In true “Batman” like style, American Education Week was, well, explosive! We were expecting “Dessert Explosion!” on the Wed., but there was no way to foresee the overflowing fruit baskets on Monday (fruit explosion), the K-Cups galore (several hundred) on Tuesday and what can only be called Breakfast-palooza on Thursday. So many Moms to eat muffins and Dads to partake of Donuts and Parents-galore to attend classroom activities. Thank you Teachers for inviting and welcoming us into the classrooms. It was by all accounts a HUGE success with terrific parent-involvement throughout the week. Thank you! (I’ve said it before … American Education Week is one of my personal favorite “weeks”.)

This month there will be no PTA meetings (I know, you’re crushed), but still plenty of ways to support Liberty PTA. We kick off December on the 1st with Jingle Bell Jog. A few crisp laps around the Liberty track and then inside for a light breakfast, crafts, ugly sweater contest and more. Two Dining Night options of Dec. 11th (Pre-k thru 2nd suggested) and Dec. 12th (3rd-5th) at Manhattan Pizza. Grab a bite to eat (sit down or take out) and raise $ for PTA. And, due to popular demand, we have scheduled a 2nd Skate Night for Sat., Dec. 15th. It is sure to be festive and a fun time to be had by all. Hope to see you jogging or gliding by at a PTA Event soon!

Gina Fink, PTA President, gina.fink@verizon.net

Save the date!

Dec. 1st – Jingle Bell Jog @9am-10:30am (Liberty track)
Dec. 11th – Dining Night PreK – 2nd
Dec. 12th – Dining Night 3rd – 5th @ Manhattan Pizza
Dec. 15th – Santa Skate Night @ Ashburn Ice House @7:40-8:40pm

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Treasurer’s Report

By Lisa Teetz
lisateetz@verizon.net

Hello Liberty Families! It has been another great month financially for the PTA. The final tallies are in for our recent events and we did awesome! We raised over $4,000 at Fall Fest and $9,892 for our Fall Fundraiser, just $108 short of our goal! Bingo night was a blast as usual and it brought in $1,220 for the PTA. These funds will allow us to continue to support the many activities and classroom needs at Liberty throughout the year. We just informed our wonderful teachers that the PTA is able to allot them $70 each for purchases for classrooms. We have already made the initial purchase of iPads for the school and the Outdoor classroom is nearly complete and within the approved budget! Please keep supporting our events throughout the year and we will be able to keep bringing all these wonderful things to Liberty to support our children!

Membership Report

As of November 20, 2012, our membership consists of 307 men and 487 women (including 70 teachers/staff) for a grand total of 794 members. Truly outstanding! Teamwork at its finest. And truly appreciated!

Let’s keep up the momentum. If you haven’t joined yet, it is NOT too late. Print off a membership form from the Liberty website under the PTA tab, attach your dues and send in via backpack.

As an important note, as part of the budget adjustment that was voted on at the Nov. Gen. PTA meeting, we need 800 members to “meet” our budget goals for this year (very doable). We would LOVE to see 6(+) new members for the month of December so we can safely meet all our financial goals this year.

Updated 2012-13 PTA Budget

At the Nov. Gen. Membership PTA Mtg., the membership (with quorum) voted to amend the budget to adjust for “reality” and the proposed changes were discussed in detail and passed unanimously. You can view the updated budget at the PTA tab of the Liberty website at:
http://www.lcps.org/domain/9953
PTA Events

VP Events is James Milam. jamesmilam@gmail.com

Jingle Bell Jog

Hop up off that couch and join us for a quick jog around the Liberty track on Sat., Dec. 1st from 9 am to 10:30 am.

$5 entrance (4 & under free) gets you a punch card, reindeer ears, a craft and light breakfast refreshments.

We punch one hole in your punch card for each lap around the track. Six (6) punches is just over one (1) mile and serve as your “meal ticket” in the Liberty Cafeteria, where light refreshments will be served.

We will also have singing (@ 10 am) and crafts in the cafeteria.

We will hold our 2nd annual “ugly sweater” contest, so come dressed in your best (or worst) Holiday sweater or outfit.

Walkers, joggers and runners welcome! We also need several “hole punchers” if that is more your speed.

Able to volunteer for JBJ or need more info? E-mail James at jamesmilam@gmail.com or Gina at gina.fink@verizon.net and let us know your interest.

