

# LHMS PTA NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mar 3, 1:50-2:20pm –  
Read Across America  
Day celebration

Mar 3-6 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Writing SOL

Mar 3-7 – Book Fair

Mar 6, 6:30-8:30pm –  
Multicultural Fair  
(snow date = Mar 12)

Mar 7 – Interims mailed  
home

Mar 8 – Saturday  
Academy

Mar 13 – PTA meeting  
& Reflections reception

Mar 13 – Community  
Adopt-a-Spot cleanup

Mar 17-21 – Spring  
Break

Mar 28 – Annual  
Hughes v. Herndon  
basketball game

Mar 29 – Saturday  
Academy

Apr 7 – Teacher  
workday

Apr 10 – Community  
Adopt-a-Spot cleanup

Dear Langston Hughes Middle School Parents and Families,

The month of March is upon us and spring is just around the corner. Our March activities will begin with a **Multicultural Fair Thursday, March 6**, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. This family event is not to be missed. There will be food, entertainment, displays, murals, crafts and our annual cultural costume parade. Bring a food representing your heritage, provide a talent for the cultural talent show or participate in the costume exhibit and you will receive tickets toward a chance to win a gift certificate from a local restaurant. Remember, students must be accompanied by an adult.

Now that the weather is warming, our after school **Community Service Club** will hold another Adopt-A-Spot clean up on Thursday, **March 13**. Students planning to participate and receive community service credit, should have a walking field trip form on file (forms can be picked up in the office or downloaded from the PTA website). Students will meet right after school in the cafeteria. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Dzurilla at [communityservice@lhmspta.com](mailto:communityservice@lhmspta.com).

Our **PTA Meeting**, also held on **March 13**, will be preceded by a reception for our students who participated in the National PTA **Reflections Program**. Please join us in celebrating these students' efforts. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. in the library/media center. All are welcome to attend.

Another PTA sponsored event taking place this month is our annual **Langston Hughes – Herndon Middle School student and teacher basketball games**. The games will take place on **Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** at South Lakes High School and will begin at 6:00 p.m. Tickets, T-shirts, Panther Spirit items and refreshments will be sold at the games. Hughes Spirit Wear will also be available for purchase in the cafeteria during Thursday and Friday lunches. March 28<sup>th</sup> will be a **Blue and Gray Spirit Day**, so dress in your school colors and come out to support and cheer on our Hughes teams.

With spring around the corner, it is time to think about *your role* in **next year's PTA**. Middle school is just two short years; so you do not have time to sit back and get comfortable before committing to get involved in the PTA. Parents, if we hope to continue providing planned activities and services to our school, students, and community, ***we need you to step forward*** and chair a committee. In this Hughes News, you will find a committee chair sign up sheet. Please take a moment to review the sheet and see if there is a committee you would like to chair or co-chair.

*Joan Burkhart*

PTA President  
[president@lhmspta.com](mailto:president@lhmspta.com)

## IN SEARCH OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

The PTA is looking for 3 volunteers to serve on this year's nominating committee. This is a short-term commitment (Mar-Apr) that involves helping the PTA to identify and nominate officers for the coming school year. Once the nominating committee members have been approved by vote (which happens at the March PTA meeting), the committee will prepare a slate of officers to be presented at the April PTA meeting. The slate of candidates will then be voted on by the entire PTA membership at the June 4<sup>th</sup> band concert.

Those interested in serving on this important committee, please contact Joan Burkhart at [president@lhmspta.com](mailto:president@lhmspta.com)



## THE BUZZ ABOUT B.U.G.

It is estimated that over 50% of Hughes students participated in the first B.U.G. recognition activity of the year!

B.U.G., which stands for Bringing Up Grades, is a PTA initiative designed to recognize the efforts & hard work of students who have brought up grades in one or more classes since the previous semester.

In February, students were encouraged to turn in signed tickets verifying that they had brought up grades in one or more classes. These students then participated in a drawing for gift certificates and other great prizes. Dozens of prizes were awarded!

Many thanks to Dana Kennedy for her hard work in envisioning and implementing this great program!



## STARS SHINE OVER HUGHES

Come see our STARS! In February the PTA Student Recognition Committee, chaired by Dana Kennedy, posted the first installation of "Hughes Stars" in the "Hall of Stars" (adjacent to the cafeteria).

