



# Bruin Voices

Lake Braddock Secondary

# PTSA®

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Newsletter of the LBSS Parent, Teacher, Student Association

## Letter from the President, Mr. Robert Shaw

Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

Let me take this opportunity to welcome everyone back from the holidays and to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope that over the holidays you took the opportunity to rest, get reconnected with family and friends and reflect on your goals for 2011. I want to pause at this time and acknowledge several of our PTSA families who suffered loss over the holidays. Please accept our sincere condolences and know that you are in our thought and prayers. Our hope is that the memories of your loved ones will lessen your grief with each passing day.

January marks the beginning of a sprint to the finish line in many areas...there is graduation and the close of the school year and it also signifies the end of the PTSA year also. This time signifies either transition or continuity for the elected PTSA officers. There will be elections at the May 2011 general membership meeting to elect the officers for the 2011-2012 school year. The first order of action is to nominate five PTSA members of good standing to form the nominating committee to select the new slate of officers; I hope that many of you will consider this very important role and volunteer to serve on this committee. Our PTSA by-laws allow an elected officer to serve a term of one year at a time not to exceed two consecutive years; after which they will vacate the office held. **(continued on page 5)**

### Baccalaureate

All graduating seniors and their families and friends are invited to the 2011 Lake Braddock Baccalaureate ceremony to be held in June at Immanuel Bible Church. Graduates are invited to participate. The Baccalaureate committee is looking for additional student and parent volunteers. Please contact Julie Lawhorn at [lawhorn5@cox.net](mailto:lawhorn5@cox.net).

The Baccalaureate is a spiritual non-denominational ceremony to celebrate graduation. Baccalaureate is a PTSA-sponsored event not affiliated with Fairfax County Public Schools.

### Sendoff for a beloved teacher

Current and former Cherry Run Elementary families are being asked to take part in a surprise goodbye for Terre Patchan, a kindergarten teacher for nearly 30 years.  
When: January 28<sup>th</sup>  
Where: In front of Cherry Run Elementary, at the grey wall  
Time: 3:25pm. Refreshments will be served after the big surprise in the cafeteria. Mrs. Patchan still loves smiley faces and sunshines, so an added bonus would be to bring either one of those balloons. Please help us make a very special woman leave with joy in her heart!  
Diane Nolan-gourmetdk@verizon.net

### Upcoming Events:

- January 20  
Reflections Awards Ceremony  
Lecture Hall, after school
- January 26  
11th Grade Parent/Student College Night  
Cafeteria, 7PM
- January 27, 28,  
Annie  
Little Theater, 7:30pm
- January 29  
Annie  
Little Theater, 2pm & 7:30pm
- January 31-February 1  
Teacher work days  
No School
- February 2  
AP Info Night  
Lecture Hall, 6pm  
  
Followed by  
High School Curriculum Night  
Cafeteria, 7pm
- February 2  
Second quarter report  
Cards sent home
- February 10  
PTSA General Membership Meeting with Bullying Seminar  
Lecture Hall, 6:30pm
- February 14  
Middle School Curriculum Night  
Cafeteria, 7pm



## Academic Advising/Course Registration – For school year 2011-2012

### Attention Rising 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents:

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Lake Braddock High School Curriculum Night on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 (snow date: Thursday, February 3, 2011). This event will be held in the LBSS cafeteria at 7 p.m. Come early to attend the AP Information Meeting at 6 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

The 2011-2012 curriculum will be introduced. You'll have the opportunity to meet with administrators, counselors, department chairs and teachers to learn important information about curriculum options and course planning for your students.

Visit the LBSS website to view the 2011-2012 online course catalog.

