



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. 7, No. 209 ♦ Thursday, January 22, 2009



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

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## IMPORTANT DATES

February 2-5  
February 4  
February 18  
February 20  
February 28

Freshman Advisement  
Early Release 1:25 Dismissal  
Open House & PTSA Meeting  
Heroes Entries Due  
Greyhound Gala

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## FROM THE ADMINISTRATION...

### NEW SCHEDULE MEETINGS

Please see the Pope Schedule Blog (<http://popehs.typepad.com/schedule/>) for an electronic copy of the new information brochure. Paper copies are also available in the Front Office, PPO, and the main offices at Hightower Trail and Dodgen Middle Schools. Please also see the brochure or blog for the dates and times of upcoming meetings about the new schedule.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SURVEY 2009

#### Parents Please Respond- We Value Your Input

Each year the Cobb County School District asks stakeholders to complete a survey about our schools, in order to provide quality education and continuous improvement. Staff, students and parents are surveyed in order to obtain data to plan for continuous school improvement. Feedback from parents is important to the planning process and your anonymous response to the survey will be included with those of other parents. Feedback will be provided to our principal as he works with the School Improvement Team in future planning. Please take a few minutes to respond to this on-line survey. The survey window/portal will be accessible through February 13.

<http://www.cobbk12.org/sisurvey/>

### GIMME \$5 FOR EDUCATION

This year our school is participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Cobb County Public Schools Educational Foundation Campaign "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 in the envelope that your student brought home and return it to school 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. Contributions are due back by January 30.

## **GHSGT Prep**

1) Please look for Pope's AYP power point and link to the GHSGT Prep Blog on the Pope web site. They will be located underneath the pictures in the middle column.

2) After school review classes have begun for seniors still needing to pass a portion of the GHSGT. The schedule is listed on the blog. All seniors are welcome.

3) All juniors taking the GHSGT in March: Pope HS is offering a way for you to take practice tests and sharpen your skills by seeing test questions similar to those you will see on the actual GHSGT, and send the diagnostic results automatically to a certified teacher who will record and monitor your progress while offering you ways to increase your scores.

Follow these directions to do this:

Log onto [www.usatestprep.com](http://www.usatestprep.com)

- Click on "member login" in the top right hand corner of the homepage
- Enter the Username: pope; Password: Newton21; Click "I agree"
- At the top of the page click on the tab for the subject test you need to take (English or Math). Start by taking a "Diagnostic Practice Test" on the left side of the page (choose "Small," "Medium," or "Large" test)
- After choosing your test size, enter your personal information. Make sure to put the email address of your 11th grade English teacher (example Diane.Hagood@cobbk12.org) for English. For Math enter Virginia.Carman@cobbk12.org or Kathy.Fishman@cobbk12.org under "Teacher email," and click "Store Test Results for Teacher Review"
- Scroll down and the test questions are there for you to answer (notice that there are tools like calculators and formulas above question #1). At the bottom of the page click "Grade My Test" when you are finished
- After you take the diagnostic test, there are all kinds of questions and activities for you to click on for practice. These activities are broken down by the Student Content Areas. Check your GHSGT score report to find out which Student Content Areas caused your trouble.

Practice tests are available for all content areas. At this time, we only have the monitoring piece in place for English and Math. If you need additional help, please see Mrs. Hill for assistance, or the teacher that will receive your results.

4) Science and Social Studies after school review sessions will be open to all interested juniors. A schedule will be posted very soon on the blog. Check it out for dates, times and locations.

5) Our Spring '09 pullout program starts this week. Selected juniors will have a meet and greet with their Math or English tutor on Friday, January 30th, with sessions starting next week. All sessions during the school day will be on Tuesdays and all after school sessions will be on Thursdays.

6) Feel more comfortable getting help from another student? See Mrs. Hill to schedule a weekly session for any content area. There will be one session each week in the morning and afternoon for 4 weeks prior to the test. If you are interested in tutoring, stop by Mrs. Hill's office for an application.

Want more information about any of our GHSGT Prep programs? Email [Loralee.hill@cobbk12.org](mailto:Loralee.hill@cobbk12.org) or call 770-578-7900 x 223.

