

LHMS PTA NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Jan 18, 6:30pm – PTA
Workshop -
“Emotional Issues of
Middle School
Students”**

**Jan 18, 7pm – Jan
PTA meeting**

**Jan 18, 7:30pm – 9:30
Skate Night**

**Jan 21 – MLK
Holiday**

**Jan 25 & Jan 28 –
Teacher Workdays –
no school for students**

**Feb 7, 6:30pm – PTA
Workshop -
“Preparing for High
School”**

**Feb 7, 7pm – PTA
meeting**

Dear Langston Hughes Middle School Parents and Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a relaxing winter break and you made a resolution to get or stay involved in your middle school student’s education.

We would like to invite you to attend **PTA meetings**, which are generally the second Thursday of the month at **7:00pm** in the library/media center. Before each meeting at **6:30pm**, you are invited to attend a **workshop, Principal Chat or a reception** to recognize students who have participated in PTA sponsored activities. Attending PTA meetings is a great way to meet other parents and keep current on what is going on at the school.

Last month there was no general membership meeting; however your PTA Executive Board met to review the year to date and plan for the second half of our academic year. We reviewed the budget, fundraising efforts, expenses, upcoming and past activities, as well as membership and workshops.

We hope you will help us achieve our goals through your continued support. If you would like learn about **volunteer opportunities**, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Damita Snow at volunteercoordinator@lhmspta.com.

We could especially use your support with the Feb. 28th **Multicultural Fair**, Laura Drain is helping to coordinate this event and can be contacted at multiculturalfair@lhmspta.com.

To join the PTA and provide support through your **membership**, please complete the attached membership form with a check for \$10 per person made out to LHMS PTA. The All In One form is also available at the PTA website www.lhmspta.com and can be dropped off at the office or mailed to the school and directed to the PTA.

Our January PTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 10** at 7:00pm in the Library/Media center. Our Guidance Department will provide information about **Social-emotional Issues Facing Middle School Students** at **6:30** prior to the PTA meeting. We hope you can attend.

This month we will also host a **Skate Night on Friday, January 18** at SkateQuest in Reston, from 7:30 -9:30 pm. We hope your son or daughter will participate in this fun student social event. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$7 with skate rental or \$6 without skate rental. Please pay with cash or a check made out to LHMS PTA and have your student purchase their ticket from the designated PTA ticket table.

Joan Burkhardt

PTA President
president@lhmspta.com

Feliz Año Nuevo ! Esperamos que hayan tenido unas lindas vacaciones y estén listo para continuar ayudando a sus hijos en la escuela

Nos gustaría recordarle que el Segundo jueves de cada mes tenemos la reunión de padres PTA en la biblioteca a las 7:00 pm. A las 6:30 lo invitamos a platicar con la directora o **Principal . Es importante ir para poder estar al tanto de las actividades de la escuela y estar involucrado,**

El mes pasado no hubo un PTA general pero los de la mesa directiva nos reunimos para revisar las actividades de los siguientes 6 meses.

Si desea participar en las actividades como voluntario , por favor contacte a Damita Snow a volunteercoordinator@lhmspta.com.

Espero que participen en el **Feria Multicultural**, en febrero 28 Laura Ramirez de Drain ayudara a coordinar este evento multiculturalfair@lhmspta.com. 202 250 0887

Si desea ser miembro del PTA el pago de la membresía es \$10.00 por favor envíe el cheque a LHMS PTA. Ahora las formas están en www.lhmspta.com las puede enviar o dejar en la Oficina.

La próxima reunión es en **Enero10** at 7:00pm en la Biblioteca. Habrá una práctica de problemas sociales que enfrentan los estudiantes de **Middle School Students** a las **6:30** antes del la reunión de PTA. Los esperamos

En enero habrá la noche de patinaje sobre hielo o “**Skate Night**” el **viernes 18 de enero** en SkateQuest in Reston, de las 7:30 a 9:30 pm. Esperamos que participen el costo es \$7 con la renta de patines o \$6 sin los patines por favor paguen a la entrada de en la mesa de PTA

Joan Burkhart

PTA President
president@lhmspta.com

EMOTIONAL ISSUES OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

”You don’t have to suffer to be a poet; adolescence is enough suffering for anyone” – John Ciardi

As anyone parenting a middle schooler knows, adolescence is both the best and worst of times! **Join us at 6:30pm on January 18 to hear our guidance staff give a presentation on the emotional issues of middle schoolers – and then stay for the PTSA meeting that starts immediately afterwards.**

See you there!



DECEMBER PTA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

There was no general PTA meeting in December. Please join us on January 18 for the next PTA meeting!

