THE LIBERTY FLYER

Letter from the PTA President

March is one of my favorite months on the Liberty Elementary calendar. This month is full of some of our most highly-anticipated events of the year, and they are part of what makes Liberty a truly special school. Here are some updates from the PTA this month:

STEMmerday

Liberty’s annual STEMmerday event is on Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. This event is free for families to attend and is made possible in large part due to your support of the Laps for Liberty at the start of the year. I hope everyone can attend and enjoy the many activities! We are in need of volunteers to help out with a couple tasks for this event, so please consider volunteering a little bit of your time. More information about STEMmerday is on page 4 of this newsletter.

Matball

Liberty’s annual Staff Matball game is on Thursday, March 21 from 6-8 p.m. at Freedom High School. This year’s event features a Harry Potter theme, and our classrooms have been divided into four Hogwarts houses (Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Slytherin, and Hufflepuff). Be sure to attend this event and cheer on your favorite teachers’ teams! More information about Matball is on page 4 of this newsletter.

PTA Leadership Opportunities

Elections for the 2019/2020 PTA Executive Board are coming up next month! In addition to roles on our Executive Board, we have several chair positions that are currently vacant or will be available this fall. These include After School Enrichment Coordinator, Bingo Chair, Children’s Diversity Night Chair, Laps for Liberty Chair, Matball Chair, Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) Representative, Reflections Coordinator, Room Parent Coordinator, and School Dance Chair. More information about joining PTA leadership is on page 2 of this newsletter.

As winter winds down and we head toward spring, I encourage everyone to take advantage of these unique opportunities through our school. Some of my children’s favorite memories at Liberty are from these March events, and there’s been a ton of excitement about the STEMmerday and Matball events from students these past few weeks. Thank you for being an active part of our Liberty community, and I look forward to sharing these upcoming events with you.

Sincerely,

Jen Robinette
PTA President 2018-2019
president@liberty-pta.com
Scenes from Odyssey of the Mind Workshop

Thirty-two teams across 19 schools participated in an Odyssey of the Mind (OOTM) Workshop at Liberty Elementary on Tuesday, February 19.

The workshop included 130 spontaneous sessions conducted by fifteen children in the 6th and 7th grades (from four different schools around the area) under the leadership of Kal Srinivasan and Tez Nettimi. There were nearly 300 people in attendance.

The event included a food drive for Dulles South Food Pantry.

Photos courtesy of Tez Nettimi.

2019/2020 PTA Leadership by Jen Robinette

We are looking ahead to the 2019/2020 school year. I want to invite parents to get involved!

If you’re interested in chairing an event, now is a great time to jump in as a chairperson. Our open chair positions include After School Enrichment Coordinator, Bingo Chair, Children’s Diversity Night Chair, Laps for Liberty Chair, Matball Chair, Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) Representative, Reflections Coordinator, Room Parent Coordinator, and School Dance Chair.

Elections for next year’s PTA Executive Board will be held at the PTA General Meeting on Tuesday, April 2 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. for all board positions. We have seven positions on our board: President, three Vice Presidents (Committees/Volunteer Coordinator, Events, and Fundraising), two Secretaries (Corresponding and Recording), and one Treasurer.

I would love for prospective leaders to shadow us in events and ask any questions you may have about roles you are thinking about. We have a lot of fun working together on the board. I started as a Room Parent and took baby steps to get to where I am as PTA President. Any amount you can volunteer in leadership is appreciated.

Please contact me at president@liberty-pta.com if I can answer any of your questions about getting involved in Liberty Elementary PTA leadership.

Treasurer’s Report by Lisa Geurin

In February, the PTA organized our spring after-school sessions, adding many more teacher-led programs. With this, Liberty brought in approximately $5,000 in profits!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Chuck E. Cheese spirit night. We made over $900!

We are going to be looking for a new PTA board for the next school year. If you may be interested in the Treasurer position, please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Spotlight: Library Resources

Liberty Elementary’s library offers a wealth of resources on its webpage. The full list of resources can be found here: https://www.lcps.org/Page/209279

MacKinVIA is a Loudoun County Public Schools-based e-library. Students can put books in their e-backpacks and check out as many books as they like. Later on, they can take electronic notes in their e-books and the notes stay in there through their electronic account. MacKinVIA has groups geared toward grade level projects, including PBL projects.

The library resources are helpful for doing homework on snow days or extended vacations, because children can access projects and work on books.

Students can log into their LCPS GO account and can access everything inside the library resources. They will only see the resources intended for elementary students and not those for middle school or high school students.

A special thanks to Liberty Elementary Librarian Alicia Coleman for sharing her presentation of library resources at the February PTA General Meeting.
SEAC Notes by Alisha Vaughn

The February SEAC meeting featured a presentation on the FY20 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget by Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Pupil Services. This presentation will be posted on the SEAC website.

