I just that February ushers in Valentine’s Day! The perfect segue to think about things I love about PTA.

(1) PTA encourages us to try new things.

Every day we “ask” our students to “try new things” and learn new tasks. We expect them to face new challenges and press forward. Shouldn’t we lead by example? Shouldn’t we seek out new words to learn the meaning of and new experiences that will become new stories to share? If you haven’t made it to an International Fest yet, this is a great time to try new foods and smile as students perform songs/dances from around the world.

(2) Making new friends.

One of the best parts of being truly involved in PTA is meeting and making new friends. I love it when a student sees me out-and-about and says: “I know you.” I revel in making new adult-friendships because my children and your children go to the same school. If you feel like I do that our “circles of friendship” can always be expanded, come on out to a PTA Event or meeting, introduce yourself to others and make another friend. Better yet, volunteer an hour or two of your time and get to know that parent or teacher who is standing next to you passing out pizza or cleaning up after.

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

Save the dates!

Feb. 1st – Int’l Fest & Pot Luck Soiree @ 6pm to 8:30pm
Feb. 7th – Reflections Ceremony @ 6pm (cafeteria)
Feb. 12th Gen. PTA Mtg. cancelled Needed votes at SMG

Feb. 12th – Staff Matball Game at Freedom H.S. @ 6pm to 8pm
Feb. 13th – Kule-Yo’s (preK-2nd)
Feb. 14th – Kule-Yo’s (3rd – 5th) @ 4pm until 8pm
Feb. 18 – No School-President’s Day
Feb. 20th – Moe’s (pre-k thru 2nd)
Feb. 21st – Moe’s (3rd – 5th) @ 4pm until 8pm
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We’ve Been Asked to Share ...

LCPS asked us to share ...

"Loudoun County Public Schools is considering the adoption of resources for K-3 Social Science instruction. These resources, from the three different publishers who have received approval from the Virginia Department of Education, will be on display at each elementary school in the county, and at the Administration Building in Ashburn, between January 9 and February 15, 2013. If members of the community would like to examine the materials and fill out an evaluation to provide feedback, they are invited to do so. Members of the community who have questions about the process may contact the Social Science & Global Studies Office at 571-252-1370."

Freedom’s All Night Graduation Celebration (ANGC)

ANGC asked us to share ...

To protect (all) our students and the community, the Freedom High School All Night Graduation Celebration (ANGC), a committee of the Freedom PTSA, created an event on graduation night to give students a chance to celebrate their accomplishments in a fun and safe way. For the past 7 years, this program has provided peace of mind for our parents and neighborhoods. The 2013 class will be bused to Dave and Buster’s in Bethesda on graduation night.

In order to continue ANGC, we need additional help and support from the community. It is our goal to fully fund this through sponsorship and ticket sales.

This year, we are hoping sponsors will consider supporting the program with a $20 donation; however, any/all contributions are greatly appreciated.

Please help us eliminate the incidence of injuries and fatalities associated with post-graduation driving under the influence. **All contributions are tax-deductible (tax ID #14-1988211) and greatly appreciated.** We are available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Bacak, ANGC Chair
Freedom High School PTSA
Email: info@freedomangc.org

Checks should be made payable to "ANGC" and sent to Freedom at:

Freedom High School
ATTN: ANGC
25450 Riding Center Dr.
South Riding, VA 20152
PTA Events

VP Events is James Milam. Jamesmilam@gmail.com

International Fest

Due to weather, our International Festival and Pot Luck Soiree will be on Fri., Feb. 1st @ 6-8:30pm.

Our plans include our hugely popular and delicious potluck tasting. Bring an international dish to share and receive a timed ticket to return to eat.

There will be performances on stage in the gym with grade-level demonstrations of around-the-world music. A few international “acts” have been chosen to “round out” the performances. Come dressed if you would like to participate in our Fashion Show.

If you can volunteer your time, please contact Anaheeta Minwalla at acminwalla@verizon.net.

Artwork and projects will be on display in the hallways.

This is a “free” event (no “admissions” cost), but you need bring a dish to share for the potluck (if you want to eat). And, we will be charging $1 for soda/water and encouraging donations – large and small – as part of the “final push” for the Liberty Sign installation, so bring a few bucks (or your checkbook) so you can hydrate and donate.

Want a “front row seat” for the entertainment? As a FUNdraiser, we will be selling seats in the front row(s) for $25 each. Our “big spenders” will have an up-close-and-personal seat.

Staff Matball Game (SMG)

Our Staff Matball Game will be played on Tuesday, Feb. 12th @ Freedom High School from 6pm until 8pm.

Bring your tiara or wear a crown (or make one at our craft tables) as Mr. Pack’s blue Knights challenge Mrs. Insari’s Pink (and Red) Princesses to a lively game of matball (a.k.a. kickball).

Admission is $2 per person (max $10 per family). Those wearing an official 2013 SMG t-shirt enter for free (included).

We will have our 1-2-3-4 Soaring Eagle Café.
$1 Hot Dog
$2 Pizza
$3 Chick-fil-A sandwiches
$4 Moe’s mini-burritos.

And concessions e.g. chips, candy, water and soda ($1 each) will be available for purchase.

We will have wheels to spin, raffles, and more. And our traditional half-time $1 “kicks”.

This is a LOUD and super FUN event that let’s us come together as a school and just let loose. Can’t wait to C U there!

STEMmer Day

Join us for Liberty's third annual STEMmerday! STEMmerday is a Saturday dedicated to exploratory STEM learning! Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math are integrated into fun, hands-on activities that kids will love! Come program a robot, dissect an owl pellet, build a lunar lander, make a telescope, watch a planetarium show, launch a rocket, meet a mad scientist, and so much more!

