Liberty families,

Happy New Year! The Liberty PTA is pleased to announce that 2012 ushers in the completion of Phase 2 of the playground. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who contributed to our fundraisers and volunteered and participated in our events. Special thanks to the Playground Committee members: Mr. Thiessen, Tom Parker (Chair), Beth, Karen and Steven. We hope the students enjoy spinning and hanging on the playground equipment now and for many years to come.

January kicked off with an entertaining, educational and delicious International Fest and Potluck Tasting. Thank you to all the students who performed beautifully and dazzled us with their talents, all the families who created demonstrations to educate us, and to all the chefs (and purchasers) who whipped up tasty dishes!

PTA was happy to financially-sponsor the Dancing Scientist assembly and Family Reading Night – just two examples of your PTA funds at work. It was great to see such a terrific turnout at McDonald’s Dining Nights, which are an excellent way to support Liberty and educational programming like assemblies and reading nights.

We look forward to February and our first ever Spaghetti Dinner combined with our 2nd Family Feud. When the flyers are sent out seeking participants for the Family Feud, I recommend sending yours in right away. Participating as a family is A LOT of fun! We look forward to seeing you at a Liberty event soon.

Gina Fink, 2011-12 Liberty PTA President, Gina.Fink@comcast.net, 703-327-1740

### Upcoming Events

- **Feb 10** – Spaghetti Dinner and Family Feud 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- **Feb 14** – PTA General Membership Meeting 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- **March 12** – Third Session of After-School Enrichment begins
- **Mar 29** – Staff Matball Game 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Freedom High School

For a complete listing of Liberty events, please visit the school website at [http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/Page/62937](http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/Page/62937)

### Treasurer’s Report

Hello Liberty Families,

Welcome to 2012! It’s never too late to make a New Year’s resolution to support your PTA. It’s easy and fun – just come to or volunteer at one of our many upcoming events described elsewhere in this newsletter. You’ll support PTA-funded initiatives while spending quality time with your family! Now that’s what I call a win-win scenario. Speaking of winning, our staff Mat Ball game is coming up soon. Who will take first place? This awesome event is one
of the larger sources of funds for the PTA and it’s sure to be a great time for your entire family, so be sure to get involved! On another note, thanks to all of you who registered your children for our second session of after-school enrichment courses. We’ve already met our revenue goals for after-school enrichment and we still have one session left to go! Thanks again for your ongoing support of Liberty and your PTA!

Rebekah Cox
2011-12 PTA Treasurer

International Festival

The International Festival was held on Friday, January 20th and was a celebration of many cultures from around the globe. Liberty Elementary is blessed to have a diverse student body, allowing us to learn from each other about many different cultures. The event was a huge success and had a great turnout. Once again the booths were educational, the food was delicious and the performances were fantastic. Great work by all the participants involved.

Liberty Spaghetti Dinner

Tutti a tavola! Liberty Elementary PTA is cooking up a big pot of spaghetti. We want all of you to make this a real big Italian fest. Come out for dinner and stay for entertainment. Liberty’s Family Feud returns and will entertain us the rest of the event. Signups will be coming home soon, so get your team signed up. Teams will be picked by lottery drawing. Advance apologies for those teams that do not get picked. The event will be on February 10th from 6:00 pm - 8:30pm. Ci vediamo li!

REMEMBER: This event is 2nd grade designated. So ALL 2nd grade parents, please sign up to help in some way, either with planning the event or volunteering at the event. Contact for the event is Steve Sebestyen at Ssebestyen@bowmancg.com

Matball Game

Liberty’s teachers and staff have spoken and we have listened. This year Liberty PTA will hold its first ever Staff Matball Game. Don’t know what Matball is? Ask your child, they know and love this game. It’s a larger, crazier scale version of kickball and will be one event of the year you truly will not want to miss.

The Staff Matball Game will be held at Freedom Highschool, Thursday, March 29th from 6:30-8:00 pm.

This is will be one of our biggest events of the year and really needs the people power of volunteers to pull it off. Please consider joining the planning committee and/or volunteering at the event.

REMEMBER: This event is 4th grade designated. So ALL 4th grade parents, please sign up to help in some way, either with planning the event or volunteering at the event. Contact for the event is Steve Sebestyen at Ssebestyen@bowmancg.com

After School Enrichment

Our second session of after school enrichment (ASE) is well underway. Our third and final session of ASE will begin on March 12th. A printed flyer will be sent home on February 16th, with early bird registration forms available on the PTA website beginning
Upcoming Events and News

February 13th. With the quick turn around for our final session, classes will be filled on a first come, first serve basis, with no late registrations accepted.

If you have any questions or suggestions please email Emily Parker at live4kids@verizon.net.

