Dear Liberty Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I hope everyone had a fun filled and relaxing summer! The PTA has been busy during the summer planning and preparing for many upcoming events, which we hope all of you will attend.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and their families who are new this fall to Liberty. I encourage both new and returning families to become part of the school by joining the PTA and to volunteer your time and talents. There are so many opportunities to volunteer at Liberty and I encourage you to find a way that best fits into your schedule. If you would like to volunteer, please visit the PTA portion of the Liberty website for more information. Our events wouldn’t be the huge success without our amazing volunteers!

Lastly, I would like to remind you to check out our website at [www.lcps.org/liberty](http://www.lcps.org/liberty), which is regularly updated. Also, check us out on Facebook and like our page, [www.facebook.com/pages/Liberty-Elementary-PTA-South-Riding-VA/465301130159582?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Liberty-Elementary-PTA-South-Riding-VA/465301130159582?ref=hl). Liberty has the best staff, students and parents and it would only be be-fitting that we have the best PTA! Please feel free to contact me or any of the officers/committee chairs with questions, concerns, suggestions or just to say hi 😊. I look forward to seeing everyone and getting better acquainted with the new faces at Liberty!

All the best for an amazing school year! Warm Regards,

Anaheeta Minwalla, Liberty PTA President, acminwalla@verizon.net

**Inside this Newsletter:** Save the Date 2 | Treasurer’s Report 2 | PTA Officers Contact Info 2 | 100% Membership Goal 3 | Fundraising 4-6 | Events 7 | Committee Chairs 7-8 | Help Wanted 8 | Committee Reports 9-12 | T is for Teacher 12-13 | Shout Outs 14 | Box Tops & Collection Sheet 15
September:

6th  Fri.  Ice Cream Social @ Kule-Yo’s from 4pm to 8pm
10th  Tues.  Back to School Night 1st & 2nd Gr. Parents @6:30pm–7:30pm
11th  Wed.  Patriot Day Assembly @8:15am
12th  Thurs.  Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser Kick-off
12th  Thurs.  Back to School Night 3rd-4th-5th Gr. Parents @6:30pm-7:30pm
24th  Tues.  Spirit Night @ Manhattan Pizza KG thru 2nd @4pm to 8pm
25th  Wed.  Spirit Night @ Manhattan Pizza 3rd thru 5th @4pm to 8pm
27th  Fri.  Fall Fundraiser of Innisbrook Ends

October:

1st  Tues.  Fall Picture Day
5th  Sat.  Fall Fest @4pm – 6:30pm
8th  Tues.  PTA General Membership Meeting (Liberty Library) @ 7pm

The full 2013-2014 Liberty PTA Calendar can always be found at: http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/domain/9953.

Treasurer’s Report:

The 2013-2014 school year PTA Budget is available on-line at Liberty’s website under the PTA tab: http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/domain/9953.

After General Membership PTA Meetings the Budget and Actuals are updated and shared via the website.

Any questions or concerns about the budget can be directed to Treasurer Lisa Teetz at lisateetz@verizon.net or PTA President Anaheeta Minwalla at acminwalla@verizon.net or raised at a PTA meeting.

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 – 100% - Join PTA Today

Our goal – each school year – is for 100% PTA membership. That equals 1 parent or teacher member for each student. For the 2013-14 school year, that would equal 1,100+ members. Membership dues are $10. We encourage both Mom and Dad to join ($20).

We have a strong tradition of 100% Teacher membership. We hope to achieve this same level from our parents. Please join Liberty PTA today, so that we can reach this goal together. To be a current member you need to join each school year.

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

Although we accept members on an on-going and year-round basis, we have our “membership drive” during August/September/October. If you haven’t already, please send in your form/payment via backpack today.

Why should I join PTA?

There are many benefits to PTA membership. Just a few highlights:

- An easy and great way to support your child’s school financially.
- Funds raised support “extra” programs like IPADs for the classroom.
- Name listed in and electronic copy received of the Liberty Directory.
- Organized way to generate and sign-up volunteers.
- Coupons and promotions thru VA PTA and National PTA.
- Eligibility for PTA programs like Reflections.
- Legislative voice through VA PTA.

Why should I attend a PTA Meeting?

