



HOUND HIGHLIGHTS

Pope High School
PTSA
everychild.one voice.

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 9	New Schedule Q&A W/Administration
February 18	Open House & PTSA Meeting
February 20	Heroes Entries Due
February 28	Greyhound Gala

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION...

NEW PARTNER IN EDUCATION

Pope would like to welcome aboard our newest Partner in Education, Signs and Graphics by Roman. Signs and Graphics has already been hard at work within our school. Currently Signs and Graphics is working to install the new LED sign on Hembree. They also installed the back reader board and designed many banners for athletics. Please consider using Signs and Graphics by Roman for your next signage purchase.

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/>.

PARKING DECALS

There are no more first parking decals for seniors. There are 2nd decals available, if you have already been issued a first decal. A parent must come in and pick up the 2nd decal in person. Please contact Mrs. Hill to set up a time to do this to make sure she is in the building and available to meet with you.

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.

SCHOOL SAFETY – VISITORS TO POPE

Pope High School requires all visitors to sign in at the front office. Please remember to provide a photo ID when you check in.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST

The cafeteria serves breakfast from 7:45AM - 8:15AM. Please arrive prior to 8:15AM if you plan to purchase breakfast. Since breakfast is not allowed outside the cafeteria, this will ensure plenty of time for you to eat in the cafeteria.

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.

♥ 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 9th. This effort is sponsored by the PTSA Community Outreach Committee. Questions? Contact Debra Leon, 770-552-8091 or Carol Zepf, 770-640-9446.

"MEET THE COUNTY"

On February 11, please attend "Meet the County" at 12:00 noon at the Central Office on Glover Street. Lunch will be served and we need to make proper arrangements, so everyone **MUST RSVP to attend this program**. This is a great way for parents to get to know the school board and Superintendent and learn of their vision going forward and how we can work together for our children. Questions – please contact Patty Yohn at 770-941-5415 or pattyjohn@bellsouth.net.

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. 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

Gotten 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

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. 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 or 770-645-1401.

NOTE THIS...

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

FOR JUNIOR PARENTS...

Ask your students to share with you the green covered booklet called *Greyhounds Going Forward* that they received in English and History classes last week during our Guidance lesson. The lesson provided helpful advice about career and college searches, how to select an appropriate group of colleges to consider, the application process and financial aid. Please use this resource as you and your student plan for their options after high school.

FOR ALL COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS...

Please note two upcoming college fairs: The NACAC Atlanta National College Fair on Sunday, February 8, from Noon -4PM at the Georgia International Convention Center. It features hundreds of colleges and job related booths and workshops for parents and students. Closer to home, on Wednesday, February 11, from 6:00PM-

8:30PM, Wheeler High School is hosting a College and Career Fair with over 100 college and career reps from Georgia and out of state schools.

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.

FREE SAT TEST PREP

The state of Georgia offers high school students free access to the SAT Online Prep Course developed by the College Board, the group that administers the SAT. This online course gives students access to virtual preparation exercises, review quizzes and several practice tests. The practice quizzes and tests, including the essay portion, are scored and feedback is given directly to the student. The free SAT Online Prep Course is open to all Georgia high school students – public, private and home schooled. On average, 2008 graduating students who utilized the SAT Prep Course:

- Scored 13 points better on the critical reading section
- Scored 19 points better on the mathematics section
- Scored 16 points better on the writing section

This is an easy – and economical – way to help your student be as successful as possible on this very important test. Have your student visit the Pope School Counseling office in room 102 to request a card with an access code for the Free SAT on-line course.

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.

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR...

Congratulations to the wrestling team. They won the Cobb County Championship for the second year in a row. 13 out of the 14 wrestlers placed in the top four. We had three individual champions and 4 runner ups. They will be competing at Kell this Friday and Saturday in the area tournament. Good luck as they prepare to qualify for state.

Congratulations to the boys and girls swim and dive teams. The girls finished 3rd in the county, and the boys finished 7th. Kelsey Gaid won two events, and she set a new county and school record in the 200 Free. Anna Neumeister finished second in the 500 free. Julia Weirbach finished second in the diving competition. On the boys side, Jordan Turner finished second in two events. Congratulations to both teams. They will be competing next week in the state championship meet. Please come and support both teams.

The boys and girls basketball teams will be in action on Friday against Roswell. This will be senior night. Please come and support both teams.

The varsity soccer teams will have their home openers next Tuesday, February 10. The boys play at 5:30PM and the girls play at 7:30PM.

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

GO HOUNDS!

Please make pts@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.