



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

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Send submissions to popehoundhighlights@comcast.net ♦ Deadline: Tuesdays 5PM

IMPORTANT DATES

February 16	No School – Presidents' Day
February 17	Student/Parent PSAT Results Meeting
February 18	Open House & PTSA Meeting
February 20	Heroes Entries Due
February 28	Greyhound Gala

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION...

GREYHOUNDS HELP EACH OTHER

An unfortunate crisis has impacted one of Pope's families. The family home of two Pope students burned down early Friday morning on February 6. While the family is safe, most all of their belongings are gone. We are asking the Pope community to help by donating gift cards. Please consider donating gift cards to grocery stores, Wal-Mart, Target and clothing stores such as Kohl's or Old Navy. Bring gift cards to PPO and we will make sure the family receives them. Thanks in advance for your support.

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/>.

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TEST PREP

Juniors should log onto www.usatestprep.com and begin taking diagnostic tests. To monitor your progress, follow the directions on our blog, found on the webpage. If you choose to send your results to one of our designated teachers (all junior English teachers as well as Mrs. Carman and Mrs. Fishman in the Math

Department), they will record your scores, monitor your progress and recommend one of our programs offered for further improvement if needed. Start today. During our upcoming class meetings, information regarding the GHSGT will be handed out to all juniors. This information can also be found on the GHSGT Prep blog. Questions? Not sure how to get started? Contact Mrs. Hill today!

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE GREYHOUND CONNECTION (THE GC) NEXT YEAR?

You may be used to SGA. Well the Greyhound Connection is SGA, but improved! The GC is a way to better organize all student clubs to be more effective here at Pope. In the blog link below, you will find the Greyhound Connection organizational chart. This chart shows each GC office and gives a brief overview of what meetings they preside. Please visit http://popehs.typepad.com/greyhound_connection/ for more details.

PTSA NEWS

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS....

ECCC will be hosting their 3rd Annual Teen Job Fair on Saturday, March 7, from 11AM-1PM at the Mt. View Community Center. Many parents are thinking that their teenager needs a summer job, so be prepared for a lot of competition. The earlier in the spring you start looking for the right job, the better chance your teenager has of landing a summer job. ECCC PTA will have job applications available from local retail stores, grocery chains, major amusement park employers, lifeguarding companies, fast food chains, local small businesses and many more. Students will also receive information on how to create a resume, fill out an online application and tips on first appearances. Look forward to seeing you on March 7. For more information, contact Pat Giuliani at 404-409-9112 or pat.giuliani@parentcorps.org.

FRONT OFFICE VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We are still looking for volunteers to answer the phones and greet people at the Front office. Each shift is only 2 1/2 hours and we currently have 10 open shifts (with 6 openings on Fridays). The work is easy, but very important in the smooth operation of the school. If interested or if you have any questions, please contact Monica Anderson at 770-565-2600.

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. 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.

POPE FOUNDATION

GREYHOUND GALA - FEBRUARY 28, COBB GALLERIA

Received your invitation? Made your reservation? Circled the date on your calendar? If not please do so now. We are thrilled to be sponsoring the first ever gala event open to the community to raise money that will be used to support all participating booster clubs and organizations within Pope!

- Net proceeds from each ticket will benefit a selected group, club or organization
- 100% of proceeds from the silent auction items go to the specific group, club or organization that donates them

GEORGIA NATURAL GAS PROGRAM

The Pope High School Foundation is *rockin'* and *rollin'* with the new Georgia Natural Gas (GNG) program called TrueBlue Schools. We now have 72 families enrolled, and we've already "made" \$945. For instructions on how to enroll, go to www.popehighschoolfoundation.com and click on the *How You Can Help* Tab. When you sign up for TrueBlue (as an existing GNG customer or a new GNG customer) GNG will donate \$25 to Pope plus \$5 for each month that you stay with GNG. Don't waste time – support PHS by becoming TrueBlue!

BEAUTIFYING OUR SCHOOL

WOW! AWESOME! GREAT! BEAUTIFUL!

Those are the typical reactions from the parents, students and neighbors regarding the wonderful improvements to the entrance and the new landscaping around the school. This project was sponsored by the Pope High School Foundation whose vision is to improve the educational experience of our kids – both from the inside and the outside. You can see your contributions at work! Keep it going and to help us to continue to improve both the school and our community!

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

Put on your running, jogging, or walking shoes and join us for the 1st annual ***Shake, Rattle & Run*** 5K and Jr. Jog sponsored by Pope Lacrosse. Registration forms can be found online at www.popelacrosse.com. 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? Enjoy hot, delicious pancakes, coffee and juice for only \$5 at the Pancake Breakfast from 8AM – 10:30AM.

February 17, 18 & 19 (Tues-Thurs), registration forms and pancake breakfast tickets will be on sale in Main Hall from 7:45AM – 8:20AM and in the Cafeteria Hall during all lunches. Cash prizes will be given to the Pope club or team or organization with the most participants and to the club with the highest percentage of members participating. For more information, contact Robin Ammons at rkammons@bellsouth.net or 770-645-1401.