Attending the monthly General Membership PTA Meeting is a great way to stay involved with the happenings at your child’s school. Some features:

- Scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of the Month (generally).
- Only one (1) hour of your time.
- An Administrator is in attendance to report on general happenings in the school (upcoming school activities, testing schedules, etc.).
- Best way to find out what is happening and become more involved.
- The next General Membership Meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 8th @ 7pm in the Liberty Library. Hope to see you there!
$$\text{Fundraising }\\$$

**Ice Cream Social at Kule-Yo’s**

Join us for a frozen yogurt at Kule-Yo’s, 43114 Peacock Market Plaza, for a healthy snack and support Liberty at the same time.

Celebrate “surviving” the 1st week of school on Friday, Sept. 6th @ 4 pm to 8pm.

Wear your Spiritwear or red, white and blue and be sure to mention “Liberty” when you pay the cashier.

**Spirit Nights – Manhattan Pizza**

Two nights – twice the fun! Come in and sit-down or order to-go – either way, mention “Liberty” when you order. Can’t wait to see you at Manhattan Pizza on Tuesday, Sept. 24th (KG-2nd suggested) and/or Wednesday, Sept. 25th (3rd thru 5th suggested) from 4pm to 8pm.

**Stone Ridge 5K**

**The Stone Ridge Race for Education is coming!**

Lace up those running shoes. The Stone Ridge Fun Run & 5K is scheduled for Saturday, **October 19th at 9am**. The more volunteers, runners and walkers Liberty has, the more money we raise for the school, so we want YOU to volunteer and/or sign up for either the 5K race or 1K Fun Run.

Have you registered yet? If not, registration is easy, just visit the Registration page of the official race website:  
http://www.stoneridgeva5k.org/Registration.php/ 

*Don’t forget to designate **Liberty** as your school when you register.*

We’ll need a set number of volunteers to make the race a success (& to qualify to receive our share of the net profits). If you’re interested in volunteering, please email Julie McGoldrick, julesmcgoldrick@yahoo.com or Kristy Jones, joneskrist@aol.com.
We have partnered with Innisbrook for our Fall Fundraising!

Our goal is to raise $10,000 from sales and direct donations!

Our fundraiser kicks off on Thursday, September 12th.

Collect a Stripe Penguin & a lanyard for every 10 items you sell.
Collect a bookmark on your first sale.
Cumulative prizes, so the more you sell the more you collect.
Cool prizes include: Noise Blaster, Ice Penguin, Water Bottles, Light-up Fan and many more...

Don’t want wrapping paper, handbags & kitchen items? No problem!

We encourage you to participate in our fall fundraiser by making a direct donation! Your child will be eligible for fundraising prizes.
Please fill out the form below and send in via backpack.
To meet our fundraising goal, we are suggesting a minimum of $25 per student. Thank you!
Contact: Harsh Govind, VP Fundraising, harshgovind@hotmail.com.

Fall Fundraiser – Direct Donation Form (in Newsletter)

Parent/Guardian Name: ____________________________________________

Student Name: ________________________________________________

Grade: ______ (*KG indicate AM or PM) Teacher: _________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________

Phone Number: _________________________________________________

Donation Amount ___$25___$40___$60___$80___$100___Other (specify)

We accept cash and/or checks (make payable to “Liberty PTA”).
Your donation is tax deductible and a receipt will be sent via email.
Extra Money for Our School

Liberty will receive 10% of every delivery or carry out order EVERY Wednesday at the South Riding Domino’s Pizza IF the caller mentions Liberty when placing the order! Not valid on line orders.

Liberty will receive 10% of every dine in or carry out order throughout the entire school year when you ask your server for a GUEST CHECK receipt (different from a credit card receipt) at Glory Days restaurant and submit it to the school.

Liberty’s code is 219445. Link your card by going online to www.foodlion.com or stopping by customer service.

Liberty’s code is 05654. Link your card by going online to www.giant.com or stopping by customer service.

Liberty’s code is 7219. Link your card by going online to www.harristeeter.com or stopping by customer service.

