



Pope High School  
**PTSA**<sup>®</sup>  
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# HOUND HIGHLIGHTS

A Weekly PTSA E-Newsletter for Pope High School Parents and Students  
3001 Hembree Road, Marietta GA 30062, 770-578-7900

Vol. 7, No. 17 ♦ Thursday, January 8, 2009



Send submissions to [popehoundhighlights@comcast.net](mailto:popehoundhighlights@comcast.net) ♦ Deadline: Tuesdays 5PM

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## IMPORTANT DATES

January 12	Student/Athlete and Parent Info Night
January 19	No School – MLK Jr. Holiday
January 23	Basketball Homecoming
February 18	Open House & PTSA Meeting

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## FROM THE ADMINISTRATION...

### REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be distributed this week for first semester. It has come to our attention that the GPA's are not accurate as printed on the report cards. We believe this is due to some courses being only first semester while some are offered all year. It is not crucial that the GPA on the report card is accurate. The most important GPA is the one reported on your student's final transcript. If you have any questions about your student's current GPA, please contact the appropriate guidance counselor.

### GIMME \$5 FOR EDUCATION

This year our school is participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Gimme 5 for Education" campaign to raise funds for the Cobb County Public Schools Educational Foundation! The Cobb County Public Schools Educational Foundation is the only non-profit organization that supports all our schools, staff and students in Cobb County School District. All funds collected will directly benefit our schools through Foundation supported scholarships, grants and programs for our schools, staff and students. Help us reach our goal of 100% participation, please make a \$5 tax-deductible contribution and return it to school in the envelope that your student will be bringing home today! Contributions can be brought to homeroom teachers or to PPO. Please be sure you have your child's name and homeroom teacher on the back of the envelope so we can provide a receipt.

**Help support our schools and students! Gimme 5!**  
**Contributions are due back by January 30.**  
**Thanks in advance for your contributions.**

### PARKING

Senior Parking Decals will be sold on Thursday, January 8, during lunches only. Students in RISE and internship classes will receive their passes this week, along with the top 10 GPA Juniors and Coach's Choice. On Thursday, the remaining decals will be given to seniors. If there are remaining spots after the end of D lunch on Thursday, parking will be opened up to juniors.

## GHSGT

We are well underway with our preparation for the GHSGT tests which will take place March 23-27. Please check our GHSGT Prep Blog for one stop shopping on all things to do with GHSGT Prep. Coming up this month:

- Next week, selected juniors will take a second diagnostic test in English and/or math. Students will be notified this week of the date/time/place of these tests. Results should arrive by the end of the month.
- It is never too early to start practicing for all 4 content area tests. Log onto [www.usatestprep.com](http://www.usatestprep.com) and start today. Check the blog for a list of resources and passwords to help you start practicing.
- Also on the blog there will be a list of teachers available for tutoring for each exam throughout the semester. Check it out and make arrangements to work with one of these dedicated teachers.
- A pull out program will start the week of January 19 for selected students for the areas of English and Math. These students will be pulled out of an elective course.
- An intensive after school program for specific strands on both the Science and Social Studies GHSGT will start the week of January 19 as well. This will give students 8 weeks of review in which they can choose which strand(s) they need to attend for review.
- A schedule for all of the above will be posted on the blog as soon as it is finalized.
- Mark Saturday, March 21, from 10am - 2 pm on your calendars for Pope's First Annual GHSGT Boot Camp. This will be for all 4 content area tests and will be an excellent way to measure your knowledge on the Saturday prior to the actual GHSGT exams.
- We have many components of our GHSGT Prep Program that are available to all juniors. Please feel free to contact Lorelee Hill at 770-578-7900 x 223 or Jean Mason at 770-578-7900 x 259 with any questions or concerns. We are here to help our students succeed!

## CASH FOR POPE

Georgia Natural Gas (GNG) has agreed to support Pope! All we have to do is sign up customers, link to the TrueBlue Schools program.... and they pay US! If you are already a GNG customer, simply go to our website at [www.popehigh.com](http://www.popehigh.com) and click on the TrueBlue Schools logo. Then, select "Yes, I am a GNG customer", follow the prompts and select Pope High School. GNG will then donate \$25 to Pope AND give us \$5 per month that you stay with GNG. If you are not currently a GNG customer but would like to become one, you can make the switch online! Go to [www.popehigh.com](http://www.popehigh.com), click on the TrueBlue Schools logo and then "No, I am not currently a GNG Customer." You will be prompted through the sign-up process. **Be sure to have a copy of your current gas marketer's bill, and be sure to write down the \$25 Visa gift card promotion number from that first screen!** (That's just a small "thank you" from GNG for making the switch.) Or, if you prefer, you can call a customer service representative at 1-866-ONLY-GNG, Monday –Friday, 7AM – 10PM or Saturdays, 7AM – 7PM. Once you receive a GNG account number, you'll follow the same procedures listed above for current customers and you'll help Pope earn cash! Questions? Email [info@popehighschoolfoundation.com](mailto:info@popehighschoolfoundation.com) and someone will respond to you!

