

Bruin Voices



Lake Braddock Secondary
PTSA
everychild.one voice.

www.fcps.k12.va.us/LakeBraddockSS

www.lbssptsa.org

Volume 15, Issue 1

November 6, 2004

From the President . . .

To the Lake Braddock Community:

What a great start to the year! Fall is here, our first academic quarter draws to a close, the renovation stays ahead of schedule, and our students and families are settling in as a strong "Bruins Under Construction" community! PTSA has a close working relationship with Principal Linda Burke and her wonderful faculty and staff of "Bruins Under Construction." Our PTSA board of more than 50 volunteers is hard at work for the students and you. Our teachers are committed to the community as well, providing our students with the best environment in academics, the arts, athletics and community service.

Our PTSA membership is up from last year—over 1150 members—with almost 150 faculty and staff joining thus far. We have a community of over 4,000 families and staff, which means our membership can still grow. You can join by downloading a form from our website www.lbssptsa.org or by filling out the short form in this issue of the newsletter. Send in the completed form to the address shown along with your check for \$12 per member. Your membership directly supports the classroom and your children.

Please read the list of LBSS PTSA initiatives for this year in the bulleted article that follows. One PTSA goal is to qualify Lake Braddock as a National School of Excellence in parental involvement—a certification we can attain with your help.

Visit www.lbssptsa.org to fill out a volunteer form online. Collect Boxtops for Education, and register online for other promotions that bring dollars to LBSS. Share the address with your friends and neighbors. It is a great way to keep up with the community and your child's school.

As your president, I will be attending the superintendents, cluster, and boundary meetings as well as meetings with Congressman Tom Davis and Senator Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, school board members, and our new superintendent, Dr. Jack Dale. I am honored to represent the Lake Braddock community as your PTSA president. It is a privilege to serve such a talented PTSA board of volunteers, committed parents and your children. Please don't hesitate to contact me at lbptsapres@aol.com with your concerns and suggestions.

I shared these thoughtful words of G. K. Chesterton at the October 18 general membership meeting: "The whole difference between construction and creation is exactly this: that a thing constructed can only be loved after it is constructed, but a thing created is loved before it exists." The Lake Braddock community is creative and strong. With a beautiful renovation going on all around, there is much happening daily in the classroom, on the athletic field, and behind the scene in community service. Our children, parents, teachers, administrative staff, and community know the true essence of Lake Braddock. The creation—Lake Braddock—exists already and continues to be lived out; the construction project and updates are a beautiful added bonus. Become part of this creation in your community by joining and serving PTSA this year.

In service,
Trenda Jacocks

"If you study to remember, you will forget, but if you study to understand, you will remember." Unknown

Dates to Know

November 6

Craft Fair

November 8

Report cards mailed
Teacher in-service, 3-hour
early release

November 12

Middle school dance

November 15

PTSA board meeting

November 17

Minority parents meeting

November 24

2-hour early release

November 25-26

Thanksgiving holidays



Editor, Bruin Voices

Trish Moncada

moncadap@aol.com

Assistant Editor

Jill Landsman

jillmlandsman@cox.net



Bruins Under Construction

PTSA joins the faculty and staff in the community-building theme of Bruins Under Construction. We are committed to contributing:

- Volunteer hours: 17,500 PTSA hours/150,000 total LB volunteer hours last year
- Teacher/staff mini grants: \$7,000 committed this year
- Reflections Program: district, state and national arts awards
- Mentorworks and middle school activities program
- All Night Graduation Party and Baccalaureate sponsorship
- Bruin Voices newsletter and website communications
- Beautification efforts: supporting and enhancing renovation
- Parental education programs, Face to Face program
- Partnership with the Bear Facts
- Teacher of the Year award and legislation awareness
- Arts and Craft Fair community fundraiser
- Support to the Lake Braddock Coalition and promotion of AVID
- Support to health and safety initiatives, character education/ethics program
- Staff and teacher appreciation events
- Promotion programs and business partnerships
- Scholarship sponsorship for deserving seniors
- Diversity awareness and cultural programs
- Seeking the National School of Excellence Award 2004-2005

And much more! PTSA—an organization that makes a difference—an organization for everyone. Together we can make a difference at Lake Braddock. Join us!

Meet the New FCPS Superintendent

Save the date: Thursday, November 11, 2004, 7 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Dr. Jack Dale at the joint cluster community meeting for Clusters III and VI at Woodson High School (Cafeteria A). Join our school board members, cluster directors Ann Monday and John English, and school principals at this community meeting to hear Dr. Dale address current topics of interest and his vision for Fairfax County public schools. There will be a question/answer opportunity with Dr. Dale and school board members after the talk.