These posters pay tribute to the accomplishments of Hughes students inside and outside of the school. Just some of the activities include:

- ♦ Participation in individual and team sports competitions, races, and advancement/certification programs (boy scouts, Race for the Cure, CPR training, football, soccer, wrestling, etc.)
- ♦ Volunteer work with children, senior citizens, charities & schools
- ♦ Teaching/mentoring
- ♦ Music and theater arts competition and performance participation
- ♦ Art exhibits and competitions
- ♦ Student government
- ♦ Lego League & Odyssey of the Mind
- ♦ Reflections

Additional installations will occur throughout the year. Our goal is to recognize EVERY Hughes student at least once by the end of the year! Nominate a student you know today, by sending an email to: [stars@lhmspta.com](mailto:stars@lhmspta.com) and include: Student name, your name and relationship to the student, and a brief description of the student's accomplishment.

## RISING 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ORIENTATION A SUCCESS!

The PTA played an important role in making last month's rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade orientation a success!

Many parents took advantage of the PTA information table prominently placed in the front hall of the school that evening to ask questions about the school, discuss school clubs and activities, explore volunteer opportunities, and purchase LHMS spirit merchandise. Thanks to Joan Burkhart, Carol Molesky, Anne Deschamps and Suzanne White and Jeanette Thomas for staffing the table & making our visitors feel welcome!

Almost all parents left the evening clutching a copy of the "Frequently Asked Questions" handout prepared by the PTA, containing answers to the most common questions of the parents of rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Thanks to PTA Publicity Committee chair Jeanette Thomas for preparing this useful resource.

Parents who took time to tour the school hopefully enjoyed the "Meet the Teachers" signs prominently displayed throughout the school. The PTA asked each teacher to answer the following question: "What experience most influenced your method of teaching?" – and then posted teacher replies on laminated signs at their respective doorways. Overseen by the PTA Publicity Committee, the objective of this initiative was to expose the families of rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders to the amazing experience, credentials and diversity of our Hughes staff.

Finally, many parents took advantage of the opportunity to sign up for Keep In Touch - which will allow them to learn more about the types of things that go on at Hughes and to have a leg up on news about the 2008-2009 school year this spring & summer! Many thanks to PTA Pyramid Liaison Elysa Katz for setting up the KIT table & supervising this activity throughout the evening!

The evening was a rousing success, with literally hundreds of families turning out to learn more about curriculum options at Hughes, visit with department heads, and enjoy performances by our jazz band, orchestra, choral and theater students – even Panther Pete, the Hughes mascot, was on hand to enjoy the festivities!



## PTA POETRY CONTEST UNDERWAY

The annual PTA poetry contest is underway, but not for much longer! Entries must be turned in to English teachers by March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

All students are invited to participate in the contest and all forms of poetry are eligible, as long as they are original works. Entries should be neatly written or typed to facilitate judging.

As in past years, winning entries will be published in an end-of-year literary magazine and student poets will be honored at a poetry contest reception before the May 15<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting.

## LEGO LEAGUE AT HUGHES?

Is your child a Legomaniac? Have they expressed an interest in learning more about robotics, or participated in Lego League while at elementary school and remain interested continuing at the middle school level? Then we need to hear from you!

The PTA is in the process of attempting to measure interest in forming a Lego League club/team at Hughes Middle School. However, to establish this activity will require committed students as well as adult leaders.

If you are interested in collaborating to establish a Lego League team at Hughes, or if you have related questions, please contact Pat Buteux at [newtohughes@lhmspta.com](mailto:newtohughes@lhmspta.com).



## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK WRAP UP

A big thank you to all the parent volunteers who supported Random Acts of Kindness Week at Hughes Feb 10-15.

Thanks to your generous donations of lunchmeats, cheeses, snacks & beverages, students were able to donate almost 200 bagged lunches to Reston Interfaith and the Emery Rucker Shelter – twice as many as originally contemplated.

Parent volunteers also generously donated goodies & time in support of the Valentine's Day dance after school on February 14. A wonderful time was had by students and adults alike!

In truth, there is nothing random about the acts of kindness that made these activities possible – our Hughes volunteers seem to come through every time!