## PTSA NEWS

### PTSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The PTSA is looking for four members to form the Nominating Committee responsible for nominating the PTSA Officers for the 2009-2010 school year. The committee will be elected at the February 18 PTSA General Meeting. If you are interested please contact Karen Ponticelli at 770-650-9339 or [klpont@aol.com](mailto:klpont@aol.com).

### FRONT OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

A meeting/training will take place on January 20 from 9:30-10:30 AM for all new and current front office volunteers. We currently have openings for new volunteers. Please consider volunteering to help make Pope a better place for your student to learn. We need you! If you have any questions, please contact Monica Anderson at 770-565-2600. Thank you for volunteering to help at Pope High School.

## **ATTENTION ALL SENIORS...**

The Margie Hatfield Scholarship was established by the Eastern Cobb County Council (ECCC) PTA in 1990 to honor Ms. Hatfield who served as ECCC PTA President from 1977-1980. Ms. Hatfield also served on the State and National PTA Boards and she continues to work tirelessly for the welfare and education of young people. These \$1,000 scholarships are granted to one senior from each ECCC high school and are awarded based on academic success, leadership, involvement, and community service. They are funded by private donations and by local units within the ECCC PTA network. Applications are available in your counselors' office or can be accessed at <http://www.ecccpta.org/ECCCMHScholarship.htm>. Applications are due January 30, 2009.

## **POPE FOUNDATION**

### **GREYHOUND GALA**

Is February 28, 2009 on YOUR calendar? If it isn't, it definitely should be! You won't want to miss the first annual Greyhound Gala – a premier fundraising event presented by the Pope Foundation that will bring the entire Pope community together. All proceeds from this event will benefit your selected Pope Athletic Club, Organization or the Pope Foundation. Contact Dania Tarquinio at [daniatarquinio@comcast.net](mailto:daniatarquinio@comcast.net) or Julie Pederson at [barefootedone@aol.com](mailto:barefootedone@aol.com) for more information, or go to [www.popehighschoolfoundation.com](http://www.popehighschoolfoundation.com) under Greyhound Gala. Invitations will be mailed later in January.

## **CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY**

On **Saturday, January 24**, from 9AM – 4PM, Pope Band will host its annual electronics recycling event in the Pope High School parking lot. This is the perfect time to safely dispose of obsolete or unusable computers, monitors, network equipment, peripherals, cables, televisions, cell phones, telephone equipment, stereos, game systems, tape players, etc. Items NOT accepted at this event are electronics in wood cabinets, kitchen/bathroom electronics and appliances. This is a fundraiser for the band; with a suggested donation of \$10 (generous contributions will be gratefully accepted!). Pick-up appointments are available – please email [PopeBandRecycles@popeband.org](mailto:PopeBandRecycles@popeband.org). Rain date will be Saturday, January 31. For more information, contact Philomena at 770/843-9210 or visit the band website at [popeband.org](http://popeband.org).

### **POPE HABITAT NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Pope Habitat, as a part of the Cobb High School Coalition for Cobb Habitat, will begin building a house in February of 2009. Longhorn Steakhouse has been our corporate sponsor for several years, providing ½ of the cost of the building of a house. Longhorn's new owner, Darden Company, has moved to Florida and they will no longer be partnering with us. The cost of the sponsorship for a house for 2009 is \$60,000. We are looking for corporate help for \$30,000. (One company at \$30,000 or two corporate sponsors at \$15,000 each or three corporate sponsors at \$10,000 each!) Each Habitat club in each school in the Coalition (Pope, Harrison and Kennesaw Mountain) donates \$10,000. If you know of a business that would like to enter into a partnership with us, please have them email [Deborah.Peterson@cobbk12.org](mailto:Deborah.Peterson@cobbk12.org). We know that there is a company out there that would be honored to support students who are willing to give up their Saturdays to build a house for a deserving family.

**POPE HABITAT'S PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING EVENT:** The Pope Foundation will sponsor a Gala on February 28 which will include a Silent Auction. Habitat will be putting items in the Silent Auction and the amount earned from these items will go to our club. Please start thinking about items that you can donate to this Silent Auction. Sample items might be Certificates from Restaurants, Hair Salons, any type of store or service, Home and Garden items etc. Please email [Deborah.Peterson@cobbk12.org](mailto:Deborah.Peterson@cobbk12.org) and she will email you a letter that you can use to solicit items, as well as a receipt for you to provide to the donor of any item. Thank you!

