



Liberty Link



October 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may be wondering what happened to the AB schedule conversation after last spring. We'd like to give you an update on where we are in that process. The schedule is only one of the many factors that make up a student's high school experience. Among the many other factors are the types of classes that are offered, the access students have to those classes and the support students receive when either trying to achieve grade level standards or challenging themselves with AB and Honors classes, just to name a few.

Those of you with students at Maywood know that last year the PTSA Council advocated for a community-wide look at the Middle School Experience. Parents, students and teachers were surveyed and a task force is currently looking at that feedback in great detail to guide academic programming related to middle schools. While the schedule change conversation was unsettling to most of us, it did provide us with an opportunity to hear that our schedule may not work well for all students at our school and also that there are areas where Liberty students may not be realizing their full potential. Personally, we like the block schedule. We also are pleased with the types of classes available for our students and the frequency at which they were offered. L.H.S., works well for our 4 children who range from sophomores to seniors. As PTSA Presidents, however, our job is to advocate for all students at Liberty, not just our own. Therefore, we are excited to be part of a process that will look at the high school experience for all Liberty students and combine that in a larger conversation with the experiences of families, students and staff at other high schools in the district.

Currently, the principals of Skyline, Issaquah, Tiger Mountain, PCFC and Mr. Deletis, together with Executive Director of High Schools, Patrick Murphy, are planning what that conversation will look like. It will

undoubtedly give parents an opportunity to weigh in through an on-line survey, but Mr. Deletis has also expressed an interest in face to face conversations with multiple groups of stakeholders to capture the thoughts that do not come through in an on-line survey. As soon as the process and timelines have been established, that will be conveyed to the community. There will be multiple access points for giving feedback and based on recent past experience, we know we can count on our community to give their thoughtful and diverse opinions- parents, staff and students alike!

As a PTSA (and major investor), we were delighted with the results of Challenge Days. Those of you, who took the time to participate, thank you. We found it to be a deeply rewarding day as we watched our students laugh together, cry together and discover their similarities as they "crossed the line" over and over again with students they never would have know they shared a commonality with. It is an experience that challenges students and adults alike to become more authentic and discover the joy that comes from being accepted for who you are. Over 200 Liberty students participated and most of them signed up for "Be the Change", a group which will focus on ways to keep the valuable lessons from Challenge Days alive in our school. If you would like more information, especially if your son or daughter participated but had a hard time describing it; go to www.challengeday.org to view a short but very informative video.

If you shop at Safeway but have not yet registered your Safeway card through e-script, please do. The money that the PTSA will receive from the shopping you do requires no extra investment on your part but will return considerable benefits to our students as we put that money to work in the classroom. For more information, please see the article in this newsletter. (Cont. on p3)

In This Issue

PTSA

Campus

Career Center

Sports

PTSA Officers

Co-President

Debra Rogers
425-271-8668

herogers@comcast.net

Robin Callahan
425-557-6663

robincallahan@comcast.net

425-681-6120

VP Volunteers

Pat Chakravarty

pachakra@comcast.net

425-271-0426

Secretary

Diane Christensen

Treasurer

Diana Ransier

Newsletter Editor

Carolyn Timm
(425) 392-3095

carolyntimm@comcast.net



PATRIOTS

OCTOBER 2008 PTSA MEETING

Principal's Report: Mike DeLetis presented focus and goals:

Make things better for students and classes with balanced electives, lower class size for 9th grade English and Algebra, striving for 32 students per class maximum for all classes, Present clear values and priorities with staff, including effects of decisions, common understanding and respectful change, Make informed educational values decisions with parents, students and staff through Site Council, parent focus groups, staff department chairs, PTSA and Booster Club meetings and student surveys, Discussion of reasons why values conversation with Liberty community important: enrollment projections, schedules, WASL and graduation requirements, district policies, state education funding issues

President's Report: Robin Callahan and Debra Rogers reported Wednesday PTSA meeting change due to conflict with Tuesday Scholarship night, PTSA Council report: desire information on communication via computer and newsletter, District Golden Acorn awards ceremony scheduled for March 24, 2009, at Liberty, Discussion meeting held with district high school administrator, Attended staff meeting (promoting PTSA membership) and principal meeting, Challenge Days report: Successful with approx. 60 students participating on 1st day and 125 students on 2nd day, propose future "circle of change" groups, hope to continue annually if funding available, "be the change" training for a selected parent and student