## SPECIAL ED LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*A report from our PTA Special Education Liaison, Mary Nell Clark:*

Hopefully, you have all been following the latest on VDOE's proposed revision of Virginia's special education regulations. These regulations roll back important parental rights and protections. For example, the

proposed regulations would end the requirement that parents must consent to the termination of any special education services.

The regulations are presently at the Governor's Office awaiting approval before entering a 90 day official public comment period. VDOE is currently tallying comments on the proposed regulations, for and against, provision by provision.

To view the consensus opinion of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA) on February 4, 2008 with respect to these changes, please visit [www.fccpta.org/special\\_ed/va\\_spec\\_ed\\_regs\\_menu.htm](http://www.fccpta.org/special_ed/va_spec_ed_regs_menu.htm).

The FCCPTA believes the best outcome of offering comment would be for VDOE to overhaul the entire proposal, making it necessary to give the public another revision and an opportunity to comment further.

***What to do? Here are two possible actions:***

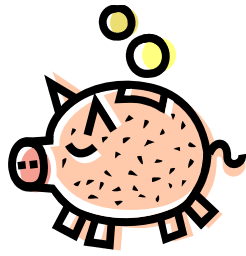
1. Email these comments as an attachment to [ReviseSpedRegs@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:ReviseSpedRegs@doe.virginia.gov). Provide your name and address, and include the following statement in the body of your email:

*"I support the attached comments and am submitting them as my own."*

2. If you want to include more personal detail, or additional information, feel free to use the FCCPTA comments as a model and make them your own. Then, submit your written comments to the email address above, or via one of the methods outlined below.

FAX: (804) 786-8520

MAIL: Special Education Regulations Revision Process  
Office of Dispute Resolution & Admin Services  
Virginia Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2120  
Richmond, VA 23218-2120



## MID-YEAR MINI-GRANT UPDATE

In February the PTA continued its program designed to fund worthy teacher initiatives by awarding \$400 (not to exceed) to Janet Belvin of the English department to publish periodicals written, edited and produced by Hughes students.

In previous months the PTA has approved funds to buy digital cameras and recording devices for the library, purchase film cameras for the photography club, and fund Science Olympiad.

Teacher mini-grants are yet another way that the PTA supports and encourages learning at Hughes.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Vandernberg , who oversaw this program earlier in the year, and to Kelly Kroll, who will oversee the program for the rest of the year, for their efforts on behalf of this worthy effort.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN MARCH & APRIL

**PIZZA WEDNESDAY.** Volunteers are needed to help sell pizza, snacks & sodas after school on Wednesdays. The time commitment is minimal – just 2:15-2:45pm once a week! For more info or to volunteer, contact Tricia Graves, Pizza Wednesday Committee chair, at [pizzasaleswednesday@lhmspta.com](mailto:pizzasaleswednesday@lhmspta.com).

**BOOK FAIR.** The spring book fair is coming! Volunteers are needed to help during all book fair hours, but especially towards the latter part of the week & Thursday evening. Please contact Kathy Noble, Hughes librarian,

at [knoble@fcps.edu](mailto:knoble@fcps.edu) or 703-715-3652 for more info or to volunteer

### HOURS:

- ♦ Monday – Friday during school hours
- ♦ Monday & Thursday after school until late busses
- ♦ Thursday evening 6-8pm (during Multicultural Fair)

### **READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY**

**CELEBRATION.** 47 volunteers are sought to participate in the LHMS celebration of Read Across America Day on . Volunteers will read Dr. Suess books aloud & then facilitate class discussions about the books. Books and discussion materials are provided. Contact Kathy Noble at [knoble@fcps.edu](mailto:knoble@fcps.edu) or 703-715-3652 if you are able to help.

**MULTICULTURAL FAIR.** See the advertisement in this edition of the PTA Hughes News for more information.

### **HUGHES V. HERNDON BASKETBALL**

**GAME.** Volunteers are needed to help sell tickets & concessions at this event. For more information or to volunteer, contact Eric Smith, Basketball Committee chair, at [basketball@lhmspta.com](mailto:basketball@lhmspta.com).

