Dear Liberty Families,

We made it ... it’s finally springtime! It’s also time to elect our PTA officers for the 2014-2015 school year. We still need to fill the positions of VP Events and VP Committees. Many of our committee chairs are moving on to middle school or getting rezoned to Cardinal Ridge. We would love for you to “raise your hand” for a committee or event lead for next year.

STEMmer Day was OUTSTANDING! A big thank you to the Liberty STEM Team and the village of volunteers for making this an amazing event once again!

Liberty’s Teacher Appreciation Week is April 28th – May 2nd. Be on the lookout for flyers outlining the week’s activities! Let’s thank our teachers for all that they do for our students.

Warm Regards,

Anaheeta Minwalla
Liberty PTA President
acminwalla@verizon.net
April:

4th FRI Classic Cookie Delivery Date @ 2:30pm until 6pm
8th TUES Kindergarten Registration – Please make sure you are zoned for Liberty!
8th TUES PTA Meeting @ 7pm – PTA Elections for 2014/15
9th WED OM & Reflections Combined Celebration
10th THURS Spring Chorus Concert @ 7pm
14th – 18th SPRING BREAK – No School
23rd WED McDonald’s Spirit Night @ 5pm to 8pm
28th MON Spring Pictures
28th – May 2nd Teacher Appreciation Week @ Liberty

May:

6th TUES Staff Matball Game @ Freedom H.S.
12th MON SOL Testing Starts
13th TUES PTA Meeting @ 7pm – Last 2013/14 PTA Meeting
14th WED Kule Yo’s Spirit Night KG thru 2nd
15th THURS Kule Yo’s Spirit Night 3rd thru 5th
26th MON Memorial Day – No School
28th WED Moe’s KG – 2nd
29th THURS Moe’s 3rd – 5th

June:

12th THURS 5th Grade Promotion
13th FRI Last Day of School

**Treasurer’s Report** by Lisa Teetz

Hello Liberty Families! We continued to have great activity in the PTA. We just paid the bill for the new kindergarten playground equipment. At the last general PTA meeting we voted in a realignment of the budget to move available funds into the IPad account to be able to provide more technology to our students! We also voted to support the summer slide reading program to help ensure continued success of our students over the summer by providing access to much needed reading material. All of these additions to the budget were a direct result of all the successful fundraising events, spirit nights, and PTA sponsored events. Next month look for the results from our spring cookie fundraiser and STEMmerday.
2013/14 PTA Executive Board Officers and E-mail Contact Info:

President: Anaheeta Minwalla  acminwalla@verizon.net
VP Committees: Adrienne Torres  atorres78@gmail.com
VP Fundraising: Harsh Govind  harshgovind@hotmail.com
VP Events: Tom Parker  parkertom@verizon.net
Treasurer: Lisa Teetz  lisateetz@verizon.net
Recording Sec.: Chris Jackson-Coates  chrisjacksoncoates@yahoo.com
Correspond. Sec.: Taryn Henderson  tahender@aol.com

Slate for 2014/15 PTA Executive Board:

President - Anaheeta Minwalla
VP Fundraising - Kimberly Turner
VP Events - OPEN
VP Committees - OPEN
Corresponding Secretary - Jen Robinette
Recording Secretary - Christine Jackson-Coates
Treasurer - Lisa Teetz

$$$$ Fundraising $$$$

Spring Fundraiser – Classic Cookies Pick-Up – April 4th

On Friday, April 4th, between 2:30pm and 6pm - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE come get your items (or send a friend to pick-up on your behalf) as these goods are perishable and can’t be stored at the school.

Spirit Nights at Kule-Yo’s

Save the dates of Wednesday, April 9th (KG thru 2nd suggested) and/or Thursday, April 10th (3rd thru 5th suggested) from 4pm to 8pm at Kule-Yo’s Frozen Yogurt. Liberty families can attend on either date (or both :0). Mention you are there to support “Liberty” as you check out!
Spirit Night at McDonald’s (South Riding location only)

One of our biggest Spirit Nights of the year will be held at the South Riding location of McDonald’s on Wednesday, April 23rd from 5pm to 8pm. All grades – one (1) night only! Drive thru, take-out or come in to dine with us as a 1,000+ students-school converges on the local McDonald’s.

Events

STEMmerday

Thank you to the many, many, many Teachers and Parents and Community Members who volunteered their time and shared their technical knowledge with our students to make STEMmerDay a rousing success!

Special thanks to Emily Parker, John Hovell, Paul Pack and our very our Mad Scientist Diane Insari for leading!

Thank you Anaheeta, Tom, Bonnie, Julie, Chris & Lisa (and I know more PTA Leaders and Volunteers) for feeding us!

We recently received some awesome PR for STEMmerDay 2014 via www.lcps.org (prior to STEMmerDay):

BAE Systems in partnership with Liberty Elementary School

During the 2011-12 school year, Liberty and BAE Systems formed the partnership that brought national recognition (the school was awarded the prestigious Chief Learning Officer Magazine’s Collaboration Award for 2012’s STEMmerday) to Liberty.

