



# THE SRMHS PTSA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The 2009-2010 school year is off to a smooth start! Following the first ten days of getting schedules adjusted and students acclimated to their classes and SMART lunch, everyone is settling in to routines and the serious task of learning. At the beginning of the school year, teachers and administrators spent time going over class and school rules and routines. Students have been given the WCPSS Student/Parent Handbook as well as daily planners which include school policies and procedures. I again encourage parents to review these materials so you are familiar with our procedures. We thank Ms. Flowers and her digital arts students for the new Student Planner design. At this point, we are more than a month into the school year. The first interim exams have been distributed, which hopefully have shown some good grades and if not, have caused students to look more seriously at their goals and study habits.

Our tenth day student enrollment was 1566. We have increased to 1579 students. This number is about seventy students below the projected enrollment. Based on the tenth day enrollment, we were overstaffed by one teacher. This resulted in adjustments to students' schedules and some class adjustments for teachers. Although we realize most students and parents do not welcome schedule changes after classes are underway, it was necessary. We attempted to disrupt schedules as minimally as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during the process.

Changes on our campus since last year include the addition of five newly remodeled project-based learning (PBL) classrooms. We now have ninth and tenth graders scheduled for PBL classes in core courses including English I and II, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Earth Science, Biology, World History, Civics and Economics, and Healthful Living. The halls and main lobby have been decorated with murals and quotes related to our leadership theme. We also have one section of students in the new *iLead 21* course. I invite you to tour our building if you have not already seen these new additions.

Our ABC and AYP results for 2008-2009 show some successes and some areas which we still need to improve. We achieved 20 out of 21 or 95.2% of our AYP target goals. Our ABC results show improvements in the percentages of students passing EOCs in Geometry, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science, and US History. We have decreases in Algebra I, English I, Civics & Economics, and Physics. Although our overall results did not meet expected growth, we made expected growth in Algebra I and high growth in English I. Our percentage of students meeting the growth target for English I is above the WCPSS average and our grade 10 writing proficiency results are equal to the WCPSS average. Our School Improvement Leadership Team, Data Team,

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and Professional Learning Teams will be looking closely and analyzing these scores to plan and implement strategies for increasing our students' success rates in all subject areas. I invite and encourage you to attend one of the September 15<sup>th</sup> PTSA Satellite meetings in order to get a more detailed report on our 2008-2009 ABC and AYP results.

In our families and communities, on our jobs and in our school we have many changes and challenges to face this year and perhaps in years to come because of the financial situations of our nation and state. At Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School, we are facing challenges related to student enrollment, personnel allotments, funding for instructional supplies and materials, and funding for teacher training. We have the continuous challenge of meeting ABC and AYP standards, increasing graduation rates, and closing the achievement gap. The staff has been encouraged to use these challenges and rough spots to move to the next level. We have made a commitment to "get the job done" in the face of changes, challenges, and reduced funding. "Getting the job done" means doing all within our power to help students be successful. In addition to what teachers do on a daily basis in their classrooms for learning and teaching, they have been setting the groundwork for building a strong culture of cooperation and collaboration during professional learning team meetings on early release Wednesdays. So far, our teachers have been discussing and analyzing student achievement data, looking at EOC goal summaries, and developing SMART goals for the year.

SMART lunch is going more smoothly at this point. Students from leadership classes have trained freshmen on SMART lunch rules and procedures and especially on how to effectively manage their lunch time. SMART stands for "Students Maximizing Achievement, Relationships, and Time." The main purpose for our school's implementation of SMART lunch is to provide opportunities for students to improve academically. To this end, we offer tutorials during lunch time. Currently, we do not feel that students are taking full advantage of this opportunity. Students who have missing or unfinished assignments, zeros, failing grades, or who need to make-up tests will be required to attend tutorials during lunch or spend time with their teachers to make-up assignments. Administrative referrals will be made for students who do not comply with this requirement. Parents, please encourage your student to take advantage of the opportunities to receive extra help during lunch time.

I have a few reminders:

- **For the safety of our staff and students, everyone who enters our building is required to report to the office, sign in, and receive a visitor's badge. This includes parents, community members, visitors, volunteers, and district employees.**
- **For the protection of instructional time, please make appointments with teachers in advance and limit your phone calls requesting that the office staff deliver messages to your student to emergency messages only.**
- **The circle in front of the school is for carpool drop offs and pick ups. Parking in the circle is a fire code violation.**

Our staff, community, and PTSA are excited about working together this year for the success of our students and school. Do not hesitate to call an administrator, teacher, or counselor if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns. We are determined to do everything within our power to help students enjoy positive school experiences.

