



Bruin Voices



Lake Braddock Secondary
PTSA
everychild.one voice.

www.fcps.k12.va.us/LakeBraddockSS

www.lbssptsa.org

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From the President . . .

Dear Lake Braddock Community,

The new year has begun, and renovation and resolutions resound! 2006 brings us closer to completion of Lake Braddock's renovation in 2007. We are thankful for a job well-done by our educational community--living, learning and thriving in this ever-changing, bustling environment. Lake Braddock emerges as a state-of-the-art educational facility and model secondary school in technology, in library and media advancements, and in enriching course offerings for students. Our school spirit and accomplishments in academics, athletics, and the arts can be attributed to the talented young people, teachers, parents, and dedicated staff of LBSS. 2006 promises to be great year for Lake Braddock Secondary School!

In February we have our second general membership meeting of the year, in co-sponsorship with the Lake Braddock Coalition. Please save the date--February 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the small cafeteria--for a Gang Awareness Forum. This program promises to be informative and enlightening. There will be door prize drawings, coffee, refreshments, and great material on parenting topics to take home. We will be giving away great posters on **150 Ways to Show Your Kids You Care** in English and Spanish from the Developmental Assets program. You will also learn more about the All-Night Graduation Party and how to become involved. Don't miss this great night of information!

LB PTSA resolves always to communicate with, support, and uplift our children. [See the article on Communication on page 2] Help us make a difference in the lives of our young people in 2006. Join us!

**In service,
Trenda Jacocks**

Gang Awareness Forum

Mark your calendar to join us for the next LBSS PTSA general membership meeting on **February 28** at 7:30 p.m. PTSA and the Lake Braddock Coalition for Safe and Drug-free Youth will present a Gang Awareness Forum. If you have questions about the program, contact Suzanne Gaudian at sgaudian@cox.net or Tracy McCarthy at paymint@aol.com.

Have You Joined PTSA Yet?

If you're not sure, contact Pauline at lbss_pavlakos@msn.com, and she can let you know. Your \$12 goes a long way--PTSA sponsors and/or funds many Lake Braddock activities, including teacher and staff appreciation, Reflections, craft fair, MentorWorks, teacher mini-grants, cultural arts, volunteers, community relations and outreach, Baccalaureate, All-Night Graduation Party, scholarships, our newsletter, and our website--the list goes on and on. Much of what we do requires financial backing. We ask for your support in the form of a PTSA membership. We're striving to earn a National PTA award for a 5 percent increase in membership over last year. We're close . . . help us out!

Please send your check, payable to LBSS PTSA Membership, along with your name, grade if a student or subschool if staff, and e-mail address to LBSS PTSA Membership, P.O. Box 11252, Burke, VA 22009-1252. A membership form is available for download at www.lbssptsa.org/membershipform2005.pdf.

Dates to Know

February 6

HS curriculum night

February 7

3-hour early release

10th grade parent night

February 11

ACT

February 13-17

MS Valentine book fair

February 15

Academic Boosters mtg

Minority Parents mtg

February 16

Hispanic Parents mtg

Korean Parents mtg

February 20

Presidents Day holiday

February 21

Rising 8th grade curriculum night

February 27

Rising 7th grade curriculum night

February 28

PTSA general membership meeting--Gang Awareness Forum; MS band concert

March 3

MS dance

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Communicating with Our Children

National PTA recently sent out a resolution list for parents and teachers listing communication with children as a top priority. Below is an insightful list of communication rules compiled by Dr. Meline Kevorkian, an assistant principal, professor, and contributing author to **Our Children** PTA magazine. She shares, "We can make a difference by modeling positive communication this new year." In 2006, let this helpful list give you hope as parents and teachers in reaching our young people. Communication is a key in healthy relationships, and these practical rules can open lines and establish good habits for years to come.

- ◆ Listen! Listen! Listen! When teenagers want to talk, stop and listen. Eye contact--engage by really listening.
- ◆ Remember, there is power in choice. When you are talking to your children, give them a choice whenever possible. Allow teens to feel you are talking with them and asking them rather than talking at them and telling them.
- ◆ Avoid untrue statements and things said out of anger and frustration. Your teenagers will learn to listen and believe you when you speak to them truthfully and calmly. Trust and respect come from honesty and sincerity. If you don't mean it, don't say it.
- ◆ Be a source of encouragement. When your children confide in you, help them feel relieved, inspired, and recharged. Heartfelt encouragement is powerful.
- ◆ Avoid the 20 questions or drill routine. Try not to control the conversation. If kids feel like they are being scolded or disappointing you, they quickly clam up and shut down.
- ◆ Make a point of being the initiator. Out of the blue, follow up on a previous subject of interest before your child comes to you. This reinforces for your child that you care.
- ◆ Apologize when you are wrong. Say you are sorry if you say something you shouldn't. Be an example.
- ◆ Love them! Don't just love them . . . tell them. Show affection just as you did when they were little tykes.