Academic advising dates:

Rising Seniors:

- Academic Advising: Wednesday, February 2
- Course selection sheet completed, signed by parent and brought to school: Monday, February 7
- Scheduling of courses: February 7-11

Rising Juniors:

- Academic Advising: Monday, February 14
- Course selection sheet completed, signed by parent and brought to school: Tuesday, February 22
- Scheduling of courses: February 22-25

Rising Sophomores:

- Academic Advising: Monday, February 28
- Course selection sheet completed, signed by parent and brought to school: Monday, March 7
- Scheduling of courses: March 7-11

Rising Freshmen:

- Academic Advising: Thursday- Friday, Jan. 20-21
- Course selection sheet completed, signed by parent and brought to 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers: Monday, February 7
- Scheduling of courses: February 7-11

For more information, please contact HS Counseling/Student Services at 703-426-1040.

To view the 2011-2012 online course catalog, and download the course selection sheet visit our Website <http://www/fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/> or go to FCPS 24/7.

## Teacher of the Year Award goes to....

Congratulations to Mr. Jason Switzer, Lake Braddock's Teacher of the Year! He has also been nominated for FCPS Teacher of the Year 2011 and The Washington Post's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. This is Mr. Switzer's fifth year at Lake Braddock and 15th year in the Teaching Profession. In addition to teaching AP Biology and Human Anatomy & Physiology, he also serves as an assistant coach for the Lake Braddock Cross Country Team.

Here are a few of things his students, colleagues, and administrators have to say about him:

"Mr. Switzer is an extremely effective teacher because he cares so much about his students, gains their respect and pushes them to do their best."

"He motivates both his students and colleagues to always try to do better."

"He inspires and motivates me to be excellent."

"He has defined dedication and commitment in the halls of Lake Braddock Secondary School."

Thank you, Mr. Switzer, for being an inspiration to our Lake Braddock Community!

*If you want your children to improve, let them overhear the nice things you say about them to other people. ~Haim Ginott*

Let's "Rock Around the Clock" & "Twist the Night Away" at the  
Lake Braddock Vocal Music Boosters' 2011  
Sock Hop and Silent Auction!

When: Friday, February 25th  
7PM to 10P

Where: Lake Braddock SS Cafeteria  
Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

Auction items include:  
**Autographed U2 Guitar**  
**Miracle on Ice Autographed Photo**  
**Muhammad Ali's Autographed Boxing Gloves**

There will be food, chocolate cokes, floats, lively performances from the Lake Braddock Choruses, dance contests (better brush up on the "Hand Jive"), games, LIVE music from the Rivers Rockabilly Trio.

Other auction items include a Bruce Springsteen drumhead, sports tickets, dinners out, and golf vacations. There will be something for every budget, so get out your saddle shoes and leather jackets and meet us at "The Hop"! Proceeds from the event will help defray costs for the choral competition in New York City this Spring. Email [teachingkat@gmail.com](mailto:teachingkat@gmail.com) for more information.



BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

## Notes from Coffee with the Principal

Principal David Thomas graciously gave up some of his time to meet with parents on Wednesday, January 12, and answer some of their questions. There was a good turnout, as 49 parents came to the Lecture Hall for the special afternoon event. Mr. Thomas has indicated he'd like to host another coffee, so please check *The Bruin Voices* and the PTSA eNews for a future date. Here are some of the questions from parents and the answers from Principal Thomas:

Q: Are you expecting the student population to expand, given the recent redistricting of the Annandale boundaries?

A: The student population will continue to rise slowly with the changing of the Annandale boundaries, but we didn't initially get all of that pyramid's kids as we had anticipated. Over the next two years we will get more students from that pyramid, but there will be no dramatic changes.

Q: Can a student who takes a High School class in Middle School drop his grade? How do you do this?

A: Middle school parents may request that grades for any high school credit-bearing course taken in the middle school be removed from the student's high school transcript, and therefore the student will not earn high school credit for the course. In addition, the student will not be eligible for a verified credit in any course which has been removed from the transcript. The request to remove a course from the transcript must be made in writing to the middle or high school the student will attend the following year, prior to the end of the first nine weeks.

- If the student takes a high school credit-bearing course in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the request to drop the course must be made in writing to the Middle School Director of Student Services, prior to the end of the first nine weeks while the student is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- If the student takes a high school credit-bearing course in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the request to drop the course must be made in writing to the High School Director of Student Services, prior to the end of the first nine weeks while the student is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Q: What policies does LB have in place regarding cheating?