Treasurer's Report: Diana Ransier, Beginning September bank balance was \$24,837.24, Income of \$2,532 in Membership, \$125 in Donations-Matching Funds, \$3,481 in Freedom From Fundraising, and \$601.82 in Escrip; No expenses Ending September bank balance is \$31,577.06, 540 members total to date (60 short from last year's total), Membership goal is 1,175 members (100%), \$100 scholarship donated for staff membership use

Site Base Council: Nancy Julius reported on first meeting held with introductions, global education work, Liberty community education values discussion

Enrichment Grants: Robin Callahan reported two grant requests so far. Grant application deadline is November 10

Hospitality: Martha McCready reported that staff dinner and parent snacks provided on Curriculum night, plans to provide shelf-stable treats for November Senior interviews

Legislative: Mary Pat Maher reported on Legislative Assembly priorities: basic education funding, strengthen math and science, WA. State assessment of education improvements, support CORE 24 framework, and support teacher compensation, Everyone encouraged to vote in upcoming election

Issaquah Schools Foundation: Robin Callahan reported on Annual luncheon: Successful with \$324,000 raised, 2 Liberty tables, every school represented by a table

Escrip: Debra Rogers reported that receipts of \$728 collected and new sign-ups at local Union and Newcastle Safeway stores recently, Betsy Pendleton volunteered to chair Escrip

Reflections: Mary Pat Maher reported that theme is Wow!, school sign-ups out

Other: Discussion about student drinking and drugs, future special speakers

Next PTSA meeting change: Wednesday, 11/19/08, 7 PM, due to conflict with Tuesday, 11/18/08 Financial Aid night

PTSA

Due to a conflict, the meeting has been changed to Wednesday, November 19 (not November 18 as originally scheduled).

(President's cont.) Please watch e-news for upcoming information on speakers that the PTSA will be bringing in at your request. We are currently at 540 members, (46% of the students at L.H.S. are represented by a PTSA member). With a goal of 100% membership, it is not too late to join us. While our primary function is advocacy, we also raise critical funds for the students of Liberty High School. There are enrollment forms on-line at the Liberty website.

If your employer has a United Way campaign, please think about naming Liberty PTSA as a recipient. Even if we are not on the list, you can write us in on the line provided. Each year, the PTSA receives thousands of dollars through United Way designations, thank you. We look forward to working with you this year to help Liberty be all it can be, and to let the rest of the community see why we are so proud to be Liberty parents. Please don't hesitate to contact us throughout the year if we can be of any assistance.

Kind Regards,

Liberty PTSA Co-Presidents

Debra Rogers

herogers@comcast.net

phone...

Robin Callahan

Robin.callahan@comcast.net

425.681.6120

DIRECTORY UPDATE

If you did not pick up your student directory at curriculum night please check your student's backpack. If you forgot to sign up to get your copy contact PTSA Membership Chair Nancy Julius at njjul@comcast.net We still have a few directories left.

Data for the directory comes from information that you supply to the school through the registration process at the beginning of the school year. With over 1100 student forms to process it helps greatly to register as early as possible. To ensure more accurate information for next year's directory we are asking each family to check their listing in this year's directory and send an e-mail with any corrections to one of the Liberty Registrars, Leanne Riding, at rid-ingl@issaquah.wednet.edu OR Jackie Miller at MillerJ4@issaquah.wednet.edu

New Staff Additions are:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Dana Greenberg | Dean of Students (A-G) | (425) 837-4830 | greenbergd@issaquah.wednet.edu |
| Janai Carraway | Student Assistance Counselor | (425) 837-4852 | CarrawayJ@issaquah.wednet.edu |

Corrections are:

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Martha McCready | Hospitality Chair | (425) 391-2337 |
| 12 th grade, 15019 SE 138 th Place, Renton, WA. 98059, | Parents Scott and Diane Christensen | |
| 11 th grade, Parents Sue & Mike Terry | | |



HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE - JOIN PTA!

