



Bruin Voices

Lake Braddock Secondary



everychild.onevoice.

Newsletter of the LBSS Parent, Teacher, Student

Letter from the President, Mr. Robert Shaw



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Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

As the holiday draws near, I find myself reflecting on the past year and on all of you who have helped to shape our organization. I believe that we have accomplished a lot in the last six months and look forward to the New Year with anxious expectations for achieving greater things. This year, for the first time the PTSA added the Middle School Ice-Cream Social, then continued the ever-popular Principal's Coffee and hosted a presentation on "Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying" to name a few. We were saddened to hear of the family emergency which forced Jonathan Mooney to cancel his scheduled presentation. As you know, he is an internationally known author, public speaker, and expert in the field of special education and research methodologies. We hope to have him bring his special Parent Presentation to Lake Braddock sometime early in 2011.

Due to the combined success of the Craft Fair and outstanding membership sign-up, the PTSA was able to increase support to the Lake Braddock Teacher Mini-Grant program. Both Middle and High School students and teachers will benefit tremendously from the academic enrichment gained by the new equipment, books and world class speakers visiting the school. Another success story that I would like to tell you about is that of our "Caring by Sharing Program. This program is funded entirely by donations and thanks to your generosity the PTSA has provided school supplies and back packs to many students and gift cards to households (parents and students). The school supplies, back packs and gift cards are all gone. What we have left is a substantial need especially for gift cards. Let me share the words of one of our own LBSS Parent Liaison to amplify how much your support is valued and needed... **(continued on page 2)**

Upcoming Events:

- December 22
2-hour early release
- December 22-January 2
Winter break
- January 11
PTSA Board Meeting
Lecture Hall 7pm
- January 12
Coffee with the
Principal
Lecture Hall
12:45pm-1:45pm
- January 17
Martin Luther King
Holiday
No School
- January 20
Reflections Awards
Ceremony
Lecture Hall,
after school

Middle School Busy with After-School Activities

How about making a New Year's Resolution to try something new Middle School Families? Middle-School Students why not come try out a new club after-school starting the week of January 3, 2011? It is never too late to sign-up and start participating in the Bruin Cubs, the middle school after-school program.

We have a lot of new clubs this year such as CSI which meets every Thursday. If you like Forensic Science, are interested in learning how detectives solve criminal cases, want to study criminal justice or be a judge or jury on a trial, you might want to check out this club.

If you like dancing, loud music and exercising, then Zumba is for you. Zumba is the new hit dance/aerobic sensation to sweep the nation. It is a fun way to get in shape with your friends. This club meets every Tuesday. Parents, friends, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, neighbors, every month, we are going to be sponsoring \$1.00 Zumba Night. Come join in the fun with the Lake Braddock Middle School Zumba Club and get Your Zumba on. January 20th, we will be hosting our monthly Zumba night. Please join us.

Mr. Purdy will be starting a Boys Club 3rd Quarter. Every Wednesday, Ms. Birkenstock, Ms. Magretta, and Officer Gee run a Girls Club. Auto Technology meets every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. MS students work on actual cars.

If your MS student needs a little one-on-one help with their studies, we offer free tutoring after-school as well. But the Bruin Cubs are not limited to MS students only. We are always looking for HS students to be mentors and tutors. In addition, we also need and want parents to be volunteers either as mentors and tutors or to run weekly or monthly clubs. **(Continued on page 4)**

Message from the President (Continued from page 1)

"This is a time to be grateful (well I believe every day is, but this season is more publicized)

Robert, in the name of all Parents at LBSS, I would like to thank you and the PTSA team. Pam and I received yesterday \$100 in gift cards that was distributed to two families in need.

Our reality is that only a few months into the new school year and we already have 7 homeless families! And it requires all of us, as a team, to help them.

Praise God the County offered us coats and LBSS made the list (many other schools did not) so I went to pick up 15 coats for our needy students.

We are really blessed. Thank you for the back packs; they have been put to good use. Be grateful; enjoy your family and rest!"