**PTA BOARDS & COMMITTEES.** We continue to seek volunteers to chair & support our many PTA committees for the upcoming school year. A list of available positions is enclosed in this edition of the Hughes News, or for more information contact Joan Burkhart, PTA President, at [president@lhmspta.com](mailto:president@lhmspta.com).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN MARCH & APRIL

### **COMMUNITY ADOPT-A-SPOT CLEANUP DAYS – March 13, April 10, after school.**

LHMS students will earn community service hours by clearing trash & debris from an area adjacent to the school that has been “adopted” by LHMS. Students will be done in time to

return home on late busses. A signed field trip form is necessary to participate in this activity. For further information, contact PTA Community Service Committee chair Dawn Dzurilla at [jddzurilla@cavtel.net](mailto:jddzurilla@cavtel.net).

**FOREST EDGE FUN FAIR – March 8, 9am – 2:30pm.** The Fun Fair Committee at Forest Edge E.S. is in need of student volunteers to help set up and run their annual Fun Fair. Students earn community service hours and student who work the entire day will be provided tickets for purchasing food. Contact Sheryl Cosing at [scosing@comcast.net](mailto:scosing@comcast.net) prior to March 4 to participate.



## STUDENT ART EXHIBITION AT GRACE

LHMS students will participate in the upcoming exhibition “Emerging Visiosn: Adolescent Self-Portraiture” at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) Feb 29- March 28. In addition, there will be special iArt Teen Night on March 6, 6:30-8:30pm.

Works from students at Hughes as well as South Lakes High School, Herndon Middle School and Herndon High School will be featured in this celebration of Youth Arts Month.

For more information, contact GRACE at 703-471-9242 or [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

## A CAPPELLA

*Like you've never heard it before!*

### CASA's 2008 East Coast A Cappella Summit

Hosted at South Lakes High School  
March 7-9



**Friday March 7**  
8pm – PRO CONCERT

**Saturday March 8**  
2pm – HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION (including South Lakes Men's A Cappella Chorus)

**Saturday March 8**  
8pm – PRO CONCERT (featuring Blue Jupiter)

**Sunday March 9**  
4pm – PRO CONCERT

#### Masterclasses throughout the weekend

Proceeds to benefit CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA SOCIETY OF AMERICA (CASA), a non-profit organization established to foster and promote a cappella music in the schools and the community, and SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM.

**TICKETS:**  
**\$15 for matinees**  
**\$20 for evening performances**

Discounts for Fairfax County students & employees

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW!**  
Visit [www.casa.org](http://www.casa.org)

# HUGHES MULTICULTURAL FAIR

Friday, March 6, 6:30-8:30pm

[NOTE: Students MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian; NO drop-offs permitted!]

Join us for a celebration of our community's heritages through food, dance, displays, costumes, music & art!

This is a **family** event not to be missed!

There will be activities and entertainment for both the young and old.

Families are asked to help support this event by:

- ♦ Providing a food representing your heritage
- ♦ Displaying items associated with your heritage
- ♦ Sharing poetry, music or art representing your heritage
  - ♦ Helping with set up, crafts or clean-up

To volunteer, please contact Laura Drain at 703-880-4831 or [multiculturalfair@lhmspta.com](mailto:multiculturalfair@lhmspta.com)

A volunteer flyer can be found on the PTA website [www.lhmspta.com](http://www.lhmspta.com)

## HUGHES V. HERNDON BASKETBALL GAME!

March 28, 6:30pm, SLHS gymnasium

Hughes 7<sup>th</sup> grade team vs. Herndon 7<sup>th</sup> grade team

Hughes 8<sup>th</sup> grade team vs. Herndon 8<sup>th</sup> grade team

Hughes faculty team vs. Herndon faculty team



Turn out & support our Panther teams as they battle against our cross-town rivals, the Herndon Hawks!

Enjoy performances by the Hughes pep band & cheerleaders!

- ♦ Tickets \$5 (on sale at the door; no advanced purchase)
  - ♦ Pizza, soda & candy will be on sale at the event
- ♦ Spiritwear & items will be on sale in the cafeteria the week before the event

# THE WAYS TO THE MEANS

News from the PTA VP-Ways & Means – Suzanne White

Thanks to all the families that have supported our fundraising activities throughout the year! Thanks to your support, many of our activities have brought in more than the budgeted amounts.

Your support and donations make possible the many things that the PTA does for Hughes, such as fund scholarships, field trips, technology and teacher grants and support student recognition programs.

