Happy New Year everyone! Did you make any fun New Year’s resolutions?

Do you want to try new foods or learn about new cultures?
Come to the International Fest and Pot Luck Soiree on Friday, Jan. 25th.

Is exercise or getting in shape a part of your plans?
Start training now and test yourself during half-time at our Staff Matball Game by kicking the ball as far as you can on Tuesday, February 12th.

Planning to spend some more “quality time” with your child/children? Dads, sign-up for one full day of volunteering as an Eagle Eye Dad and really see all the different experiences Liberty is offering to our students.

A new year is a great time to try new things, purposefully plan new experiences and really get involved with our children.
Here’s to a wonderful new year in 2013!

Gina Fink, PTA President, gina.fink@verizon.net

Save the dates!

Jan. 15th – Kule-Yo’s Yogurt for Pre-K thru 2nd @5-7:30pm
Jan. 16th – Kule-Yo’s Yogurt 3rd thru 5th @ 5-7:30pm
Jan. 16th – General PTA Meeting @7pm – 8pm (library)
Jan. 17th – Family Literacy Night @ 6pm – 8pm
Jan. 18th & 21st – No School
Jan. 23rd – Chick-fil-A Dining Night @5pm -7:30pm
Jan. 25th – International Fest & Pot Luck Soiree @ 6pm until 8:30pm

Feb. 7th – Reflections Ceremony @ 6pm (cafeteria)
Feb. 12th – Staff Matball Game
Note: New Date!
(at Freedom H.S.)

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Treasurer’s Report

By Lisa Teetz
lisateetz@verizon.net

Hello Liberty Families!
December was another great month financially for the PTA. We hosted Jingle Bell Jog and raised $290. The Stone Ridge 5K fun run brought in $2,629! We held another skate night and earned $229. Also we kicked off the snowflake campaign to raise the extra money needed to complete the school sign project. Thanks to our wonderful Liberty families we are now $1,279 closer to meeting our goal. On the horizon are International Night and the Staff Matball Game. Please keep supporting our events throughout the year and we will be able to keep bringing wonderful things to Liberty to support our children!

Governor McDonnell Proclaims 2013 “The Year of the Teacher”

As part of the “Year of the Teacher,” Gov. McDonnell invites citizens to share stories about an excellent teacher who inspires them to learn by sending an up to 100-word essay to: K12Education@governor.virginia.gov on why their favorite teacher should be recognized. The “My Favorite Teacher” contest will run through January 30th at 5:00pm. Submissions will be shared throughout the month at:

http://www.facebook.com/AllStudentsVirginia.

PTA Events

VP Events is James Milam.
jamesmilam@gmail.com

Family Literacy Night

The Liberty Reading Specialists and PTA invite you to:
“Wild About Reading at Liberty” on Thurs., Jan. 17th @ 6pm - 8pm.

We hope to engage families in celebrating literacy and foster a natural love of reading in our children. Families will enjoy wonderful stories, create bookmarks, make words, animal riddle books, poetry and more! We hope that you can join us.

International Fest

Our International Festival and Pot Luck Soiree will be on Friday, January 25th @ 6pm to 8:30pm.

Our plans include our hugely popular and delicious potluck meal. Bring an international dish to share and receive a timed ticket to return to eat. Food drop-off in the cafeteria begins at 6pm. First to drop-off their dish receives the first “time to eat” ticket times. Event Volunteers (and their families) eat at 6:15pm. Ticket times start at 6:20pm and continue at 5-minute intervals. Every family should bring a dish to share (that’s how “pot luck” works).
Mrs. Assetto will lead off the performances on stage in the gym with grade-level demonstrations of around-the-world music.

A few international “acts” have already been chosen to “round out” the performances.

If you would like your Liberty student(s) to participate in our Fashion Show, please contact Mona El Kholy by Jan. 18th at mona_el_kholy@hotmail.com.

If you can volunteer your time, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Anaheeta Minwalla at acminwalla@verizon.net or Melina Millam, International Fest Chair, at perez.milam@gmail.com.