LBSS Parent Liaison

My dear PTSA family...the need is real and what you do is highly appreciated. As a matter of fact since I received the above note in early November I received another request in December for coats, gloves and hats, yes we have students coming to school without these items of clothing. So, let me say a huge "Thanks to everyone for your donations" and to implore you to continue to contribute to our "Caring by Sharing Program". **You do make a difference**...and in a BIG way! Here is how the program works...the PTSA works with the school Social Workers; they know the need first hand and they distribute the items anonymously. It is perhaps around the holidays, a period of celebration often centered on food and gifts, when there is no clearer reminder for many families of what life used to taste like. With all our help we can help eliminate some of this discomfort; if you would like to donate a gift card that could be used to supplement a meal or help purchase a coat, etc. (previous gift card donations are typically from Giant, Safeway, Shoppers, Target and Wal-Mart). Please contact our Community Relations/Outreach Chair Shelly Bralich at shelly999@verizon.net or please leave your cards in the front office with Ms. Paula Seng. I thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

In closing let me thank the members of the PTSA Board for their tireless efforts to the greater LBSS Community, also to all our parents, teachers and students. I certainly appreciate your help and encouragement and look forward to the same next year.

It is in this spirit that I extend my heartfelt gratitude and convey warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday and a happy, safe and prosperous new year! During this holiday season, please take some time to remember those who have made a difference in your life. The smallest acts can make the biggest difference. Take a moment to write a note, send a letter or personally thank someone who has changed your life. Sometimes the best gifts are actions; gracious, sincere and meaningful. May your Holidays be joyful and safe and the coming year be overflowing with happiness and all the good things in life.

All the best to you and your family,
Robert Shaw

PTSA Awards Mini-Grants

This year the Education Committee of the PTSA received 38 applications for mini-grants totaling over \$20,000. Due to the success of our membership drive, and Craft Fair, we were able to award over \$12,000 in December. Teachers completed mini-grant applications in November. They were asked to describe their request in terms of how it would impact the instructional program in their classroom and how many students would benefit. A sampling of approved requests include:

Author visit and purchase of books for the Library
Support for the ROTC Program
Support for Special Ed class rooms
Animal Meiosis and RNA-Protein Synthesis Models
Human skeleton models for Science
Dual water baths for Science Labs
Math Software and books

Write and wipe boards for Math
Speaker Honorariums for Career Center Presentations
Equipment for a newsletter for ESOL students
Digital recording equipment for Music Department
Heart Rate Monitors for the PE Department
Student Response System
Buzzer System for It's Academic Team
STEP Parenting Manuals/facilitator for Parent Liaison

The approved grants were equitably distributed to middle and high school. and many departments within the school received funds. We are impressed that so many Lake Braddock teachers look for ways to enrich their classroom and create unique learning opportunities.

Many thanks to all the parents, students and staff that made the mini-grant awards possible.

All Night Grad Party Planning is Underway

The LBSS PTSA will host the **All Night Graduation Party (ANGP)** for the Lake Braddock Secondary School Class of 2011 on Tuesday, June 21, 2011. The ANGP provides a safe, alcohol-free environment for our celebrating seniors. The ANGP is financed separately by special fund-raising events; historically the annual mulch sale has been the main source of funds, along with generous donations from the community. Over 300 parent volunteers are needed to make this graduation party possible and the help of underclassman and junior parents is **paramount** as the graduation ceremony immediately precedes the party the same night. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Jeanne Weidinger at mweiding@msn.com. Please see below for a description of the volunteer opportunities.

The All Night Grad Party will be a success with the help of our *Freshman, Sophomore, Junior*, and even middle school parents.

2011 LBSS PTSA ANGP Mulch Sale

Students rely on donations and proceeds from the MULCH SALE to provide nearly one-third of the financial support for this alcohol and drug free event. You can help by ordering mulch (see form below) and/or making a tax deductible cash donation.

We are offering JK's double shredded hardwood bark mulch in 3 cubic foot bags for the same price as last year: \$4.50 per bag. Orders of 15 bags or more will be delivered to your home on Saturday or Sunday, March 26-27, 2011. Orders less than 15 bags must be picked up at the Lake Braddock Secondary School Parking Lot on Saturday, March 26, 2011. **Many** adult and student volunteers are needed to deliver mulch to customers, and service hours are available. Questions? Contact the LBSS Mulchman, Ed Hartman, at lbss.mulchman@cox.net. Wish to order mulch, complete and send in a Mulch order form accessible on the PTSA website (www.lbssptsa.org).

