



Letter from the President



The days are getting longer and the weather is finally warming up.

I hope you all had a relaxing Spring Break. Now that school has started once again, it seems that everything from here until the end of the school year starts to move quickly. During the month of May, there are some events that I want to highlight, though you can read more details throughout the pages of the newsletter.

May 5th will be a busy day for us; we'll start by celebrating our teachers and staff with a terrific lunch in their honor. The theme for this lunch is "A Taste of Home" and we are hoping to have a variety of foods that represent the family favorites from the Hughes community. Later that day, at 6:30, the school administrators will host a "Dialogue on Discipline" regarding the discipline policies and procedures in place in the Fairfax County schools. At 7:00 that night, we will wrap up a busy day by holding elections for the officers of next year's PTA. These meetings are excellent opportunities to learn more about the school and the PTA.

There are still just a few opportunities left to serve on the PTA board for next year. If you might be interested in volunteering, contact Kevin Danaher who is chairing the Nominating committee, for more information on the positions that may still be open.

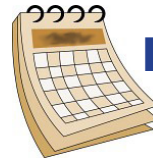
This month does get very busy, as we wrap up this school year, and prepare for the next. You'll find the most up to date information in the weekly KIT for events happening throughout the month, so keep watching!

Sincerely,

Kathy Joyner, President
president@lhmspta.com



Calendar



Happenings at Hughes

Look for more details on many of these events within this issue!

- May 5** Thursday Teacher Appreciation Lunch
"Dialogue on Discipline"
6:30 pm
- * PTA meeting and elections
7:00 pm
- May 12-14** Thurs-Sat Musical "Bye Bye Birdie"
- May 16** Monday SOL exams begin
- May 26** Thursday Flippin Pizza night
3:00 - 10:00 pm
- May 27** Friday 2 hour early release
- May 30** Monday No School/ Memorial Day Holiday
- June 9** Thursday PTA meeting
- June 17** Friday 8th Grade Celebration

* Just a reminder of the **change in date** for the May PTA meeting. It has been rescheduled from the old date of May 12 to a new date of May 5. The LHMS production of "Bye Bye Birdie" runs from May 12-14, hope to see you there!

Let's Show Appreciation for Our Teachers

Thursday, May 5th

We are fortunate to have families with backgrounds from all over the world!

On Thursday, May 5th the PTA will be hosting our Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Since we have such an international community, our theme is "**Taste of Home**".

Do you have a dish that represents your family that you would like to share as we thank our teachers and staff for all their efforts on behalf of our students? If you are able to provide a main dish, side dish, bread, rolls, desserts or bottled water we would very much appreciate the help. Since it is also Cinco de Mayo a Mexican dish would also be great.

If you are able to help with the lunch and/or contribute, please **contact Jody Rosenblatt at jrmva@gmail.com** with your donation information.

Items can be dropped off as early as 7:30 am on Thursday to the office. There will be a cart there where your can leave your dish. Please provide serving bowl and/or utensils, either disposable or labled so that it can be returned to you.

Flippin Pizza-night!

Mark your calendars for the LHMS PTA **Flippin Pizza night!** From 3-10 pm on Thursday, May 26 Flippin Pizza will donate 50% of purchases from Hughes families – that is for eat in or carry-out! Whether you are a student stopping in for a slice after school, or an adult taking a night off from cooking, all you need to do is let them know you are there to support Hughes, and they will make the donation. **Contact Sumi Vintimilla (sumivan@verizon.net)** with any questions.



8th Grade Party

"New York City 2011"

The streets will come alive in the city that never sleeps.

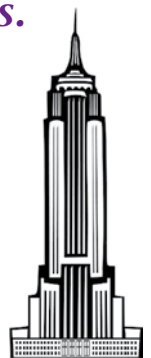
Be a Part of It! Friday, June 17, 2011

Planning is underway for the 8th Grade Party — we need volunteers to help make this a night to remember.

If you'd like to help in any way, contact:

Rosemary Daum — rosedaum@msn.com

Tara Allen — taralallen@aol.com Thank you!



Thank You —

To all who helped with the Annual Art Show at USGS and the evening reception on Thursday, April 14.

Our students' art was on display and it was a great treat for all who participated!

See photos on page 4.