Did you know that joining the Liberty High PTSA:

- ❖ Supports PTSA sponsored programs, activities and school staff
 - ❖ Supports all Liberty students through Enrichment Grants
 - ❖ Gives power to the voice of your elected PTSA board of directors as they communicate with our school administrators, raise awareness of important issues that affect education and provides a communication link between parents and the school.
 - ❖ Supports and encourages the arts at Liberty and much, much more!
- >> Student Directories are distributed as a benefit of PTSA membership as follows:
- ❖ Each PTSA family membership receives 2 LHS student directories & individual memberships receive 1.
 - ❖ Additional directories may be purchased by members at a minimal cost. (SEE BELOW)

Student Directory information appears as it is in the school database. In accordance with the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) families have the right to OPT OUT of this Student Directory. To do so, check the appropriate box on the **NEW DISTRICT RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION FORM**. Families with more than one household are asked to contact the school directly to have that information included in the school database.

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Membership Information (Please Print Clearly): | LHS PTSA MEMBER |
| Member Name _____ | ___ New ___ Renewing |
| Second Member Name _____ | ___ New ___ Renewing |
| Student Name _____ | Grade _____ |
| Student Name _____ | Grade _____ |
| Address _____ | |
| City, State, Zip _____ | |
| Email Address _____ Phone _____ | |

Freedom From Fundraising (FFF) - This is our only fundraiser to support PTSA programs, LHS academic programs, and PTSA Enrichment grants at LHS. The Enrichment grant program gives the teachers an opportunity to make specific requests for needs in their classrooms, such as lab equipment, software, and books, which enhance our students learning environment. We try to grant as many requests as possible with available funds. We are requesting \$35/family but gratefully accept whatever you can donate. Your donation is tax deductible. Contact your employer to see if corporate matching funds are available and we will assist with that paperwork.

Gift Matching Employer Information:

| | |
|--|--|
| _____ Family membership: \$25 for 2 members- BEST VALUE!! > receives 2 student directories | \$ _____ |
| _____ Individual membership: \$15 > receives 1 student directory | \$ _____ |
| Additional Directories _____ # <small>Sold to PTSA members only.</small> | Total at \$3 each \$ _____ |
| Freedom From Fundraising (FFF) | Total FFF Donated (\$35 suggested) \$ _____ |

Total paid for: MEMBERSHIP / ADDITIONAL DIRECTORIES / FFF

Check # _____ **Payable to Liberty PTSA** **FINAL TOTAL AMOUNT** \$ _____

Please return at mail form and payment to: **Liberty PTSA**, Liberty P.O. Box 2633, Renton WA 98056
 PTSA information is available on LHS school websites at www.Liberty.issaquah.wednet.edu



HOLIDAY PROGRAM To Help Families In Need

If your family is in need of some extra assistance in terms of food, clothing and necessities, please contact your school nurse ASAP to obtain information on the Issaquah Food Bank Holiday Program. The Food Bank program fills up quickly so be sure to contact your school nurse immediately. School PTSA's desiring to participate in a "Caring through Sharing" program will receive their families to sponsor through the Issaquah Food Bank.

Karen Thies, RN
School Nurse
Liberty HS
425-837-4812

ALL-DISTRICT JAZZ CONCERT November 3, 2008

The Issaquah School District is proud to present the first All-District Jazz Concert featuring performances by Liberty, Skyline, and Issaquah High School Jazz Bands. Jazz Band is just one of several musical performance opportunities offered to the students in the Issaquah School District high schools. In addition to rehearsing with the jazz band, these students are extremely active in other ensembles including jazz combos, symphonic bands, marching band, pep-band, orchestras, small chamber ensembles, and groups outside of their respective school programs. These students are also involved in several other clubs and athletic activities throughout the school year. This is the first time all three jazz groups have performed in a concert together. The students are extremely excited about taking the stage at Jazz Alley for the first time. Cost is \$20.50.

If you want to include a reference to the www.jazzalley.com website that would be great.

