

# The Catamount Communique

## PCHS PTSA E-Newsletter

### 2009-2010 2nd Quarter



#### From the desk of Principal Nelson

FINISH WELL!



To use a term analogous to competitions, it's "crunch time" at Panther Creek for students and staff. A link to our exam schedule has been posted on the home page of our school's web site for a few weeks now, and January 15—the first exam day—is oh so close. Our faculty and staff routinely hold our students to high expectations, and we are fortunate to have you as our partner. Your expectations are the first ones set and serve as a framework for the many successes we celebrate with our students and our school. I join the professionals at Panther Creek in thanking you for your support.

Each school day is important, but the final days of the first semester increase in significance for all students. Because most of our courses are semester classes, earning credit toward graduation requirements is the ultimate learning goal for the remaining days of the first term. As you monitor your student's academic progress, continue to ask your student important performance questions. You know your student best, and you know how to hold your student accountable during "crunch time." Our faculty members are available during SMART Lunch sessions to provide additional support outside the regular classroom setting; in addition to their scheduled sessions, many teachers provide other opportunities for assistance. Please encourage your student to take advantage of the resources. If you need information, feel free to communicate with teachers by email using the staff directory on our web site. If you are unable to reach the teacher by email, you may call the Student Services Office at 919-463-8657 and request a phone or personal conference with the teacher and/or counselor.

The Wake County Public School System uses a number of measures to assess school performance and success. Earlier this semester we learned that, using a wide range of proficiency and growth measures, Panther Creek appeared on the "tops" list seventy (70) times—more times than any other Wake County school (K-12) for 2008-2009. Likewise, Panther Creek's graduation rate of was the highest in Wake County. See page 9 of the following report: <http://www.wcpss.net/evaluation-research/reports/2009/0931hs-graduation09.pdf>. I salute our students, our parents, and our faculty and staff for your commitment to excellence.

Enjoy the upcoming break. When we return to school on January 4, 2010, there will be only nine instructional days before the first exam day. Together we will end first semester successfully!

Rodney C. Nelson, Principal  
December 7, 2009

#### A Word from Tammy Pressley, PTSA President



Wow...I can't believe that December is already here, first quarter is complete, and it will soon be time for first semester exams! Since this is my son's senior year,

I was hoping time would slow down just a little, but it continues to fly! Even my freshman daughter said this year has gone by fast and she never thinks school goes by fast enough! We have indeed had a smooth school year thus far, and that can only be attributed to our great administration, wonderful teachers, and amazing parents. Our PTSA board has also been working hard to recognize our students and to let our staff know they are loved and appreciated. We helped sponsor Freshman Camp in August, Open House in September, Red Ribbon Week in October, Reflections in November, and Honor Roll Recognition in December. Throughout all these months, the Staff Appreciation Committee has treated our teachers and administrators with special goodies. In addition to these activities, the PTSA continues to sponsor the weekly "Kudos for Catamounts" drawings to show those students who go above and beyond that we appreciate their efforts.

Of course, all this would not be possible without the financial support of our parents. If you have not joined PTSA, it is never too late. Without fundraisers, we depend solely on your donations to fund our programs. We are the only organization that seeks to reach EVERY student and EVERY staff member, so please consider contributing to the PTSA so we can meet this year's budget.

In closing, I want to say a very special thank you to the wonderful board that I am so privileged to work with! They are a fantastic group of people who have a heart for our students and staff, and I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful team! THANKS to each one of you for your dedication and hard work!

Remember if you have news to share on the weekly email updates, please send it to me at [tammypressley@earthlink.net](mailto:tammypressley@earthlink.net).

*Tammy Pressley*  
*PTSA President*

### Additional PTSA News

#### Catamounts Night Out



Thanks to the families and students who have joined in the fun of Catamounts Night Out. We have only TWO MORE scheduled for the remainder of the year! Mark your calendars now for Chili's Grill and Bar at Beaver Creek on Tuesday, February 23 from 3-11 pm and Rudino's Pizza & Grinders at High House and Davis Drive on Tuesday, April 20 from 5-8 pm. Just tell them you're from Panther Creek when ordering, and our school PTSA will receive a percentage of sales. It's a fun way to eat out and help our school at the same time. We hope to see you there!