Let positive communication be at the top of your resolution list for 2006!

News from Reflections . . .

Reflections results from the County Council level are in!

At the middle school level, we congratulate Ethan Kamerow for receiving an Outstanding Interpretation Award for his Visual Art entry. Ethan's entry will be competing at the District level. We wish Ethan good luck!

At the high school level, we recognize the following students: Stephanie Anderson received an Award of Excellence for her Photography entry, and Kristen Calcaterra received an Award of Excellence for her Visual Arts entry. Ian Kraft received an Outstanding Interpretation Award for his Literature entry, and Kelly Hogan received an Outstanding Interpretation Award for her Musical Composition entry. Kelly's and Ian's entries will be competing at the District level. We wish good luck to both Ian and Kelly! Congratulations to all of our County Council award winners! Lake Braddock is proud of you!



Changes Afoot for Middle School After-School Program

The most popular part of the MSAS program has clearly been basketball; well over 100 children gather after school for just that one activity. Unfortunately, due to construction issues, we will be losing use of the gym during the months of February and the first part of March, and then sometime in April for the rest of the year.

Students are encouraged to try other activities when basketball is not in session. Weather permitting, soccer will continue to be held outdoors, so that is one great option for those who like to run around after school. However, we also have many other programs that have plenty of capacity, like board games, arts and crafts, homework club and math tutoring.

In addition, this would be a great time for anyone who would like to volunteer to lead a short class in an area they think may be of interest. We are exploring some options with Junior Achievement, yoga and dance. We also have access to kitchen facilities, so anyone who would like to share some cooking skills would be welcome.

If you would like to help out, contact the MSAS program coordinator, Nannette Henderson, at 703/643-9085 or n.henderson6@verizon.net.

Boundary Changes for Lake Braddock/ South County Secondary Schools in Future

Boundary changes will be investigated in the future for Lake Braddock and South County Secondary Schools. Growth in the Lorton area is rapidly overcrowding South County Secondary School. A recent issue of the **Fairfax Station Times** suggested that available capacity at Hayfield and Lake Braddock would be considered and a boundary study conducted before a South County middle school is built. The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) addressed these issues. The following is taken from the CIP (www.fcps.edu/news/cip.htm):

School enrollment in the South County pyramid is expected to increase from the current 5,721 students to 6,975 students in 2010-11. The CIP contains funds to begin planning and construction of the Laurel Hill Elementary School, with a completion in 2011. This CIP also includes construction of a new South County middle school for \$76 million. However, funds for this project are planned beyond 2011. Significant capacity is available in secondary schools adjacent to the South County attendance area. Hayfield Secondary, which is the adjacent school to the east, will have 826 student spaces available in 2010-11, while Lake Braddock Secondary, the adjacent school to the west, will have approximately 776 student spaces available in 2010-11. Boundary changes to use this available space should be considered before constructing additional secondary capacity in this area.

As part of the renovation at Lake Braddock Secondary School, construction of a 12-room permanent addition is also underway. This addition was planned when enrollment at Lake Braddock was significantly over capacity. Although enrollment is now projected to decline, the additional capacity could be used to address overcrowding at other schools in the area, such as South County Secondary School.

In the 2006-2007 school year, Lake Braddock Secondary School is projected to be under capacity by 18 students, and South County Secondary School is projected to be over capacity by 500 students.

School board action on the proposed CIP was scheduled for January 26.

Boundary Study for West Springfield

After holding two town meetings and receiving community input, FCPS staff has made these recommendations to the school board concerning boundary changes for West Springfield High School:

Assign to West Springfield High School, from Lee High School:

The area south of Old Keene Mill Road, including Ramblewood at Daventry and Hunter Village/Daventry. The rationale is to eliminate the split-feeder that assigns a small portion of Irving Middle School to Lee High School. With the attendance area changes, membership at West Springfield High School will be 2,230 in 2006-07, increasing to 2,241 in 2010-11, with a capacity of 2,225. Membership at Lee High School will be 1,879 in 2006-07, decreasing to 1,647 in 2010-11, with a capacity of 1,850. See www.fcps.edu/fts/bndry.htm

Students attending Sangster Elementary School will not be affected by the boundary changes. The Orange Hunt community petitioned to remain in the West Springfield School District. The staff has honored their requests, and Sangster will likely remain a split feeder, sending students to both Lake Braddock and West Springfield.