Liberty is now planning its fourth annual STEMmerday on Saturday, March 29th. BAE Systems is providing funding and scientists and engineers to plan and facilitate many of the 35 activities showcased this year. This year, the staff is also expanding its professional development workshop during the event for other LCPS leaders and teachers to learn more about the initiative and bring STEM activities to their students.
Moving forward with the financial support from BAE Systems, Liberty Elementary School will create two STEM labs in the school for all students in grades K-5. One lab will be technology-based and the second will allow teachers and staff to have an environment rich in materials and work stations that fosters problem-solving and creativity. The use of the “Liberty’s Learning Garden” outdoor classroom to support the science curriculum and STEM approach will also be expanded.

Liberty Elementary Principal Paul Pack said the support John Hovell, senior manager, Learning Operations and Technology for BAE Systems Inc., goes beyond securing funds. “He supplies us not only with the (financial) support of BAE, but with the nitty-gritty every day of being elbow-to-elbow with us in the planning process.”

“For thousands of years, we had an agrarian age,” said Hovell in accepting the award. “For hundreds of years, we had a feudal age. For one century, we had an industrial era. We are just now – maybe a decade or so – into an information era, where technology and tools are making a big difference with the flow of information. We are just now on the precipice of a knowledge era.”

STEMmerday builds on the success of Liberty’s curriculum Hovell added, preparing students for this new age. “Not only is it a flow of information, but it’s a flow of that unique and critical knowledge so that world can improve.”
Staff Matball Game (SMG) – Save the Date – Tuesday, May 6th

Save the date for Staff Matball Game (our edited version of kickball) on Tuesday, May 6\textsuperscript{th} at 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This event is held at Freedom High School in their main gym. Check out the flyer to place your order for a 2014 SMG t-shirt for $20. All shirt orders are due by April 11\textsuperscript{th} (before Spring Break) with no exceptions. The theme will be STARS vs. STRIPES.

We would like to THANK our initial sponsors!

If you would like to be an Eagle Sponsor, $500 is Due by April 11\textsuperscript{th}.

- Business listed as a sponsor on all PTA Staff Matball announcements sent home with students.
- Business listed on Event Program.
- Business announced as event sponsor during game.
- Business may hang banner or poster in the hallway outside the gymnasium during the game.
- Business recognized in PTA newsletter and website.
- Business listed on the T-Shirts worn by the teachers/players and sold to students and parents.
- 2 personalized t-shirts with name and two digit number on the back!

Sponsorship inquiries, please contact Anaheeta Minwalla, acminwalla@verizon.net.

Help Wanted / Open Positions:

We are in need of PTA members to step up to lead the following:

- Staff Matball Game Volunteer Coordinator
• 2014/15 VP Events
• 2014/15 VP Committees
• PTA Committee Chairs and Event Leads for 2014-15

If you are interested in leading by serving as a 14-15 Committee Chair (next school year), please contact: Anaheeta Minwalla at acminwalla@verizon.net.

Committee Reports

Reflections & OM (Odyssey of the Mind) Celebration

Students and their Parents/Families who participated in either the Reflections Arts program or the Odyssey of the Mind program should plan to attend an April 9th celebration of these talented students. The Celebration will be held at Liberty from 6pm to 8:30pm.

And from the Facebook grapevine ... Elise Geller won the Award of Excellence at the Virginia State level for her film entry in the Reflections program – pretty darn impressive!

Green Team

Liberty's Green Team Presents: Trash to Treasure!

Trash to Treasure is an event that encourages reuse and recycling in recognition of Earth Day. Contest participants create and display works of art made entirely of recyclables, trash, and discarded items. 1st, and 2nd place winners will be awarded in the following age categories:

• Kindergarten – Grade 2
• Grade 3 – Grade 5

Guidelines for art pieces are as follows:
• Art pieces must be made of 100% discarded/recyclable materials
• Art pieces must be NO larger than 3 feet by 3 feet
• Art pieces must be able to be lifted by one person
• Only one person per entry form (no group projects) Judges will score each piece on the following:
• Age appropriateness (appears to have been created without help)
• Variety of materials used
• Creativity and uniqueness
• Craftsmanship
• Overall impression Entries are due no later than April 25th.
Winners will be announced April 28th, 2014. Please label your piece with entrant’s name, grade and teacher. Email questions to Crystal Geller at crystalgeller@gmail.com

**LEAP (Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents):**

**Upcoming Meeting: April 9th.**

One of the most popular programs presented by Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents (LEAP) will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9th in the Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) Administrative Offices in Ashburn.

Representatives of the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office will present their annual update on Internet safety. (Originally scheduled for February 12th, this program was postponed because of snow.)

Topics discussed will include:

- Social Networking
- Sexting/Texting
- Cell Phone Technology and Features
- Laptops vs. Desk Top PC’s
- Current Trends
- Predatory Behaviors
- PC and Console Gaming
- Monitoring Techniques

In addition, the Sheriff’s Office representatives will talk about the new dangers posed by synthetic drugs.

