Spring has sprung! It seems like we skipped winter completely this year. We are in full swing for planning and preparing for our annual Staff Game, which is a huge FUNdraiser for us. This year we introduce a slight twist with the game of Matball. Haven’t heard of it before? Ask your student about how it is played. Basically, it is indoor kickball with a few modifications that make it an “active” game for the most participants all at once.

How can YOU make this event a huge success? Mark your calendar, save the date and come on out and have a great time. Want to “bump it up” to the next level? We need – YES, REALLY, REALLY NEED - a whole bunch of one-hour shift volunteers. Sign-up for a one hour shift (either as the parent alone or better yet, sign up with your student and volunteer together) and teach your child that volunteering is a great way to be involved with worthy causes.

You may be wondering why we have so many events. The Events take a ton of planning and work, but it is so worth it when we can fund so many programs that DIRECTLY benefit our children and Liberty students as a whole. These include Phase II of the Playground, computer programs for the 5th grade, SOL-related books for the 2nd grade, ActiViews (one for each grade level), outdoor classroom structures and supplies, and hopefully someday soon, a Liberty sign for the front of the school. We are able to accomplish all this and so much more due the membership and volunteering of our teachers and parents and terrific local sponsors!

Looking forward to continued excellent weather and seeing many, many of you at our 2012 Staff Matball Game on Tuesday, March 27th at 6:30pm.

Gina Fink, Liberty PTA President 2011-12, gina.fink@comcast.net

**Upcoming Events**
- March 7 – PTA Exec Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- March 12 – Session 3 of After School Enrichment begins
- March 13 – PTA General Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
- March 27 – Staff Matball Game, Freedom HS – 7:00 pm
- April 2 to April 6 – Spring Break!!

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**

Greetings Liberty Families,

The school year may be half over (!!!) but there are still many awesome PTA events coming your way. Our biggest night of the year is just around the corner – mark your calendars now for our Staff Matball Game on March 27. Fierce competition, yummy concessions and hanging with friends – supporting your PTA has never been so much fun! Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at the Matball Game!
Upcoming Events and News

Rebekah Cox
2011-12 PTA Treasurer

PS. We are still looking for Matball sponsors. Contact Julie Abel at julieabel@comcast.net if you are interested in this great opportunity.

Liberty Spaghetti Dinner/Volunteers

Our first ever Liberty Family Spaghetti Dinner was held on February 10th. Everyone that came out and played Family Feud had a great time. If you didn’t get a chance to attend or volunteer, we would love to see you at our first ever Staff Matball Game in March.

Matball Game

The Annual Staff Game is coming up soon. The Staff Matball Game will be an exciting game of matball where the Liberty teachers and staff face off against each other – Team Atwater versus Team Thiessen. There will be food, souvenirs and, of course, lots of great prizes to be won. This is one of the best events of the year that you won’t want to miss.

Planning for this event is still underway and it’s not too late for you to join in the fun and add your ideas. If you can’t or don’t want to help with planning, then volunteer at the event. Volunteering for one shift will still give you plenty of time to spend with your family and enjoy the event. This event really requires a lot of volunteer power to successfully run, so PLEASE sign up now. Responsible students are encouraged to volunteer as well. Volunteer with your student and teach them the significance of volunteering. Contact Anaheeta Minwalla at acminwalla@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:

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.

If you are interested in holding an Officer position on PTA for the next school year (2012-13), please contact a member of the Nominations Committee: Paul Thiessen (Paul.Thiessen@lcps.org), Lynn Hood (thehoodcrew@gmail.com) and/or Andrea Jones (LadyAcJ78@yahoo.com) with your name, position interested in and e-mail/phone contact information. Nominations may also be made from the floor on April 17th (elections), but interested parties are encouraged to e-mail the Nominations Committee now.
The Executive Board Officer positions are: (1) President, (2) VP Events, (3) VP Fundraising, (4) VP Committees/Volunteers, (5) Treasurer, (6) Recording Secretary and (7) Corresponding/Coordinating Secretary.

Green Team News
A BIG thank you for supporting the Green Team’s new efforts to up-cycle! We have started a new program in the cafeteria collecting Capri Sun, Honest Kids and other juice bags that we will send into Terracycle for up-cycling into cool products, such as backpacks, and pencil cases. We welcome any empty juice bags that you would like to bring in from home. The recycle container is located in the cafeteria. You can learn more about Terracycle and their programs at www.terracycle.net.

We are continuing to collect empty (any brand, any size) tape dispensers and cores, as well as, Elmer’s glue containers, including, refill jars, glitter pens and glue sticks. Please bring these empty items in and place them in the box labeled “Terracycle” just inside the main school doors.

We are preparing for our Spring Green Campaigns. On a recent visit to Liberty, we were thrilled to see the children’s excitement and their participation with a recycling pledge.

The Green Team welcomes new members at any time! Email crystalgeller@gmail.com for questions, suggestions or to sign up to help with our efforts to keep Liberty and our community green!

Be Green – Stop Idling
During Green Week at Liberty, March 26-30th, we will be launching a No Idling Campaign to protect the health of our students and the health of our environment. In addition to restricting idling on school grounds by school buses, we are also asking parents to adopt a No Idling policy for personal vehicles. Soon, cars that are in the carpool lanes for drop-off or afternoon pick-up will be greeted with our new No Idling signage. If you will be sitting still for more than 30 seconds, these signs will serve as a reminder to turn off your engine.