REFLECTIONS WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

The PTA is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Reflections contest. The winners were:

Literature

Outstanding Interpretation: Samantha Tremaine

Award of Excellence: Julia Simmons

Award of Merit: Nadja Ross

Visual Arts

Outstanding Interpretation: Alexandra Vagonis

Award of Excellence: Abby Ackerman

Award of Merit: Angelica Pettingell

Photography

Outstanding Interpretation: Shelbey Keegan

A special congratulations to two students who also received honors at the Fairfax County Council Reflections Competition. These students' works were chosen for recognition from an astounding 823 entries received from eight clusters and representing 117 schools:

- ♦ Shelbey Keegan, Outstanding Interpretation, Photography, Middle/Junior Division, Cluster 8
- ♦ Alexandra Vagonis, Award of Merit, Visual Arts, Middle/Junior Division, Cluster 8

As the winner of the Outstanding Interpretation/Photography winner for Cluster 8, Shelbey Keegan will advanced to the Northern Virginia District competition, where her work will be judged with work from students in Alexandria, Arlington, and Falls

Church. Please join us in wishing Shelbey good luck at districts!

HOOPS FOR HEARTS POSTPONED UNTIL SPRING

Our first snow of the season on Dec 6 caused minor disruption but unfortunately necessitated the cancellation of the Hoops for Hearts activity scheduled for that afternoon. The event will be rescheduled for sometime in the spring (date TBD).

The good news is that the postponement gives us more time to do a better job of publicizing the event, soliciting sponsors, and encouraging more of our LHMS students to participate!

Hoops for Hearts is an opportunity for LHMS students to participate in an afternoon basketball mini-tournament while simultaneously raising money for the American Heart Association. Like "Jump Rope for Heart," the event promotes heart health awareness, exercise, and community service.

Hoops for Hearts is being sponsored by the Hughes After School program. For more information about the event, please contact Mr. Franklin Kyle at franklin.kyle@fcps.edu.

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION DUE JANUARY

Please turn in your collected labels during the month of **January**, so we can get credit toward this academic year (We will continue to collect labels, but they will go toward the 2008 academic year). Labels can be dropped off in the Library Media Center or in the main office.

DISCOUNT CARDS DISCOUNTED FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Taking our cue from Wal-mart, the PTA is slashing the price of its popular Panther Discount Card from \$10 to \$5 for the rest of the year. The card is good through the end of

September 2007 and entitles the purchaser to great discounts at 10 local merchants, to include Pizza Hut, Domino's Pizza, Taco Bell, Cheng's Oriental Restaurant, Lakeside Inn, Buffalo Wing Factory, Tortilla Factory, Lucia's Italian Ristorante, Hounse of Mandarin and the ever-popular Dairy Queen. Take advantage of Domino's "buy one get one free" offer just once and the card will already have paid for itself!

MULTICULTURAL FAIR PLANNING UNDERWAY

The multicultural festival is an annual event that showcases the cultural diversity of our students. The event relies on the generous support of LHMS parents willing to contribute food, oversee arts & crafts activities, share textiles, crafts and items that are culturally significant, participate in performances that highlight their unique cultural heritage. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, or if you are willing to participate in the event itself, please contact the event Chair, Laura Drain, at multiculturalfair@lhmspta.com. The event is scheduled for March 6 (date change), so we need to hear from you right away!

REDISTRICTING STUDY UPDATE

On Nov 12 FCPS Board of Education held the first of three public meetings to discuss potential redistricting solutions for the West County area. The stated purpose of this redistricting study is to address overcrowding at Chantilly and Westfield high schools and under-enrollment at South Lakes High School, and also – to the extent possible – more closely align South Lakes's percentage of ESOL and FRL students with the FCPS averages.

Prior to the second of three scheduled town meetings, the district released four potential redistricting options. The public was then invited to comment on these options at the town meeting held at Westfields H.S. on

December 3. Over 250 SLHS parents and students attended this meeting.

Based on inputs from this meeting, FCPS subsequently posted a 5th alternative, and continues to solicit comments from impacted areas with respect to all options.

LHMS parents interested in learning more about the redistricting process or participating in the process may do the following:

- ♦ Learn more about the five options being proposed by FCPS by visiting www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/westcoboundary/index.htm
- ♦ View talking points prepared by SLHS supporters at www.southlakespta.org/boundaries.htm
- ♦ Review and consider signing a digital petition in support of South Lakes High School at www.ipetitions.com/petition/WeSupportRedistricting/index.html
- ♦ Join the online discussion group for South Lakes High School pyramid parents for the purpose of supporting the West County Boundary Study by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthLakeboundary>
- ♦ Participate in the process by writing letters to the School Board, local newspapers and/or FCPS staff.

