THE LIBERTY FLYER

Letter from the PTA President

What a wonderful November, and a great time to be thankful. Alisha Vaughan organized a fantastic American Education Week for the staff at Liberty. The staff enjoyed Golly Waffles and a hot chocolate bar on Monday and lunch on Friday from Famous Toastery. Thank you to all the families who sent in K-Cups, Awesome-Grams, and STEM supplies.

What a great turnout to Children’s Diversity Night. I loved seeing and hearing all our talented students. Thank you Vijaya Durga Laddika and Ramadevi Chedalla for making the event a success. They were even able to have all our students involved. Every student had the option to decorate a paper “people” cutout which was then hung hand-in-hand along the hallway. This event isn’t just for those participating. Come out next year to see the talent show, dancing, and parade, and to make crafts.

I don’t know who came out on top in our “Country versus Pop” school dance, but I did see some adorable cowboys & cowgirls. Thank you to Kerri Lewis for all your hard work organizing and running the dance. Our students had fun dancing to all the music, including dances learned in PE class. The hay bales added to the ambiance. Hopefully everyone made it to the photo booth and enjoyed the cupcakes and popcorn.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at these events! Our events are not possible without your support.

The PTA Reflections contest is over, and we had entries in three categories: literature, music, and visual arts. Judging has ended, and the first-place winners from each category will move up to District. Winners will be announced on the Morning Show soon. Thank you to all the students who submitted entries. This contest takes place every year so if you missed it this year, be on the lookout next year.

We have two additional contests that aren’t due until after the winter holiday. The Citizenship Essay contest allows students to express their views and opinions on character or citizenship. This year’s selected theme is “What Does It Take To Be A Good Citizen?” Essays are due to the Liberty PTA by January 17th. The Virginia PTA Power Plates Program is designed to encourage students to practice healthy eating habits by creating their own recipes. Recipes are due to the VA PTA (not Liberty) by February 3rd.

Be sure to come out for out PTA General meeting on December 3rd at 3pm. We will begin the meeting reviewing PBL (project-based learning) presented by the 5th grade team. Please note that we will not be holding a PTA General meeting in January. Our spring after school enrichment program will begin in February 17th. Look for more information in January.

I wish you a happy and safe winter break and look forward to 2020.

Sincerely,

William Perry
PTA President 2019-2020
president@liberty-pta.com
Treasurer’s Report by Lisa Geurin
Hello Liberty families! Thanks again to those who have joined our PTA; we have more members this year than we did last year—a total of 492!!! The 3rd Annual Student Dance came in under budget, by about $400, and we sold more tickets than we thought, with a profit of $647! Thank you for your support and I hope everyone had fun!

Any questions or concerns about the budget can be directed to me at treasurer@liberty-pta.com.

Volunteers Needed by Poonam Upadhyaya
We are in need of volunteers for the School Book Fair in December and Bingo Night in January. Please consider donating a little bit of time to help us.

Please visit Liberty’s PTA volunteer homepage or use the links below for signups.

Bingo Night
Basket Coordinators
https://signup.com/go/psooQnC
Event Volunteers
https://signup.com/go/PKidAPV

School Book Fair
https://signup.com/go/JWUDfFg

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY PTA PARENTS’ NIGHT OUT
at
THE FITNESS EQUATION
Friday, December 6th from 6:00-9:00 PM
The Fitness Equation South Riding
43360 Defender Drive Chantilly, VA 20152

A per child rate of $20 includes: Pizza for dinner, Ninja Warrior course, & activities with Kidz Gym staff
Kids must be 4+ and potty trained. Maximum age: 14.
$5 of every registration will go back to Liberty Elementary PTA!

To sign up, email Bevin Keiter at bkeiter@thefitnessequation.com or call The Fitness Equation South Riding at 703-214-9300. Mention Liberty and include your name, phone number, and how many kids you will bring and their ages.
Sign up by Thursday, December 5th at 5:00 PM.
Liberty’s Annual Book Fair

We have some exciting news to share; it’s almost time for Liberty’s book fair!

Liberty’s “Bookworm Central” Book Fair will take place from December 2-6, 2019. We can only accept CASH from students. We will accept credit cards or checks with an adult present.

Monday, 12/2: Classes preview the fair. Parent shopping 8:15-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, 12/3: Classes preview the fair. Parent shopping 8:15-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Family Buying Night 3:00-7:30 p.m.

(Family Literacy Night is from 6-8 p.m.)

Wednesday, 12/4: Scheduled student purchasing, parent shopping 8:15-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, 12/5: Scheduled student purchasing, parent shopping 8:15-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Family Buying Night 3:00-7:30 p.m.

Friday, 12/6: Scheduled student purchasing, parent shopping 8:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

MSAAC Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee

Did you miss the November MSAAC Meeting? MSAAC meetings are now recorded and available to LCPS families. Here is a link to the November MSAAC & SEAC Joint Presentation and Panel Discussion on “Closing the Gap on Discipline Disparities”.

The November MSAAC meeting was a joint community conversation between MSAAC and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). The meeting focused on discipline disproportionality and alliances among LCPS stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to achieve clarity around discipline disproportionality in terms of why it is important, what has already been done, and what is left to do. In 2015 a Discipline Task Force was formed when data was brought to the public’s attention highlighting discipline disproportionality within LCPS. The task force made 39 recommendations of which 30 were approved. In 2016 LCPS committed to reduce the discipline disproportionality gap and the rate of suspension among students with disabilities, African-American students and Hispanic students by 2020.