The teachers and students have prepared artwork and projects that will be on display in the hallways. We will have henna-like hand painting by Melinda Mansfield of Luv Ur Face, a Kindergartener-focused Japanese craft project and a scavenger quiz. This is will be one Event you will not want to miss.

This is a “free” event (no “admissions” cost), but you need bring a dish to share for the potluck (if you want to eat). And, we will be charging $1 for soda/water and encouraging donations – large and small – as part of the “final push” for the Liberty Sign installation, so bring a few bucks (or your checkbook) so you can hydrate and donate.

Staff Matball Game

Please note that we have a new date for our Staff Matball Game of Tuesday, Feb. 12th @ Freedom H.S.

We are in need of a few more t-shirt level sponsors to make this Event a true success. Here’s a way to get some PR and truly benefit your child’s school.

Can’t sponsor but want to help out in a financial and spirited way, make a point of purchasing the Staff Matball Event t-shirt. It is a great way to show your school spirit and it allows us to make this event “fun” while FUNdraising at the same time!

Fundraising

VP Fundraising is Anaheeta Minwalla. acminwalla@verizon.net
January Yogurt & Dining Nights

Kule Yo’s

Join us for a yogurt at Kule-Yo’s for a healthy snack and support Liberty at the same time.

Tues., Jan. 15th – Pre-K thru 2nd.

Wed., Jan. 16th for 3rd thru 5th.

The time is from 5pm to 7:30pm.

Come on out on either night and be sure to mention “Liberty.”

Chick-fil-A

As the Chick-fil-A cows like to point out, let’s “Eat More Chicken!” and raise some money for Liberty PTA.

On Wednesday, Jan. 23rd, from 5pm to 7:30pm at the Chick-fil-A at 4412 Chantilly Place, a percentage of all sales will be donated to Liberty PTA.

Fundraising for the Liberty Sign

The Liberty Sign is ordered and it’s on its way (tentative arrival date of the last week in January).

Donations in any and all amounts are being graciously accepted as we hone in on this long-planned goal. Send in donations via our Snowflakes for the Sign fundraiser via backpack.

Staff Matball T-shirt Sponsors

We are finalizing our Staff Matball t-shirt sponsors. We welcome the financial support of local businesses
and/or parents with a business that can make a donation in the $500 range in exchange for our publicizing our sincere appreciation of such a monetary gift, a logo on the front of the t-shirt - which is given to all teachers and staff in appreciation of their participation in the Game and support of PTA, and two (2) “thank you” shirts customized with appropriate names/numbers.

Liberty PTA is a non-profit organization and gifts to the PTA – such as this – are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please contact our VP Fundraising, Anaheeta Minwalla, at acminwalla@verizon.net to make arrangements for pick up of a donation check, e-mail of your business logo, and finalization of the Thank You t-shirts.

The Deadline for receipt of checks and logo to meet our t-shirt print deadline is Friday, Jan. 25th.

Fundraising Thank You’s

Thank you Dr. Kravitz for sponsoring Jingle Bell Jog!

Your sustaining support of Liberty is greatly appreciated!

PTA Committee Work

VP Committees is Chris Jackson Coates.
chrisjacksoncoates@yahoo.com

Open Positions/Help Wanted

We are in need of PTA member(s) to step up to lead the following:

After School Enrichment (ASE)
We need a Lead for the Spring ASE program or it will not occur.

Nominations & Elections Committee

Do you know people who would be great leaders? Can you encourage others to volunteer their valuable time and energies for a cause that immediately and directly benefits all our children? Then this Committee is for you.

We need three (3) PTA members to step forward to serve as the Nominations and Elections Committee. The duties include encouraging seven (7) PTA members to step up and serve as the PTA Exec. Bd. Officers for the 2013-14 school year, meeting to discuss all interested parties’ qualifications & strengths, and putting forward a slate of Officers for consideration at the March 13th Gen. PTA meeting.

The Nominations & Elections Committee members will be voted in (e.g. by a call for affirmation, very
simply and quickly :0) at the Staff Matball game on Feb. 12th.