Willing & able to help with delivery? Consult the Mulch Volunteer delivery needs below and email willingness and availability to Ed Hartman at lbss.mulchman@cox.net or indicate your mulch volunteer ability on the ANGP/Mulch volunteer sign up form on the PTSA website

Parent Volunteers needed for Mulch Sale Delivery – March 26-27, 2011

Shifts: ___ Fri afternoon (March 25)
 ___ Sat AM (7:00 am- 12:00 pm)
 ___ Sat PM (1:00 pm - 6:00 pm)
 ___ Sun AM (7:00 am- 12:00 pm)

- Truck Driver / Team Chief (8 per shift) - leads delivery team of students/adults; drives 26-ft. rental truck to deliver mulch
- Support Vehicle Driver (8 per shift) - transports students to deliver mulch
- Delivery Team Member - helps deliver mulch
- Truck Loader (3 per shift) - loads mulch onto trucks with help of forklift & pallet jacks
- Forklift Operator (2 per shift)
- Utility Volunteer- helps where needed on-site at school
- Pick-up Truck Driver (1 per shift) - provides & drives for smaller "side" deliveries of ~ 25 bags, with help of 2 students
- Mulch Café & Volunteer Check in (4 per shift for 3 Sat/Sun shifts) - check in/out & nourish volunteers
- Mulch Café Food Coordinators (2 parents) - arrange for food to feed mulch volunteers
- Drivers to pick up rental trucks on Friday afternoon, March 25
- Drivers available Sunday afternoon, March 27, to help return trucks to rental agency
- Parents who know of local businesses who would support the Mulch Sale (donate food/beverages to mulch café)



Middle School Activities Continued From Page 1

Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in

Bruin Voices?

Please contact editors Tina Weber and Pamela Nelson at

bruinvoices@yahoo.com

We're on the Web !

www.lbssptsa.org

Parents, another way to keep up with all that's happening at Lake Braddock, is to subscribe to the student newspaper *The Bear Facts*. It's \$15. To subscribe, send the school a check payable to LBSS, Attention : The Bear Facts. Be sure to include your address. Subscribers will receive all previous issues of this year's paper and every upcoming issue. The paper is published once a month.



Box Top Blowout!

Many thanks to all the folks and families who have clipped and sent in their box tops! So far we have collected \$800 in box tops! That is 8000 box tops that have been sent in since the start of school! On behalf of all those who will benefit from the money earned through this program, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

Remember to check out <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> for other ways to help our school earn extra box tops, and for coupons and shopping deals.

Thanks for your support and keep on clipping!

For a full listing of clubs, sponsors and when they meet please go to the LBSS website under MS activities:

www.fcps.edu/

[LakeBraddockSS/](http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/middle_school/ms_afterschool.htm)

[middle_school/](http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/middle_school/ms_afterschool.htm)

[ms_afterschool.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/middle_school/ms_afterschool.htm) For additional information, please contact Michelle Birkenstock, After-School Specialist, at

PMBirkenstock@fcps.edu or 703-426-6428.

Specialist, at

Lake Braddock Musical Theater Presents: Annie

January 27, 7:30 pm

January 28, 7:30 pm

January 29, 2:00, 8:00 pm

Lake Braddock Little Theatre

Tickets \$12

Online ticketing available after

1/8/11

**Reminder: Coffee with the Principal, January 12
12:45-1:45 pm in the Lecture Hall.**

Attention: Cherry Run Families

Mrs. Patchan, the last original teacher at Cherry Run, is retiring after 30 yrs in FCPS. We are creating a memory book for her and need photos and stories from her former students and their parents. Please help us by providing a message, favorite memory or story and/or photos (no professional photos please!) to Renee Dondes at Dondes@cox.net no later than December 23rd. Please feel free to forward this to any other former students. Be sure to include your name and the names of any others pictured in the photos you contribute. Thank you so much! We hope to produce a wonderful book for Mrs. Patchan to remember her career and all the people she has had the opportunity to teach over the years.

A child, like your stomach, doesn't need all you can afford to give it.
~Frank A. Clark

Thanks to our LBSS faculty and staff

The PTSA hosted a Winter Wonderland Tea for the LBSS faculty and staff on December 9th. They walked into a woodsy wonderland thanks to the beautiful decorations made by Maria Supko with set-up help by Julie Altobelli, Vicki Amburn, Carolyn Green, Pam Laing, and Kim Turmel. Thanks also to our dedicated Hospitality volunteer bakers who lovingly baked tons of delicious cookies, pastries, brownies, fudge, etc. Special thanks to the following businesses for graciously donating baked goods: Burke Great Harvest, Burke Swiss Bakery, and to Starbucks in the Burke Centre/Kohl's shopping center for donating Pike's coffee and hot water for the tea. Please stop in these local business and let them know how much we appreciate their support of Lake Braddock.