Santa Skate Night

Back by popular demand, we will have a 2nd Skate Night at Ashburn Ice House on Sat., Dec. 15th.

Bring yourself, your gloves, a helmet (recommended) and lace up those ice skates for an hour of open skate. $8 covers skate rental and 1 hour of ice-skating from 7:40 pm until 8:40 pm.

We suggest you arrive early, so you can glide on to the ice right at 7:40 pm. Liberty will have one rink all to ourselves. We will request the disco ball and Holiday music. This is an event that the whole family can enjoy!

Ashburn Ice House is located at 21595 Smith Switch Rd., Ashburn, VA 20147.

A parent must be present to sign the liability form at admissions and in attendance for the entire event.
International Fest

Save the date of Jan. 25th (Friday) for our annual International Festival and Pot Luck Soiree!

Want to be part of the planning? Our final planning session will be Wed., Dec. 19th @ 3-4pm in the Library. We will finalize details.

Our plans to date include our hugely popular and delicious potluck meal. Bring an international dish to share and receive a time to return to eat.

Mrs. Assetto will lead off the performances on stage in the gym with grade-level demonstrations of around-the-world music. More details will follow via an “interest-form” flyer that must be filled in and returned promptly. A few students from each class will be selected (via raffle of the returned interest forms) to perform.

A few “acts” will be chosen to “round out” the performances. If you have an act that would like to perform, please e-mail Melina Milam, International Fest Chair, at perez.milam@gmail.com by Dec. 13th with a detailed description of your act. The acts to perform will be chosen at the Dec. 19th planning session and those chosen (and not) will be informed by Dec. 20th via e-mail.

Acts (of 3 to 5 minutes) will be picked that incorporate a unique country or international flair, feature a large number of Liberty students and have a parent volunteer who will serve as the contact and “stage parent” during the performance.

The teachers and students are planning additional artwork and projects that will be on display in the hallways and reading of cultural stories in the library. This is will be one Event you will not want to miss.

This is a “free” event, but you need bring a dish to share for the potluck (if you want to eat). That’s how a “potluck” works.

Bingo Thank You’s

Thank you Dr. Kravitz of Kravitz Orthodontics, the Sbitan family of Ductz, and the Torres family of Kule-Yo’s for sponsoring Bingo!

Thank you Lisa Strother, Richelle Coleman, Diane Insari and Linda Textoris for calling the games!

Thank you Parker family, Minwalla family, Milam family, Teetz family, Sebestyen family and Fink/Giacinto family for set-up and volunteering duties.

Thank you “clean up crew” and all attendees for making this a successful and fun event!
Fundraising

VP Fundraising is Anaheeta Minwalla.
acminwalla@verizon.net

Fundraising for the Liberty Sign

Snowflakes for the Liberty Sign

We are kicking off a fundraising campaign to make the Liberty Marquee sign a reality.

**We are so close!** The Liberty PTA membership voted to fundraise for the last $5,000 so we can install the sign as soon as possible. The snowflake poster campaign will run during December and January. Students in the grade that raises the most $ will win a “cool” prize.

Looking for an end-of-the-year tax write-off? As applicable, your donation is tax-deductible. Is there a “task” your child can do to earn a weekly donation (e.g. chore, reading a set amount)? $1 or $2 weekly student donations or one-time family donation of $10 is suggested to meet our goal.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Gina at gina.fink@verizon.net or VP Fundraising, Anaheeta Minwalla at acminwalla@verizon.net

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let is snow!

December Dining Nights

Join us for our December Dining Nights at Manhattan Pizza.

Just to break it up, we suggest Pre-k thru 2nd on Tues., Dec. 11th and 3rd thru 5th on Wed., Dec. 12th. (You can attend either day that works best for your family.)

Ticonderoga Tree Fundraiser

Buy a tree at Ticonderoga Farms and help raise money for Liberty! Ticonderoga Farms will donate $2 to Liberty for every tree purchased from Nov. 23rd – Dec. 23rd. Tree Lot will be located on the corner of Loudoun County Parkway & Braddock Road. Please bring the flyer* (in Thursday folder or print off website) with you so Liberty PTA can get credit for your purchase.

*Flyer required.

Hurricane Food Drive – Success!

