Dear Liberty Families,

Happy New Year!  Hope 2014 brings the very best to you and yours!  Hard to believe second quarter will be over in a couple of weeks and we will be at the half way mark of the school year!

Our first spirit night of the new year is at Moe’s on January 15th and 16th.  International Festival and Potluck Tasting is on Friday, January 24th.  Not too far behind after International Festival will be our annual Staff Game in February.  The second half of the school year tends to move at a faster pace and we have plenty of activities to keep you entertained!  I hope one of your New Year’s resolutions is to volunteer and/or attend at a PTA event.

As you all know the LCPS currently facing many challenges regarding the FY2015 budget.  Based on the current tax scenarios the Board of Supervisors is proposing, LCPS will be facing serious gaps in funding. If this issue is important to you, now is the time to write to the Loudoun Board of Supervisors at loudounbudget@loudoun.gov and ask them to increase school funding. If you’d like some ideas on what to say to the BOS, please contact Lisa Glasgow at lisaglasgow.seac@gmail.com.

Warm Regards,

Anaheeta Minwalla  
Liberty PTA President  
acminwalla@verizon.net

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January:

14th  TUES  PTA Meeting @ 7pm
15th  WED  Spirit Night @ Moe’s – KG-2nd @ 5pm to 8pm
16th  THURS  Spring Night @ Moe’s – 3rd – 5th @ 5pm to 8pm
20th  MON  MLK Day – No School
24th  FRI  International Festival & Pot Luck Tasting @ 6pm to 8:30pm
27th  MON  Moveable Student Holiday

February:

11th  TUES  PTA Meeting @ 7pm
17th  MON  President’s Day Holiday – No School

Full 2013-14 PTA Calendar:  http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/domain/9953

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

Membership Goal is 100% - Join PTA Today

If you haven’t already joined Liberty PTA, please consider joining today.

The 2013-14 PTA Membership Form can be printed from here: http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/domain/9953.
Dear Liberty Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your family had a wonderful winter break and holiday season. We are excited to start 2014 at Liberty. As you know, Liberty is a wonderful school with a fantastic teaching staff supported by dedicated parents and volunteers. Stating that, we also recognize and embrace the fact that each student and family is unique. Please take the time to tell us what your family values about Liberty and suggest any ways that we could improve in the future. Your input is very important to us and we hope to have 100% of our families participate in the following survey. We designed this form so that it could take only a minute or two to complete with a short comment.

Click on the link immediately below:

Liberty Parent Survey

Or: https://www.research.net/s/LIBPARENTJ32HVZ8

The survey will close on Friday, January 24, 2014. Your responses will be instrumental as our staff plans our school improvement efforts. We ask that you view the school as a whole, rather than a specific instance. Thank you for taking the time to help Liberty Elementary School to continue to be one of the best schools in Northern Virginia.

We appreciate your feedback and continued support for Liberty Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Paul Pack

Principal

Preparing Active Learners
$$$
Fundraising $$$

**Spirit Nights at Moe’s**

Join us at the South Riding Moe’s on either Wednesday, January 15th (KG thru 2nd grade suggested) or Thursday, January 16th (3rd thru 5th grade suggested) @ 5pm to 8pm for Liberty Spirit Nights!

![Spirit Night](image1.png) ![Moe's Southwest Grill](image2.png)

**Events**

**International Festival & Pot Luck Food Tasting Soiree**

Make sure to mark your calendars for an evening you won’t want to miss, Friday, January 24th from 6-8:30pm. There is something for everyone. Bring a dish to share and taste food from all around the world. Go to the auditorium for an evening of performances showcasing talents from Liberty students and community members. Be sure to travel around the school on a scavenger hunt as you view information from many different countries and learn a lot about the cultures, many of which are represented at Liberty. Make sure to stop in at the different grade level classrooms for a fun and educational activity. Finally, visit the Liberty library to hear stories from around the world.

![International Festival](image3.png)
Help Wanted / Open Positions:

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

- International Festival – Potluck Coordinator
- Staff Game Volunteer Coordinator

If you are interested in leading by serving as a 13-14 Committee Chair, please contact:
Adrienne Torres via email: atorres78@gmail.com.

Committee Reports

Eagle Eye Dads Program:

Liberty’s Eagle Eye Dad Program strives to involve fathers and father figures in our school’s learning environment. The Eagle Eye Dads work with Liberty teachers and administrators to maintain a safe and secure school, act as a role model or mentor, assist in classrooms, experience positive interactions with students, and spend time with your child during the school day. Liberty’s goal is to have at least one Eagle Eye Dad volunteer each week.

Some examples of Eagle Eye Dad responsibilities may include:

- Greeting students as they arrive

- Walking through hallways to monitor behavior with both Liberty “Blue Eagle” slips for excellent individual behavior and Liberty “White Eagle” slips for excellent class behavior
• Appearing as a guest on Liberty’s Morning Show with your child/children

• Visiting multiple classrooms throughout the day at any grade level to include at least one visit to your child/children’s classes

• Monitoring the cafeteria including lunch with your child/children

• Participating at recess if possible with your child/children

Eagle Eye Dad hours are a full school day, from 7:25am to 2:35pm even if you only have a half-day Kindergarten student at Liberty. Eagle Eye Dads are welcome to volunteer as frequently as your schedule allows as long as Liberty can fairly distribute the volunteer opportunities among all interested Eagle Eye Dads.