Liberty’s code is 149682. Link your card by going online to www.target.com or stopping by customer service.
Events

Patriot Day Assembly – Wednesday, September 11th @ 8:15 am

Liberty will celebrate Patriot Day with an Assembly outside in the bus loop grassy area (weather permitting) with a flag raising by Pack 910 Webelos 2 Cub Scouts, the Pledge of Allegiance and patriotic songs. Liberty Parents who serve our country and/or in uniform (including e.g. military, firefighters, police and all patriots) are invited and encouraged to attend and are asked to stand up front near the flag pole with their child(ren) so that we can recognize and thank them for their service. All parents are invited to attend and should gather in the area between the bus loop and drop off/parking lot. If required, the event will be moved to the gymnasium.

Fall Fest – Saturday, October 5th @ 4pm to 6:30pm

We are excited to begin another year of wonderful Events at Liberty! We are already busy preparing for our Annual Liberty Fall Fest. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 5th at 4 pm with more information to come. This is a fun event for the whole family. Planning is well underway, but we would love to have you join our team. Please email Tom Parker, VP Events, parkertom@verizon.net, if you are interested in being on the Fall Fest committee or have an idea for the event!

Committee Chairs:

After School Enrichment Chair, Sarwat Farooq
American Education Week: Neha Jain
Assemblies: Diane Insari
Beautification: Lynn Hood
Box Tops: Lynn Hood
Directory: Chris Jackson-Coates
Eagle Eye Dad: Phil McKinney
Face Book: Anaheeta Minwalla
Fall Festival Games & Prizes: MaryAlice Hoefler-Piper & Steve Sebestyen
Fall Festival Food: Tom Fink
Help Wanted / Open Positions:

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

- After School Enrichment Co-Chair
- Allergy Awareness
- Copy Committee
- Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony Teacher
- International Festival – Potluck Coordinator
- LEAP Liaison Representative
- Photography Committee
- Reflections Co-chair
- 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

Spiritwear:

Our Fall Spiritwear sale will be from Sept. 5th through Friday, Sept. 20th. The options are a navy zipper hooded sweatshirt, a navy sweatshirt, light pink or navy short sleeve t-shirts, and long-sleeve grey shirt.

Look for the order form in your September 5th Thursday folder! We will be running the sale with an end date of Sept 20th.

After School Enrichment (ASE):

Parents, look forward to receiving information on After School Enrichment classes in your child’s Thursday folders. They will be sent out early September and classes are due to start for the fall session on October 7. We will be bringing back Chess Club and Drama Kids and are currently working on bringing art programs, music, and engineering clubs to Liberty as after school activities. Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursdays from 2:40pm-3:40pm.

Odyssey of the Mind (OM)

Here we are ... another school year has begun and we all need to start thinking about nurturing those creative minds. "The Odyssey of the Mind teaches students to learn creative problem-solving methods while having fun in the process." Look out for more information on the registration process and new parents orientation. This wonderful program would not be possible with out coaches, so please start thinking about volunteering to coach this year. Here are some of the key OM dates for this school year:

- 16 Nov 2013 for Coaches Training at Tuscarora HS
- 7 Dec 2013 for Master Spontaneous Workshop at Park View HS
- 8 Feb 2014 for Judges Training at Park View HS
- 15 Mar 2014 for Region 14 tournament at Tuscarora HS

If any Parents are interested in Coaching or “leading”, please contact Dheepa Iyer at dheepaprakash@yahoo.com.
Reflections:

The 2013-14 Reflections theme is “Believe, Dream Inspire”.

Membership in the Virginia PTA provides the opportunity to participate in the National PTA Reflections program, which encourages students to explore the arts and express themselves by giving positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Since it was founded in 1969 by Mary Lou Anderson, millions of students have benefited from this program.

Reflections Awards Program Students in Pre-K through grade 12 create theme-based artwork in dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography or visual arts.

Look for a Reflections flyer in your student’s Thursday folder soon.

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 (LCPS) Administrative Team.

Its mission statement is:

• To provide a forum for the discussion and sharing of common educational concerns and ideas and
• To serve as a network for interaction among local parent groups, students, teachers, administrators and the LCPS System and
• To secure for all students in the LCPS System the highest advantages in academic, vocational, physical and social education.

The mission and objectives of LEAP are promoted via monthly meetings held during the school year on the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held in rooms 102 A and 102 B at the LCPS Administration Building in Ashburn, Virginia. Discussion of agenda topics commences at 7:00 p.m.

