



# Bruin Voices

Lake Braddock Secondary

**PTSA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.one voice.

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

December 2009  
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[www.lbssptsa.org](http://www.lbssptsa.org)

### Message from the President, Robert Shaw

#### Happy Holidays and Thank You!

Can you believe that 2009 is almost over?

Unofficially, we launched into holiday mode about two weeks ago when we celebrated Thanksgiving. For many people this is a time to get reconnected with friends and families and a lot of you will be travelling over the next several weeks to visit family and friends. Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, safe holiday vacation. I hope that the time you spend with family, friends and loved will be relaxing and enjoyable. Speaking of euphoria, "How about the Bruin football team" what a ride they have taken us on. Thanks to all the volunteers who sold tickets at lunch time and helped during the season. I'd like to say thank you to Kathy Carson our Volunteer Coordinator Chair for "getting out the troops" to support the myriad of events supported by the PTSA, your service is appreciated and it made a huge difference to the quality of life for students and teachers. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity during 2010, please contact Kathy at [lbssvolunteers@rcarson.com](mailto:lbssvolunteers@rcarson.com) or 703-912-9041. Special thanks also goes to our PTSA hospitality coordinators Glenda Lynch and Kristin McDaniel for providing the staff, administrators and custodial staff with mouth watering treats.

Robert Shaw  
PTSA President 09-10  
[rshaw@lmi.org](mailto:rshaw@lmi.org)

### Mark your calendar!

- December 15, 2009  
HS Choir & Symphony Concert  
7:30 pm; tickets \$5
- December 17, 2009  
MS Choir Concert
- December 24, 2009  
Winter Break Begins
- January 12, 2010  
PTSA Board Meeting  
Lecture Hall, 7 pm
- February 22, 2010  
PTSA General Membership Mtg  
John Cook on FCPS Budget
- March 8, 2010  
PTSA Board Meeting  
Lecture Hall, 7 pm
- March 20-21, 2010  
Mulch Sale to support ANGP
- March 29-Apr 2, 2010  
Spring Break

*Bruin Voices* is published by the LBSS PTSA.  
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Student Editor: Chelsea Stanger.

"Learn everything you can, anytime you can, from anyone you can - there will always come a time when you will be grateful you did."

Sarah Caldwell

## **Membership Matters**

Your membership matters to us. Join LBSS PTSA today! Please visit the website [www.lbssptsa.org](http://www.lbssptsa.org) to download a membership form or email Elizabeth Hurst at [eahurst@cox.net](mailto:eahurst@cox.net) for more information.

## **"Caring by Sharing"**

Thanks for your ongoing participation in this program.

This season, please consider donating a gift card. In the midst of the holiday season, a \$10 gift card could make a family's celebration more joyful.

For more information, please contact Shelly Bralich, 703-912-9233, [shelly999@verizon.net](mailto:shelly999@verizon.net).

## **HS Choir & Symphony Concert**

December 15, at 7:30 p.m. as the combined High School Choirs and Symphony present Requiem by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. More than 200 LBSS students from chorus, symphony, and band groups will participate in this event.

Admission is \$5. For more information, visit [www.lakebraddockchorus.org](http://www.lakebraddockchorus.org).

## **2010 LBSS PTSA ANGP Mulch Sale**

The LBSS PTSA will host the All Night Graduation Party for the Lake Braddock Secondary School Class of 2010 on Monday, June 21, 2010. This event is a highlight of the students' years at Lake Braddock.

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 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 20-21, 2010. Orders fewer than 15 bags must be picked up at the Lake Braddock Secondary School Parking Lot on Saturday, March 20, 2010.

Adult and student volunteers are also needed to deliver mulch to customers. Questions? Contact the LBSS Mulchman, Ed Hartman, at [lbss.mulchman@cox.net](mailto:lbss.mulchman@cox.net) or get information online at <http://www.lbssptsa.org/>.

## **PTSA Announces Mini-Grant Awards**

The holidays came early for over forty teachers at Lake Braddock! This year the Education Committee of the PTSA received over forty applications for mini-grants totaling over \$27,000. Due to the success of our membership drive, and Craft Fair, we were able to award \$10,000 in December. An additional \$6,000 in grants will be funded from carryover of last year's budget. Teachers completed mini-grant applications in November. They were asked to describe their request in terms of how it would impact the instructional program in their classroom and how many students would benefit. Approved requests include:

- Atom Structure Demonstrator for HS Science
- Support for the new ROTC program
- Support for special ed class rooms
- Print dryer for photography classes
- Math software and books
- Speaker Honorariums for 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Career Center Presentations
- Speaker Honorariums for annual Lake Braddock Writer's Forum
- Author visit for Middle School students
- Shakespeare for all program for Middle School students
- Heart Rate Monitors for the PE Department
- Support for the positive behavior program

The approved grants were equitably distributed to middle and high school, and many departments within the school received funds. We are impressed that so many Lake Braddock teachers look for ways to enrich their classroom and create unique learning opportunities.

Many thanks to all the parents, students and staff that made the mini-grant awards possible.

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## **A Change for Bruin Voices!**

Bruin Voices is now distributed via Keep-in-Touch (KIT) email, which will let you know that the Bruin Voices has been posted on the PTSA website. We will also have printed copies in the magazine rack located in the main office at LBSS.

## **After School Opportunities for Bruin Cubs**

**ASAP Program:** We have a great new program for Bruin Cubs. We have partnered with the high school AP teachers to create After School Advanced Placement (ASAP) program. This will give middle school students an opportunity to meet once a month to gain awareness of the importance and challenges of high school advanced placement programs. Over the next several months, high school faculty will lead after-school sessions in the areas of psychology, United States/Virginia history, and world history.

Interested students should contact Ms. Robertson or Ms. Birkenstock to sign-up! Space is limited to the first twenty (20) students, so be sure to sign up quickly!

**Game Board and Movie Club:** We have a new club for middle school students to participate in everyday: the Game Board and Movie Club. Middle School students will have the opportunity to play all kinds of board games and once a week watch a movie and discuss it together. Each day it will be held in a new location, so students need to check in the cafeteria for a snack and will then be escorted to the club.

Bruin Cubs is seeking volunteers! If you are available to work with middle school students after school, please contact Michelle Birkenstock, After-School Specialist, at [michelle.birkenstock@fcps.edu](mailto:michelle.birkenstock@fcps.edu) or 703-426-6428. We are looking for sponsors to help work the following clubs: Newsletter, Mentor Works, Sports, Community Service, and any monthly or weekly specialty clubs, such as knitting, arts and crafts, etc.

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## **Help Students Compute!**

Computers for Bruins is a program that provides computers for students at Lake Braddock. The program is currently seeking donations of computers, flat screen monitors and printers (new and used).

To determine the specifications of the equipment we accept please contact Helene Hammer at [Helene.Hammer@fcps.edu](mailto:Helene.Hammer@fcps.edu) to schedule a drop off of your used or new computer.