Dear Liberty Families,

Hang in there ... spring is right around the corner! It has been a brutal winter and we are all ready for some warm weather! After rescheduling International Night twice due to the weather, we finally made it happen on Friday, February 7th. It was a fun, entertaining and educational night. My thanks to all the participants and a huge thank you to our fabulous staff members for making this a successful event.

The countdown has begun for STEMmer Day! Saturday, March 29th, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. An informational flyer was sent out via Thursday folders, please take a minute to read it and if you are able to, we would love for you to volunteer your time and donate supplies. If you are interested in volunteering, email Emily Parker, emily.parker@lcps.org.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Glory Day’s Dinning for Dollars! Keep those receipts coming; you can turn them in anytime until June.

Warm Regards,

Anaheeta Minwalla
Liberty PTA President
acminwalla@verizon.net

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March:

7th  FRI  Spring Fundraiser Kick-off – Classic Cookie
11th TUES  PTA Meeting @ 7pm – Slate of Officers for 14/15 Presented
12th WED  Kule-Yo’s Spirit Night @ 4pm to 8pm – KG thru 2nd
13th THURS  Kule-Yo’s Spirit Night @4pm to 8pm – 3rd thru 5th
18th TUES  Spring Pictures Day
26th WED  Subway’s Spirit Night (both SR locations) KG – 2nd @ 4-8pm
27th THURS  Subway’s Spirit Night (both SR locations) 3rd, 5th – 4 to 8pm
29th SAT  STEMmerday @ 9:30am – 2:30pm
31st MON  Student Holiday – Teacher Workday

April:

4th  FRI  Classic Cookie Delivery Date
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
28th – May 2nd  Teacher Appreciation Week @ Liberty

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

Treasurer’s Report by Lisa Teetz

Hello Liberty Families!  We continue to have great activity in the PTA. Since my last report we have had a successful International night; earning over $1,100; we have deposited multiple checks from our retail partners totaling almost $3,000; and we continue to profit nicely from Liberty Spirit Nights earning more than $2,100 so far this year. Please continue to support these great events! They’re directly responsible for all the wonderful things we are able to provide to the school to support the education of our students! Over the next few months we will be looking at the budget to prepare to realign funds in areas over or under our initial projections so we can determine what additional classroom items can be purchased to support our wonderful teachers and students. Please come out to our monthly meetings to be a part of the process!
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

$$$
Fundraising $$$

Spring Fundraiser – Classic Cookies

Looking for a tasty way to support Liberty PTA and eat cookies at the same time? Here it is!

Our Spring Fundraiser will be Classic Cookies. Ordering information will be sent home via Thursday folders on March 6th. Ordering ends on March 21st and delivery is scheduled for April 4th. Delivery time(s) will be announced once finalized. On the date of pick-up, 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, March 12th (KG thru 2nd suggested) and/or Thursday, March 13th (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 Nights at Subway

The more Spirit Nights the merrier! Join us at Subway – either South Riding location – on Wed., March 26th (KG thru 2nd suggested) and/or Thurs., March 27th (3rd thru 5th suggested) as we “eat fresh!” and raise some dough for Liberty PTA!
Events

**STEMmerday**

Mark your calendars for STEMmerday on Saturday, March 29 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. You will find over 30 STEM activities, including a variety of new activities along with old favorites.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Emily Parker at emily.parker@lcps.org.

STEMmerday can’t happen without your support! Thank you to those who have already sent requested items into school! As the big day gets closer, updated supply needs will be shared. Desired donated items include:

- Large containers of Play-doh®
- AA batteries
- Small (kid size) plastic water bottles (full or empty and washed out)
- Pipe Cleaners
- Popsicle® sticks
- Tissue paper
- Masking tape
- Scotch® Tape
- Straws ("Giant brand only – to fit the “launcher”)
- Paper of all sorts
- Fabric squares
- Rubber bands
- Plastic spoons

**Help Wanted / Open Positions:**

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

- Staff Matball Game Volunteer Coordinator
- PTA Officers for 2014-15

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

Spiritwear Sale for Spring – Soaring to Success!

Flyers will be coming home via the Thursday folders soon!

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 SAVE THE DATE of April 9\(^{th}\) for a celebration of these talented students. More details are to come via announcements/flyer, etc. closer to the date.