#### Link Your Frequent Buyer Cards



With the holidays upon us, remember to use your shopping cards at Harris Teeter, Food Lion, and Target. If you are not linked, it isn't too late. Remember to link your shopping cards to support Panther Creek High School PTSA. Thanks for supporting our Panther Creek Kids and Happy Holidays.



#### HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Panther Creek was awarded a \$357.50 Healthy Lifestyles Grant from the Wake PTA

Council for being the high school with the most registered participants (runners, walkers, and / or volunteers) at the 5K race recently held on November 22 at NCSU Centennial Campus.



### **Volunteers Needed!**

Parents, Testing Proctors are needed in January. Below are the dates and times.

Friday, January 15th 7:00-10:30

Tuesday, January 19th 7:00-10:30

Wednesday, January 20th 7:00-10:30

Thursday, January 21st 7:00-10:30

About 10-12 proctors are needed each day. Please contact Kimberley Fegeley if you are interested in helping. [KFegeley@wcpss.net](mailto:KFegeley@wcpss.net) or 463-8674 (Volunteers need to register with Wake Co. before volunteering.)

### **PTSA Membership News**

THANKS to all of you who recently made a donation to PTSA!! We are at 402 members to date!! Your contributions are GREATLY appreciated!!! Even though several families have recently joined, we have still not reached our \$10,000 goal. Without further support, we cannot fund some of the programs that we are hoping to be able to provide again this school year. If you haven't joined, it is **never** too late! Simply go to the PTSA website at <http://teacherweb.com/nc/panthercreekhighschool/ptsa/> and click on the "membership form" icon. Print a copy of the form and either mail it with your check to the school or have your child drop it off in the front office.



### **Marching Band Update**

The Panther Creek Marching Band has had a very busy and successful fall. Our band students returned early to school this year to participate in band camp which took place in July and August. New students learned how to "march" and all students worked on learning the show that the band would perform at competitions. Our show this year was entitled Paradise Lost and the students were very excited about it.

On September 26, the band hosted twelve visiting bands at our own Panther Creek Invitational competition. Many long hours were spent by band members, parents and staff getting ready for and hosting this event which was successful despite the rainy conditions. Next year we are definitely ordering sunshine! The marching band competed in four competitions this fall and had our best season ever. Panther Creek won Grand Champion at both the Fuquay and Sanderson competitions. On November 7th the band traveled to Annapolis, Maryland to compete in the USSBA National Championships where we placed 3rd out of sixteen bands competing from states up and down the East Coast.

The band was in the Cary Christmas parade on December 12th and on December 15th we performed our winter concert.



## [Panther Creek High School Fine Arts Boosters](http://www.pchsFineArtsBoosters.org/)

The PCHS Fine Arts Boosters help to support Dance, Theatre, and Visual Arts at Panther Creek High School. We support these programs financially through money we collect from memberships and through our monthly Dinner with Dickey's Barbecue Pit. Ticket and program ad sales from Dance and Theatre events also go right back into the programs.

**Dickey's Barbecue Pit Fund Raiser:** You can show your support for Dance, Theatre, and Visual Arts at Panther Creek High School by eating at Dickey's Barbecue Pit on Crossroads in Cary on the second Wednesday of the month (upcoming are Jan 13th, Feb 10th or Mar 10th) or at New Hope Commons in Durham on the second Monday of the month (upcoming are Jan 11th, Feb 8th, and March 8th). Dine in, take out, even order on-line and then pick up. Drop your receipt in the box labeled for the PCHS Fine Arts Boosters at the front of the restaurant between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. We will receive 15% of the sales for receipts dropped in the box!

For more information and maps, check out our web page at <http://www.pchsFineArtsBoosters.org/>

### **Upcoming Dance and Theatre Events:**

Please help support us by attending our upcoming events:

- PCHS Dance Concert on January 7th at 7pm
- Twelve Angry Jurors a production by PCHS Theatre Arts and PCHS Thespian Troupe #7273 on February 18, 19, & 20 at 7pm

Watch for information about our Spring Musical, Li'l Abner coming in April and our Spring Dance concert in May.

