

CYPRUS PTSA NEWS-Jan 2009

Reflections: Congratulations to Cyprus High student, Courtney White, who received Award of Merit in Visual Arts at the regional level. Cyprus Council had 17 regional winners overall.

Battle of the Bands: Cyprus BOB was held January 15. Five awesome bands competed this year: **Bailey Likes Grizzly Bears** (Mike Jones, Nic Mortensen, Sergio Medina, David Numan) **Lost in Transition** (Cody Ferry, Bo Glasgow, Brandon Case) **Venture** (Aaron Jolley, Andy Anderson) **Read As Man** (Keith Bauman, Jean Cardenas, Nathan Reading) and **Zack & Tanner** (Zack Gomes, Tanner Cloward).

Battle of the Bands is not a PTSA fundraiser. That means all ticket sales go towards the program, and since we had a great turnout of students and family members, we were able to give the winning bands a good chunk of change as follows:

Zack & Tanner 1st place \$150.00

Read as Man 2nd place \$100.00

Bailey Likes Grizzly Bears 3rd place \$50.00

Zack & Tanner will now have the opportunity to compete at a region and state level.

Special thanks to our Master of Ceremonies, Tayne Obray from the PTSA Junior Board, who provided fun entertainment between sets. In addition, we thank our volunteer judges: Mike Rohde, Mitch Jenkins, Brandi Aleman and school staff: Mr. Perschon, Mr. Higley, the stage crew, and the custodians.

Pirate Way: 2nd quarter has ended and the qualified students will be posted outside the counseling center by mid-February. Students who qualify with a 3.6 or better GPA or a 3.5 or better CPA or improved GPA by at least 0.5 will receive a certificate and candy bar, as well as a chance to win one of three \$30 gift cards. In addition, each qualified student will have a chance to win one of three \$100 American Express Cash Cards at the end of the year.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

President-Elect for 2009-2010

Dance Chaperone for Sweethearts, Feb. 7 (7-10)

Parent-Teacher Conference Dinner: Mar. 5 (3-5)

If you would like to help with Cyprus PTSA, please e-mail your contact information and area of interest to CYPRUS_PTSA@q.com or contact a member of the executive board.



Community Council is held the 3rd Monday of each month at 2:30 in the Media Center. All parents are invited. This committee has the responsibility of assessing the school's most critical needs and implementing programs to target these needs, utilizing the school's LAND Trust and Quality Teaching/Student Achievement (QTSA) funds. The committee has chosen the following goals this year:

- Increase literacy by incorporating Cornell Style Note Taking
- Increase numeracy by incorporating double-blocked geometry for any Junior or Senior off-track with math requirements
- Decrease student failures with an after-school tutoring program that is available to all students and mandatory for any student failing a class at mid-term.
- Increase graduation rates with an "Adopt-A-Sophomore" program that pairs a sophomore who is off-line (failing in one or more core subject) with a faculty member for a weekly "touch-base" to help the student connect to the school. Studies demonstrate that students with a school connection (friend, mentor, club, sport, etc.) are more likely to stay in school.

Update from the Community Council meeting held Dec. 15:

- No meeting in January due to Human Rights Day
- February's meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb 17 at 2:30
- Cornell-Style Note Taking (objective=increase literacy): Ms. Coon provided the results of the survey taken at Parent/Teacher conference last September. Approximately 150 **parents** responded. Only 9% said they were familiar with Cornell notes, but 70% indicated they would ask their student about this tool after being made aware of it. Approximately 48 **teachers** responded. Most are using Cornell notes in their classes. Some rated the notes as "very helpful"; others rated them "useless". The majority fell somewhere in between. When asked what they like most about the notes, responses included: "Students are more engaged/attentive", "Comprehension has improved", "Notes are better". When asked what they dislike most, a common response was "The students complain about them." Finally, 80 **students** completed the survey. The majority of these students indicated they use Cornell notes in 5 to 6 classes. 20% felt the notes as a whole are "useless", 10% rated them "very helpful", and the majority rated them "ok". The majority felt the left-side is "ok"; 80% felt the summary section is "useless". When asked what they like, responses included "better organization" and "increased understanding". Dislikes include: "not sure how to use the left side and summary"; "they take too much time". And although a high number of students responded that the notes don't improve understanding, they indicated in another section of the survey that the notes help in math, science, and English. This survey was taken early in the school year and the council is anxious to see the results of a similar survey to be administered near the end of the school year. The survey will ask students if they took notes prior to this year and if Cornell notes improved their grade. Jerry Schaffer (math) reported that he has used Cornell notes for four years and has seen improvement each year. The math department uses the summary section as a warm-up for the next class.

2008-2009 PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Sandy Lancaster, President 673-0312

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Debora Searcy, Community Liaison 250-7747

Albertsons, and Target. Your participation in these programs is greatly appreciated...and free. Just enroll and shop. The sponsors do the rest. That beats buying 10 tubs of cookie dough, doesn't it?

Smith's Earn and Learn (requires annual enrollment):

Below is the Cyprus High bar code for the Smith's Earn and Learn Program. Take this bar code, along with your Fresh Value Card, to any Smith's cashier to get enrolled. Use your Fresh Value Card for every purchase and Cyprus High School gets a check at the end of the year based upon total purchases.



Albertson's Community Partners

You can enroll your Albertson's Preferred Savings Card in one of three ways: (1) By phone: 1-877-932-7948 and ask for Customer Service (2) By mail: mail your name, phone number, Albertson's Preferred Savings Card #, and Cyprus High School's community partner ID# (49000109228) to Community Partners Program Headquarters P.O. Box 193, Bethel Park, PA 15102-0193 (3) On Line: go to www.alberstons.com. Enter your ZIP CODE, and then enter the site. On the bottom menu bar, click on "In the Community". On the next page, click on the Community Partners logo, then go to the "Shoppers" enrollment link. On the left side of the screen, enter your Preferred Savings Card # and phone number, and then press "Log-in". A 'sign-post' will appear on the right side of the screen. Choose "My Account", "Add a Partner", then enter Cyprus High School's community partner ID# (49000109228). If you would like to donate to more than one school, you can designate up to four participating schools. You can even check "My Report" to see your personal contributions to the school.

Target's Take Charge of Education: When Target RedCards (credit or check cards) are used for purchases, 1% of your purchase is donated to the school of your choice. You can enroll at any Target store, call 1-800-316-6142, or go to www.target.com/tcoe. Cyprus High School's ID# is 102292.



Also, turn in your used **ink cartridges** and **used cell phones** to the office at Cyprus; the PTSA sends them to recycling companies. Ask co-workers, employers, friends and family to save these items for you. We get paid and the environment benefits. It's a great win-win situation.

For more information about our community sponsors, please contact the PTSA Community Liaison, Debora Searcy at 250-7747.