If you can Lead and/or serve in either of these positions, please let Chris Jackson Coates know of your interest.

Committee Reports

Directory

We thank Chris Jackson Coates for dedicating a lot of time to put together the 2012-13 PTA Directory, which will be sent electronically to our members in January.

Dads Club / Eagle Eye Program

Our Dad’s Club Eagle Eye Program is off to a terrific start with five “Founding Fathers” already having spent one full day at Liberty volunteering.

Raghavendra Achanta (pictured above with his child at Liberty) volunteered before Winter Break and shared it was the best “Dad’s Day Out.”

If you would like to volunteer for one full day at Liberty and experience the Eagle Eye Program yourself, contact our new Dads Club/Eagle Eye Chair – Phil McKinney at phil@fxcc.org to set-up and confirm a date. Only one (1) Dad may volunteer per day. Check for open dates via the Eagle Eye Calendar at the Liberty website, under PARENTS.
Reflections Ceremony

Our Reflections Ceremony to recognize all participants and those students who advanced to the District level will be held on Thursday, Feb. 7th at 6pm to 7pm in the Liberty Cafeteria. The Reflections submissions will be available for viewing, certificates and ribbons will be awarded and light refreshments will be served.

Questions? Or if you can assist at this ceremony, please contact the Reflection Co-chairs Danielle Clay at dclay@paragontech.net & Mrs. Parker at Emily.Parker@lcps.org.

LEAP

The Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents (LEAP) is a non-partisan network that promotes interaction between parents, teachers, School Board members and members of the Loudoun County Public Schools Administrative Team. LEAP holds monthly meetings designed to inform parents on a variety of important topics. Liberty’s LEAP representative is Julie Abel, but anyone can attend a LEAP meeting. For more information about LEAP, contact Julie at julieabel@comcast.net or visit the PARENTS tab on the LCPS homepage or the LEAP tab on the Liberty PTA page.

LEAP Meetings will be held from 7pm - 9pm in the LCPS Admin. Bldg.

in Ashburn on these dates:

**January 9**th - Technology in the Classroom  
**February 13**th - The proposed 2013-2014 LCPS Budget  
**March 13**th - Testing: SOLs/SATs  
**April 10**th - Cyber Safety  
**May 8**th - Town Hall Meeting

Shout Outs!

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

**Volunteer Raffle Winner for November**: Judy Luu won a $25 Visa gift card.

A huge thank you to all of the Library Volunteers, who, since the beginning of the school year, have put in countless hours in helping put books back onto the shelves including Rania Swamy, Huong Tran, Ingrid Bacher, Kimberly Turner, Anne Corej, Vonetta Brown, Judy Luu and Sasikala Gajula. With the number of classes making their way through the library every day, their time and commitment have helped tremendously.

Thanks to all the Jingle Bell Jog Volunteers including the Webelos of Cub Scout Pack 910, Lisa Teetz, Bonnie Giacinto, Tom Fink, Gina Fink, Anaheeta Minwalla, Carey James, Amy Masters, Lisa Schumacher, Carrie Correia, Linda
Textoris, Diane Insari and Mr. Pack for coming together for a successful morning jog!

Thanks to James and Melina Milam who coordinated and all who attended the Santa Skate Night at the Ashburn Ice House.

Thank you Phil McKinney and Linda Textoris for creating and coordinating a terrific Dads Club Eagle Eye program at Liberty!

If we missed your name, please know that we appreciate your donation of your time and effort to make Liberty the best it can be.

If you know a PTA member that deserves a Shout-Out, please e-mail Taryn Hendersen at tahender@aol.com, so we can recognize him or her.

Liberty PTA January Box Tops Collection

Please tape, glue or staple one Box Top to each snowperson and send in via backpack by January 31st to enter the class contest. Box Tops prizes will be awarded that can be used at the Staff Matball Game on February 12th.

Total # of Box Tops: __________
Student Name: _______________________________
Teacher: ________________________________
Grade: ________________ (* Kindergarten – indicate AM or PM)