For more information about us or our membership forms, please go to our web page at <http://www.pchsFineArtsBoosters.org/> or

e-mail Beth Gatts at [president@pchsfineartsboosters.org](mailto:president@pchsfineartsboosters.org).

You can also find us on Facebook -- search Panther Creek High School Fine Arts Boosters.



## [Panther Creek High School Athletic Boosters](http://www.pchsAthleticBoosters.org/)

- From the AD's desk - We've just concluded our most successful Fall Sports program since the school opened in 2006. Our varsity football, varsity women's tennis, and varsity volleyball programs each qualified for the NCHSAA playoffs for the first time ever. Panther Creek is ranked 4th in Tri-9 Conference Wachovia Cup points after the Fall season, trailing only Athens Drive, Apex, and Green Hope.
- The PCHS Athletic Booster Club is a group of parents, staff and other interested parties whose mission is to enrich the Panther Creek High School athletic community and the community at large by providing support for Panther Creek High School athletics. Many of you have asked where donations go, so we wanted to give you a quick overview and ask for your

continued support.

- This school year the Booster Club has helped purchase scoreboards for the baseball and softball fields, new uniforms for four varsity teams, stipends for 11 additional coaches, field maintenance and floor/court refurbishing.
- Each of these are significant expenses and to fully cover these expenses we're continuing an aggressive fundraising drive, by selling \$10 raffle tickets for a chance to win a new Chevrolet Cobalt or a \$15,000 credit towards a used car at Hendrick's. Details can be found at [www.panthercreekathletics.com](http://www.panthercreekathletics.com) . If you haven't bought 1 (or more) tickets please look for us at upcoming home basketball games.
- You are invited to attend our monthly meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm, in the school cafeteria.
- PCHS is having a great athletic school year and we're looking forward to seeing you at one of the many upcoming events!



### PCHS Coral Boosters

Auditions for the PCHS annual Talent Show will be held after school on January 13 and 14 (more info to come). The show will have 2 performances on February 5 and 6.



### From the Yearbook Staff

Thanks again to those of you who sent in summer pictures of your son and/or daughter for the yearbook. The pictures were really appreciated. The yearbook staff is now creating two pages for fall fun and student cars/parking lot. For the Fall Fun, they are looking for photos from the state fair, corn mazes, haunted houses, pumpkin carving, etc. For the student cars, the staff is looking for kids and their cars, personalized license plates, and decorated parking spots. Please email any pictures you have to [pchspictures@gmail.com](mailto:pchspictures@gmail.com).



### First Semester Exam Schedule

First semester's final exams will be given on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday through Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> through January 21<sup>st</sup>. Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a make-up exam day. All exam days are also early release days. Student must be present at the beginning of the exam period to take the exam and must remain for the entire exam period to receive credit for the exam. Students are also expected to be present for the review periods unless prior administrative approval has been granted for an excused absence. (January 18 is a holiday. There is no school this day.) The schedule for those days is as follows:

January 15th	7:25-10:25	Period 1 Exam
	10:30 -11:30	Period 2 Review

	11:35	Buses Depart
January 19th	7:25 -10:25	Period 2 Exam
	10:30 -11:30	Period 3 Review
	11:35	Buses Depart
January 20th	7:25 -10:25	Period 3 Exam
	10:30 -11:30	Period 4 Review
	11:35	Buses Depart
January 21st	7:25 -10:25	Period 4 Exam
	10:30	Buses Depart

For the five state-tested subjects (Algebra I, English I, Biology, Civics & Economics, and US History), students who entered high school for the first time in 2006-2007 or later must score a Level III or higher on the EOC to receive credit for the course. One retest is required for any student who earns a Level II on the exam. Students who score a Level I will retest only if they have a signed waiver form from their parent/guardian. Teachers will notify students if they need to retest. In addition to the five subjects listed above, students who fail to earn a Level III or higher in Algebra II, Geometry, and Physical Science must retest. One retest is required for any student who earns a Level II on the exam and students who earn a Level I will retest only if they have a signed waiver from their parent/guardian.