Liberty PTA Executive Board Nominations and Elections

We are nearing the time for nominations and elections for the 2012-2013 PTA Executive Board. Here is the timeline:

Feb. 14th (meeting @ 3pm – 4pm) – Elect Nominations Committee (3 people)
March 13th – Announce Slate of Officers
April 17th – Elections
May 8th – Installation of Officers

All of the above occur at the regularly scheduled General PTA meetings at 7pm (unless noted otherwise).

We need three people to volunteer to serve as the Nominations & Elections Committee. The bulk of the volunteer work (of searching for capable and willing persons to serve as PTA Exec. Bd. Officers) by this committee will be from Feb. 14th thru March 13th. One member of the committee must present the Slate at the March 13th General PTA Meeting. If able, the members should stand ready to assist during the Election on April 17th.

Please contact Gina Fink at gina.fink@comcast.net or 703-327-1740 if you are willing to serve on the Nominations & Elections Committee or have an interest in serving on the 2012-2013 Executive Board. The Executive Board Officer positions are: (1) President, (2) VP Events, (3) VP Fundraising, (4) VP Committees/Volunteers, (5) Treasurer,
Upcoming Events and News

(6) Recording Secretary and (7) Corresponding/Coordinating Secretary.

Outdoor Classroom News!!!

The Outdoor Classroom Committee has some very exciting news! Our group has grown to include 12 very active members and includes: Laura Tubridy (chair), Julie Abel, Nabeela Fisher, Kristen Reed, Vinayak Arumugam, Avinash Tale, Sukdev Rawat, Anne Corej, Jeremy Woon, Crystal Geller plus Mr. Thiessen and Mrs. Insari.

If you have not yet heard about the proposed outdoor classroom, our mission is to develop an outdoor learning environment in the north courtyard at Liberty. At a minimum, the space can be used to hold classes outdoors in a safe and controlled environment. However, we hope the space will be developed and used in many ways to teach about our natural world as it relates to Loudoun County and Virginia curriculums, including the SOL’s and STEM.

So what’s our big news? We have lots! We just received a $2,500 donation from SWIFT of Manassas (thanks Vinayak, Avinash and Sukdev!). Kris Alvarez and Jason Lex of KT Enterprises Inc. have agreed to donate their design services to help us design the space (thanks Kristen Reed!). Bruce Hopkins of Bruce Services is donating his carpentry/construction skills to make and install the bench seating (thanks again Kristen!). We have four area Girl Scouts from Lunsford Middle School, working with Jeremy Woon, who stepped up to construct our water feature (thanks Julie!). Anne Corej, along with Mrs. Insari, will start the permitting process in the very near future. Nabeela Fisher will be working with the Virginia Naturally Schools program, which is administered by VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. And, Julie Abel continues her work on developing a fun and engaging fundraiser.

We are well on our way to making this happen, with a proposed start date of spring 2012!

Nominate a Super Liberty Teacher!

Liberty has some of the most Super Teachers in Virginia – Nominate a Super Teacher Today!

Many of you know and appreciate at least one dedicated Virginia public school teacher who consistently goes the extra mile each day to serve their students and their communities. The Virginia Lottery, the Virginia PTA, and The Supply Room Companies also recognize that Virginia is brimming with these outstanding teachers.

These three organizations have partnered for the fifth year in a row to bring you the "Virginia Lottery Super Teacher Awards."

Through this program, the Virginia Lottery will pay tribute to those educators who put smiles on their students’ faces and who are shaping their futures. The Virginia Lottery will recognize eight teachers across the Commonwealth as "Super Teachers." Each winning teacher will receive a $2,000 credit from The Supply Room Companies to outfit their classroom as well as a $2,000 prize from the Virginia Lottery.

This year, all eight winning Super Teacher schools will also receive a dynamic Science Museum of Virginia educational experience!

To nominate a "Super Teacher," please go to the website below. The nomination period launches January 4, 2012 and the submission deadline is February 14, 2012.

http://www.valottery.com/teacher
Freedom High School (FHS) Athletic Boosters is sponsoring its Annual Spring Mulch Sale on Saturday, March 24, 2012

* 3 Cubic Ft. Bags of Shredded Hardwood Bark Mulch

* $4.50 per Bag – Tax Deductible Donation of $2.10 per Bag

* Pickup at FHS between 8:30 – 4:00 on March 24th OR have it delivered to your driveway

* Free delivery (w/in 5 mile radius of FHS) for orders of 20 or more

* Download an order form at:

or pay on-line at
  http://www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com

* Email questions to mulchmadness@ymail.com

Fairy Tail Trials

Was the Big Bad Wolf really a villain, or was he the victim? And what was the destiny of poor little Goldilocks? Children and adults alike will delight in Freedom High School Theatre's upcoming productions of two popular fairy tales—with a twist. The comedies, **The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf** and **Goldilocks on Trial**, will take place Friday, February 10 and Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee shows will also be held Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m. All shows will be held in the Freedom High School auditorium.