A: Policies against cheating are a part of the Students Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) agreement each student signs at the beginning of each school year. This SRR is reviewed several times by the faculty of LB. It's something we have to deal with in our society and be more proactive. We must find out why kids are cheating. Our teachers are working on a new honor code to emphasize the importance of good integrity. The other side is how we teach our kids. The pressure we put on kids to be successful, perhaps, is leading them to cheat. They cheat because they think their parents and teachers will be upset if they don't get an "A". Kids cheat on homework because they see it as busy work. So by emphasizing productive assignments they'll see the value in it. There is an Honor Code committee of which parents are members.

Q: What's the point of Fairfax County getting rid of some Honors classes when kids who are not AP kids want to challenge themselves?

A: The philosophy of Fairfax County is to weed out the classes with the AP equivalent, for example: Honors US History for Juniors. See what interests your child, what they want to follow. There are also high expectations in the regular sections with a challenging curriculum. The goal is for all kids to pass—not just the brightest. All through, our curriculum will prepare them for the next level, whether it's the workforce, a two-year college or a four-year college.



Principal Dave Thomas takes parents' questions at this year's second "Coffee with the Principal" on January 12.

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## Message from the President (Continued from page 1)

The offices which need new officers are: President, First Vice President (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Third Vice President (3<sup>rd</sup> VP) (there is a pending nomination that needs to be voted on at the next Board Meeting), Treasurer and Secretary. Let me encourage you to consider serving on the PTSA Executive Committee in one of those offices. Our PTSA plays a very important role at LBSS and with the size of our membership there should be no shortage of volunteers.

I want to share some exciting news with you. After many months of asking for a volunteer for the office of 3<sup>rd</sup> VP and All Night Graduation Party (ANGP) Chair we finally have a volunteer. I want to say thanks to Tracy Barry for volunteering to fill this office and I hope that she will get a quick confirmation vote at our next PTSA Meeting. Tracy needs all of our support in executing the ANGP this year and I hope that she can count on you. She needs parents from Middle School through High School to volunteer. I will remind everyone that due to the late start of LBSS Graduation, many senior parents will be at the Patriot Center attending the graduation ceremony and will not be available initially to help with set-up and reception. You are invited to attend the ANGP planning meeting held in the school library usually on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm (ok we gave everyone off Valentine's Day, so February's meeting will be on Monday February 7, 2011). Please come out and volunteer your time and talents.

I want to say a huge "Thanks for a job well done" to our collective membership for your tremendous kindness and donations to the PTSA "Caring by Sharing" program. We received more than a thousand dollars worth of gift cards for distribution to families. Many families were the beneficiaries of your generosity over the holidays. Let's not cease now as there are needs to be met throughout the year.

I'd like to offer my congratulations to all of our LBSS entrants and award winners, who participated in the Cluster 6 PTA Reflections Program. Each of the cluster-level entries was absolutely outstanding and it was a privilege to be with parents and well wishers at the Award and Recognition Ceremony earlier this month. Those entries which received the Outstanding Interpretation (1st Place) Award will be forwarded to the Northern Virginia District level for the next round of judging and I wish our participants good luck at the next level. Eleven schools participated in the program this year, and 78 student entries were submitted to the Cluster level program.

In closing let me thank all the members of the PTSA Board and the standing Committee Chairs for their continued service to the LBSS Community. I certainly appreciate your help and encouragement.

All the best to you and your family,

Robert Shaw  
President, LBSS PTSA

## College News...

Alfred Street Baptist Church is hosting a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Festival on Saturday, February 19, 2011 from 9AM – 2PM at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA. This is one of the largest and most successful college festivals. Students have traveled from all over to be a part of this event. Onsite admissions and scholarships have been awarded on the spot over the past nine years, thousands have benefited from the **FREE** seminars.