--Beulah C. Wright

## Your Involvement Makes a Huge Difference

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More than 30 years of research shows that children do better when their parents and families are involved both at home and at school. Grades are higher. Test scores rise. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve. You can make these outcomes a reality for your child, your school, and your community by being involved in PTSA. Everyone benefits from your involvement in PTSA. Here are seven great reasons to join:

1. **Be in the know.** PTSA helps you keep up with what's happening at your school. And you'll find out what you can do to make a difference for your child and to make your school an even better place.
2. **Access great resources.** When you are part of PTSA, you have access to resources on topics ranging from childhood obesity to bullying to talking with your child about drugs and alcohol. PTSA is a great resource not only for your school and community but also for you as you navigate the parenting process.
3. **Make connections.** Whether you attend PTSA meetings and events or just link in via e-mails and newsletters, through PTSA you'll connect with others who share your concern for children and their education. PTSA is a way to meet others and build relationships.
4. **Hone your skills.** In PTSA, you'll have the opportunity to use what you know, try new things, and develop your skills.
5. **Speak up.** PTSA is a forum for exchanging ideas. Your membership can be a means to effectively suggest changes at your child's school and to be involved in making them happen. Through PTSA you can be a more effective advocate for your child and all children.
6. **Be part of the solution.** PTSA has been a driving force in establishing school lunch programs, afterschool programs, communitywide safety initiatives, TV and Internet rating standards, and more. You can play a part in improving the world for your child.
7. **Be a role model for your child.** Through your involvement in PTSA, not only will you help your child and all children receive a better education but you'll show your child how much you value education. You also will teach your child about giving back to the community.

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### Southeast Raleigh High School PTSA Welcomes Your Participation

Southeast Raleigh High School PTSA holds Board Meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month and general body meetings three times a year (in conjunction with Open House events). The PTSA Board is comprised of all officers and committee chairs as voting members, but all PTSA members are welcome to attend.

The PTSA also holds satellite meetings in three areas of the county, so that all of our parents and supporters can stay in touch with Southeast Raleigh High School.

The satellite meetings for the 2009-2010 school year will be held on **September 15** and **November 17, 2009** and **March 23, 2010**. A SRHS administrator, i.e., Mrs. Wright or one of the three Assistant Principals attends each meeting to bring valuable information regarding our school and to answer your questions. Each group is facilitated by a parent volunteer. You are welcome to attend whichever meeting you prefer.

- 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, North Hills Shopping Center
- 6:00 p.m. at SRHS in the Career Development Center (CDC) - Go through the Great Hall, turn right at the Attendance Office-opposite the cafeteria-enter the CDC through the second set of doors
- 7:00 p.m. at Wake Tech's Western Wake Campus at Millpond Village (corner of Kildaire Farm Road and Hwy. 1010)

### *PTSA--Everyone Benefits*

Visit us at <http://www.srhsptsa.net/>. We are counting on you! Thanks for your support!

## A Student's Perspective: My Life's Journey

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I stepped into high school with no vision of what I would endeavor in the future. *Never* in a millions years would I have thought that I would be elected Student Body President. I was the type of student to never speak up in class and, worst of all, the back of the classroom was my safe haven. Being born as a triplet invites more obstacles to overcome as an individual. I had to deal with challenges by *myself* in tough surroundings, which lead to the reality of “growing up”. Getting used to the name “triplet” or even worse, “which ever one you are” were barriers I had to go through in the process of establishing myself. A new start was what I needed to discover myself. The turning point in my life came on June 27, 2006.

Throughout my high school journey, I have taken many risky steps in order to achieve more. My mother has always told me, if it doesn't kill you, it will only make you stronger. Each day, I implement her words into my daily life. Because of her words, my vision for my future has grown stronger each day.

The fuel that keeps me going everyday is the pride that I have for Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School. Everyday I make sure that I contribute at least one thing to my school—whether it is mentoring a freshman, planning community service events for the student body, or getting involved in different clubs outside of my comfort zone. My worst fear is leaving Southeast Raleigh Magnet High school without having made an impact.

I remember walking through the 200 hallway my junior year when a young man approached me and said, “Risi, thank you for all you have done in my A.C.” His words empowered me to do more for my community.

This year, I started my own club called the “Uplifting Education Mentoring/Tutoring Program”. Starting the club was not only an accomplishment this year but a blessing because I enjoy reaching out a helping hand to *anybody* in this world. My goal is to make sure that the club remains active as the years go on.

One inspiring statement that I have also come to embrace is to never *reach* the bar, but to *excel*. After I graduate, I hope to sprinkle my knowledge and understanding on this world and to make a significant difference. With prayers and my faith in God, I hope to attend UNC-Chapel Hill to major in Communications and International studies. From there, only God can tell where my final destination will be in this life journey.

Reflecting on my past and the challenges that I have endured in high school, I have come to realize that there is more to life and more to me. High school highlights only a small portion of my journey; but it has played a huge role in who I am today. Words cannot express how much I have accomplished and how much Southeast Raleigh has molded me into the person I am today.

--Risi Ademola, Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School Student Body President

## The Writing is on the Wall

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As you walk through the hallways of Southeast Raleigh High School, take note of the following quotes that have been written to encourage and inspire the students.