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.

Delegates are elected from each Loudoun County Public School's PTA to attend the monthly LEAP meetings. In addition to delegates, members of
the community are encouraged to attend LEAP meetings.

The LEAP Meeting Topics and Schedule for 2013-2014 (fall):

- Sept. 11 – School Security and Bullying
- Oct. 9 – LCPS Board Member Update and Q & A Forum
- Nov. 13 – Tools for Success (Clarity, Vision, Homework Strategies)
- Dec. 11 - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math: STEM I (One-to-one computing, Monroe Technology Center)

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

SEAC:

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is composed of parents, educators, administrators, business representatives, and other interested community groups concerned with the education of students with disabilities.

The purposes of the committee are as follows:

- Advise the local school system of the needs in the education of children with disabilities.
- Assist the local school system in the development of long-range plans, which will provide needed services for children with disabilities.
- Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the local school board.
- Review annually the school system’s updated special education plan and application for federal funding.

The SEAC Meeting and Presentation Schedule (fall):

- Sept. 17 – Superintendent Dr. Hatrick reflects on Special Education and moving forward as parents, citizens, and SEAC.
- Oct. 15 – What happened at School Today? Effective Home/School Communications
- Nov. 19 – Inclusive Practices: Creating a whole school culture
- Dec 17 – Behavior Supports from A to Z

Meetings are open to the public and held from 7 to 9 pm (on the 3rd Tues. of the month) in Room 102 of the LCPS Administration Building in Ashburn.

More info about SEAC link: [http://www.lcps.org/Page/1513](http://www.lcps.org/Page/1513).
Green Team:

During the 2012-13 school year, the Green Team collected and recycled chip bags and Elmer's glue containers. The Green team, with the help of the Liberty SGA, was able to collect an amazing amount of items. These items were redeemed for cash through Terracycle. Liberty sent $250 to the children's cancer charity, Jesse Rees Foundation NEGU. This charity, chosen by the SGA as our recipient, sends toys to children being treated for cancer in area hospitals.

In addition to continuing the collection of Elmer's glue containers, during the 2013-2014 school year, the Green Team will focus on air quality. Each day, students at Liberty Elementary will raise a flag based on the color of the Air Quality Index (AQI) to show how polluted the air is expected to be. By comparing the colored flags to the AQI, teachers and coaches will know what actions to take to protect the health of their students. Green signals good air quality, yellow is moderate, orange means unhealthy for sensitive groups (like children and people with asthma), and red signals unhealthy air for everyone. A purple flag means the air quality is very unhealthy and sensitive groups should avoid all outdoor exertion while everyone else should limit outdoor exertion.

By raising these brightly colored flags, it also helps members of the community be aware of daily air quality conditions.

Getting up-to-date air quality information is easy by subscribing at www.enviroflash.info or downloading the AIRNow app. You can get the daily air quality forecast sent to your email, cell phone or Twitter. This is especially helpful for those who are sensitive to the effects of air pollution, such as children, people with asthma, and older adults.

For more information on the School Flag Program visit EPA’s AIRNow website at www.airnow.gov/schoolflag.

The T in PTA is for our terrific Teachers:

One of the strongest features of our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is our Liberty Teachers. We have a long-standing tradition of 100% teacher membership. We look forward to highlighting some Teacher-initiatives and adding a Teacher Spotlight to our Liberty PTA Newsletter.

K-Cups: The K-Cup machine (sponsored by PTA) is up-and-running in the Teacher’s Lounge. If you would like to donate K-Cups (any variety), please send those in labeled “for Teacher’s Lounge.”
At the PTA’s **specific request**, a few K-Cup flavors that would be welcome are:

- Twinnings Chai Tea for Mrs. Ganley (Technical Resource Teacher)
- Coconut Mocha by Donut House Collection or Butter Toffee from Gloria Jean for Ms. Koeneke (Technology Assistant)
- Dunkin Donuts Breakfast Blend or Any Starbucks Variety (except Hazelnut) for Ms. Coleman (4th grade Teacher)

**Girls on the Run (GOTR) – Led by Ms. Rzepnicki and Mrs. Pickering:**

Liberty Teachers Ms. Rzepnicki and Mrs. Pickering are excited to be heading up the Girls on the Run Afterschool Program at Liberty.