Thank you students/families for the successful food drive! 1st (410), 2nd (393), 3rd (370), 4th grade with the most (423) and Pre-K and 5th (401).

Wow! Great work!
PTA Committee Work

VP Committees is Chris Jackson Coates.
chrisjacksoncoates@yahoo.com

Open Positions/Help Wanted

We still need a Parent (or two) to step up to lead the following:

**After School Enrichment (ASE)**

We need a Lead for the Spring ASE program or it will not occur.

**Dads Club/ Eagle Eye Program**

Linda Textoris, Administrative Intern, is heading this up from the Administration end. She has requested a Dad to step up and help with the coordination of the Calendar. (To spell this out, Mrs. Textoris is taking on the difficult part and she needs a Dad or Dads to help her out.) This is a great way for a Dad to volunteer (largely via e-mail).

If you can Lead or Co-chair either of these positions, please let Chris Jackson Coates know of your interest.

Committee Reports

**Stone Ridge – Success!**

Julie McGoldrick, our Stone Ridge 5K Race for Education Chair, happily reports that Liberty raised $2,611.60.

Huge success! This could only be accomplished with great leaders (Thank you Julie and Kristy) and many, many volunteers and racers! Clearly crossing the finish line with a Win!

**Legislative Issues**

If you have legislative issues that you would like PTA to address, please contact our new Legislative Lead, James Milam, at jamesmilam@gmail.com or Gina Fink at gina.fink@verizon.net so our voices will be heard.

**Virginia PTA Day 2013**

Join us on Sunday, Jan. 27th for PTA Day 2013. *Putting The Advocacy in Your PTA Advocacy* training is from 3-5pm at the Richmond Marriott (500 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA).

We will visit the Virginia General Assembly on Monday, Jan. 28th. Registration Deadline is Jan. 5th.

For more information and registration:

http://www.vapta.org/sites/default/files/pta_document_library/PTA%20Day%20Registration%20Form%202013.pdf

If you plan to attend, please let us know so we can carpool or “meet up” at the Event.
FLES Support

Is anyone interested in saving the Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) program in our public schools?

As many of you know, this program was significantly reduced in the 12-13 current school year. Children in K-3 now receive NO foreign language instruction and children in grades 4 and 5 receive only a ½ hr. of instruction per week. Superintendent Hatrick is expected to present his draft budget during the 1st week of Dec.

If you care about this program, please visit the link below and sign the petition (takes about 5 seconds) or better yet attend a School Board meeting and let our Representatives know how you feel.

https://sites.google.com/site/languagesforloudoun/sign-the-petition

Not enough parents are attending the School Board meetings so members think that the majority of LCPS parents don’t care if its cut. Let them know otherwise. Meetings are held at 21000 Education Court in Ashburn. Sign up to speak by calling 571-252-1020.

If you feel strongly, please consider sitting down and writing a letter NOW to your school board members encouraging them to support and reinstate FLES.

Shout Outs!

A big Shout-Out to the following people for their extra efforts:

**Bonnie Giacinto** – Volunteer Raffle Winner for October won a $25 gift card for Kule-Yo’s. Yum!

**Becky Moore** (French Toast casserole), **Karen Broussard** (yogurt), **Paula Augensteine** (O.J.), **Michele Sbitan** (casserole), **Sandra Vaghan** (two-bite cinnamon rolls), **Chris Jackson Coates** (chicken Florentine dough wrap) and **Anaheeta Minwalla** and **Gina Fink** for coordinating a delicious Teacher’s Breakfast on Thursday of American Education Week. (And the quite a few “others” who dropped their delicious items before we could record their names).

If we missed your name, please know that we didn’t miss how much your donation of your time and effort makes Liberty the best it can be.

If you know a member that deserves a Shout-Out, please e-mail Taryn Hendersen at tahender@aol.com, so we can recognize them.
Liberty PTA

December Box Tops Contest & Collection Sheet

Please tape, glue or staple one Box Top to each snowperson and send in via backpack by December 21st to enter the contest for December. Every child in the three classes with the most Box Tops submitted from Dec. 1st through Dec. 21st will receive a PRIZE in January.

Total # of Box Tops: __________
Student Name: ________________________________
Teacher: _______________________________________
Grade: ____________ ( * Kindergarten – indicate AM or PM)