Bringing Up Grades (BUG) program

Congratulations to the over 800 Hughes students who brought their grades up from the second to third quarter in one or more core classes! The process for identifying eligible students to participate in the prize drawing this quarter was more streamlined and comprehensive by generating a report instead of teacher signed coupons as in the past. There were approximately 1100 entries in the drawing; many students brought up grades in more than one core class which increased their chance of winning a prize in the drawing. 60 names were randomly drawn and announced daily on Hughes Morning News during the week of April 25th – 12 lucky prize winners per day! Prizes included gift cards to Starbucks, Chipolte, Subway and others.

Reflections

Winners from LHMS

2010-2011 Theme – "Together We Can"

The Fairfax County Council of PTA honored the outstanding Interpretation Award of Excellence And award of Merit on Monday, March 28, 2011 at SLHS.

In addition to the ceremony at SLHS, there was a recognition ceremony for the Reflections participants on Friday, April 29 at LHMS.

- 1 Stephanie Su received Award of Merit in Literature.
- 2 Stephanie Porto received Award of Excellence in Photography
- 3 Zaboji received Award of Excellence in Film category.

There were Eight participants from LHMS:

- 1 Jia Kim/Visual Art Category
- 2 Christopher Zaboji/Film
- 3 Stephanie Porto/Literature/Music/Photography/Visual art
- 4 Kayvan Tabrizi/Literature
- 5 Linda Wu/Visual Art
- 6 Stephanie Su/ Visual Art/Literature
- 7 Arianna Chen/Photography
- 8 Matthew Stein/Photography



From left:
Stephanie Su/literature
Merit award winner;
Stephanie Porto/
photography Excellent
award winner;
Christopher Zaboji/
film Excellence
Award winner.

About Reflections

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

The Reflections Program was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson. Since that time, more than 10 million students have participated in the program. The program's longevity and participation figures attest to its strength. The excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for children, parents, schools and communities is unmatched.

Participation and appreciation for the arts is the Reflections Program's goal. Although the Reflections Program follows a "contest" format, winning should not be the emphasis.

Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art that supports a specific theme.

Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts areas listed below. Only original works of art are accepted. Depending on local PTA guidelines, students may enter more than one work of art. The six arts areas are as follows:

Literature	Musical composition
Photography	Visual arts
Dance Choreography	Film/Video Production

**Please check LHMS website
for Reflections next year.**

Theme for Reflections 2011-2012: "Diversity is"



From left: Kayvan Tabrizi, Christopher Zaboji, Stephanie Porto, Stephanie Su.

LHMS Gives Back

LHMS Students were very busy 'giving back' during April.



The Advanced Women's Chorus entertained area principals and community leaders at the Rising Star Luncheon at Lake Anne Community Center.



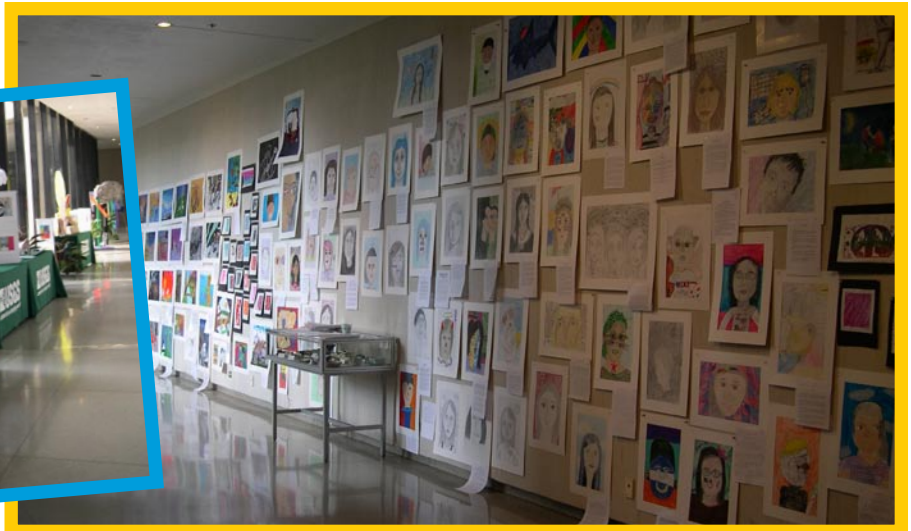
Peer Mediators assembled and delivered 'Spring Snack Sacks' to teachers & staff.



