

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2005

**LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY NAMED NATIONAL PTA
PARENT INVOLVEMENT SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE**

Lake Braddock Secondary School has been certified as a Parent Involvement School of Excellence by the National Parent Teacher Association, bringing the number of certified schools in Fairfax County to 11.

The certification recognizes schools that uphold the highest standards in parent involvement based on six standards endorsed by the National PTA: communicating, parenting, student learning, volunteering, school decision making and advocacy, and collaborating with community.

As part of the certification process, Lake Braddock formed a team consisting of administrators, teachers, parents, students, and a representative from the community; completed a self-assessment; and applied for one of two distinctions—Certification of Excellence or Recognition of Commitment—based on the results of the self-assessment. One significant component of the application process involved developing a parent-family involvement policy and plan to document the school's commitment to actively engaging parents in all aspects of their children's lives as an integral component of Lake Braddock's educational mission.

Some of the notable parent involvement activities at Lake Braddock include:

- school and PTSA web sites that feature reciprocal links.
- PTSA newsletters available online.
- weekly e-newsletters.
- parent education sessions.
- minority parent liaisons.

- cultural ambassadors to translate at school functions.

Special programs for students include MentorWorks, an award-winning program promoting a supportive relationship between adult volunteers and students; the highly successful Middle School After-School program, a partnership between the PTSA and the Fairfax County Office of Safe and Drug Free Youth that provides supervised after-school recreational and academic support activities for seventh and eighth graders at no cost to parents; and AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination), an academic support program aimed at preparing students for college. Collaboration with the community culminates in popular events such as the annual Craft Fair and the All-Night Graduation Party sponsored through the Safe and Drug Free Youth Coalition.

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Education Association, and National School Public Relations Association joined the National PTA in developing and implementing the certification program. For more information about the National PTA's Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence certification, visit www.pta.org.

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