Online registration is required; please visit our website [www.asbchbcu.org](http://www.asbchbcu.org) to register. **Everyone who attends must register, including parents, siblings, etc.** Registration is **Free**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the following: Vance Davis 202-584-1208, Aketa Ogletree (513) 646-2484, Henry Thompson 301-839-5484.

### Lake Braddock Musical Theater Presents



**January 27, 7:30 pm**  
**January 28, 7:30 pm**  
**January 29, 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm**

**Lake Braddock Little Theatre**  
**Tickets \$12**  
**Tickets can be bought online**  
**at [lbmusical.webs.com](http://lbmusical.webs.com)**

## All Night Grad Party Needs Lots of Help

The All Night Grad Party committee is hard at work and planning for the celebration on June 21, 2011. Tracy Barry has graciously stepped up to chair the committee, but there are still several openings that need to be filled *immediately*. We are asking parents, particularly of **8th graders, Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors**, to please consider volunteering to act as a junior chair to one of the following committees. Volunteers are needed in all areas for the night of the party.

***Co-chairs are needed for: food, security, the store, transportation, clean up, and activities.***

PLEASE GET INVOLVED...and contact Jeanne Weidinger at [mweiding@msn.com](mailto:mweiding@msn.com) or 703-451-6162 to let us know where you can be of assistance.

### 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](mailto:lbss.mulchman@cox.net). Wish to order mulch, complete and send in a Mulch order form accessible on the PTSA website ([www.lbssptsa.org](http://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](mailto: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)

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](http://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.

Did you know your PTSA membership gets you a 10% discount at Great Wolf Lodge? How would you like a special price on auto insurance, cellular phone service or a vacation package? These are just some of the benefits of becoming a member of the LBSS PTSA. Every member strengthens our voice for all children.

Please go to our website at [LBSSPTSA.org](http://LBSSPTSA.org). click on "Join PTSA", download a membership form and send it to the address on the form. *We look forward to seeing you!* (For more on the discounts visit [http://www.pta.org/mem-ber\\_benefit\\_providers.asp](http://www.pta.org/mem-ber_benefit_providers.asp))

## Coffee with the Principal continued from page 4

Q: What does LB do for the transition between 8th grade and High School?

A: To make a smooth transition, it starts with High School registration. 8th grade students meet with the counselors to choose their courses. There's also the Ambassador Program, where the 8th graders team up with High School students who can help them. There's also a Freshman Transition Program during Bruin Block where students are helped with study skills and other issues. I would like to beef up the transition program, we are currently looking at a new one. It is a big transition-it's a big school where expectations are higher.

Q: Is taking High School Math in Middle School the same experience as a High School class?

A: Yes. There are Middle School teachers certified to teach Algebra. The Middle School Algebra teachers collaborate with the High School math teachers. They keep up at the same pace—it's a High School class.

Q: I have a Middle School student taking Algebra I, but my base school is different. Can we stay at Lake Braddock?

A: The county wants kids to go to their base schools. In order to transfer, families must go through the student transfer process. We do have transfers from other school for a variety of reasons.

Q: If a child is pupil-placed here for an AP class and LB reaches maximum capacity, is there a risk of the child getting moved out?

A: You must renew the student each year, but once established you're pretty much set. The child must be taking an AP class, though, and following the rules.

Q: Personal Finance will now be a required class for all students starting with this year's Freshman class. Can the kids take it before their Senior year so as to not take the place of an elective?

A: There is always the option to take courses online.

Q: Since Fairfax County now requires parents to pay for AP exams, can we decide to not take the exam?

A: I recommend to take the exam. That's the challenge at the end of the course. It's an experience I wouldn't want a child to walk away from. It's really about the experience. Kids come back to LB after they're in college to participate in a panel and they say the AP classes really prepared them. The colleges say they'd rather see a kid get a "C" in an AP class than an "A+" in a regular class. AP is not so focused on kids getting "5s" as for preparing them for the next level.

Q: Is there a posting of AP exam results?

A: FCPS and Lake Braddock do not "officially" post exam results. Parents can get course data from the subject administrator for the specific course if they have questions.