Want to be a Mentor?

The LBSS PTSA MentorWorks Program would love to have you become a mentor to a Lake Braddock student. Your commitment is only ½ hour a week, on school premises, either at the student's lunch time or after school on late bus days. Your purpose is to provide support and reinforcement as a non-parental adult to a middle or high school student. These young people may need extra support because they are socially shy or having academic difficulties or making a transition to a new school. The PTSA MentorWorks volunteer staff provides ongoing support and training for volunteers. If you are interested, contact Kathy Zupan at 703/978-7049, VAZupans@aol.com, or Robyn Trump at 703/913-6177, ctrump2@cox.net. To refer students to the MentorWorks Program, contact MS guidance counselor Susan Martinez at 703/426-1033 or HS guidance counselor Lynda Samek-Smith at 703/426-1053.



Character Corner

Bruin Voices is happy to introduce the Character Corner. The Character Corner will give teachers, faculty, and staff the opportunity to recognize those students who display good character in school. Students who exhibit Lake Braddock's four core values of commitment, responsibility, integrity, and respect can be nominated to receive recognition for their contribution to the great character we support at Lake Braddock. In each issue of Bruin Voices we will list students who have been nominated for this distinguished recognition. Lake Braddock students strive on a daily basis to construct great character. We look forward to sharing these young adults with our community.

If you have questions about the Character Corner or other initiatives at Lake Braddock that involve character education, contact Marla Myrick, PTSA Character Education Parent Representative, www.lbssptsa.org, or Jennifer Yates, LBSS Character Education Coordinator, Jennifer.Yates@fcps.edu.

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops for Education offers easy ways to earn cash for LBSS by buying groceries. Feeding hungry teens, you do that often anyway! Clip Box Tops logos from hundreds of your favorite General Mills products and send them in to school. Each Box Top is worth 10¢. Deposit Box Tops for Education logos with the student's name and phone number on them into one of the collection bins located in the sub-schools or the main office. Join our Box Tops for Education Booster Club, which earns Lake Braddock up to 8% with no added administrative costs when you shop online with your favorite merchants. You will also receive money-saving coupons and easy-to-prepare meal ideas. It's a win/win situation! For more information, visit www.boxtops4education.com.



School FAQs: From a Parent's Perspective

Do you have a question about Lake Braddock Secondary School—parent to parent—that other parents may be asking, too? PTSA Vice Presidents Pat Fausser (1st VP--high school, p.fausser@att.net) and Nancy Clements (2nd VP--middle school, NSCPTA@Yahoo.com) will work with LBSS staff to find the answer for you.

Myth: My Teen Won't Talk to Me

"My teen won't talk to me. I can't get him or her to open up."

The reality: Teenagers like to talk, but they must have a willing listener. If simply asked, "How was your day?" by a parent who listens only halfway and responds "uh huh," teens will begin to seek more willing listeners. If all they hear is "Look at me when I am talking to you!" or "Clean your room," teens will begin to tune out. There must be a balance between routine chatter and deeper talk. When psychologist Torey Hayden asked several hundred teens what they wished they could talk with their parents about, they answered:

Family matters - Vacations, decisions, rules, curfews, serious illness, money problems.

Controversial issues - Sex, lifestyles, drugs.

Emotional issues - Parents' feelings about them and other things.

Big whys - Why do people go hungry? Why is there war? Other philosophical issues.

The future - Work, college, making plans for their life beyond the current home.

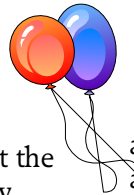
Current affairs - World and community happenings.

Personal interest - Sports, hobbies, friends.

Parents themselves - What were parents like at their age, stories that show parents are real.

Adapted from the ERIC Digest "Parenting Teens" by Karen DeBord, Ph.D., State Extension Specialist, Child Development North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

All Night Grad Party 2005 Not Just for Seniors!



Actually, the party itself IS just for seniors, but the planning and operation of the party involve many, many people to make it successful! If you are a parent of a high school student (freshman through senior) and can volunteer some time to the All Night Grad Party, we have a job for you!

For those not familiar with the party, it is a Lake Braddock PTSA-sponsored event, in cooperation with Northern Virginia Project Graduation. It is an alcohol and drug-free event, held at Wakefield Recreation Center from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on graduation night. It is a safe, exciting, fun-filled night for our students to celebrate their graduation.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the party, visit the PTSA website at www.lbssptsa.org and follow the ANGP link OR contact this year's ANGP co-chairs, Deb Bush (Bushbrood@cox.net, 703/239-0478) or Carmen Pierce, (pierce@patriot.net or 703/278-9346). We'd love to have you join in this year's fun!

"Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance." Will Durant

Middle School After-School Program Seeks Adult or Student Volunteers

The Middle School After-School Program is seeking adult or student volunteers for their after-school activities serving 7th and 8th graders on Wednesday and Thursday from 2:15 p.m.–4 p.m. The program provides such structured activities as martial arts, dance, cooking, intramurals, peer mediation, Homework Club, tutoring, computer skills, cartooning/drawing, and an ESOL support group. Currently we need adult and student volunteers who are willing to help with these classes or tasks: intramurals, Homework Club, cartooning/drawing, chess/checkers, and distributing snacks to the students at the beginning of the program. A person helping in the class works with the teacher or lead volunteer who is actually teaching the class. You may also volunteer to substitute for an existing helper or lead volunteer. Students can earn community service hours for their participation. Interested volunteers, please contact Beverly Magida, PTSA Volunteer After-School Program Coordinator at 703/821-3055, Bev.magida@verizon.net. If you have a middle school student interested in the program, contact SS2 Principal Merry Baxter, 703/426-1121, or Adele Malkin, 703/426-1120.

News from Reflections

Good luck to all the LBSS students who entered the Reflections Contest! This year's theme "A Different Kind of Hero" surely prompted some interesting entries. Students entered in any of four different categories: literature, musical composition, photography and visual arts. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each category at both the middle school and high school levels. There is also an honorable mention award. If your student didn't enter this year, encourage her/him to participate next year. Reflections is a National PTA-sponsored program that promotes students' creativity.

New School Boundaries

The first community Town Meeting to discuss the South County Secondary Site boundaries occurred on October 12, 2004. Approximately 2,500 people attended the meeting. The first hour was a general information and question session, followed by small group discussions. The objectives of the boundary adjustment are (1) to relieve overcrowding at Hayfield, Lee and Edison, (2) to make effective use of available space, (3) to establish new school boundaries that allow for future growth, and (4) to conform to school board policies and regulations. According to the handout provided, Lake Braddock is currently under capacity and is expected to be 550 students below capacity by 2009. Hayfield, Edison, and Lee are all over capacity and are expected to exceed capacity by a total of 1,900 students in 2009. The new South County Secondary School will provide 2,500 new seats. The handout provided at the meeting is available on the following website: www.fcps.edu/cluster5/southcountysite/boundaries.htm

Many Thanks to Our Benefactors

The Lake Braddock PTSA has been blessed by the generosity of many local businesses. Please let them know how much we appreciate their support:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Austin Grill | Burke Pet Center |
| Caribou Coffee | Flowers and Ferns |
| Glory Days Grill | Hybla Valley Nursery |
| Joseph M. Gruberg, D.M.D. | McCarthy Services |
| Office Depot (Fairfax) | Outback (Twinbrook) |
| Romano's Macaroni Grill | Staples |
| Star Nails | Starbucks (Huntsman) |
| Tau Tau Restaurant | |



The 19th Annual
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOWCASE
A Juried Fine Arts & Crafts Show
Saturday, November 6, 2004
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.


Lake Braddock Secondary School
9200 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015
Over 100 Artists displaying their work

Get a Head Start on Your
Holiday Shopping...
Sponsored by the LBSS PTSA
(lbspsa.org)

The PTSA will be taking Lavender's orders for fresh balsam wreaths from Maine (\$29), decorative flags (\$26), and welcome mats (\$18) at the Craft Fair November 6. The wreaths are the same as seen in the L. L. Bean catalog. Online orders will be accepted November 6-20 at www.atochofne.com. All orders will be shipped directly to the customer. Support the PTSA and its programs!

Note on PTSA membership receipts: Membership dues are not tax-deductible; therefore, no receipts are issued for dues. Receipts will be issued, if requested, for tax -deductible donations to the PTSA. If you have questions, contact PTSA membership chair Susie Schoens at Da3schoens@cox.net or treasurer Reecie Ford at fordrk@cox.net.

Lake Braddock PTSA Membership Form

Adult member(s) _____

Student(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Additional tax deductible donation _____

Need donation receipt? _____

Membership card? _____

Total enclosed _____



Email address allows us to keep you informed of news pertaining to Lake Braddock SS, PTSA and other items of interest regarding your child's education.

All memberships \$12 per person. Students grades 9-12 are eligible for membership.

Make check payable to LBSS PTSA and mail to LBSS PTSA Membership, P.O. Box 11252, Burke, VA 22009-1252. Include SASE to receive your membership card and/or donation receipt.

School directories are available in the main office. Thank you for your support!