WANTED: CAMERAS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Do you have an old 35mm fully manual camera lying around your house, ignored and neglected since you switched to digital? The Panthers After School Photography Club is in desperate need of more cameras to equip the club's 60+ members!

Donations should be addressed to Amy Taylor, Photography Club sponsor, and dropped off in the front office.

Family SKATE NIGHT at Skatequest!!



Friday, January 18
7:30-9:30pm

12150 Sunset Hills Road
Reston, VA
(near the Reston Post Office)

Admission

\$6 (entrance only)
\$7 (entrance + skate rental)
Please pay with check or cash



25% of all sales made during this time
will be donated to the Hughes PTA ...
so come join us and channel your
inner Michelle Quan!

LHMS STUDENT DIRECTORIES *on sale NOW!*

Last month all LHMS families received a
complimentary copy of the LHMS
Student Directory.

*So, why on earth would you pay \$3 for
an extra copy? Let us count the
reasons why*

REASON #1. Despite being large and blue,
Student Directories possess uncanny but
proven ability to vanish without a trace ...
and then how is your child going to contact
classmates to find out about homework or
projects?

REASON #2. Your child wants a copy in
their room to quickly look up phone
numbers and email addresses. You want a
copy in the kitchen so you can have easy
access to Frequently Called Numbers,
teacher emails, summary information about
school policies, etc. Why fight – order one
for each!

REASON #3. They make wonderful
mementos of the school year.



Student Directories \$3 each

Available for purchase in the school office or
contact Suzanne White at
waysandmeans@lhmspta.com

JOIN THE PTA

EVERYONE BENEFITS!

More than 30 years of research shows that children do better when their parents and families are involved both at home and at school. Grades are higher. Test scores rise. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve. You can make these outcomes a reality for your child, your school, and your community by being involved in PTA.

TODOS SE BENEFICIAN!

Más de treinta años de investigaciones han demostrado que los niños crecen mejor cuando sus padres y sus familias se involucran tanto en el hogar como en la escuela. Las calificaciones son más altas, los resultados de los exámenes son mejores, el autoestima crece y las escuelas mejoran. Usted puede hacer estos resultados una realidad para su hijo, su escuela y su comunidad perteneciendo a PTA.

2008 New Year's Resolutions

1. Be more involved in my child's education. Join PTA!
2. Volunteer at my child's school.
3. Promote healthy habits in my family.
4. Speak up for the arts in school.
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

No resolution can mean as much to your child as your resolution to be more involved in his or her education. PTA can help you keep that resolution.

Join PTA!

I resolve to be involved in PTA in 2008.

Signature _____

Date _____

Join your PTA:

Contact: Damita Snow
Membership Chair
ptamembership@lhmspta.com

New Year
New Opportunities

PTA
everychild.one voice.

Propósitos Para El Año Nuevo 2008

1. Involucrarme más en la educación de mi hijo. ¡Unirme a PTA!
2. Ser voluntario en la escuela de mi hijo.
3. Promover hábitos saludables en mi familia.
4. Hablar en favor de las artes en mi escuela.
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Ningun propósito puede significar tanto para su hijo como el propósito de involucrarse más en su educación. PTA puede ayudarle a mantener esa resolución.

¡Únase a PTA!

He resuelto involucrarme en un PTA en 2008.

Firma _____

fecha _____

Únase a su PTA

Contact: Damita Snow
Membership Chair
ptamembership@lhmspta.com

Nuevo Año
Nuevas Oportunidades

PTA
cada niño, una voz.



SLHS IN THE NEWS!

This feature is produced in cooperation with the SLHS PTSA as a service to our 8th grade families who will be transitioning to SLHS next year.

- NBA star & SLHS alumnus Grant Hill visited the school last month to view the recent construction and new facilities.
- Over 250 South Lakes H.S. parents and students attended the redistricting meeting on Dec 3 at Westfields H.S. in support of FCPS's initiative to remedy persistent underenrollment at the school.
- MATH VOLUNTEERS are needed for all levels, but especially Algebra 1 and Geometry, to provide after school assistance and teacher support on Mondays and Thursdays (late bus days) from 2:20 - 3:45 (approx). If you are able to help, please contact Diana.Roccograndi@fcps.edu.
- Volunteers are requested for in-classroom assistance working directly with ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) students who would benefit from some extra support. This is a rewarding experience, and any amount of time would be appreciated. If you are able to commit any time to work with ESOL students, please contact ESOL teacher Patty Meagher at BOTH p.meagher@cox.net and Patricia.Meagher@fcps.edu
- Interested in learning more about what goes on at SLHS? **Sign up for "This Week at SLHS"** to receive updated bulletins by email. To sign up, visit the SLHS website at the address below.