Recent data presented at the November meeting showed:
• LCPS suspension rates for all, white, and African-American students and students with disabilities are the lowest for divisions of comparable size and demographics.
• The difference in suspension rates for students with disabilities versus students without disabilities is lowest in LCPS among comparable divisions. Disproportionality is highest among comparable divisions.
• The difference in suspension rates between African-American and white students in LCPS is the lowest among comparable divisions.
• The suspension rates for the different student groups in LCPS have decreased over time along with the differences between the groups.
• The referral rates and disproportionality for referrals have increased specifically for students with disabilities, black students, and Hispanic students.

The meeting also shared information about restorative practices and positive behavioral interventions & supports (PBIS). For more details visit the MSAAC November Meeting page. If you have questions please contact the Liberty Elementary School administration team and/or Dr. Virginia Patterson, Director of School Administration at Virginia.Patterson@lcps.org.

Additional highlights from the meeting include:
• Equity update by the Director of Equity, Lottie Spurlock.
• MSAAC Student Representatives: If a student wants to get involved in equity work please complete a student interest form. The first meetings will be virtual.
• LCPS has been working with law enforcement to improve an existing memorandum of understanding (MOU) to give clarity around the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders to include parents and students. The MOU will include information about discipline disproportionality, staff rights and responsibilities, restraints and seclusion, SROs (School Resource Officers), and SSOs (school employees that work for the LCPS safety and security division). LCPS families can provide feedback directly to MSAAC.

The next MSAAC General Membership Meeting is on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the LCPS Administration Building (no meeting in December). The theme will be “Culturally Relevant Instruction and Equity in the LCPS Budget”.

The Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) is dedicated to partnering with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), parents, and the community to acknowledge and promote the needs of minority students. MSAAC is also dedicated to building a school system that is culturally and socially competent and positioned to provide fair and equitable learning experiences for all students.

General Membership Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the LCPS Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA. For more information, please visit the MSAAC home page at https://www.lcps.org/domain/102.
Box Tops Contest 2
Our second Box Tops for Education contest is now under way!

Contest 2: October 21-December 20, 2019

Prize: Winter stackable pencils for the top 3 classes!

The top 3 students submitting Box Tops during Contest 1 will get a small surprise!

Please no expired Box Tops.

A copy of the current Box Tops certificate is available here.

Please visit our Box Tops webpage for more information.

To see more ways to earn money for Liberty through the Box Tops program, plus coupons and free sample offers, please visit this link: http://btfe.com.

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Save the Date for
Liberty’s Annual Bingo Night!
Friday, January 24, 2020
Inclement Weather Date: Friday, January 31, 2020
Liberty Elementary Gym

Early access presale for Liberty PTA members!

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Games take place from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

More details coming soon!
Follow our Facebook page for updates!

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VIRGINIA PTA
STUDENT PROGRAMS
VIRGINIA PTA 2019-2020

DO YOU HAVE A BUDDING CHEF?

The Virginia PTA Power Plates Program is a competition designed to encourage students to practice healthy eating habits.

Students can enter their original, healthy recipes in three easy steps:

1. Write down their recipe.
2. Fill out the student entry form.
3. Take a picture of their dish.

Students in grades Pre-K to 12 can enter their recipes in one of five categories:

BREAKFAST | DINNER | LUNCH | DESSERT | SNACK

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 3, 2020

To enter a recipe, visit http://btfe.com.
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN?

Please click here for the complete application.

Virginia PTA is committed to promoting a sense of citizenship and responsibility in the lives of our children – tomorrow’s leaders. To demonstrate the value that Virginia PTA places on good citizenship, we are proud to sponsor, support, and encourage Virginia students to write an essay for the 2020 Citizenship Essay Contest. This year’s selected theme is “What Does It Take To Be A Good Citizen?”

WHO CAN ENTER?

All Virginia students in grades K through 12 presently enrolled in schools with active PTA/PTSAs in Good Standing may enter. A non-graded Special Writer Division is available and limited to students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines. Qualifying students entering this division create their own essay but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult.

CRITERIA:

In all categories, adherence to the theme as it relates to CITIZENSHIP, originality, clarity, thought and skill in standard written English will be judged. The theme must be used as the essay title and may not be altered in any way.

Students in grades 3 through 5 may submit a maximum of 250 words, typed or handwritten.

Students in grades K through 2 may submit a maximum of 100 words, typed or handwritten.

Special Writers may submit entries typed or handwritten.

AWARDS:

Students who place first in their category will be notified in the Spring. They will be featured in Virginia PTA’s official publication, The VOICE, and on the Virginia PTA website. First place winners in each division will also receive a CASH PRIZE and will be recognized at a Virginia PTA Awards Event.

DEADLINE:

Liberty Elementary essays are due to the Liberty PTA box in the front office by Friday, January 24, 2020. Essays and completed applications will then be submitted to our District Director.

QUESTIONS? Please contact the Virginia PTA State Office at info@vapta.org or (804) 264-1234 or 866-4vakids.
About the Liberty Elementary 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!

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