



Bruin Voices

Lake Braddock Secondary

PTSA[®]
everychild.one voice.

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

September 2009
Volume 20, Issue 1



Back to School Night Edition

www.lbssptsa.org

Message from the President, Robert Shaw

Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to our LBSS ancillary staff, teachers, administrators, parents and students to the start of another school year. The PTSA Executive Committee looks forward to working with everyone over the course of the year and contributing to your success.

The PTSA has a full slate of activities planned for the coming year. The first thing we accomplished was helping the staff prepare the August "mail-out" to parents. Secondly, new members were signed up at the Bruin Blast on September 2nd, at that event our "Caring for Sharing Station" collected and donated school supplies to be distributed to students during the school year. This is an on-going program and we ask parents to continue their contribution. A list of supply items can be obtained from:

http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/middle_school/ms_supplies.htm

Mark your calendars to help us support one of our signature sponsored event: our annual Craft Fair held on October 17, 2009. One of our biggest fundraisers, it benefits our Lake Braddock teachers and students directly. I hope that you will stop and check out the various art and crafts being offered for sale.

I wish for you a great year and I am look forward to working with you.

Robert Shaw
PTSA President 09-10
rshaw@lmi.org

Mark your calendar!

Wednesdays in September
Eat at Outback!

October 2
ComedySportz
Little Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

October 7
Parent Coffee
Lecture Hall, 8-9 a.m.

October 13
PTSA General Membership
Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m.

October 17
Arts and Crafts Showcase
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

November 9
PTSA Board Meeting
Lecture Hall, 7:00 p.m.

LBSS Directory Available Tonight!

Free with PTSA membership; purchase copies for \$5. Pick up at Back to School Night or at the Craft Fair.

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

"Life affords no higher pleasure than that of surmounting difficulties, passing from one step of success to another, forming new wishes and seeing them gratified."

Samuel Johnson

You Can Afford a Great School! Secrets to Paying for College

Fairfax County Adult & Community Education is offering to help students and parents learn how to pay for college. The class is offered at Lake Braddock on September 22 and 29, and at other local high schools in October, November, and December. The cost is \$39. For more information or to register, call 703-658-1201.

“Caring by Sharing” Program

The PTSA is collecting school supplies for distribution to families in need. Donations can be brought to any PTSA meeting throughout the year. These supplies are in particular demand: 1½ inch binders, tab dividers, Notebook paper, standard (wide) ruled, no spiral paper, one-subject spiral notebooks, marble composition books, ¼ inch graph paper, Post-it Notes (3-inch by 3-inch), #2 pencils, dark blue or black ballpoint pens, red felt-tip pens (such as Flair), colored pencils, colored markers, highlighters (different colors), glue sticks, rulers, eraser, small pencil sharpeners, small staplers, small student scissors, USB flash drive, large zippered pencil pouch, heavy-duty 7-pocket portfolio (canvas, not plastic), hand sanitizer or Clorox wipes, bilingual and English dictionaries, paper towels, and tissues.

Support on Suspension (SOS) Program Helps Students

SOS provides academic support to students who are suspended from school. Students receive instruction in areas such as anger/aggression management, conflict resolution, and communications skills. Support on Suspension keeps students safe and academically engaged until ready to return to school at the end of the designated suspension period.

The Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) will sponsor the SOS program at the Lorton Community Resource Center through May, 2010.

Volunteers consist of retired educators and other volunteers who will be on site for tutoring and mentoring. The Site Supervisor, Katrina Hamlett, is the Community Program Coordinator at the Resource Center.

For more information, please attend our Open House on September 29, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Lorton Community Resource Center in Williamsburg Square (9510 Richmond Highway in Lorton). For additional details, contact Katrina Hamlett, (703) 339-8759 sos@lortonaction.org. To volunteer as a mentor or tutor please contact Lisa Adler, (703) 690-6808 lkadler@cox.net or iris warren, (703) 644-4929 iris-warren@cox.net.

Winning by Eating: Outback Steakhouse Competition

Eat up earn money for Lake Braddock! During September, every time faculty members or students of Lake Braddock eat at Outback (Twinbrook Shopping Center off Braddock Road), they earn points for the school. The school who earns the most points will receive a check at Robinson's Homecoming Game on October 2. Make sure you tell your server you are from Lake Braddock. Go, Bruins!! Beat Robinson...on and off the field!!

Laughter is the Best Medicine on Stage at Lake Braddock

A battle of laughs is in store for those who join the Lake Braddock Theatre Boosters (LBTB) on Friday, October 2nd at its special night with *Comedy Sportz*. Fast-paced, improvisational comedy comes to the Little Theatre at Lake Braddock Secondary School on October 2, beginning at 7:30 pm. Clean, fun and crazy entertainment with audience participation will make it an evening you won't forget. Just \$10 per ticket. Don't miss out!

Read All the Latest with PTSA Enews!

Remember to sign-up for your PTSA membership, which automatically signs you up for PTSA weekly enews updates.

Each year, the e-news distribution list is purged and a new distribution list is compiled of current members. Join in the Parent, Teacher and Student partnership at LBSS and help make our students' educational experience the best it can be. At the same time, you'll be sure you receive the latest information on everything happening in the halls, classrooms, and community of Lake Braddock. Questions? Contact PTSAenews@aol.com

Calling All Computers!

Computers for Bruins makes computers available for students in need. Guidelines for contributions:

- PC or Mac, no more than 5 years old.
- Keyboard, mouse, power cord included.
- Original installation disks, especially of the operating system (Windows, Mac OS, etc.) appreciated.
- Monitors in perfect working condition.
- Monitor size: CRT=17", LCD=15".
- Printers in good working condition, including at least half-full ink.

Questions? Please contact Helene Hammer at hlhammer@fcps.edu.

**Membership Matters: FAQs
and Answers from our own
Elizabeth Hurst, Membership
Chair**

What is PTSA?

This question comes up a lot from new parents at Lake Braddock. The PTSA is the same as the PTA but with the option for high schoolers to join - thus the "S" for student.

What does PTSA offer me?

LBSS PTSA offers all kinds of great opportunities, including:

- Share thoughts with other parents
- Improve programs at the school
- Get involved at the school
- Support students and teachers
- Make improvements at the school and in the community
- Help children achieve their potential

How do I join?

Find the form at www.lbssptsa.org.

Mail to

LB PTSA Membership
PO Box 11252
Burke, VA 22009-1252

**Questions? Contact Elizabeth Hurst
at eahurst@cox.net or 703-440-
0868.**

**PTSA President Robert Shaw
Invites YOU to Join LBSS
PTSA**

If you are not a member of the PTSA, I'd like to encourage you to consider joining. You can obtain your membership form either through the PTSA website: www.lbssptsa.org or sign-up at selected events at LBSS during the year at the PTSA's membership table. The PTSA supports various activities and I invite you to check them out, then select one or two and get involved. I know we are all busy, however, getting involved to support our students and school is priceless. Let me highlight some current vacancies on the PTSA Executive Board for your consideration: chairperson for the All Night Graduation Party and the Awards and Scholarship committees. It is through our membership and volunteer actions that Lake Braddock PTSA has gained national recognition and certification as a National School of Excellence for parent involvement. As a member of the PTSA, you'll receive a school directory; the weekly E-news containing information on activities happening around the school and knowing that your membership dues provide scholarships and grants to help student activities. You'll also be supporting an organization devoted to ensuring our students have the best possible school experience.