Letter from the PTA President

Dear Liberty Parents, Guardians, Teachers, and Liberty Community,

It seems like the first month of school just flew by! It has been a great start to the new school year. I feel so lucky to have met so many of you already and look forward to meeting the rest of you as the year progresses.

This year, Virginia was one of four states selected to participate in the new National PTA online membership initiative. It is in the beginning phase of the database program and they (National PTA) acknowledges that there have been some bugs in the system. Thank you to everyone who kept trying to register despite complications! Even though the membership raffle deadline has passed (9/22), please consider signing up as a member if you haven’t already. Your membership dues contribute directly to support Liberty students.

Thank you for supporting our spirit nights at Dairy Queen, Coal Fire, and Vocelli! So far, your support has brought in over $600! We hope to see you at our next Spirit Nights - October 5th at Panera from 4-8 PM and October 19th at McDonald’s from 5-8 PM.

This year, we are doing a few things differently. First, we will be having our Children’s Diversity Night on Friday, October 13th at 6 PM. We hope you can attend (and maybe help at) this event that will showcase the unique talents and rich diversity of the wonderful students who make up our Liberty community. If you would like to help, please click here Children’s Diversity Night: Student and Parent Volunteer Entry Form. Also, instead of doing the Annual Fall Fest, we will be sponsoring a student dance! On November 17th from 6-7:30 PM, all Liberty Elementary students and families are invited to come and show us your best dance moves! Music will be provided by Bach2Rock. If you have some awesome party throwing skills and would like to help make this dance an event to remember, please contact Kerri Lewis at libptacorrespondingsec@gmail.com.

Laps for Liberty was a great success! It was a beautiful day and so many families showed up to support their children. Thanks to the specialists and teachers who ran the event and the parents for helping mark lap cards, tallying pledge amounts due, and being great cheer leaders. The system we had going in the library all day tallying pledges was a smooth operation. Thanks to all of our parent volunteers, we calculated and returned over 1,100 pledge envelopes to the students on the same day as the run and in record time. So far, we’ve collected over $30,000 in donations! Thank you for getting us off to a great start! Thank you so much to all of our sponsors - Kravitz Orthodontics, Union Tae Kwon Do, The Reynolds Team Realty, South Riding Cosmetic Dentistry, Creative Dance Center, The Little Gym, AquaTots, Kids R Kids, Coal Fire, and Bach2Rock. We look forward to making Laps for Liberty even better next year. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email me at the address below.

With much love and respect,
Lisa Morales
Liberty PTA President | libptapresident@gmail.com
Treasurer’s Report

Hello Liberty families! I am delighted to announce that the PTA is off to a fantastic financial start this new school year. If you have not already done so, please consider joining the PTA.

Laps for Liberty was a great success! Thank you for your support and donations! We are still tallying the total amount brought in by this fundraising event. We look forward to again being able to fully fund STEMmerday, Teacher Appreciation Week, classroom technology, Eagle Eye Dads, assemblies, and numerous other programs that benefit our children.

Lisa Geurin | PTA Treasurer | Liberty Elementary School

Liberty PTA Needs Your Help!

Our motto this year is “Striving for excellence, together.” We know everyone is busy going in 20 different directions. However, we also realize that we have a tremendously talented and committed parent community. We would like to invite you to get involved in any way you can. Specifically, we need help with the following:

- **VP of Fundraising** – Help find sponsors for various Liberty events (ongoing but mostly done for this year)
- **Recording Secretary** – Take notes at PTA Board and General meetings (ongoing)
- **New this year! - Diversity Consultants** – Help us make Liberty even more inclusive by serving as a resource for various cultural celebrations and educational considerations (ongoing)
- **School Store** – sell school store merchandise 7:30-7:50 AM (ongoing; if only one parent signs up, we can do something like 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Let us know what works for you!)
- **Bingo Chair** (January)
- **STEMmerday Chair** (March)
- **Matball Chair** (April)
- **5th Grade Celebration** (June)
- **School Supply Kits Chair/s** – coordinate school kits ordering and delivery to school (summer and at start of school)

Volunteering is a great way to get to know your community, learn new skills and expand your resume’, and make your voice heard. Contact libptapresident@gmail.com.

PTA Reflections Program

The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance a quality art education by providing an opportunity for students to explore their artistic talents and receive positive recognition for their efforts.

The last date to submit an entry is 10/27/2017 and must be submitted to the front office.

For more information, please contact Tezeswari Nettimi at tezeswari.n@gmail.com.

Please see the FAQ on the PTA website for more details. The official forms can also be downloaded from the PTA website.
Eagle Eye Dads

Student Name: __________________________
Teacher: ______________________
Grade: ______

Contest Dates: October 3 – November 18

Prize: EXTRA RECESS TIME – Top 3 classes!

Please no expired Box Tops – thank you!

Child's School
$5 for your
50 Box Tops

If % day Kindergarten Indicate AM or PM
Teacher: ______________________
Grade: ______________________
Student Name: __________________________

Send completed sheet to your school coordinator
Tape or glue Box Tops on sheet until filled
Clip box tops and check expiration date
Outdoor Classrooms and Beautification

ALL AVAILABLE HANDS ON DECK! An invitation is extended to anyone who has an hour here-or-there to assist in de-weeding and prepping the school's gardens for enjoyment by students, faculty, staff and families. The only pre-requisite is a desire to contribute to the well-being of all who step onto the ground of Liberty Elementary.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Contact: Alicia at integrityp31@hotmail.com

After School Enrichment Programs

The After School Enrichment Programs started the last week of September and will end the first week of December. Chess and Drama Clubs are year-round and can be signed up for at any time during the school year. It's not too late! Please promptly pick up your child at 3:40pm at the designated doors. Thank you for your support!
**NEW!!**

Parent Point of View and “Helpful Hints”

One of the goals of this year’s PTA is to hopefully serve as a resource for Liberty families. As such, we are introducing two new columns to this newsletter – Parent Point of View (funny stories, common struggles, lessons learned, etc.) and “Helpful Hints” (tips and tricks that help to make life just a little easier). We are all in this together and want to hear from you! If you would like to share something you have learned along the path of parenthood or have suggestions for a topic, please e-mail libptapresident@gmail.com.

---

**Parent Point of View**

By Lisa Morales

The other day, I found myself sitting in our infamous Northern Virginia traffic and felt myself getting more and more irritated. As my blood pressure started to rise after getting cut off by another impatient driver, I decided to distract and challenge myself by making this traffic into a game.

I wanted to see how many people I could get to smile back at me. Every time I came to a stop, I would look around at the other drivers on either side of me and wait until they looked at me. Then I would smile and see how many would smile back. Most people were too busy looking at their phone to notice someone staring at them in the next lane. At first, it was very awkward and I let a few fellow drivers get by me without managing a smile. However, I felt more and more comfortable because just about everyone I smiled at smiled back. It was actually, dare I say, even a little fun! The next time I find myself getting irritated while sitting in traffic, I will try to get an even higher “smile score”. So, if you happen to look over and see a lady in a minivan smiling at you, please smile back!

---

**Helpful Hints**

Laundry - whether you have children or not, we all have it. This will definitely help if you have kids of different ages and sock sizes!

Clip a small mesh laundry bag to the front of the dirty clothes hamper to collect dirty socks as they get peeled off. The entire bag goes into the washer and dryer and you don’t have to sort or match socks by kid anymore!

---

Thank you for your support as we are “Striving for excellence, together.”