope that when asked, you will agree to pledge your support in the form of a donation per hole, or even a flat donation. You'll receive an invoice after the event with your total amount due, based on your pledge. If you would like to sponsor a Foundation golfer in this fundraiser, please contact us at info@popehighschoolfoundation.com and we will be in touch with you to provide you a pledge form. Thank you in advance - from all the participating booster clubs and the Foundation - for supporting this Fall fundraiser.

SCHOOL COUNSELING NEWS

PSAT INFORMATION

The PSAT will be administered on October 14 to the 10th and 11th graders. The State of Georgia will pay the \$13 test fee for all 10th graders but the 11th graders must pay his/her own fee in order for the test to be scored. Please bring \$13 in cash or a check made out to Pope High School to the Pope Counseling Office. If you have any questions please contact Janet Callahan in the Pope Counseling Office. This test is recommended for all eleventh grade students, especially those who wish to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Program. The PSAT is a great opportunity to practice before taking the actual SAT, and an excellent predictor of future SAT performance.

PROJECT 2400

Project 2400, sponsored by the Cobb County Education Foundation, the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, and the Cobb County School District, is an opportunity for students who are currently juniors at Pope to participate in a Princeton Review SAT Preparatory course for free. Students who participated in the project last year saw wonderful gains on their SAT scores. A mandatory meeting will be held on Thursday October 15 at 7:00 PM in the Pope theater. Attendance at the meeting is a prerequisite for your child's participation in the program. Information regarding requirements and how to apply for the class are available in the Pope Counseling Office or by going to www.popehigh.com, select Academics, School Counseling, and the Counseling Website. Click on the *Project 2400* page. Please download information about the class and the forms needed to apply for the class. Pay particular attention to the deadlines for turning in the signed POPE GUIDELINES, the STUDENT AND PARENT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, and the PARENT RELEASE FORM to Mrs. Ledbetter in the Counseling Office. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ledbetter in the Counseling Office at 770-578-7903 or by email at Janie.ledbetter@cobbk12.org. We are very excited that this opportunity is available for our juniors. The information and application forms will also be available at the October 15 meeting.

FRESHMAN PARENT NIGHT: HIGH SCHOOL 101 – NEW DATE

An informational meeting for freshman parents will be held on Monday, October 19 in the Pope theater at 7:00 PM. We will be discussing graduation and promotion requirements, freshman advisement dates, and resources to help your child be successful in high school and plan for the future.

CLUB & COMMUNITY NEWS

INTERACT CLUB

Interact will have its next meeting on 10/14. We will have our induction ceremony and our sponsoring Rotary Club President will be there. Of course there will be lots of food. It's never too late to join Interact so all new members welcome. We will meet in room 308 at 7:45 AM.

POPE'S MEN OF DISTINCTION

Pope's Men of Distinction is sponsoring a clothing drive: Power of Pope, "The Great Closet Clean Out." As we transition into our fall wardrobes, why not donate the items that you will likely not wear this year? These items will be given to the Salvation Army to help those displaced by the recent flood. We are accepting clean clothing of all sizes and toiletries in our collection bins around school. We ask that you place these items in bags. Thanks for helping those in need.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our Make A Difference project which was originally scheduled for October 24 will now happen on Saturday November 7. We will go the Habitat neighborhood in Austell where we have built three homes and work on helping the homeowners get their yards spruced up and "flowered" for a gigantic celebration that will take place in that neighborhood, called Hillcrest East and West on the next Saturday. With the last two houses that are currently being built, the neighborhood will be finished. Also, please keep in mind that we are starting to collect auction items for the Greyhound Gala in February, 2010.

7th ANNUAL NADER PARMAN II MEMORIAL RUN, RACE & REMEMBER

Join us on Sunday, October 18 at MJCCA Shirley Blumenthal Park, 8:00 AM - 5K Road Race/Fitness Walk, 12:45 PM - 1-mile Youth Run & 50 Yd Tot Trot. For more information visit: <http://www.atlantajcc.org/npr>.

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Molly Schenck and Zach Tupper. Molly won the Westover Invitational this past weekend. She set a new school record for Cross Country. She had a time of 18:30. Zack finished 3rd in the Westover Invitational. He also set a personal record and he is second in school history with a time of 15:42.

Congratulations to the Pope Softball Team. They finished a great year, but they fell one game short of qualifying for the state tournament.

The cheerleading competition team finished 5th in their first competition of the year. They will be back in competition this Saturday. Good luck on the rest of the season.

The Volleyball team is currently ranked #11 in the country. They will start the 1st round of the area tournament on Thursday, October 8 at 5:00 PM. Please come and support these wonderful girls as they prepare to finish the season.

The football team will return to action this Friday at Pope. This is the homecoming game. Come and enjoy the festivities.

Congratulations to the Pope Greyhound Fencing Club on their excellent showing at the Lassiter tournament in September. Luke Eoff and Harrison Shapiro tied for third place in the Men's division while Chloe Bowman tied for third place in the Women's division. Alexandra Berkowitz was a finalist, finishing second in a very close bout. Light 'Em Up, Greyhounds. Mark your calendar to see fencing in action on Saturday, November 14 at Pope when we host the monthly tournament.

POPE LETTER JACKETS

Come get sized for Letter Jackets during lunch on Friday, October 16. Any questions? Contact Coach Abney at Patrick.Abney@cobbk12.org.

GO HOUNDS!

Please make ptsa@popehs.ptsamail.com "an acceptable email address." It is used to distribute Hound Highlights. We will still communicate and subscribe through houndhighlights@popepsa.org. Hound Highlights will also be posted on the www.popehigh.com website each Friday.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

This course is offered to students who already have their Learner's Permit or Driver's License, and who have had some driving experience. It may qualify your student for a reduction in car insurance premium. Check with your agent.

COURSE INFORMATION

- The course will be held on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009 from 9:00-3:30 pm in the Media Center at Pope High School.
- The cost of the 6-hour course is \$50. Please make your check payable to Pope PTSA and place it, along with the below completed registration form, in the PTSA mailbox located in PPO.
- Pizza and a beverage will be provided to all course participants.
- Parents are asked to attend the first 30 minutes of the course and are welcome to stay longer.
- Course enrollment is a minimum number of 10 students and limited to a maximum of 30 students. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Confirmation will be sent to the email address provided below.
- Deadline for registration is Friday, October 16.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Debra Leon, Co-chair, PTSA Youth Services Committee, at 770-552-8091 or DebraTornes@aol.com.

POPE PTSA DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE REGISTRATION FORM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009, 9-3:30 PM

Student's Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number (home) _____ (cell) _____

Age _____ Date of birth _____ Driver's License # _____

Parent's Email _____

Parent's Signature _____