▪ SLHS contacts

- SLHS website, www.fcps.k12.va.us/SouthLakesHS
- SLHS PTSA/Academic Boosters, www.southlakesptsa.org
- SLHS Band, www.southlakesband.org
- SLHS Theater, www.sltheatrearts.com
- SLHS Athletic Boosters, www.seahawkboosters.com

The weather outside is frightful
... BE PREPARED; order your
LHMS sweatshirt today!

To order your sweatshirt, contact Carol at
tshirts@lhmspta.com

.HMS Sweatshirt (S, M, L, XL)	\$25
.HMS Sweatshirt (XXL)	\$28

***All the "fashionable" cars in town
are wearing them ... is yours?***

**Panther Car Magnets
just \$5!**

Contact tshirts@lhmspta.com
to order yours today!

**DON'T WAIT ... SIGN UP
FOR KEEP IN TOUCH
(KIT) TODAY!**

[https://fcps.medianext.com/
fcps/signup](https://fcps.medianext.com/fcps/signup)

NOMINATE A HUGHES STAR TODAY!

“But march ever forward, breaking down bars./Look ever upward at the sun and the stars.” – The Negro Mother, Langston Hughes

Let these words of Langston Hughes inspire you to nominate a child to be a Hughes Star! Throughout the year we will be posting brightly colored stars in the front hall highlighting the many and diverse achievements of our students.

What makes a child a star? Anything from participation in athletics, academics or the arts; to accomplishments in conjunction with clubs, activities or organizations; to involvement in activities in support of family, neighborhood, or community.

Our goal by the end of the school year is to have every Langston Hughes student represented by at least one star.

So whether you are a teacher, a staff member, or a parent – don’t wait! Nominate a LHMS student TODAY for something they did over the summer or since the school year began by filling out the attached nomination form and returning it to the front office or sending the information in an email to stars@lhmspta.com.

Thanks in advance for helping us showcase the achievements of our extraordinary students!

HUGHES STARS NOMINATION

<i>(student name)</i>
in recognition of _____

<i>(describe achievement here)</i>
<i>[Example: John Cooper, in recognition of his participation on the RLL Nationals All-Star Team this summer]</i>
<i>[Example: Anya Gardi, in recognition of her participation in the 2007 Walk for Life walk-a-thon for breast cancer]</i>
<i>[Example: Shantea Marks, in recognition of his generosity in helping an elderly neighbor with yardwork]</i>

<i>(Your name & relationship to student)</i>

DID YOU KNOW ... Former LHMS student Jackie Robson was recently profiled in the Washington Post. After Langston Hughes, she eschewed high school in favor of Mary Baldwin College’s fast-track graduate program.



By Joan Burkhart, PTA President

Thanks this month go out to ...

- To the **PTA Board** for their planning and efforts throughout the year.
- To everyone who has **joined the PTA** in 2007 and those who plan on becoming PTA members in 2008 (our membership drive continues).
- To our volunteers baked for the **Staff Holiday Sweet Spot** and our coordinators, Claire Cyncynates and Annabella Riccio-Vagonis
- To everyone who has turned in **Box Tops for Education Labels**.
- To all our parent **copy volunteers**.
- To our hard working **custodians and cafeteria staff**.

Gracias

- **PTA Board** por planear el resto de año
- A todos los que son miembros desde 2007 o serán miembros de **PTA** en 2008
- A los coordinadores Claire Cyncynates y Annabella Riccio-Vagonis y voluntarios de **Staff Holiday Sweet Spot**,
- A los que han traído los **Box Tops for Education Labels**. Por favor entréguelos en **Enero**, por favor déjenlas en la biblioteca o en la Oficina
- A todos los voluntarios que hacen **copias**.
- A todos los trabajadores de la cafetería y a los **custodians**.

LHMS'S
07-08 PTA EXECUTIVE
BOARD

Joan Burkhart
President

president@lhmspta.com

Danielle Bartoe
Vice President

vicepresident@lhmspta.com

Suzanne White
Vice President Ways & Means
(Fundraising)

waysandmeans@lhmspta.com

Jody Wolfe
Treasurer

treasurer@lhmspta.com

Monica Russ
Secretary

secretary@lhmspta.com

Newsletter
Submissions:

The PTA Newsletter is published once per month in coordination with the Hughes News.

SUBMISSIONS: Articles or article ideas should be submitted electronically to

ptanewsletter@lhmspta.com

DEADLINES: In general, the deadline for each month's edition is 5 business days after the previous month's PTA meeting. Actual deadlines will be announced at each month's PTA meeting.