Reservations can be made on www.jazzalley.com or by phone (206) 441-9729

Thanks,

PHIL DONLEY
Director of Bands
Liberty High School

HELP WANTED-VOLUNTEER (Clerical/Data Entry)

Ms. Santos, the choir teacher, is looking for 2-4 individuals willing to help catalogue the newly (re-organized choral library). This would entail entering information onto a log sheet (or directly into your laptop) from each title/music packet and then putting the data into an Excel spreadsheet where the information could then be managed/sorted in different ways. There are approximately 900-1000 different titles. If you do not have a laptop, data sheets could be taken home to enter. Otherwise, work would be done on-site. Work may be done during school hours or outside of school hours as arranged w/Ms. Santos. Please contact Ms. Santos at santosj@issaquah.wednet.edu or 206.595.4450.



Snohomish County Circle of Change

Imagine a world where every child feels safe, loved, and celebrated.

Save
the
Date!



For adults and student leaders who want to keep the Challenge Day spirit alive in their communities and schools.

[Nov. 7-9, 2008]

Next Step to Being the Change Community Workshop

Three Days
in Everett, WA
Friday, November 7
Saturday, November 8
Sunday, November 9
Cost: \$350

For more information go to:
www.challengeday.org
or contact
Teena Ellison
425-303-1185
teenacircleofchange@yahoo.com

BE THE CHANGE

Workshop description:

Our Next Step to Being the Change workshop is a highly experiential, education, and personal growth workshop that provides participants with the inspiration, hope, and compassion we all crave as humans. Originally designed for educators and students desiring to keep the spirit of Challenge Day alive in their schools, our Next Step to Being the Change workshop has become a powerful communication and connection tool for relationships of all kinds.

Our compassionate approach to ending social oppression in schools, families, and communities provides diverse groups of teens and adults with an undeniable first-hand experience of group safety and personal connection. By building on the insights and connections created in the room, the Next Step to Being the Change Workshop sets a powerful stage for participants to examine a new philosophy for stopping violence and social isolation at all levels. Introducing our simple three-step Formula for Change — Notice, Choose & Act, this workshop incorporates Challenge Day's group process and action-based model for socio-emotional learning education. Because we believe our role modeling is always our best teaching tool, our skilled facilitators powerfully share a wide range of life lessons and experiences that help create a backdrop for providing an in-depth analysis of the theory and practice behind Challenge Day.

By challenging participants to explore and heal their own experiences with social and internalized oppression in all areas of their life, the Next Step to Being the Change Workshop provides the insights and compassion participants need to truly Be The Change they wish to see in every area of their lives.

Participants must be able to attend all three days.

Program participants will:

- **Increase interpersonal communication skills that contribute to an emotionally safe environment.**
- **Foster effective partnerships with teens.**
- **Network with educators, counselors, parents, and others who want to change the way we treat and educate our children and ourselves.**
- **Increase empathy and compassion for teen issues.**
- **Support the emotional health of young people in such a way that they are encouraged to learn and grow.**
- **Explore deeply their own experience of stereotyping, gender separation and other forms of social oppression, and release the emotional blocks created by those experiences.**
- **Experience the honest expression of their own and others' emotions.**

Receive a program manual that includes games, activities, group skills, and classroom curricula that help in classroom facilitation and community building.

ESCRIP

An easy way to support Liberty students

Want an easy way to support the PTSA without writing a check? Register your Safeway Club Card on-line with eScrip.com and up to 4% of our collective purchases will be rebated to Liberty High School PTSA. All you have to do is visit www.escrip.com, and go to "sign-up". Once there, designate our group ID (8564120 / Liberty High School PTSA), complete the simple registration, and then the next time you shop a portion of what you spend will come to our school. (If you wish, you can also register other cards you use from participating merchants.)

This is also a great way for Grandparents, friends, and neighbors to help out the Liberty community. In September, you might have seen some PTSA volunteers working at the local Safeway stores to sign-up Friends of Liberty. Thanks to Pat Chakavarty, Mary Pat Maher, MaryAnn Dipasquale and Robin Callahan for manning our tables at Safeway and to Debra Rogers for registering those shoppers in the eScrip system, we have a good start in building our support. Please take a minute now to register your Safeway Club Card and then ask your neighbor to register also - the more people we have shopping for Liberty, the more funds we will have to provide programs for our students or to support our teachers!