Nationwide, the use of synthetic drug abuse has increased, along with emergency room visits associated with these drugs. They are causing a significant number of deaths and illnesses nationwide. Parents are invited to learn more about the dangers of synthetic drugs and prescription drug abuse.

This program is free and open to the public.

All LEAP meetings are open to the public and are held at the LCPS Admin. Building at 7 PM, 12000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148.

Each two-hour program features a panel discussion on topics of interest to parents, followed by a Question and Answer session and an update from
LCPS Superintendent Edgar B. Hatrick III.

Link for more info about LEAP at: http://www.lcps.org/Page/1458.

MSSAC - Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee:

MSAAC is dedicated to working in partnership with LCPS, parents and community to further the academic, social and cultural development of every student and to ensure that the needs of all minority students are met.

MSAAC information/announcements as shared by Andrea Jones, Liberty’s MSAAC Rep., jones.andrea78@gmail.com

MSAAC has announced the second annual Academic Achievement Fair will be held at Tuscarora H.S. on April 19th. Please mark your calendar.

This past MSAAC meeting covered the Foster Care program of Loudoun County. The 20xx club presented their amazing results from Blue Ridge Middle School.

Foster Care Presentation

• Ms. Christine Carmouze, Foster Care Parent Trainer & Recruiter
• 58 children in care in Loudoun County; 17 are in LCPS
• More homes are needed in Loudoun, when the children are outside of Loudoun, they are away from their friends which can cause issues
• 1 or 2 transitions a year, this impacts the kids and the schools
• Foster kids of high school age are twice as likely to drop out
• Socialization difficulties, learning at the same level as their peers drop
• Often times the older students need guidance - a mentor

20xx Club Presentation

• Principal & Dean, Blue Ridge Middle School
• Creating a relationship to change a student’s mindset
• For under-represented youth College/career prep, mentorship
• 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

MSAAC Elections and Nominating Committee is comprised of:

Ray Bugnosen, Chairman, Legacy (rbugnosen@gmail.com); Kasey McFate, Lucketts; Andrea Bates, Lucketts; and Andrea Jones, Liberty.

All of those interested in running for an MSACC Executive position, please
email your resume and position of interest to Ray Bugnosen.

**Upcoming Event:** Science and Engineering Festival, April 26 & 27, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. Free of charge.

- Stay up to date via: Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/loudounmsaac](https://www.facebook.com/loudounmsaac)
- MSAAC LCPS web site: [http://www.lcps.org/Page/1494](http://www.lcps.org/Page/1494)

**SEAC – Special Education Advisory Committee:**

The last SEAC meeting was held on Tuesday, March 11th. The meeting’s presentation was on Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Timelines and the step-by-step process was shared. For more details and information, parents may visit the Virginia Department of Education’s website for the VDOE Parent’s Guide To Special Education


Parents are encouraged to speak with their child’s case manager with questions or concerns. Another option is to contact the LCPS Parent Resource Center. [www.lcps.org/prc](http://www.lcps.org/prc)


Paula Augenstei
Liberty ES SEAC Representative

**School Supply Kits for 2014/15 School Year**

School supply kit order forms for 2014-2015 are coming soon! Look for them in early April. POC: Anne Corej, thecorejs@earthlink.net

**Box Tops:**

The GIRLS won the last contest! Photo of Mr. Pack in tiara below (joined by Mr. Slevin, who happened to be visiting our rising 6th graders that day):
Box Tops flyers are being sent home hard-copy, so you can clip and then tape, glue or staple your box tops to the form, and then return them via backpack.

**Shout Outs!**

A big Shout-Out to the following people for their extra efforts:

March Volunteer of the Month: **Anne Corej**

The Brainstormers, from Liberty Elementary, coached by **Deepa Prabhakaran**, placed first out of 36 teams at the First Loudoun County Regional Math Tournament on Sat, March 22.

The first place Brainstormers team members: **Lin Sahu, Sonia Jethwani, Sudarshan Atmavilas, Sudish Chimaladinne, and Vishnu Paranganat.**

Special Thanks to our Book Fair Volunteers: **Adrienne Torres, Anaheeta Minwalla, Angie McKinney, Anne Corej, Beth Choi, Chris Jackson-**
Thanks to all! If we inadvertently missed adding your name, please know that we appreciated your help!

Shout Outs! is a standard part of our newsletter used to recognize the hard work, effort, and time our members dedicated to bring us the great programs and events that enhance our school.

If you know of a PTA member that deserves a Shout-Out, please email Taryn Henderson at tahender@aol.com so we can include them. We will publish “shout-outs” in the newsletter for the month following the activity.

School News

Summer Book Swap

All Liberty Elementary Library Books are due Friday, May 30th, therefore, the Library will be hosting our annual book swap the last two weeks of school (June 2-13). As you do your spring cleaning, please consider donating three (3) gently used books to our summer book swap bin which will be placed in the front foyer outside the library doors immediately after spring break (Monday, April 21st). We hope to collect enough books so each student will be able to take a book home to keep. Since some classes may visit the library twice during the last two weeks, they will be able to swap their swap during their second visit, if they desire.

Christine Varachi and Alicia C. Coleman, M.S.L.S.
School Librarians