POPE WINTERGUARD TAKES 1ST PLACE

Congratulations to the First Place winning Pope Winterguard. Last weekend, Pope hosted the Art of Youth Percussion and Color Guard competition sponsored by the Southern Association for Performance Arts. The winterguard team placed first on both the Saturday and Sunday competitions. They beat out local competition from Kennesaw Mountain and Lassiter. Their next competition is the World Guard International Power Regional in Nashville, TN on February 21 and 22. They will compete not only against both Kell and Kennesaw Mountain, but also several schools from Indiana and Illinois. Great job girls!

"ENJOY THE CITY" COUPON BOOKS FUNDRAISER

These days, everyone can use a little discount. With the *Enjoy the City* coupon book, you'll get hundreds of coupons worth thousands of dollars in discounts from 116 restaurants, fast food establishments, entertainment venues, recreation complexes, retailers and service companies. The Pope Men's Lacrosse team has these for sale for only \$20. The book will pay for itself if you only use a couple of coupons this year. Proceeds will help fund our spring break trip to play top-level teams in Tennessee. See any men's lacrosse player or Coach Pfaff in Room 95 to purchase one. Thanks for your support!

NOTE THIS...

HONOR CARDS

Honor cards were distributed the week of February 2-6 in the lunchroom during all lunches. Honor cards are still available before and after school in room 105 until February 20. To receive an honor card you must have a 3.5 or higher GPA for last semester only, fewer than 8 absences plus tardies, and no discipline referrals. Honor cards are awarded each semester for success in the previous semester. An honor card provides discounts at local businesses (including Park 12 Movie Theater and Carvel Ice Cream) and provides admission to the Renaissance Festival held on April 3 during 3rd Block. In addition, as an honor card holder, you may purchase the Honor Card t-shirt for a cost of \$20. Please see Mrs. Speer in room 105 for your honor card, to purchase a t-shirt, or any questions you may have about the honor card.

SCHOOL LUNCHES... AFFORDABLE & NUTRITIOUS

School lunch is not only a nutritionally balanced selection, it is also easy on your wallet. The value lunch which includes an entree, side dishes and milk is a real value at only \$1.85. For calzones and Sub sandwiches the price is \$2.50, but that is still a bargain. We offer daily a variety of entrees, more fresh fruits and vegetables than canned and a milk choice. We also offer a Free and Reduced program based on income which is confidential. It is a tough time economically right now and these programs are in place to help families struggling with circumstances such as job loss, and drops in income. A free lunch is obviously free while a reduced lunch is \$.40. We also offer a la carte choices such as ice cream, chips and bottled drinks including bottled water. Our breakfast program is part of our a la carte sales. At this time we do not offer free or reduced prices for breakfast. If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact Gayle Bozicevich, Pope Foodservice Manager at 770-578-7901.

NEWS FROM THE CLINIC

The clinic has been extremely busy with various illnesses in the past couple of weeks. There is a stomach virus that includes stomach cramps, nausea, and potential vomiting and usually no fever is present. Also, a virus that includes headache, congestion, some dizziness, fatigue, and possible low grade fever has been showing up in the clinic. Furthermore, some students have complained of flu-like symptoms that include a fever of 101-102. If you have a question, please feel free to contact Jackie Christie in the Clinic or refer to the Cobb County website under Department Heading, and scroll to Student Support-School Health Services. This site will give information on "Is My Student Well Enough to Go to School." Please keep in mind if a student experiences a fever around 101, the student should remain at home for 24 hours or until free of fever. The Clinic is also in need of 6-ounce paper cups, ginger ale, Coke, juices and large Band Aids. Please send in donations if you are able.

COUNSELORS' NEWS

SENIOR PARENTS - FAFSA FORM AND FINANCIAL AID HELP

Georgia Student Finance Commission's mission statement is to promote and increase access to education beyond high school for Georgians. February is Financial Aid Awareness Month in Georgia. We know that in today's economy, families are extremely concerned about how to finance a college education. During the month of February, Monday through Friday, Client Services staff will be available to help families complete the Free Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at their facility in Tucker, Georgia. They will have staff available from 12PM until 2PM each day. They will also accommodate evening appointments as requested. If you would like to make an appointment for FAFSA assistance, please contact Wanda Simmons at 1-800-505-4732, ext. 9017, or wandas@gsfc.org. It will be extremely important that you bring your 2008 Federal Income Tax information with you to this meeting.

FOR SENIORS...

The Georgia Student Finance Commission will provide free help in completing the FAFSA financial aid form for college from Noon-2PM each day in February. Call 770-724-9071 or email wandas@gsfc.org for an appointment.

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

Attention Sophomores and Juniors who paid to take the PSAT. 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 (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 PSAT Score Reports, college admission timelines, SAT, ACT and SAT Subject Tests, stress-free college admissions processes, and gacollege411.org. **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR PSAT SCORE REPORT WITH YOU TO THIS MEETING!**

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE SOMEWHAT TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD - HTMS

Hightower Trail Middle School proudly presents "The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood", an amusing farce based on Robin Hood, the beloved story character. This funny tale, performed by HTMS students, is sure to entertain you and leave you bursting with laughter and is suitable for all ages! Performances will be held on Thursday, February 19 and Friday, February 20 in the Hightower Trail Middle School Theater. Doors will open at 6:30PM and the shows will begin at 7PM. Tickets will go on sale the week of February 17 at the school and will be available for purchase at the door on show nights. Tickets are \$6. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Judith Condon at judith.condon@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 popehoundhighlights@comcast.net. Hound Highlights will also be posted on the www.popehigh.com website each Friday.