



Bruin Voices

Lake Braddock Secondary



everychild.one voice.

Newsletter of the LBSS Parent**Teacher**Student**Association

January 18, 2008
Volume 18, Issue 4



www.lbssptsa.org

Message from the President, John Long

Happy New Year to all the Lake Braddock families. I hope everyone had a great holiday, got some rest, and recharged your batteries for 2008. The new year brings the opportunity rededicate ourselves to the things that are most important; our family, our faith, and with the PTSA—our children and their education.

There is much going on as we start the second half of the school year:

- The process for re-certification as a PTSA National School of Excellence for Parent Involvement is well underway (thanks for returning so many of the surveys).
- The Virginia PTA is sponsoring a Citizenship Essay Contest with a \$1,000 Savings Bond as the First Prize. The theme for 2008 is "**Education, the Foundation of Freedom**". It's open to all Lake Braddock students—the deadline is Feb. 1st. Look for more information regarding the entry form requirements on our PTSA e-news.
- Please come to the next PTSA General Membership Meeting on February 19th at 7:00 p.m.
- The annual mulch sale will be coming soon. Look for more information coming your way soon on how to order.
- The Baccalaureate Committee has met and is beginning to plan for this special event. We still need a Chairperson. It is truly a gift to be involved with a memory your kids will have for a lifetime.
- The All-Night-Grad-Party committee is also working hard to ensure another safe, alcohol & drug-free graduation party for our seniors. Check out this newsletter for an update on their activities.

And finally, if you haven't had a chance to join the PTSA, please do so. Your membership alone helps make the PTSA programs possible. And if you are inclined to serve in a volunteer capacity or as a committee member, we'd love to have you. Many hands make light work.

Best wishes for a terrific 2008!

John

Mark your calendar!

Jan 21

King Holiday (no school)

Jan 24

Quarter Ends

Jan 25, 28

Teacher Work Days

Feb 1

Chorus Swing Dance & Auction

Feb 11-15

Middle School Book Fair

Feb 19

PTSA Gen Membership Mtg

Feb 22

College A'Cappella Night

When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

Bruin Voices is published by the LBSS PTSA. Editor: Carol Ann Stanger (ca.stanger@verizon.net).

Stay up-to-date. Subscribe to our PTSA News Service and we'll notify you regarding special events and dates you'll need to know about. Visit www.lbssptsa.org and subscribe.

PTSA is Pleased to Announce MINI-GRANT Awards

On December 1st, the Lake Braddock PTSA awarded approximately \$8,500 in grants to forty teachers and staff who applied during the month of November. The mini-grant awards included:

- Books for students
- Professional texts for teachers
- Science materials such as tabletop generators, cat-a-pults, and microscope slides
- Support for Bruin Ambassadors who assist new middle school students
- The mini page: Guide to the Constitution from the National Archives
- Videos on geography and culture for a foreign language class
- Support for Career Center programs for high school students and parents
- Backpacks and school supplies for students in need
- Buzzers for It's Academic

These grants would not have been possible without the incredible success of the PTSA Craft Fair in October and the financial support provided through PTSA membership dues. Many thanks to all of the parents, students and staff who helped make these mini-grant awards possible!

The PTSA thanks the Office Depot locations in Woodbridge and Bailey's Crossroads for their support. These stores offered us deep discounts on backpacks purchased for needy students.

Volunteers Needed

Time to share your time and talents!

- 1) We need a Chair or Co-chairs for the 2008 Baccalaureate. There is a committee already in place and last year's chair is serving as a consultant.
- 2) We are looking for a Ways and Means Chairperson. This is a new committee chair added to the PTSA.
- 3) We need some Junior parents to get involved with helping out on the various committees for the All Night Grad Party.

Volunteering is a great way to support students at the school. Please call John Long if you can help!

Middle School Valentine Book Fair February 11-15

Bookworm Plantation will bring fiction and nonfiction titles for middle schoolers, as well as reference, general interest, cookbooks, and books for younger family members. Open during regular school hours, late bus hours, and 6-7:30 p.m Monday night. Teachers will have Wish Lists on file, and students can win free books.

