



Letter from the President



So much has happened in the first two months of this year!

Here we are at the end of the first quarter – and there is a lot we have accomplished. Our bylaws have been revised and voted on, over 200 new members have joined the PTA, Reflections entries have been collected and several of our fundraisers have taken place. For some fun for the students, we've hosted the first Skate Night, and participated in the recent SLHS Homecoming parade. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to share my appreciation for all of the volunteers that have made these, and all of the activities we are involved in, possible.

Looking forward, Touch Base Day is coming up on November 11. The PTA will have a table there — stop by and see us if you have any questions, if you would like to purchase from a limited selection of available Spirit Wear, if you'd still like to join the PTA, or make a donation to the Invest in Hughes campaign which runs through December. Later that morning, we will also host a brunch for the staff and teachers.

Finally, this month, the PTA meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18th at 7 pm in the media center. So many have taken the time to come to these meetings, and I look forward to getting together for this, the last meeting of 2010!

Sincerely,

Kathy Joyner, President
president@lhmspta.com

Calendar



Happenings at Hughes

- Nov. 11: Touch Base Day, 7:30 – 10:00 am
- Nov. 18: PTA meeting, 7:00 pm
- Nov. 24: 2 hour early dismissal
- Nov. 25-26: Thanksgiving break, No School.

There will be no PTA meeting in December – we return on January 6!



Happy Thanksgiving!

Homecoming Parade



On Friday, October 22, Hughes was very well represented at the SLHS Homecoming parade. About 30 students participated in two after school events to create signs, brainstorm 80's costume ideas, and make a beautiful LHMS banner celebrating the school's 30th Anniversary. At the parade, they were

joined by the LHMS cheerleading squad, the Panther mascot, additional students and Ms. Monticchio, who rode the route in a convertible. Over the 30th Anniversary year, we'd love to reach 30 different community service events that include members of the Hughes community. If you know of community service projects groups of Hughes students are participating in, please contact Mary York at vpcommunications@lhmspta.com so that they can be added to the total.

Meeting Held October 26, 2010

Notes from the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is committed to ensuring achievement across our diverse student population. A recent analysis of achievement levels in FCPS elementary and middle schools identified 30 schools which could benefit from targeted interventions to reduce achievement gaps. The Priority Schools Initiative is being implemented at schools selected according to:

- Title I elementary schools identified by the Virginia Department of Education for improvement as a result of not making pre-defined measures of adequate yearly progress
- The School Support Composite Index ranking. SSCI is a three-year average that provides equal weighting to the number of students not passing Standards of Learning (SOL) reading and mathematics tests and the percentage achievement gap between the white and asian subgroup and the black and hispanic subgroups

One of the schools identified as a priority school is our own Langston Hughes. Programs being implemented to reduce the achievement gap here include special leadership training through the University of Virginia, allocation of additional time for teacher learning with respect to best practices, strengthening the professional learning community, and intervention for students who aren't meeting standards. The program runs from the beginning of this school year through 2013 and does not replace other programs designed to aid our students, such as needs-based funding. This is a supplemental initiative designed to bolster academic success for our school and all our students.

For more information, visit this section of the FCPS website:

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/priority.htm>.

Support Hughes PTA...without writing a check!

There are two great ways to help just by visiting your grocery store! Last year, we earned over \$1500 through these programs – will you help us earn \$2500 this year?



Grocery Card Rebates

Giant and Harris Teeter are still enrolling new members in their grocery card programs. Simply by linking the grocery card that you already have to LHMS PTA, you will make a donation each time you make a purchase! All you'd need to do is link your card once, and all of your purchases for the rest of the school year will become part of this program.

To register with Giant, visit www.giantfood.com/aplus.

To register with Harris Teeter, visit www.harristeeter.com, click on community, then together in education where you'll find the re-link instructions.

Box Tops for Education

We have the opportunity to give to Hughes PTA by saving the boxtops from items you regularly purchase. Each Box Top that you cut out and turn in is worth 10¢ to the PTA. It sounds small, but adds up very quickly, and is easy to do. Clip them, save them, and send them in with your student to deposit in the box in the office or in the school library.

The Box Tops box will be at the PTA table on Touch Base Day for the easiest way to make a deposit. If you've got some, or think you can find some in your pantry, please bring them, and we can watch the dimes turn to dollars for LHMS PTA!

Participating Brands

Desserts

Betty Crocker Cookie & brownie mixes
Betty Crocker Frosting
Bisquick Baking Mix Boxes
Gold Medal Flour

Beverages

Nestle Juicy Juice

Cereal

Cheerios (many varieties)
Chex, Cocoa Puffs Cereals
Cookie Crisp & Kix Cereal
Disney's Cereals
Fiber One Cereals
Cinnamon Toast Crunch
Lucky Charm Cereals
Total & Wheaties Cereals

Meals & Sides

Hamburger Helper
Old El Paso tortillas & taco shells

Refrigerated & Dairy

Pillsbury Rolls
Yoplait Go-Gurt & kids' yogurt

Snacks

Cheerios Snack Mix
Chex Mix Bars & snack mix
Fruit-flavored shapes (Scooby Doo, Shark Bites...)