But our work isn't done yet! Indeed, one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, the **Hughes vs. Herndon basketball game**, is scheduled for later this month, and should raise almost \$2000 for our school. **Please support this fun event by volunteering to sell tickets or concessions** – contact [ericxsmith@cox.net](mailto:ericxsmith@cox.net) to offer your services.

In addition, here are a few other reminders:

- ♦ **Take advantage of our convenient new “Click & Pledge” system to access many of our fundraising activities ONLINE.** Simply visit the Hughes PTA website at [www.lhmspta.com](http://www.lhmspta.com), click on the “Click & Pledge” link, and pay for all your purchases via one simple credit card transaction. What could be easier?
- ♦ **07-08 PTA membership signups continue to lag far behind totals for 06-07!** Please take the time to log on to Click & Pledge and support the PTA.
- ♦ **Help ... grocery store rebate program proceeds are dwindling!** Many families do not realize that you must re-enroll in these programs every new year. Please take the time now to log onto the websites noted the table to refresh your enrollment information. Free money is definitely the best kind of money ... but we need you to make this happen!
- ♦ **Prices for student directories and LHMS Panther discount card have dropped ... you can't afford not to purchase them now!**

## ONGOING PTA FUNDRAISERS

### NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH CLICK & PLEDGE

LHMS teeshirts	\$10
LHMS sweatshirts	
S, M, L, XL	\$25
XXL	\$28
LHMS car magnets	\$5
LHMS merchant discount card	\$5
Crest Drycleaner discount card	\$25
LHMS PTA membership	\$10
LHMS student directories	\$2
Friends of Hughes	discretionary

## OTHER FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Safeway rebate program

[www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), LHMS = 6517998

Giant rebate program

[www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus), LHMS = 01984

Harris Teeter rebate program

[www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com), LHMS = 5073

Boxtops for Education (drop off boxtops in collection box in library)

# Raise Your Hand and Take an Active Role!

Are you interested in becoming involved in the 2008-2009 Langston Hughes Middle School PTA?

Run for office! Chair a Committee! LHMS PTA needs You!

Please indicate your interest in holding a PTA office or chairing or co chairing a committee. Check each position you would consider volunteering for during the 2008-2009 academic year. You will be contacted regarding your choices.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2008-09 Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## PTA Office

- \_\_\_\_\_ President
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vice President Communications
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vice President Ways and Means
- \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

## PTA Committee Chair

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Art Show** (help the art department coordinate the USGS Art Exhibit - spring)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Bulletin Board** (display student art on PTA bulletin board monthly)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Community Service** (coordinate several service projects during the Year)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **County Council Representative** (attend monthly FCCPTA Meetings)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Directory** (early fall)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Directory Advertising** (summer and early fall)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Diversity Academic Achievement** (attend monthly meetings)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Eighth grade Celebration** (spring)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Hispanic Outreach** (mail our ESOL families a translated abridged newsletter and provide Spanish translation of several newsletter articles. Monthly)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Hospitality** (Staff breakfast, Career Day snacks, Touch Base Lunch, Holiday Sweet Treats, Teacher Appreciation Lunch)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Keep In Touch/email Administrator** (sending out weekly information to those signed up For Keep In Touch)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Model Campus Representative** (serve on the school Model Campus Committee)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Multicultural Fair** (overall PTA representative)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate costume modeling
  - \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate display tables
  - \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate food
  - \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate talent
- \_\_\_\_\_ **New to Hughes** (help welcome new teachers to LHMS.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Outside Message Board** (post upcoming dates on the school/outside message board. Generally a monthly activity)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Panther End of Yr. Field Day** (PTA representative to this school)

Committee. Spring)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Workshops** (coordinate several workshops before PTA Meetings)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Photographer** (attend school events, take photographs and coordinate with Publicity to get photos into the newspaper)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Poetry Contest** (coordinate this spring contest)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **PTA Newsletter** (prepare information monthly for the PTA Newsletter in *The Hughes News*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Publicity** (serve as a link between the school and our local community, businesses, schools and newspapers)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Reflections** (coordinate this fall National PTA program for LHMS. We host a reception in the spring )
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Special Education Representative Liaison** (attend FCCPTA Special Education Committee meetings and report back)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Recognition Programs** (BUG and Hughes Stars)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Superintendent's Parent Advisory Rep.** (attend meetings and report back)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher Mini Grants**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Volunteer Coordinator** (compile data regarding parent volunteer selections and provide this information to committee chairs)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Website Administrator** (update the PTA website on a monthly or as needed basis)