Girls on the Run hopes to inspire girls (Grades 3 through 5) to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum, which creatively integrates running.

The standard program fee for Fall 2013 is $165. Financial aid available for qualified families.

More info can be found at: [http://www.girlsontherunofnova.org/](http://www.girlsontherunofnova.org/).

The registration for Girls on the Run opened on August 19th and will remain open until 10 PM on September 15, 2013.

Liberty's team will practice on Mondays and Wednesdays @ 2:45-3:45 PM.

**Pop-top Collection for Ronald McDonald House Charities – Led by Mrs. Novotny and Ms. Burnheimer:**

Collecting pop tabs is a great way to teach kids about philanthropy and the importance of recycling while raising funds to help children and their families at the same time.


Send in you pop-tops in clear sandwich bags. No need to count or label. They will all be gathered together and weighed “as a school”.
**Shout Outs!**

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

A huge thank you to our Welcome Back Lunch Team of Beth Cattafesta (Chair) with John Cattafesta, and Lynn Hood (Co-chair) with Matthew Hood & Audrey Hood and Megan McGraw, and Kathleen Byrd with Ian Byrd & Jenna Byrd, and Judy Luu with Emily Luu & Aiden Luu. Thank you Picante! at 14511 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. B., Chantilly for the delicious Welcome Back Lunch food!

A hip-hip-hooray for our School Supply Kit distribution Team of Anne Corej (Chair) and Kristen Reed (Alex, Kendall, Bennett), Laura Szczybor (Jack), Chris Jackson Coates (Tristan), Langston Coates, Bonnie Giacinto, Gina Fink (Jon & Kennedy), Kelly Gray, Beth Cattafesta, Kimberly Turner, Beverly Weatherly, Jen Robinette, Vonetta Brown and Angie McKinney.

Thank you to those who assembled the 1st Day packets: Ingrid Bacher, Anne Corej, Michael Corej, Jillian Hajdasz, Lynn Hood, Christy Kosnic, Angie McKinney, Kaylee McKinney, Aparna Parimi, Madison Song, Kimberly Turner & Beverly Weatherly.

If we inadvertently missed adding your name, please know that we still very much appreciated your help!

If you know of a PTA member that deserves a Shout-Out, please email Taryn Henderson, Coordinating/Corresponding Sec., at tahender@aol.com.

**We've been asked to share:**

The Friends of the Gum Spring Library invite you to participate in making the library your own by purchasing a tile to be permanently displayed! These hand-crafted donor tiles celebrate wildlife in the wet lands and habitat surrounding the Gum Spring Library. Profits from the sales will provide important enhancements to the Gum Spring Library, such as added resources and programs for families, teens, seniors, including storytimes, book discussion groups, and programs for those with special needs. Tiles come is a variety of sizes for all budgets, and the name of the donor or honoree can be placed on your tile along with images of the wildlife. To purchase a tile go to: gumspringlibrary.blogspot.com. Pay via PayPal or credit card.
**Box Tops:**

Lynn Hood is Liberty's Box Tops For Education coordinator for the 2013/14 school year. You can reach her at: TheHoodCrew@gmail.com. If you have ever wondered, she does actually count and check expiration dates on every single Box Top submitted.

Collecting Box Tops is a fun and easy way to earn money for our school!

Look for this logo: on the front of products you buy. Clip the Official pink Box Tops for Education "Box Tops" coupon (Be sure to include the expiration date!) and send it in to your child's teacher. For each one you send in, we earn $.10!

Each month of school we will have a contest to see which class can collect the most Box Tops. The winning class will get a prize. At the end of the school year we have a Grand Prize and two runners up prizes for the classes that collect the most all year!

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**Liberty PTA September Box Tops Collection**

Please tape, glue or staple one Box Top to each school bus and send in via backpack by Friday, Sept. 27th to enter the class contest. Box Tops prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) classes that can be redeemed at Fall Fest on Saturday, October 5th.

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Student Name: ______________________________ Total # of Box Tops: ______

Teacher: ____________________________ Grade: ______ (*) K - indicate AM or PM)