Dear PTA Members,

This is an interesting time of year for the PTA because our school year is in full swing, but we also must start to look ahead to next year. This is what some would call a full plate, others might say that our cup runneth over. However we look at it, there is no question that our PTA has a full line-up of events, activities, and other projects planned to enhance and enrich our students’ school experiences. Plus, we are looking ahead to next year to identify and vote on PTA officers and lay the ground work for the 2011-2012 school year.

As we go into the second half of the year, I encourage everyone to find AT LEAST an hour to volunteer for one of our many PTA committees, events, or other opportunities. We must have the support of many volunteers in order to do our BEST! Whether you have one hour to give or many, we need your help. Please look at the range of volunteer possibilities and decide how you can help TODAY! Then, contact me or the officer or committee chair to get involved. It’s a WINNING COMBINATION!! Join Team Liberty NOW!!

Lesli McGrath
PTA President

Upcoming Events

January 24 – 28 – Principal Appreciation Week
January 27 – Scream-Free Parenting Seminar
January 27 – Box Tops Contest Deadline
February 4 – Family Fun Blowout Night!! – 6:30 – 8:30 PM
February 8 – PTA Exec. Board Meeting – 7 PM
February 11 – Alternate Date for Family Fun Blowout Night!!
February 16 – General PTA Meeting – 6:30 PM – Gym – Vote to Approve Officer Nominating Committee

February 16 – 3rd Grade Musical – 7:00 PM
February 23 – Cici’s Pizza Night – 4:00 – 8:00 PM (PTA fundraiser)
March 25 – International Festival
April 14 – Staff Basketball Game – Freedom High School

For a complete listing of Liberty events, please visit the school website at http://cmsweb2.loudoun.k12.va.us/liberty/site/default.asp
Upcoming PTA Events and News

Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 2010, our cash balance is $41,465.79. We've done an awesome job so far this year raising money for Liberty!! Recent funds received include:

- $12,069.87 - Innisbrook (net after expenses)
- $6,364.85 - Fall Festival (net after expenses)
- $3,212.75 - PTA dues proceeds (net of remittance to State/National PTA)
- $2,613.31 proceeds from Stone Ridge 5k Race for Education
- $1,573.40 - Session 1 of After-School Enrichment (net after expenses)
- $1,437.70 from Box Tops proceeds
- $810.75 - Fall Spiritwear sale (net after expenses)
- $660 from McDonald’s Night
- $375 from TopKick's Fun Camp
- $54 from Main Street Car Wash fundraiser

That’s a total of **$29,171.63** in profits that the PTA gets to use towards our initiatives, such as Phase Two of our playground and other special events for families to enjoy!! Awesome job, Liberty students and parents!!

Stone Ridge 5k Race for Education

The race management team has distributed the proceeds from the Stone Ridge 5k to all of the participating schools. Liberty’s share of the earnings amounts to $2,613.31! WOW! Liberty came in third this year, behind Buffalo Trail (first place) and Arcola (second place). Let’s turn it up to high gear and win the participation award next year to receive the $500 first place award in addition to a greater percentage of the race proceeds and rights to display that awesome trophy in the front office!! Please note that we are looking for race committee members to represent Liberty for next year. The time commitment is very manageable and it’s your chance to give back to the Liberty community in a fun and rewarding way. Please contact rebekahcox1@aol.com if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity!!

Liberty Earns Governor’s Award of Educational Excellence

Liberty Elementary School is one of twelve Loudoun County Public Schools named a Governor's Award of Educational Excellence winner for 2011. This award is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance, requiring schools to have met or exceeded state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years!

Congratulations and thank you to our Liberty administrators, teachers, staff, students, and parents whose combined efforts led to this honor. **Keep up the Excellent Work!!**

In Appreciation

Governor McDonnell declared January 23 – 29, 2011 as Principal Appreciation Week in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The PTA and the staff social committee will be showing our appreciation this week to three people who are very important to Liberty Elementary School: Principal Angela Gwynne-Atwater, Assistant Principal Paul Thiessen, and
Upcoming PTA Events and News

Administrative Intern Diane Insari. Their dedication to our school every day creates the framework and the foundation to make Liberty the outstanding school that it is. Our school is not only strong academically, but so many also have commented that it feels like a family. Please be sure to express your appreciation to these fine education leaders this week!

PTA Election Timetable

It's time to look ahead to next year's PTA Board! Here is the process leading up to the election:

February – General Membership votes to approve Nomination Committee

March – Nominating Committee presents their slate of nominees to the General Membership

April – Election of Officers

May – New officers start their terms.

Would you like to serve on the nominating committee? Would you like to serve as a PTA officer or find out more about serving as an officer? Contact Lesli McGrath at lesli.mcgrath@verizon.net.

Family Fun Blowout Night

Family Fun Blowout Night is on Friday, February 4th from 6:30-8:30 PM. It may still be cold outside but with all the fun, games, and dancing going on at Liberty, you're sure to stay warm. So bring the whole family out for an exciting night! You will not be disappointed. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Anaheeta Minwalla at acminwalla@verizon.net for more information.