#### **Ways and Means subcommittee chairs**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Basketball Game (coordinate tickets, concessions and other sales with Herndon Middle school Rep. – spring)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Box Tops for Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bulb Sale (September)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discount Card (update and prepare the discount card. Summer)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grocery Receipts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pizza Sales (coordinate weekly sales to students on Wed after school)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Skate Night
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dining for Dollars (organize dinners at local restaurants in our area)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit Wear sales (on and off throughout the year)

#### **Summer Assistance**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Collate the summer back to school mailer in late August

Parent Education workshop topics you would like to hear

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Please contact Joan Burkhart [President@lhmspta.com](mailto:President@lhmspta.com) with your questions.  
This form can be mailed to, or dropped off, at the Langston Hughes office:  
11401 Ridge Heights Road  
Reston, VA 20191

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## **DID YOU KNOW ...** Fairfax County offers a variety of parent education opportunities?

Topics include Educating Students with Dual Exceptionalities, Promoting Self-Advocacy & Transition Planning for Life After High School, Behavior Management Techniques that Work, Technology Tools to Support Struggling Readers & Writers, and Helping Students with ADHD Succeed. For information about upcoming workshops, visit [www.fcps.edu/ss/linkedfiles/Parent-Meetings/](http://www.fcps.edu/ss/linkedfiles/Parent-Meetings/)



## SLHS IN THE NEWS!

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

- IB continues to grow here at SLHS. SLHS's current senior class has 54 Diploma candidates and the current junior class has 82 anticipated candidates.
- During the second semester, political science students will participate in a variety of internships designed to allow them to apply classroom instruction in a real world setting. Some local organizations for which SLHS students will be interning include Reston Association, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, and Hale Carlson Penn, PLC. Other students will be heading downtown to Washington, D.C to work at the World Affairs Council of D.C., or on the hill at the offices of Senators Jim Webb, Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, Joe Biden and Shelton Whitehouse and Congressmen Jim Moran and Patrick Kennedy.
- The South Lakes Drama department will sponsor Dinner & A Show on April 16. Enjoy dinner catered by Lucia's Italian Ristorante followed by the SLHS Theater Arts production of "Beauty and the Beast." The event is sure to be a sell-out, so reserve your tickets early! Purchase dinner tickets (\$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 10) at [www.SeahawkBoosters.com](http://www.SeahawkBoosters.com). Purchase theater tickets at [www.SLTheatreArts.com](http://www.SLTheatreArts.com).
- SLHS will play host to the 2008 East Coast A Cappella Summit on Fri-Sun, March 7-9. This international vocal music festival features rock, pop, hip hop, comedy, classical, beatbox, doo wop, barbership, alternative and more! Tickets start at under \$12 and can be purchased at [www.casa.org](http://www.casa.org). Extra discounts are available for FCPS students and employees.
- In February the South Lakes High School Dance company, Essence, presented "Magic of Motown, a Celebration of Motown Artists" – a tribute in dance, creative drama and spoken word performance to the musicians that made Motown a household word. Students from Dance I, II and III participated in the performance.
- Over 400 students who earned GPAs of 3.5 or better were honored at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Honor Roll Breakfast in February.
- A dozen South Lakes students testified before the School Board at recent hearings re. proposed school redistricting. The students spoke passionately and eloquently of the need to address persistent under-enrollment at South Lakes. Audio files of all testimony presented to the school board at the hearings on Jan 30-31 and February 9 is now available online at [www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/Public?](http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/Public?)
- Nine DECA (Marketing Association) students participated in the District Leadership Conference (DLC) on their day off on January 25 to represent South Lakes High. Students participated in role play events in Sports & Entertainment Marketing, Apparel and Accessories Marketing, and other marketing-related activities.
- SPORTS NOTES
  - South Lakes had four swimmers qualify for the State Championships at George Mason University.
  - The Boys Indoor Track Team placed second at the District meet.
  - The SLHS Gymnastics Team finished sixth place at the district competition that was held in January
  - The Varsity Dance Team received a superior rating at a national competition held in Orlando, FL earlier this year.
  - Three students have signed Letters of Intent to attend prestigious colleges

on athletic scholarships: Laura Dillon will attend Vanderbilt University on a Swimming scholarship, Thomas Mayo will attend Concord University on a football scholarship, and AJ Price will attend Penn State University on a football scholarship