LIBERTY HS DRIVER'S EDUCATION CLASS

This is a 9 week, 46 hour program including 36 classroom Periods, 6 behind-the-wheel sessions with 6 observation sessions.

- No weekend or evening classes
- Reasonable prices
- Hassle-free solution for parents and students
- A quality program

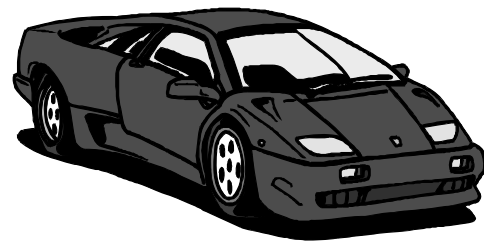
Classes are Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30.

Next Session is Nov 25th to Feb 10th.

Students can sign up with Mr. Thruelsen in Room 506

See Thruelsen's website (link from the Liberty Website) for application

http://www.liberty.issaquah.wednet.edu/Teachers/ThruelsenR/traffic_safety.htm



CAREER CENTER NEWS

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Students and parents are invited to **Financial Aid Night** on Tuesday, November 18 starting at 6:30 PM in the Liberty auditorium. A financial expert with Ameriprise Financial will discuss the Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA), loans, savings plans, tax and gifting strategies and more! This presentation lasts about one hour and will provide you with valuable tips for completing the FAFSA in January.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities provide many benefits, and not just for the community you are assisting. Students who volunteer, especially for an organization or cause they truly believe in can:

Explore different career fields

Gain valuable contacts for future job or internship opportunities

Highlight this positive accomplishment on college applications

Explore related scholarship opportunities

Learn new skills or enhance skills in an area of interest

The Career Center posts volunteer opportunities and has community service forms to use in recording hours. Check the bulletin board outside the Career Center and the Liberty website for current openings!

2009 GRAD NITE NEWS!

Tickets are now available at \$175 per person through Dec 31st. The prices will rise incrementally; \$190 from Jan 1st through April 15th to \$225 if purchased after April 15th so grab them as early as you can. Scholarships and partial scholarship are available. Contact your school counselor.

Visit the liberty website @ www.liberty.issaquah.wednet.edu and click on Senior Information for the latest Grad night info:

- [Ticket sales](#)
- [Parent permission form](#)
- [Headband fundraiser](#)
- [Senior Portraits fundraiser with Dean Wallace Photography](#)
- Patriot Superfan Capes
- Liberty Patriot Umbrellas

FUNDRAISING PRODUCT LIST

Contact: cherylericksen@hotmail.com for questions and further info.

WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION

BEGINS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD.

All athletes who will be turning out for a winter sport – Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Girls' Gymnastics, Boys' Swim & Dive, and Wrestling: Be sure to pick up a registration packet from the Liberty Athletic Office now, or you can download one from the Liberty sports website: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/sports/eligibility.aspx>. This registration packet **MUST be completed for all athletes turning out for a winter sport**, even if you are currently registered for a fall sport. These packets will be accepted by the ASB Bookkeeper and Athletic Secretary beginning Monday, Nov. 3rd. Don't wait until the last minute! If you need to get the required sports physical, get it taken care of now! You cannot turn out for a sport until you have completed all of the registration requirements. See Mrs. Lorbeski in the Athletic Office if you have any questions, or call the Athletic Office at 425-837-4806.

THANK YOU

To the fabulous volunteers that helped on picture day and retake day. They were-Laurel Craig and her fantastic crew; Kirsten Solly, Ide Woo, Val Willis and Helen Kessler. To Martha McCready and to all of the volunteers brought food and helped with the Curriculum night refreshments for parents while also providing the staff with supper.

SUPERINTENDENT VISIT

Superintendent Steve Rasmussen is coming to a location near you to chat! Superintendent Coffees—opportunities for any community member to come speak informally with Dr. Rasmussen about education—have been scheduled for the 2008-09 school year:

—3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, in room 401 at [Liberty High School](#).

—5:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 6, in the “new” commons at [Issaquah High School](#).

—7:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, in portable 6 at [Skyline High School](#).

—11 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the [Administration Building](#).