International Festival

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Liberty International Festival on March 25th, 6:30-8:30. The International Festival celebrates ethnic backgrounds from around the world.

Bring your family out for great food and entertaining performances from cultures from around the world. Dress in an ethnic costume and be a part of Liberty's First Ethnic Fashion Parade.

We are still looking for more booths to represent countries from around the world. Get the family together and create a display on your heritage background.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to perform. We have plenty of Asian and Indian performances and are now focusing on performances representing other cultures. Please consider representing your culture and performing for the International Festival.

Join the FUN!!! Without your help, this event can not be successful. For additional information or to be a part of the fun, please contact Medhini Nagaraj at medhinin@hotmail.com or Vedika Pande at pan_vevin@yahoo.com
MSAAC

MSAAC is a sub-committee of the Loudoun County School Board and has three main goals:
- Increase Parent Involvement among all parents with an emphasis on minority parents
- Continue to work with LCPS to eliminate the Academic and Discipline Achievement Gaps
- Increase minority hiring levels in the LCPS System

MSAAC holds its Parent Delegate meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 at the LCPS Administration Building in the main board room. The Executive Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00, also in the LCPS Administration Building, in Room 101-D.

A Tip From Liberty’s Green Team...

“Recycle, and try to use recycled paper. American businesses use over twenty-one million tons of paper annually. If half of this were recycled paper, a forest larger than the state of Florida could be saved every year.” - The Green Book

Staff Basketball

The Liberty Staff Basketball game will be held on April 14th at Freedom High School.

You don’t want to miss the game of the year between Team Atwater and Team Thiessen!

We still need help in planning the event and are looking for members in the following committees:
- Food Committee
- Souvenir Committee
- Publicity Committee

To join a committee and help out, please contact Steve Sebestyen at Ssebestyen@bowmanetc.com.

Join the Liberty Community for the First Annual

Family Fun Blowout Night

Friday, February 2
6:30 – 8:30 PM

A fun night of games, dancing and food!
Liberty Family Nights

Please check Liberty’s calendar on the school website for our Family Nights. These are events held at area restaurants to benefit our school programs. Each month we’ll pick a different and fun location. Reminders will be sent via Thursday folders. Mark your calendars now so you don’t miss any. February’s night is set for February 23 at Cici’s Pizza in Chantilly.

Questions can be directed to Gaby Maddiex, VP Fundraising at gabyvm@comcast.net

Basketball Game Sponsors Needed

If you are interested in sponsoring the upcoming Teacher Basketball game or know of someone who might be, please contact Gaby Maddiex, VP Fundraising (gabyvm@comcast.net).

We are looking for monetary sponsorships, business sponsorships, etc. for the game and our basket raffles.

Free Money for Our School!!!

Help us earn money for Liberty with your retail purchases! Make sure to designate Liberty Elementary School as the beneficiary for your Giant, Harris Teeter, Bloom shoppers’ cards and Target REDcard. These generous businesses donate a percentage of your purchases to our school. You need to link your Giant, Bloom and Harris Teeter cards to our school each year. Even if you designated Liberty last year, you need to designate Liberty again this year. For all these stores, you can designate online or in the store. Below is the information you will need to make sure we don’t miss out on any of this "free money." The links are located online at the Liberty website.

Giant Code - 05654
Harris Teeter Code - 7219
Bloom Code - 01196
Target Code - 149682

Also, please remember to continue to save your “Guest Check” from all Glory Days visits. Liberty PTA receives 10% of the total food and soft drinks purchased. Glory Days receipts can be remitted via backpack in an envelope marked “PTA / Glory Days.”

Box Tops Contest!!

Another Box Tops contest has begun. Bring in your Box Tops today! The class from each grade that collects and submits the most box tops by January 28th will win a bag of popcorn and a slice of pizza for every student at Family Fun Blowout Night!! So gather all your box tops now and help your class and your school! For even more FUN, use the Box Tops collection sheet sent home last week. More collection sheets can be found on the PTA section of the Liberty website.

Volunteers Needed

The Liberty PTA events and activities are only possible with the help of our Liberty parents and guardians. The donation of your time and talent is the only way to keep our events going, which in return keeps our programs funded. Be a special part of your child’s life and show them the difference volunteering can make. With your help, we can make this school the greatest it can be. To volunteer, contact Anaheeta Minwalla at acminwalla@verizon.net.
FHS Annual Spring Flower Sale
All proceeds go towards the All Night Graduation Celebration (ANGC).
- providing the Senior Class of 2011
with an alcohol and drug free celebration on graduation night!!

Graduation night has been identified as one of the two highest risk nights during a teen’s high school career for drinking, drug use, and driving under the influence. The Freedom High School ANGC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization under the umbrella of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) fighting to keep our seniors safe. This is one of two fund raisers for the year and we would appreciate your participation.

It’s Never Too Early to Start Planning for Spring!!

Order Deadline, April 27th…Pickup at Freedom High School, May 14th

Look for information and an order form to come home in child’s weekly folder at the end of February.

For more information go to www.Freedomangc.org