If you have them, send them in! We need Popsicle® sticks, cotton balls, aluminum foil, paper of all kinds, tape, small (kid size) plastic water bottles, potting soil, fabric squares, plastic spoons, rubber bands, and small screwdrivers! Label them “STEMmer Day” and send in via backpack.

Mark your calendars because on Saturday, March 16th from 9:30-2:30, Liberty will be the place to be! You won’t want to miss it!

Fundraising

VP Fundraising is Anaheeta Minwalla. aominwalla@verizon.net

February Yogurt & Dining Nights

Kule Yo’s

Join us for a yogurt at Kule-Yo’s for a healthy snack and support Liberty at the same time.

Thurs., Feb. 14th for 3rd thru 5th.
The time is from 4pm to 8pm.

Come on out on either night and be sure to mention “Liberty.”

Moe’s

Our February Dining Nights will be at Moe’s in South Riding.
Pre-K thru 2nd on Wed., Feb. 20th and 3rd thru 5th on Thursday, Feb. 21st. Come from 4 to 8pm and mention Liberty when you pay.

Fundraising for the Liberty Sign

The Liberty Sign is HERE!

Donations in any and all amounts are being graciously accepted as we hone in on this long-planned goal. Send in donations via our Snowflakes for the Sign fundraiser via backpack.

International Fest Sponsors

We want to THANK our 2013 International Fest sponsors!

Union Tae Kwon Do
Kravitz Orthodontics

Your support has already guaranteed a huge success!

Looking forward the Union TKD big finale and tasting some international foods off the Kravitz dinnerware!

Staff Matball T-shirt Sponsors

We want to THANK our 2013 SMG t-shirt sponsors!

Kravtiz Orthodontics
CDC (Creative Dance Center)
Top Kicks TKD
Dutz
Glory Days Grill/Fanfare Eatery
South Riding Dance
Buck Simpson Prosperity Realty LLC

Please support these local businesses and thank them for sponsoring Liberty Events the next time you visit them!
PTA Committee Work

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

Open Positions/Help Wanted

We are in need of PTA member(s) to step up to lead the following:

**School Supply Kits (Fall 2013)**

The contract with Staples for the 2013-2014 school year supply kits has been signed. We need a Lead to coordinate the supplies ordered (kits by grade-level), run the sale, and lead the distribution in the Fall (next year).

Committee Reports

Dads Club / Eagle Eye Program

Our Dad's Club Eagle Eye Program continues to be a popular program with many Dads having spent one full day at Liberty volunteering.

If you would like to volunteer for **one full day** at Liberty and experience the Eagle Eye program yourself, contact our Dads Club/Eagle Eye Chair – Phil McKinney at phil@fxcc.org to set-up and confirm a date.

Only one (1) Dad may volunteer per day. Check for open dates via the Eagle Eye Calendar at the Liberty website, under PARENTS tab, drop down EAGLE EYE DADS at: http://www.lcps.org/domain/13654.

Reflections Ceremony

Our Reflections Ceremony to recognize all participants and those students who advanced to the District level will be held on Thursday, Feb. 7th at 6pm to 7pm in the Liberty Cafeteria. The Reflections submissions will be available for viewing, certificates and ribbons will be awarded and light refreshments will be served.

Questions? Or if you can assist at this ceremony, please contact the Reflection Co-chairs Danielle Clay at dclay@paragontech.net & Mrs. Parker at Emily.Parker@lcps.org.

MSAAC

MSAAC is sponsoring a fair. The “Why Not My Child??" Academic Achievement Advisory Fair will be held at Tuscarora High School on Saturday, February 9th from 12 – 4 pm.

Liberty families are invited to
attend the Fair targeting 5th-to-6th grade and 8th-to-9th grade transitioning students (and is useful information for all students). Learn about resources available to students and parents to enhance the academic experience of students transitioning to the next educational milestone. Learn about special programs and receive guidance on accessing advanced learning opportunities for your child. Attend Town Hall-style forums and have open conversations with LCPS administrators and board members.

Mark your calendar for this can’t miss event: Tuscarora H. S. (801 N. King St., Leesburg) on Sat., Feb. 9th from 12 to 4 pm. Hosted by LCPS and the Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee.

Shout Outs!

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

Thank you Sarwat Farooq for agreeing to chair After School Enrichment (ASE).

Thank you Linda Textoris, Rebekah Cox and Kimberly Turner for stepping forward to serve as our Nominations & Elections Committee. (We will have a “call of affirmation” to vote them in officially at the SMG).

Volunteer Raffle Winner for December: Kristy Jones won a $25 Visa gift card. Congratulations!

A huge thank you to more of our Library Volunteers, who have put in countless hours in helping put books back onto the shelves including Anne Corej, Sasikala Gajula, Celeste McKean, Rania Swamy, Molly Turcotte, Kimberly Turner. This is a volunteer position that directly benefits our students, because if the books are not re-shelved then they can’t be found and then checked out again.

Kudos to Mrs. Emily Parker for achieving her goal and earning the distinction of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher! The recent addition of 14 NBCT teachers brings the number of LCPS teachers who have earned this distinction to 121.

If we inadvertently missed your name (please let us know), and please know that we appreciate your donation of your time and effort to make Liberty the best it can be.

If you know a PTA member that deserves a Shout-Out, please e-mail Taryn Hendersen at tahender@aol.com, so we can recognize him or her.
Liberty PTA February Box Tops Collection

Please tape, glue or staple one Box Top to each set of hearts and send in via backpack by February 28th to enter the class contest. Box Tops prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) classes that can be used at STEMmer Day on March 16th.

Total # of Box Tops: _________

Student Name: ________________________________________________

Teacher: _______________________________________________________

Grade: _____________ (* Kindergarten – indicate AM or PM)