# COUNSELORS' NEWS

## REMINDER TO SENIORS

Seniors whose college application requires a mid-year report, please bring in the forms and request the mid-year transcript to be released to those colleges. We will process them when the mid-year transcript is available. All seniors should visit the Pope High School website <http://popehs.typepad.com/guidancedepartment/> and scroll down to scholarships to view all the possibilities available.

## COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), is hosting a free webinar on January 15, at 7:00 PM to learn more about attending the upcoming NACAC college fair on February 8. While the fair is somewhat far, near the airport, it is one of the largest in the greater Atlanta area with great seminars and college reps. The webinar is called: "Making the Most Out of Attending a National College Fair". Each year thousands of high school students begin preparing for their journey into the world of postsecondary education. The journey is often a lengthy process, filled with many uncertainties. Students often ask questions like, how do I know what school is the right school? What majors are available? Should I attend a two or four-year institution? Are there any resources available on a local basis to make the process easier? Hear college admission and counseling experts share tips on how to narrow down your college search by preparing for and getting the most out of attending your local NACAC National College Fair. You'll also learn about the importance and benefits of lead retrieval technology when registering for college fairs. To register go to:

<http://www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/ncf/Pages/default.aspx>.

The 2009 NACAC Fair is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2009 from 12:00-4:00 PM at the Georgia International Convention Center near the airport. See [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org) for details.

## STUDENT/ATHLETE AND PARENT INFO NIGHT

Monday, January 12, at 7:00 PM in the Theater, we will have a representative from The National Collegiate Scouting Association come and speak to our student athletes and their parents. This agency provides a program called "College Recruiting 101" for student-athletes with a serious desire to participate in collegiate athletics while pursuing a college degree. NCSA Educational Speaker will guide parents and student-athletes through the importance of establishing athletic and academic goals, setting realistic expectations and seeking opportunities at all college levels. Attendees will learn valuable tips on finding the best college based on their student-athletes' academic and athletic abilities. Most importantly, "College Recruiting 101" will reiterate that the most valuable goal anyone should strive for isn't scoring in the game, but scoring a college education.

## STUDENT/PARENT PSAT NIGHT, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 7:00 PM IN THE THEATER

Attention Sophomores and Juniors who paid to take the PSAT. PSAT scores are here, and were distributed on 12/16 in homeroom, but what do they mean? **We have scheduled a special event for students and parents where we will go over the score report in detail!** Come hear the Princeton Review in conjunction with the Pope School Counseling Department speak about:

- \* A detailed analysis of your PSAT Score Report and results
- \* A walk-through of the college admissions timeline
- \* An introduction to the SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests
- \* A plan for a stress-free college admissions process
- \* Preview [gacollege411.org](http://gacollege411.org) web site - a comprehensive website for planning, applying and paying for college

**\*\*BE SURE TO BRING YOUR PSAT SCORE REPORT WITH YOU TO THIS MEETING!**

RSVP online at [www.princetonreview.com/events](http://www.princetonreview.com/events) (Look under SAT, enter zip code and click on event for 2/17/09).

# HOUNDS HELPING OTHERS

## MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

February 6th 2009 ~ Annual Memorial Blood Drive. **Please help us keep the memory of Shelby Matheson, Tyson McRee, Richard Bailey and Kimberly Andrews** alive by your donation of blood. Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 2:30 - 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall of The Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. You may donate blood if you are 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. You may donate every 56 days.

## FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR...

### FENCING

Pope Fencer Matt Stephens recently earned his E ranking at the United States Fencing Association Southern Star Tournament. He went on last weekend to qualify for competing in the Junior Olympics Epee Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico, next month. Good luck, Matt! Your team is behind you all the way!!

The club will be competing at North Gwinnett High this weekend for a Georgia High School Fencing League Tournament. At the previous tournament late last semester, Matt Stephens place 3rd to boost him to the 27th ranking overall in league individual standings. Barrett Roth finished fifth and is ranked third in accumulative standings. Tyler Stollman placed 6th and is rated 15th overall.

Pope female fencers also competed. Mary Grimshaw finished 9th and is ranked 26th in individual fencer standings, Chloe Bowman is ranked 35th overall. The following fencers are all in a tie for their respective ranking: Samantha McKay, 40th, Kaitlin Moore, 41st, Rachel Hinck, 44th and Stephanie Yawn, 46th in individual season total standings.

Pope's Fencing Club is ranked eighth overall in team standings. Good luck, Greyhounds.

# GO HOUNDS!

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