## HAVE YOU JOINED THIS EFFORT?

Thank you to the 63 families who have already signed up for the Georgia Natural Gas (GNG) TrueBlue Schools gas service! By signing up with GNG, these families represent just over \$950 that GNG will contribute to Pope High School. That's easy money! Have YOU signed up yet? If you are already a GNG customer, simply go to [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. *That's just for being a customer!* 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 marketers' 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 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. or Saturday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Once you receive a GNG account number, you'll follow the same procedures listed above for current customers and you'll have helped Pope earn cash! Questions about this program? Email [info@popehighschoolfoundation.com](mailto:info@popehighschoolfoundation.com) and someone will respond to you!

## PTSA NEWS

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – CALL TO ACTION

This week the Governor presented his budget, with over \$491 million in cuts to education. Every aspect of education will feel the pinch: teacher salaries and training, graduation and academic coaches, textbooks, capital improvements, National certified teachers, teacher mentors, and more. For details, visit Capitol Watch on the GA PTA website and read the Daily Reports: [http://www.ciclt.net/sn/new/n\\_main.aspx?ClientCode=gapta](http://www.ciclt.net/sn/new/n_main.aspx?ClientCode=gapta)

**Governor's budget for next year cuts all funding for school nurses.** You have received the dreaded phone call from school: your child is in the clinic, sick or injured. Do you know how many visits are made to your school's clinic every day, every week, every year? School nurses treat children for much more than playground cuts and scrapes. They administer medicine to treat diabetes, asthma, ADD, ADHD, allergies, headaches (including migraines), seizures, schizophrenia, and many other health issues. Without a school nurse, who will administer the epi-pen or insulin in a life-threatening situation? Who will stabilize broken bones? Who will be the trained first responder at your school? **You can make a difference. Call your legislators to tell them to restore funding for school nurses.** To look up your legislators' contact information, click on the link

[http://www.ciclt.net/sn/pol/po\\_districtlookup.aspx?ClientCode=gapta&State=ga&FIPS=13](http://www.ciclt.net/sn/pol/po_districtlookup.aspx?ClientCode=gapta&State=ga&FIPS=13)

It's that simple. Make our legislators understand the vital services school nurses provide. School secretaries can't keep all the prescription and non-prescription medicines in her drawer and dispense them when she has time. Teachers can't stop instruction – especially with increasing class sizes – to dispense medicine at specific times, attend to the child who is sick to his stomach or the student who fell on the playground and needs immediate medical attention.

### ♥ GIVING HEART TO HEART ON VALENTINE'S DAY!

It's time for our school-wide boxed Valentines drive for the students at Powers Ferry Elementary School, our sister school. We want to make it possible for every one of their 500 students to be able to exchange valentines. Can we make it happen? YES, we can! Boxed valentines can be dropped off in the white community outreach bin across from PPO until Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. This effort is sponsored by the PTSA Community Outreach Committee. Questions? Contact Debra Leon, 770-552-8091 or Carol Zepf, 770-640-9446.

### STUDENT DIRECTORIES

Student Directories are available for sale for \$5 at the Spirit Wear Tables manned by Gaby & Peter McDonald on Friday mornings before school. The checks should be made out to Pope PTSA. A special Hound Highlights will be sent out with an addendum of new or corrected information.

## **HEROES ARE EVERYWHERE!**

The PTSA is conducting an "Honoring Our Heroes" essay contest. Entry forms and instructions are available in the Media Center. Parents and teachers, encourage your students to think about their "real life" heroes. Challenge them to think of someone who has made a difference in their life by exhibiting qualities such as compassion, courage, dedication, generosity, perseverance, commitment, integrity, etc? Perhaps they are their parents, grandparents, siblings, or friends. Did a policeman, fireman, teacher, counselor, social worker, nurse, or doctor impact their life directly or indirectly? Encourage them to let their hero know what he or she means to them by entering the "Honoring Our Heroes" essay contest! Completed entries can be returned to the Heroes Box in the Media Center by February 20. Questions? Contact Susan Tupper 770-578-6358 or [njtupper@comcast.net](mailto:njtupper@comcast.net).