If you would like to volunteer during book fair hours, please contact Maureen Gray at 703-503-8162 or david.gray48@verizon.net.

Lake Braddock Secondary School Parent ** Teacher ** Student ** Association

Human Relations Committee

The Lake Braddock Secondary School Human Relations committee held its first meeting in November. The HR committee promotes an environment of equal opportunity for all students and employees of Fairfax County Public Schools by eliminating bias, prejudice and discrimination in the school community. The committee is made up of volunteers from the staff, faculty, and PTSA. The focus for the 2007-2008 year will be:

- Promote and celebrate the diversity of our student body, staff and community.
- Celebrate the accomplishments of our students: academic, artistic, athletic, service.
- Publicize our existence and invite input.
- Provide staff development programs that support our mission.
- Provide community programs that support our mission.
- Promote Character Education - *Commitment, Integrity, Responsibility, Respect.*
- Work with the Peer Mediation Program.

The committee's regular meetings will be held at 2:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Because of the holiday, the next meeting will be held January 9, 2008. Anyone who is interested in volunteering their time and talents for the betterment of the Lake Braddock community is welcomed and invited to participate. For additional information please contact Nancy Rottenecker, Subschool IV Principal, Nancy.Rottenecker@fcps.edu or 703-426-1141; or Marla Myrick mwmyrick@cox.net or 703-426-2027.

Reflections Update

The Reflections results from the County Council level are in. Congratulations to the following students for receiving the following awards:

Middle School:

- Sangyoon Park received the Outstanding Interpretation Award in Literature.
- Michael Phan received the Outstanding Interpretation Award in Musical Composition.
- Sangyoon and Michael's entries have moved on to compete at the Northern Virginia District Level. Good luck to Sangyoon and Michael!

High School:

- Jeremy Thompson received the Outstanding Interpretation Award in Film/Video Production. Jeremy's entry has moved on to compete at the Northern Virginia District level. Good luck to Jeremy!
- Christopher Tragakis received the Award of Excellence in Literature.
- Phil Vargas received the Award of Excellence in Musical Composition.
- Ethan Kamerow received the Award of Excellence in Photography.
- Ethan Kamerow received the Award of Merit in Visual Arts.

Student Corner

Some words from our student members:

Junior Parent/Student College Information Night which will include representatives from several universities who will address college preparation issues and answer questions.

Komedy Knight on January 18 sponsored by the Theatre Dept.

The High School Chorus' Children's Concert January 19. Admission is 2 cans of food or \$2 per person.

The Lake Braddock HS Chorus will host its second annual Swing Dance and Silent Auction on Friday February 1 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm in the cafeteria. Admission is \$5 (food and drinks and swing dancing lessons). There will be items to bid on including valuable gift certificates. This was a fun and exciting event last year so please consider buying your tickets early.

Andrew Rothwell
11th Grade Representative for PTSA

Booster Club News

Crew: We are looking for athletes for the Men's Rowing Team. Stay in shape, increase endurance, and compete on a winning team! Winter Condition is underway. Join one of the best rowing programs! Info from www.bruincrew.com or any current Crew member.

Athletics: www.lbsports.org,

Academics: www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/parent_organizations/parent_acad.htm

Music: LBSS Music Boosters include three groups: (www.lbband.org), (www.Lakebraddockorchestra.com), and (members.cox.net/lakebraddockchorus). Feb 1: Chorus Swing Dance and Silent Auction, 7:00pm in the cafeteria, \$5.00 admission; Feb 22: College A'Cappella Night, \$10 admission. Everyone welcome!

Theatre: www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/parent_organizations/parent_theatre.htm.

MPEE Sponsors Black History Month Events

Minority Parents for Excellence in Education (MPEE) and the Lake Braddock school community will join others in recognizing February as Black History Month by highlighting outstanding historical facts of achievements about African Americans. On Sunday, February 10, from 3-5 p.m., at Flint Hill School in Oakton, a team of students from LBSS will participate in the 24th Annual Black History Forum Competition, sponsored by the Burke-Fairfax Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Families and friends of Lake Braddock are encouraged to come out and support our students in this cultural event, which is intended to broaden everyone's knowledge of Black history.