Frozen

Green Giant Vegetables
Pillsbury Microwave biscuits
Totino's Pizza Rolls

Baby & Child Care

Cottonelle products
Goodnites products
Huggies (wipes, diapers, little swimmers...)

School & Office Supplies

Hi-Liter Highlighters
Avery products
Marks-A-Lot Perm. Markers

Storage & Waste Bags

Ziploc Bags (many kinds)
Hefty waste bags
Hefty Crystal disposable cups

Thursday, November 11, 2010

7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Touch Base Day

The purpose of "Touch Base" is to provide parents and guardians an opportunity to have a 3-minute mini-conference with teachers to discuss the academic progress their child has made during the first-quarter marking term. Administrators and guidance counselors will be on hand to address any questions or concerns or to schedule a conference.

To accommodate this activity, we will have a delayed opening of school for students on November 11. Hughes MS buses will pick up students 3 hours later than the usual pick up time.

School will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Reminder to Parents

Kiss and Ride Policy:

Students are received at Kiss & Ride beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Entrance 5. Students who are driven to school should be dropped off at Kiss & Ride on Ridge Heights Road, NOT in the faculty parking lot, the bus lane or on Seahawk Drive. The Kiss & ride lane should be approached from Soapstone Drive. Drivers should proceed east on Ridge Heights Road, toward South Lakes Drive and drop off their student by Entrance 5.

Deadline for Contributions is Friday, December 17, 2010!

Invest in Hughes

30th anniversary drive

Invest in Our Future

Help bring
new technology
to Hughes!

Each donation
the PTA receives
as part of our
Invest in Hughes
30th anniversary drive
makes the gift
of additional
technology
a reality.

Help celebrate 30 years of LHMS with a gift and move PACMAN to the goal!

Your contribution will go to support the purchase of more technology to outfit Hughes for the 21st century learning environment.



Name: _____

E-Mail/phone #: _____

____ \$540 (\$3/school day) ____ \$360 (\$2/school day) ____ \$180 (\$1/school day)

____ \$100 ____ \$50 ____ \$25 ____ \$10 ____ Other - Amt \$_____

Contribute online: <http://www.lhmspta.com/>

Click on "click and pledge", scroll down to "Invest in Hughes"

Use My Contribution for: Technology Only Any Hughes Program

Gifts of all sizes make a difference !! Please contact us at lhms2vp@gmail.com if you or the company you work for would like to make a corporate donation. **THANK YOU!!!**



“Look Ever Upward at the Sun and Stars ...”

“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 and locker commons highlighting the many and diverse achievements of our students. What makes a child a star? As Langston Hughes suggests, it’s all about marching forward, breaking down bars, and aspiring to be the best you can be! Here are some examples:



- ★ Participation or achievement in athletics at school or out in the community (ex: team sport, individual sport, athletic event)
- ★ Participation or achievement in academics (ex: Math Olympiad, essay contest, spelling bee)
- ★ Participation or achievement in the arts (ex: poetry contest, music competition, art show, theater, literary magazine)
- ★ Something accomplished in conjunction with a school-based club, activity or organization (ex: Odyssey of the Mind, Lego League, chess club)
- ★ Something accomplished in conjunction with an outside club, activity or organization (ex: Boy/Girl Scouts, service clubs, dance teams)

- ★ Something accomplished in conjunction with your family, neighborhood, or community (ex: helped someone in need; organized a neighborhood event; volunteered at RCC to help with Martin Luther King Day celebration)
- ★ Participation in an event devoted to raising money or awareness for a cause (ex: Walked in Relay for life, raised money for hurricane relief)

By the end of the year we would like to have every Langston Hughes student represented by at least one star, and preferably more than one! 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 form below or by sending an email with the student’s name, your name, your relationship to the student and a one-sentence description of their achievement to stars@lhmspta.com. (Have a student who is shy about their accomplishments? Instead of using the student’s name, we can print the student’s initials or even “a 7th (or 8th) grade student” — just let us know!)



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



“Langston Hughes Stars” Student Recognition Program

NOMINATION FORM

“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!**

Student names & accomplishments will be posted in the “Hall of Stars”
 (between the gym & cafeteria) throughout the year.
 Our goal is to ensure that every LHMS student is recognized for their accomplishments!

STUDENT NAME (or initials): _____

YOUR NAME: _____

Relationship to child (i.e., parent, teacher, guidance counselor): _____

Short (~ one sentence) description of student’s achievement: _____

Please return completed nomination forms to PTA box in mailroom or mail your nominations to stars@lhmspta.com

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