- The machine does not isolate man from the great problems of nature but plunges him more deeply into them. - Antoine de Saint-Exupery
- When we all think alike, no one is thinking. - Walter Lippman
- On this shrunken globe, men can no longer live as strangers. - Adlai Stevenson
- Our task is to look at the world and see it whole. - E.F. Schumacher
- To succeed you must first improve, to improve you must first practice, to practice you must first learn, to learn you must first fail. - Wesley Woo
- To raise new questions, possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real abundances in science.” - Albert Einstein
- Pressure makes diamonds. - General George S. Patton
- Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. - Mark Twain
- There are those who look at things the way they are and ask why... I dream of things that never were and ask why not. - Robert Kennedy
- A community is like a ship, everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm. - Henrik Ibsen
- We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope. - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. - Ralph Waldo Emerson
- In the long run we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die, and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility. - Eleanor Roosevelt

The quotes above were provided by Patrick Horton and Martin Rudd, both Staff members of Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School.

## Southeast Raleigh High School Parent, Teacher, Student, Association—The School’s Booster Club!

The mission of the SRHS PTSA is three-fold:

- We will support and speak on behalf of our school family before governing bodies that make decisions affecting our school.
- We will assist parents in becoming knowledgeable partners in the educational process.
- We will encourage student, parent, and community involvement at our school by creating a positive school climate.

The SRHS PTSA does not exist solely to raise funds. Our goals are to support our school and our students with programs and initiatives that add to the educational environment. However, to implement strategies to accomplish those goals, funds are needed!

We encourage you to participate in our *Annual Giving* campaign. If you have already given, we thank you, if not please consider doing so. You may mail your tax-deductible contribution of any amount to SRHS PTSA, 2600 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC 27610.

Some companies, such as SAS, will provide funds for volunteer hours donated by their employees. Check with your employer today.

Wake County Special Education PTA has put out a comprehensive list of employers participating in matching gift programs. Please visit their site at <http://www.wakeseppta.org/EmployerMatching.html>

### Passive Fundraising—Support Southeast In Your Everyday Activities

If you would like to keep giving throughout the year, you can with many passive fundraising efforts. When you shop at certain participating stores, you can elect to link your rewards card to SRHS. Rewards earned will be returned to SRHS for programs to support students, teachers, and parents.

Use the following instructions to link your store card to SRHS--Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Office Depot, and Target. You may also link your card at the register in the grocery stores.

#### Food Lion - Lion Shop and Share

1. Go to <http://www.foodlion.com/>
2. In the side bar labeled “In the Community”, click on “Lion Shop and Share”
3. Click on the link for “Register MVP Cards”
4. Press the button labeled “Select Organization”
5. Select State (NC)
6. Select City (Raleigh)
7. Select Organization (Southeast Raleigh HS PTSA)
8. Click on OK
9. Add MVP Card (make sure the all 12 digits on the back of the MVP card is used)

Note: MVP members must re-register annually (in the fall) to participate in the next year.

#### Harris Teeter - Together in Education

1. Go to <http://www.harristeeter.com/>
2. Click on the “Community” page.
3. Click on “Together in Education”
4. Click on the “click here to link your VIC card now” link.
5. Enter information to register the card including our School ID #4387. You may also link your card at the register. You must re-link your card annually in August.

#### Office Depot

<http://www.officedepot.com> (School ID# 70062194) Tell the cashier you will donate a portion of your sales to Southeast Raleigh High School before your purchase is totaled.

#### Target - Take Charge in Education

A portion of your Target VISA and Target Guest Card purchases made at Target stores, including <http://www.target.com> is returned to SRHS.

## Your Contribution to Southeast Raleigh High School Makes A Difference

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### Volunteer Interest Sheet

Please consider volunteering at Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School. Our high school students and teachers need parent volunteers just as much as elementary and middle schools. We encourage you to get involved! When you KNOW MORE, you want to DO MORE.

Please check the committees for which you are interested in volunteering below. Almost all correspondence is by email, so please remember to provide your address. On behalf of the students, teachers and administration we say, THANK YOU!

Please print:

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Interest:

- Academic Boosters—Assists with honor roll socials
- Reflections—Assists with art, music and submissions to national Reflections program
- Hospitality—Coordinates Staff/Teacher Appreciation events and other social events
- Newsletter—Collects news for online newsletter and helps with production using MS Publisher (optional)
- Parent Involvement—Helps plan and implement parent programs
- Scholarships/Teacher Grants—Coordinates or assists with Senior Scholarship award program and teacher mini-grants
- Student Involvement—Works with Student Government on collaborative events
- Volunteers—Coordinates and recruits volunteers for various school-sponsored events such as test proctoring and graduation projects

What times are best for you to volunteer?  mornings  afternoons  evenings

Please return to:

SRMHS PTSA

2600 Rock Quarry Rd.

Raleigh, NC 27610

***PTSA--Everyone Benefits***

Visit us at <http://www.srhsptsa.net/>. We are counting on you! Thanks for your support!