**The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf** is based in part on the character from the story of The Three Little Pigs, and also features some well-known jurors including Humpty Dumpty, Cinderella, Little Miss Muffet, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and Jill, and Little Bo Peep. **Goldilocks on Trial**, written by local Chantilly High School theatre teacher Ed Monk, takes place once again in a mystical fairy tale courtroom, where the fate of Goldilocks has yet to be determined. Will she be convicted of "breaking and entering?" Audience members can take part in this interactive show to decide her fate!

These humorous takes on two of the most beloved fairy tales will surely brighten your winter days and be a treat for the entire family. It's a show not to be missed! Tickets are $7.00 per person and may be purchased the day of the show in the theatre lobby. Freedom High School is located at 25450 Riding Center Drive, South Riding, VA, 20152.

For more information, contact Pam Cramer at 703-542-7981 or mpcramer01@aol.com
**Link Your Store Cards**

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, and Bloom shoppers' cards. You can also link your Target REDcard.

Go to the PTA Website and click on the PTA – Fundraisers link for all the details.

**5th Grade Promotion Fundraiser**

The fifth grade students and teachers would like to thank everyone for the support from their Liberty family! In the first week of the fundraiser, all pens and pencils were sold out at the school store.

Please go to the fifth grade website to download an order form to take to work, your neighborhood, friends, and family to help put in duct tape flower pens and pencils orders. These make wonderful thoughtful gifts to give to loved ones for Valentine's Day.

The pens cost $1 each or $10 for a dozen. Pencils are 2 for $1.00 or $5 for a dozen. All proceeds will go towards the 5th grade promotion budget. Pens may also be purchased at the fifth grade stand beside the school store.

**McDonald's Dining Night a Big Success! –**

Thanks to everyone for coming out to McDonald's in January. We had a great turn out and earned lots of money for the school!

**Thank you to our BIG International Festival Sponsor!**

Without donations and sponsorships, we would be unable to raise the funds needed to reach our PTA goals. Please join us in thanking our generous sponsor!

**Union Tae Kwon Do**

43090 Peacock Market Plaza #140
South Riding, VA 20152
703-327-0777

**Staff Matball Game - We Need Sponsors**

We are looking for businesses to sponsor our Staff Matball game in March. We still need several $500 Eagle Sponsors and $250 Red, White, and Blue Sponsors. We are also looking for contributions to our basket raffle prizes. If you think that you can help or you know a business that can help, please contact Julie Abel at julieabel@comcast.net. Your contributions are tax deductible.
GLORY DAYS – ANY TIME, ANY DAY!

Send your receipt to school in an envelope marked PTA or drop it in the Glory Days box near the office.

Prizes for Box Tops!

Turn in ten or more Box Tops between now and February 10th and receive a prize. That’s right, every student that turns in ten or more Box Tops will receive a prize. Please make sure your name and teacher’s name/grade are on your collection sheets, baggies, etc., so your class receives credit for the grand prize at the end of the year.

Shout-Out

Once again, many helping hands from the Liberty PTA have been working hard to enhance our children’s experience at Liberty. The following "helping hands" deserve some clapping hands for their recent achievements:

=>Mr. Thiessen, Tom Parker (Chair), Beth Choi, Karen Broussard and Steve Sebestyen for making Phase 2 of the Liberty playground happen!

=> Vinayak Arumugam for securing a donation of $2,500 to be used for Liberty’s outdoor classroom!

=> Anu Kaur for Chairing the PTA Reflections contest and coordinating a fantastic awards event!

=> Julie McGoldrick for chairing our first-ever Jingle Bell Jog.

=> Anaheeta and Cyrus Minwalla for all their work in keeping the PTA website and Facebook updated.


=>5th Grade teacher Ms. Susan Lee and the 5th Grade parents who attended the Liberty PTA General Meeting in January. We had over 30 total attendees - woo-hoo!

If you would like to recognize a PTA member for their efforts, please contact Laura Tubridy at lauratubridy@verizon.net.
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.

Without the help of our amazing volunteers, we would not be able to provide the great programs and educational support to the school.

A great big “Thank You” goes out to all the volunteers at:

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<th>Jingle Bell Jog</th>
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Thank You to Our Members!!

Thank you to all of PTA members! We had a contest to see which class within each grade could get the most PTA memberships and the winners are:

Preschool: Ms. Sapp’s Class
AM Kindergarten: Mrs. Foley’s Class
PM Kindergarten: Mrs. Foley’s Class
1st Grade: Mrs. Dempsey’s class
2nd Grade: Ms. White’s Class
3rd Grade: Mrs. Parker’s Class
4th Grade: Ms. Coleman’s Class
5th Grade: Mrs. King’s and Ms. Lee’s Classes (tied)

The winning classes grades 1 – 5 received a pizza and lemonade party. The kindergarten classes received Liberty red, white and blue silicon bracelets and the preschool class received Liberty water bottles.