Susan Pehrsson, Boundary/School Board Representative

LBSS MentorWorks Program Still Needs Mentors



If you have an interest in providing support to middle and high school students at Lake Braddock, consider becoming a mentor in the PTSA MentorWorks Program this school year. If you can give one-half hour (or more) per week of undivided attention and non-parental support to a student, either during lunch or after school on late bus days, this is the volunteer opportunity for you, and WE NEED YOU. To request more information, contact Robyn Trump, MentorWorks Coordinator at 703/913-6177, ctrump2@verizon.net. Check the LBSS PTSA website www.lbssptsa.org under Forms for an application.

All-Night Grad Party Update—BBK2FTR!

We have been busy planning the 2006 ANGP and are so excited about our theme---Bruins ~Back 2 the Future ~ BBK2FTR! Be sure to check us out on the PTSA website www.lbssptsa.org and follow the ANGP link. Please contact us and let us know how we can put your talents to work for the Class of 2006 ANGP. The Senior Letter packet went out in mid-January. Cost for an LBSS senior to attend the ANGP will be \$50 before Spring Break and \$60 after. Students will wear ANGP T-shirts to the party to show they have paid the admission fee. If you have questions, contact Leslie Wallace, 2006 ANGP Chair, at Lesandroy@cox.net or 703/323 3924.

All-Night Grad Party Needs Volunteers!

There are so many different areas that we need volunteer help with---everything from decorations, security, and transportation to activities, food and cleanup. If you have a particular interest, we can certainly find a way for you to serve. Many jobs can be done by those with limited time. If you have not yet signed up to help with this awesome event, please do so soon. We are in the process of setting up the committees now. If you have signed up, we will be contacting you in the next few weeks to check in. Thank you for your interest and support! Remember, every little bit of time helps. For more information about volunteering, contact Mimi Wallace, Volunteer Co-Chair, at mimiwallace@cox.net.

Lake Braddock Mulch Sale

The LBSS PTSA is sponsoring a mulch sale, with proceeds from the sale supporting the Class of 2006 ANGP. The PTSA is soliciting orders for hardwood shredded mulch at \$4.25 per bag (3 cubic feet). LBSS student and parent volunteers will deliver orders of 15 bags or more to your home on Saturday, March 25 or Sunday, March 26. Smaller orders must be picked up at the LBSS parking lot on Saturday, March 25.

To place an order, download an order form from www.lbssptsa.org/Mulch_Flyer_2006_Sale.pdf. Include your completed form and check payable to LBSS/PTSA at \$4.25 per bag of mulch and send your order to Donna Brodner, 10107 Waterside Drive, Burke, VA 22015. Orders with payment must be received on or before March 14. A portion of the cost (\$1.50 per bag) may be considered a tax-deductible gift to the PTSA. Contact MulchMeister@cox.net for additional information about the mulch sale or delivery.

ANGP T-Shirt Design Contest

The ANGP committee is conducting an ANGP T-shirt design contest for seniors from January 17--February 10. The design should incorporate the ANGP theme, Bruins ~ Back 2 the Future, and Class of 2006. Designs should be black & white and submitted on 8.5" x 11" paper (computer drawings accepted). Place entries in the collection box in the main office by Mrs. Harvey's desk no later than February 10. Prior years' entries are on display on the senior bulletin board, in the art pod, and in the main office. There will be cash prizes for the first, second, and third place designs. Contact Cindy Ogren, tpogren@verizon.net, if you have questions.

All-Night Grad Party Patriot Center Update

Parents and students over 15 years old can help earn money for the All-Night Grad Party by working at a concession stand at the Patriot Center. Parents and students have already worked at twelve events and we have several more events on the books (please see below). Students can work alongside an adult and receive credit for volunteer hours. Contact Nancy Clements at nscpta@yahoo.com or Carol Morehouse at ccmorehous@aol.com if you are interested in volunteering for a future event or concert.

2/10	5 p.m.	GMU Women's basketball v. ODU
2/16	5 p.m.	Third Day concert
2/23	4 p.m.	High School regional basketball tournament
2/25	10 a.m.	GMU Men's basketball v. JMU
3/18	8 a.m.-4 p.m.	Cheerleading competition all day
3/18	5 p.m.	Harlem Globetrotters