Vehicle exhaust is harmful to everyone’s health, but it especially affects children who breath more and at a faster rate than adults. By turning off your car, our students, teachers and parents won’t breath unhealthy fumes as they enter the school.

Please show your support and turn off your car engine while waiting to pick-up or drop-off your child (or children). Then we can all breath easier.

STEMmerday is April 21st - See You There!
Upcoming Events and News

Mark your calendar for April 21st (9 AM to 2 PM) for Liberty's second STEMmerday. It will be even better than last year.

STEMmerday is an EXTREMELY unique opportunity for our community to get together and practice science, technology engineering and math. There will be over 30 interactive activities that offer your children an opportunity to follow their passions and choose their own learning path. This approach to education is so unique and gaining such momentum that we will have special guests including someone from the staffs of both President Obama and the Secretary of Education. This is truly an event that you have to see to believe.

New activities for this year include “Catch a Spy” facilitated by FBI Agents, “Scrub In and Operate” facilitated by Georgetown Hospital doctors, “Mad Science Explosions” and so many more. Based on your feedback, we have several returning favorite activities such as “Birds of Prey” with the National Wildlife Federation, “Rocket Launching” with an engineer at BAE Systems, “Marshmallow Catapult Launch” and “Paper Airplane Competition” facilitated by engineers at Lockheed Martin and so many more.

STEMmerday gives you and your children an opportunity to not only learn and practice STEM-related concepts, it also provides a glance into what the education system might look like in the future. STEMmerday is driven by the passion and readiness of each person in attendance. Every participant is provided the opportunity to learn about science, technology, engineering and math by participating in activities that are design to solve problems and tell memorable stories. STEMmerday offers learning opportunities even beyond STEM concepts as every participant is also learning how to find knowledge, how to validate knowledge, how to problem solve and how to think critically and strategically. These are critical skills for the future of our nation and our global community.

A few volunteer shifts are still available, so if you or a friend would like to facilitate or support an activity from 9-12 or 12-3, please send an email to Jennifer.Heidary@lcps.org.

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:

=> Julie Abel for the January McDonald's Fundraiser - Yet another fundraising success!

=> Mrs. Parker for dedicating her time and effort on After School Enrichment;

=> Gina Fink, Steve Sebestyen and Anaheeta Minwalla for organizing the Spaghetti Dinner/Family Feud Night!

=> Dad's Club Chair James Milam for driving his truck and trailer all the way to Winchester, Virginia to pick up Trex boards for the Outdoor Classroom

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

Art to Remember is Back!

Be on the lookout for more information on how you will be able to purchase keepsake items with your student's artwork on it. We expect to have the items delivered in time for Mother’s Day, so be thinking about those Mother’s Day and Father’s Day special gifts that you might want to buy. More details coming next month!

McDonald's Dining Night
A Big Success

Thanks to everyone for coming out to McDonald’s in January. We made just over $1,000 on our McDonald’s Nights! Way to go Liberty. Many thanks to Ms. Schumacher, Ms. Puckli, Ms. King, Ms. Langan, Ms. Rzepnicki, Mrs. Parker, and Mrs. Schoenly who came out and helped. Thanks to all of you for coming out to eat!

Sponsors Needed for Staff Matball Game

We are looking for businesses to sponsor our Staff Matball game in March. We are 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.

Sponsor Spotlight

Thank you to SWIFT, Inc. of Manassas who contributed $2,500 towards our Outdoor Classroom. Without businesses like this, we would not be able to achieve our goals! Thank you.

Help Grow Our Outdoor Classroom

Our Outdoor Classroom is taking shape. We need your help to make it a reality. We will be having a fundraiser to support the Outdoor Classroom from April 10 - 23rd. Special paper flowers will be available to purchase for $1. Your flower along with your student's name will be placed on our Outdoor Classroom "wall" of flowers. Watch your Thursday folders for more details.

Sign Up for Food Lion’s MVP Classroom Rewards

Our local Bloom store is changing back to Food Lion at the end of February. If you shop there, you will need to get a new Food Lion MVP card to replace your old Bloom card.

After you receive your new card, please be sure to register it by going to www.foodlion.com and clicking on Community Outreach, then MVP Rewards. Liberty’s school code is 219445. After your card is registered, Liberty will earn credit every time you purchase Food Lion brand products and scan your MVP card. You can earn DOUBLE CREDIT for Liberty when you
purchase Food Lion brand products on the 10th of each month.

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.

Box Tops

Our next Box Tops Contest will be under way very soon. So start clipping and saving now. The Valentine’s Day contest was extremely successful. The students that turned in ten or more Box Tops really enjoyed receiving their prize, a pencil sharpener in the shape of a globe. In addition, one class from each grade level that turned in the most Box Tops received a popsicle party. We will tie this next contest in with the Staff Matball Game and each student that turns in ten or more Box Tops will receive a ticket for a free bag of popcorn at the game.

As always, don’t forget to put your child’s name and teacher’s name on all submissions so they can receive the proper credit.