The January Pupil Services Communique can be downloaded here: https://www.lcps.org/Page/203417. Topics covered include Autism Services, Career and Transition Services, Inclusive Practices, Response to Intervention, Unified Mental Health, and Upcoming Events. Spotlight on Legacy Elementary for adding a Sensory Walk in one of the hallways with their new construction!

The SEAC Policies, Practices and Procedures subcommittee presented a review of the Homebound and Homebased Instruction Draft Policy 5360, as well as a review of the Special Education Draft Policy 5310. The subcommittee found areas where the draft policies did not meet the needs of special education students, and these areas were shared with the School Board and Special Education Department for review and feedback to the subcommittee.

Parent Resource Services has a great lineup for March! On March 6 – Communication and Play; March 7 – Guardianship and Transfer Rights for Students Turning 18; March 15 – Raising Young Communicators; March 23 – Summer Activities Resource Fair; March 20 – MANDT Overview For Parents; and March 27 – The Key To Successful Toileting.

The 7th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival is taking place March 3-17. ReelAbilities “is the largest film festival in the country dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different abilities. The annual festival presents both domestic and international award-winning films paired with interactive programming that provides a new perspective and highlights the vibrant personalities, realities, and extraordinary abilities of people who are differently abled.”

There are a few ways to sign up to receive SEAC emails: through the SEAC Facebook page, the SEAC website, and a sign up sheet that is available at each SEAC meeting.

The primary role of the LCPS Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is to advise the School Board on unmet needs of special education students. Please contact the Chair of SEAC at SEACChair@lcps.org with any questions.
Box Tops Contest 3

Our third Box Tops contest ends soon!

Contest 3:
January 2 - March 8

Prize: Popcorn party for the top 3 classes!

STEMmerday 2019: Donations Needed

On Saturday, March 9, from 10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m., students and their families will have the opportunity to be immersed in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for an entire day during Liberty Elementary School’s eighth annual STEMmerday!

As Liberty Elementary continues to prepare for activities, we kindly ask for you to consider sending in consumable supplies for us to use at STEMmerday. Supplies requested include: scotch tape; masking tape; duct tape; electrical tape; paper clips; egg cartons; plastic bottle caps; newspaper; empty cereal, cookie, cracker, and tissue boxes; paper towel/ toilet paper rolls; rubber bands; pipe cleaners; popsicle sticks; plastic cups; aluminum foil; disposable travel coffee cups; water balloons; cotton balls; toothpicks; and plastic straws.

Wizard Cup Matball Game

Liberty Elementary PTA invites you to the annual Staff Matball Game. This event will be held Thursday, March 21 from 6-8 p.m. at the Freedom High School Gym (across the street from Liberty).

The faculty and staff have been sorted into Hogwart houses. Which house will win: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, or Slytherin? Admission is $5 per person or $15 per family (immediate family members only, please!). Food, drinks, and game souvenirs will be available for purchase at the game. You can also get your face painted in support of your Hogwart house! Come for the game, stay for the intermission Teacher Dance Skit! Students will have a chance to come down to the floor and take their turn at kicking the ball! All proceeds go directly to Liberty PTA and our school!

More information can be found on our Matball website.

Volunteer Updates by Poonam Upadhyaya

Thank you to our Liberty families for volunteering! These events would not be possible without our volunteers. This month’s big events are STEMmerday and Matball.

We have two links for STEMmerday volunteer signup; one is for bringing items for the volunteer breakfast, and another is selling concessions.

We have an ongoing need for school store volunteers. Please consider volunteering here! The school store will close on days we do not have a volunteer.

We will be sharing a volunteer signup for Matball soon. Please visit Liberty’s PTA volunteer homepage and our social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter) for when slots open up.

Volunteer Homepage
http://signup.com/go/TboxFuv
Concessions
http://signup.com/go/VoTEsNE

http://btfe.com
LAST CHANCE TO ORDER

HAR DHITS
Custom Apparel

STORE IS OPEN NOW - MARCH 22ND

HTTP://LIBERTYBOOSTER8FALL2018.ITEMORDER.COM/Sale

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
WEBORDERS@HAR DHITS.NET
(703) 365-7706
About the Liberty Elementary School PTA

The Liberty Elementary School PTA works to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as to secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

Last school year, with the help of our dedicated and engaged parents, staff, and community, the PTA helped contribute over $87,000 directly to Liberty. These funds go toward the purchase of new classroom and school technology, special events and speakers, STEM curriculum and events, teacher appreciation and staff development, and much more.

Everything you do to support Liberty Elementary directly supports our students and community. With your help, we can work together to help every child discover and reach his or her full potential.

Thank you for your time, dedication, and support!