Students from several elective classes joined together to prepare, serve & entertain local seniors at the Annual Electives' Tea.



11th Annual USGS Art Exhibit highlights a variety of art work by LHMS students.



Report from the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee (SPAC) Meeting

Although the budget is always a topic at the Dr. Dale's SPAC meetings, the meeting on April 26 addressed primarily the topics of student transportation and discipline.

The County Board of Supervisors has directed the school district to coordinate grant applications for the "Safe Routes to School Program." The primary goal is to increase pedestrian safety and access through improved pathways and sidewalks. However, as FCPS researched the issues related to student transportation, they found that the larger safety issue is heavy use of the "Kiss and Ride."

While the "Kiss and Ride" can be a convenient option, it greatly increases morning traffic around the school and creates hazards. Walkers and bus riders are encouraged to use the designated appropriate transportation to get to school to create a safer environment for all.

And don't miss the "Discipline Dialogue" at 6:30 pm next week at LHMS, just preceding the PTA meeting. This dialogue is designed to discuss potential changes to the FCPS discipline code. Key changes include allowing more discretion by principals, especially in cases where a student is found to be in possession of his or her own prescription medication. Another recommended change is early parental communication when an incident occurs which might result in expulsion or suspension.

Comments and feedback from the dialogue will be sent to Dr. Dale's office so that the changes to the discipline code can be finalized and presented to the School Board on May 16. Please join the discussion!

Langston Hughes Stars



STARS RECOGNITIONS 4/26 – Langston Hughes STARS Student Recognition Program would like to recognize the following students for achievements, honors, and volunteerism:

Congratulations to the following students for participating in the LHMS production of "Bye-Bye Birdie"!



CAST: John Gilbert; Sarah Delcoco; Harrison deWolfe; Levi Prudhomme; Ashley Birman; Madeleine Cochrane; Nathan Burns; Alec Brown; Catie Medvid; Kaitlyn Ball; Kate York; Neal Thrailkill; Mona Sharaf; Kelleen Moriarty; Gage Smocer; Sydney Crutcher; Darla Lowe; Jocelyn Teague; Kati Imel; Hannah Ericksen; Brentan Walter; Daniel Gurley; Taylor Mauceri; Albert Chuang; Jessica Hogg; Jordan Boyd; Colleen Lewis; Dana Horton-Geer; Andrew Shedlock; Casey Grage; Allison Maxwell; Madison Carrens; Kat Vlasova; Grant Tremaine; Logan Moody; Haley Corkery

CREW: Ellie Rakoff; Kara Nelson; Jacquie Nagle; Katherine McCool; Maddie Planton; Megan Bell; Ed Whaley; Mark Bouwmeester; Sam Gifford; Biriva Frith; Jacob Kemp; Michelle Ma; Alexander Carpenter, Laith Sonjak; Katherine Rensel; Aarti Bhandari; Nohely Arriola-Huezo; Caroline Sartorius; Augusta Durham; Lina Wu; Ally Johnson; Dania Rivas; Evie Nims; Geetika Mahajan; Audreya Metz; Sabrina Nasr; Rebekah Carrai; Farnaz Daneshvaran; Nina Dawson, Shannon Lozokie; Nina Dawson, Alexis Fisher; Gabby Meixner; Elise Lesage; Natassia Reilly; Andrew McCool; Erin Miller; Sarah Wood

Congratulations are also in order for the following LHMS students who qualified for District Chorus!

SATB CHORUS:

Sopranos: Katie Beach; Jane Oswald; and Hannah Ericksen

Altos: Sara Delcoco; Kate York; and Rhett Fetter

Tenors: Harrison deWolfe; Micah Mastrovito; and Alec Brown

Basses: Dan Gurley; Charlie Quinn; Levi Prudhomme; and John Dyke

SSA CHORUS:

Soprano I: Maddie Planton and Madhu Umashankar

Soprano II: Madeline Cochrane and Christina Kim

Alto: Remy Branscum and Catie Medvid

First Alternate:

Soprano: Hailey Corkery

Alto: Casey Grage

Second Alternate:

Soprano: Arianna Barkhordari

Alto: Brienne Welch



Please continue to send STARS nominations to: studentrecognitionstars@lhmspta.com.

see page 6 for nomination form

“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:



- ★ 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)

- ★ 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)

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 studentrecognitionstars@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 studentrecognitionstars@lhmspta.com

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