Please consider volunteering for Liberty’s Eagle Eye Dad program to make a difference in our students’ lives. We look forward to including you in our Liberty community.

Dads continue to fill in dates on the Calendar to volunteer for one full day.

All the information you need to find out more about the Dads Club and how to sign up can be found here: [http://www.lcps.org/domain/13654](http://www.lcps.org/domain/13654) - which is a drop-down tab under PTA on Liberty’s website.

Or contact our Dads Club Chair Phil McKinney to sign up at: phil@fxcc.org. Or Jennifer Wilhelm, Administrative Intern, at: Jennifer.Wilhelm@lcps.org.

LEAP (Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents):

**Upcoming LEAP Meetings – Schedule & Topics for 2014**

**February 12** – Cyber Safety

**March 12** – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math: STEM II (Enrichment opportunities)

**April 9** – Parents’ Choice (A program parents plan)

**May 14** – Meet the new LCPS Superintendent/Town Hall Meeting
All LEAP meetings are open to the public and are held at the Loudoun County Public School Administration Building at 7:00 PM, 12000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148 (571) 252-1000

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 the Loudoun County Public Schools (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.

Liberty’s delegate is Andrea Jones, jones.andrea78@gmail.com.

**UPCOMING MEETING** is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at the LCPS Administration Bldg., School Board Mtg. Room, with Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick, III, as the Guest Speaker.

**SEAC – Special Education Advisory Committee:**

SEAC is composed of parents, educators, administrators, and others concerned with the education of students with disabilities.

The SEAC Meeting and Presentation Schedule:

January 21, 2014 – Building Relationships: How to Work with Your School

February 18 – Best Practices for Conflict Resolutions

March 18 – Nuts & Bolts of IEP Compliance: Monitoring, Timelines, Procedures, and More

April 22 – Leveled & Postgraduate Transition Planning

May 15 – Award Ceremony and Reception: Recognition for Excellence in Support of Special Education

May 20 – Social Skills: How to Build Social Skills into the Curriculum
SEAC Meeting Notes from December 17th, 2013
By Paula Augenstein, Liberty’s SEAC Representative

Topic Discussed – Behavior Supports From A to Z presented by LCPS Behavioral Support Team: Stefanie LaPolla, Alison Lyons & Michelle Scales.

The Parent Resource center offers a wide variety of resources for parents of general education and Special Education students. Upcoming Parent Resource Center workshops include:

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<tr>
<th>JANUARY WORKSHOPS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Middle School Connection</td>
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<td>Middle School Connection Information in Spanish</td>
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<td>Moving on from Elementary to Middle School with an IEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Connection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moving on from Early Childhood Special Education to</td>
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<td>Kindergarten with an IEP</td>
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Did you know that the Parent Resource Center has an online archive of previous presentations? Go to [http://www.lcps.org/Page/84384](http://www.lcps.org/Page/84384) to access presentations such as: ADHD and Free Time, Middle School Connection: Elementary to Middle School with an IEP, and Behavior Strategies at Home.

**Box Tops:**

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.

Each month, Box Top prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) classes, including things like extra recess or coupons that can be redeemed at an upcoming PTA Event! Don’t delay, clip those Box Tops today!

In January, the class that collects the most box tops by January 17th wins a recess Popsicle party! Brrrr!

Just in ... our first ½ year check for Box Tops has arrived: $2036.61 – yes!
Shout Outs!

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

A gold star for **Beverly Weatherly** as our Volunteer Raffle Winner for Dec.

A blue ribbon to all of the **Library Volunteers**, who have put in countless hours in helping put books back onto the shelves including **Chrissy Underwood, Rania Morsy**, and the **Eagle Eye Dads**. With the number of classes making their way through the library every day, their time and commitment have helped tremendously.

A whoo-hoo to all who ran a zillion laps around the gym during Jingle Bell Jog. A high-five to the **volunteers** who spent their time putting it all together and making it a huge success, including but not limited to: **Emily & Tom Parker, Anaheeta Minwalla, Tom & Gina Fink, John Pulley** (Stone Bridge H.S. student), **Bonnie Giacinto**, and **Tim & Kelly Andrus**.

A huge La-tee-da to our Jingle Bell Jog Sponsor: **Kravitz Orthodontics** with a special double thumbs-up for **Tina** and **Kat**!

A Hersey’s kiss to **Kat** and **Tom** and all the crew at **Glory Days Grill (Stone Ridge)** for the hot chocolate/chocolate milk and toppings!

A Special Recognition shout out to our Dad’s Club Chair, **Phil McKinney**, for earning his Ph.D. Phil is the first member of his family to receive a Ph.D. **Angie and his daughters** supported him the whole way. This was a family affair. We are super excited that Liberty now has its very own **Dr. Phil**!

Thanks to all! If we inadvertently missed listing 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.