## **POPE FOUNDATION**

### **GREYHOUND GALA - FEBRUARY 28, 2009**

By now you should have received your Pope Foundation Greyhound Gala invitation. We couldn't be happier to sponsor this Pope Community event of the year. Please return your RSVP, with your club/organization donation designee, as soon as possible. You don't want to miss this one!! See the Pope website under News and Greyhound Gala for a special discount rate for the nearby Sheraton Hotel.

### **NEW LANDSCAPE!**

The directional signs are in place! Our facelift is just about finished. We have ordered a new LED sign for the sign on Hembree Road and we expect that to be installed in approximately five weeks. Also, we are working to add signs to the front monument identifying our current sponsors and figuring out the details for lighting these monuments. If you haven't seen the new look, be sure to take a drive by! We are still taking donations to support this effort. Mail checks, payable to the Pope Foundation, to the school address – 3001 Hembree Road, Marietta, GA 30062 OR pay securely online using PayPal at [www.popehighschoolfoundation.com](http://www.popehighschoolfoundation.com).

## **CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **POPE LACROSSE WINTER FUN RUN & PANCAKE BREAKFAST, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

Join us for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual **Shake, Rattle & Run** 5K and Jr. Jog sponsored by Pope Lacrosse. Registration forms can be found online at [www.popelacrosse.com](http://www.popelacrosse.com). Sign-in begins at 7:30AM; runs begin at 8AM. The one-mile Jr. Jog is for kids 10 and under. Registration is \$25 for the 5K and \$15 for Jr. Jog and includes a T-shirt and Pancake Breakfast afterward. Not a runner or jogger? Support Pope Lacrosse by attending the Pancake Breakfast from 8AM – 10:30AM. Hot, delicious pancakes, coffee and juice for only \$5! Tickets for the breakfast may be purchased at the door or from any Pope Men's Lacrosse player. For more information, contact Robin Ammons at [rkammons@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkammons@bellsouth.net) or 770-645-1401.

## **COUNSELORS' NEWS**

### **FRESHMAN PARENTS – FRESHMAN ADVISEMENT IS COMING!**

If you have not already done so, please be sure to call the Pope School Counseling Office at (770) 578-7903 to schedule your Freshman Advisement appointment time. This is the time when you sit down with a trained Advisor to go over all graduation requirements for your child and plan out his/her 4-year plan for meeting all graduation course requirements. Freshman Advisement will take place February 2, 3, 4, and 5. You don't want to miss out on this opportunity to speak one-on-one with an Advisor about your child's individual 4-year plan. Advisement appointments will be held in the Media Center. They will be 25 minutes in length and will start after school at 3:45 PM with the last appointment slot starting 7:40 PM. We encourage all freshman students to attend this meeting with their parent(s) as well if possible.

## 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!** 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). 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 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!**

## HOUNDS HELPING OTHERS

### MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

February 6 ~ 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 PM - 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...

The basketball teams will be in action at Roswell on Friday (1/30/09). They will also be in action at home against Sprayberry on Saturday (1/31/09) starting at 4:00 PM. Join Pope's basketball players, coaches, and Tip-Off Club to celebrate the 10th Anniversary Reunion of the 1998-99 Pope Lady Greyhounds State Champions, coached by Fred Wheeler, on Saturday, January 31, during halftime of the boys' varsity basketball game. Tip-Off time is 5:30pm.

The wrestling team will be competing in the Cobb County Championships on Friday and Saturday. The tournament will be located at Sprayberry.

The Swim and Dive team will also be competing in the County Championships this weekend. The competition will begin on Friday at 4:00 PM at the Mountain View Aquatic Center. Congratulations to the girls Swim and Dive Team – they beat Norcross 183 – 124.

Please come and support all of student-athletes this week. Good luck!

# GO HOUNDS!

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Please make [ptsa@popehs.ptsamail.com](mailto:ptsa@popehs.ptsamail.com) "an acceptable email address." It is used to distribute Hound Highlights. We will still communicate and subscribe through [popehoundhighlights@comcast.net](mailto:popehoundhighlights@comcast.net). Hound Highlights will also be posted on the [www.popehigh.com](http://www.popehigh.com) website each Friday.