We are thrilled to share some Reflections “results” to date:

School Winners:
Visual Arts: Alison Mun, Anurag Bethi
Film Production: Elise Geller
Literature: Swetha Bharat, Rahitha Gopinathan
Music: Manasvini Iyer, Faist Rachel
Dance: Rebecca Cherian
Photography: Jessica Dack

District Results:
Visual Arts: Alison Mun (2nd)
Film Production: Elise Geller (1st)
Literature: Swetha Bharat (3rd)
Music: Manasvini Iyer (1st)
It is a tremendous honor to have so many talented students here at Liberty overall and it is a BIG DEAL to have four (4) District-level winners! Congratulations!

**Nominations & Elections of Liberty PTA Officers for 2014-15 School Year**

The Nominations Committee of:

Mr. Pack, paul.pack@lcps.org  
Ms. Varma, Urvashi.Varma@lcps.org  
Kimberly Turner, kimberlyturner04@gmail.com

will put forth a suggested slate of Officers at the March 11th PTA Meeting.

Liberty PTA Officers will be elected by ballot at the April 8th PTA meeting.

If you are considering serving as a Liberty PTA Officer for the 2014-15 school year, please send your name, e-mail, phone # and desired position(s) to the members of the Nominating Committee TODAY.

The seven (7) Officer positions are:

- President
- Treasurer
- VP Committees/Volunteers – 1st VP
- VP Fundraising – 2nd VP
- VP Events – 3rd VP
- Recording Secretary
- Coordinating Secretary

Only those persons who have signified their consent to serve, if elected, shall be nominated for or elected to an Officer position.

**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.
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 - 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 Meeting: March 12, 2014** – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math: STEM II (Enrichment opportunities).

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 MSSAC 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. Additionally the budget is still a hot topic. Review the Resources section below for some action links. The next meeting is March 19th from 7 to 9PM at the Administration Building. The topic will be the fair and supporting youth in foster care.

Noted Upcoming Events

1st Loudoun Regional Math Tournament - March 22 @ Dominion Trail Elem. March 19, MSAAC Meeting: “Building Educational Support for Youth in Foster Care”. Christine Carmouze, Foster Parent Trainer and Recruiter. Loudoun County Foster Care and Adoption Department of Family Services. GPS Fair, March 26. Dominion High School. 6:30 - 8:30 PM Relay for Life- May 17, NZone in Chantilly, VA
Science and Engineering Festival, April 26 and 27, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. Free of charge.

Resources

Loudoun County School Budget Updates: http://www.loudountimes.com/news/article/school_board_lashes_out_after_unorthodox_supervisor_request_for_budget_c123
LEA Day of Action regarding the budget: http://jotformpro.com/form/40365204077954
Arc of Loudoun - great resource for students with special needs- http://www.paxtoncampus.org/the-arc-of-loudoun/

Parent/Delegates please download the meeting summary under the Meeting Summaries links: http://www.lcps.org/Page/117454
As desired, Email the MSAAC Secretary at dcaulk@modalinc.com with your email address so that you can be added to the MSAAC email list.
Stay up to date via: Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/loudounmsaac
MSAAC LCPS web site: http://www.lcps.org/Page/1494

SEAC – Special Education Advisory Committee:

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

SEAC INFORMATION TO SHARE

February’s SEAC's presentation featured best practices for Conflict Resolution between parents and teachers. Featured speakers included Colleen Johnson (representing Early Childhood and Elementary), Melissa Hartman (representing Secondary), and Pamela Spring (representing the parent perspective). All presenters stressed the importance of trying to resolve issues with your child's case manager or teacher FIRST. If the situation cannot be resolved at the teacher level, parents may contact the assistant principal at their child's school in charge of special education. The principal is your last school-based stop for resolution. If the principal cannot resolve the issue, parents may contact the school's special education supervisor. Strategies for parents included developing a Top Ten list of things you think the teacher/school staff should know about your child - and don't forget the positives! Parents are encouraged to be prepared for meetings, bring a list of questions/concerns, and bring any data that supports what they are requesting. Furthermore,
parents are encouraged to be factual, specific, and to avoid assumptions. Parents may want to consult the Parent Resource Center for guidance before a meeting.

The speakers relayed that the most common conflict between school and parents is when there are unrealistic expectations as to what a child needs to meet the curriculum. Over accommodating can create dependent kids. Also, data is needed to justify more support.