- English 10 students will be going on a field trip to Sidney Harman Hall in Washington to see the Shakespeare Theatre Company production of *Julius Caesar*. Other English 10 students will be going to the Holocaust Museum in conjunction with their study of Weisel's memoir, *Night*.
- Five South Lakes students won Scholastic gold or silver key awards at the recent Scholastic Art Competition. Gold Key winners will go on to compete at the national level
- Renovation continues to move towards completion. An impressive new Theatre is just days away from again hosting music and drama performances. Additionally, new Special Education, Math, and Career and Technology Education Department areas will open up over spring break. Soon, all trailers will be removed and work will begin on landscaping the exterior of the school.
- Fundraising continues for the SLHS Class of 2008 All Night Grad Party. ANGP is a chaperoned, alcohol & drug-free event featuring dancing, games, contests and fun. South Lakes was the first high school in FCPS to host this event, which is now a staple at most local high schools. Donations of cash or prizes may be forwarded to Friends of the Class of 2008, c/o South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston VA 20191
- **SLHS contacts**
  - **SLHS website,** [www.fcps.k12.va.us/SouthLakesHS](http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/SouthLakesHS)
  - **SLHS PTSA/Academic Boosters,** [www.southlakesptsa.org](http://www.southlakesptsa.org)
  - **SLHS Band,** [www.southlakesband.org](http://www.southlakesband.org)
  - **SLHS Theater,** [www.sltheatrearts.com](http://www.sltheatrearts.com)
  - **SLHS Athletic Boosters,** [www.seahawkboosters.com](http://www.seahawkboosters.com)

## **SLHS Dinner & A Show!**

**Lucia's Italian Ristorante +  
Disney's Beauty and the Beast**

Wednesday, April 16  
6pm - 9pm



*Dinner & Show tickets  
must be purchased separately:*

**Dinner Tickets** (seatings at 6pm & 7:30pm)  
\$10 for adults  
\$5 for children under 10  
Purchase at [www.SeahawkBoosters.com](http://www.SeahawkBoosters.com)

**Show Tickets\***  
\$10 presale  
\$12 at the door  
Purchase at [www.SLTheatreArts.com](http://www.SLTheatreArts.com)  
*\*Please choose 6pm dinner seating*

**Disney's Beauty & the Beast produced by  
the South Lakes Theatre Arts Department**

**Dinner catered by  
Lucia's Italian Ristorante:**  
Homemade Lasagna & Meatballs  
Garden Salad with Vinegar & Oil Dressing  
Homemade Bread  
Drinks  
Desserts sold by '08 ANGP

*Proceeds will benefit the South Lakes  
Booster Club OR '08 ANGP.*



By Joan Burkhart, PTA President

### Thanks this month go out to ...

- To our students who participated in the National PTA Reflections program. Special congratulations go to Shelby Keegan and Alexandra Vagonis for receiving recognition at the county level. Alexandra received an “Award of Merit” for her artwork and Shelby received an award of “Outstanding Interpretation” for her photography, which was sent to the District level where she received an “Award of Merit”.
- To our volunteers who helped with this year’s Rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Orientation/Curriculum Night.
- To Jeanette Thomas for accepting the position of appointed PTA Vice President. Jeanette will coordinate our communications (newsletter, Keep In Touch and publicity) as well as assisting with other PTA activities).
- To these PTA board members who will be taking a break for the second half of the academic year: Ann Confer who has kept us updated via weekly Keep In Touch and Danielle Bartoe for serving as VP and overseeing many PTA activities. Danielle will continue as 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party coordinator.
- To all who attended our February PTA meeting and the wonderful presentation by our SLHS principal, Bruce Butler and SLHS student panel.

### LHMS's 07-08 PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Joan Burkhart**  
**President**

president@lhmspta.com

**Jeanette Thomas**  
**Vice President**

**Communications**

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**Suzanne White**  
**Vice President Ways & Means**  
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**Jody Wolfe**

**Treasurer**

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**Monica Russ**

**Secretary**

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### 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](mailto: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.