Additionally, online resources for parents were shared:
Troubleshooting Parents’ Special Education Concerns Within A Local School Division
Parents’ Guide to Special Education Dispute Resolution

Finally, nominations for the SEAC Recognition in Supporting Special Education Awards are Due March 31st. Nominations may be submitted by completing the information available at http://www.lcps.org/cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=7679

The award ceremony will be held on May 15th at the LCPS Admin. Building.

I enjoy going to these meetings and always learn something new.
Paula Augenstein, Liberty’s SEAC Rep.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks can be purchased online. Cost is $15. Here is the link:


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:

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: Jen Robinette

International Festival & Pot Luck Food Tasting Soiree - Thank You All

Gracias! Danke! Merci! Bahut dhanyavaad! Xie xie! And a big ole’ Thank you! to our International Festival Sponsors: Union TaeKwondo, Kravitz Orthodontics, Wanda Cares & Luv Ur Face.
Thank you to the performers in 1st thru 5th grades, and their families, who shared their tremendous talents with us all. Thank you Michele Assetto and Brittany McGaffic for teaching and leading and dancing and singing and for the tech support. This is a stellar event due specifically to your leadership.

Thank you Emily Parker and Anaheeta Minwalla for leading the charge and making the trains run on time – no easy feat! We appreciate all your time and talents at every Liberty Event.

Special thanks to our local businesses and student groups:

**Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe:** Omei Wushu, Karen Xu and Jason Xu

**South Riding Dance**


**Union Taekwondo** for our Grand Finale!

Thank you to the parents/families who cooked and shared delicious dishes from around the world! The food is so good each and every year and this year was TOPS!
Thank you for reading to us in the Library! International books are the best.

Thank you to Mrs. **Melinda Mansfield** for henna tattoos (they were beautiful and ours lasted over a week!) and our very own **Miss G (Shea Goitia)** for face painting!

Thanks to the students who did projects of items from all over the world. The hallways were spectacular!

Thank you to our general volunteers the day of! It goes without saying – although we try to remember to say it – that Events can’t really happen without a small army of general volunteers to dot the I’s and cross the T’s.

And never last and always the most appreciated ... thank you to our Teachers and Staff for dedicating after school time to lead activities in the grade-level classrooms!

And for this Event and really ALL THE TIME – Thank you to our Custodians for taking on the “extra” work of cleaning up after a PTA Event. It is ALWAYS appreciated and we NEVER are more thankful then when we see you coming to help us put the final items away.

Thank you 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](mailto:tahender@aol.com) so we can include them. We will publish “shout-outs” in the newsletter for the month following the activity.
Community News

Freedom H.S. Athletic Boosters – Mulch Madness:

Spring is just around the corner! Freedom High School (FHS) Athletic Boosters are sponsoring its Annual Spring Mulch Sale on Saturday, April 5, 2014. Start planning for the warmer weather and support our student athletes by purchasing mulch for your yard and garden.

* 3 Cubic Ft. Bags of Shredded Hardwood Bark Mulch
* $4.75 per Bag – Tax Deductible Donation of $2.45 per Bag
* Pickup at FHS between 8:30 – 3:00 p.m. on April 5th OR have delivered to your driveway
* Free delivery (w/in 5 mile radius of FHS) for orders of 20 bags or more

Use this order form:

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MULCH SALE ORDER FORM
ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY SUNDAY MARCH 30

Name: ______________________________________________________________

Address (Incl. Subdivision): ____________________________________________

Telephone #: ______________________ e-Mail: __________________________

# of Bags _____ x $4.75 =$______ + Delivery Fee $____ = $______ Total

Specify delivery point on or near driveway (optional):

________________________

Circle Form of Payment: Cash, Check

If paying by credit card, go to PAY4SCHOOLSTUFFONLINE.COM AND PAY FOR YOUR ORDER.

Make checks payable to: “FEABC” (Freedom Eagles Athletic Booster Club).

Mail or deliver order forms with payment to:
FEABC (Mulch Sale)
Freedom High School
25450 Riding Center Drive
South Riding, VA 20152

Thank you for supporting Freedom High School Athletics

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OR pay on line at http://www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com
* Email questions to mulchmadness@ymail.com

Thank you for your continued support, FEABC