



Liberty Link



Nov.-Dec. 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving. This is my favorite holiday of the year. It doesn't include the stress of gift buying, the co-opting by Hallmark; it is simply a day to pause and reflect on the many things that we are thankful for. When I look at our Liberty Community, I feel so incredibly grateful.

I had the pleasure of sitting in on senior interviews last week. Senior Parents, hats off to you- what a fantastic group of students you've raised! They are thoughtful, articulate and impressive in their accomplishments. They have given thousands of hours of community service, challenged themselves to excel in a myriad of activities while working to maintain the grades to pursue the future of their choosing.

I am also grateful for the generosity of those who joined the PTSA this year. Because of your donations through Freedom from Fundraising, the PTSA has just completed their fall grant cycle to enrich learning opportunities in the classroom. They include:

- a grant to Mr. Buchli to purchase a heart rate monitor, a respirometer, accelerometers, GPS position sensors, & vests that will be used in data acquisition during rides at Silverwood Amusement Park. These tools will enable Physics and Honors Physics students to evaluate predictions of acceleration as well as physiological changes (like heart rate and breathing rate) experienced on different rides along with collecting multiple trials of kinematics data to be analyzed in the classroom;
- a grant to Mrs. Klekas to assist in purchasing a new light board for the auditorium which will be used for all of the Drama productions as well as the talent show, guest speakers, awards ceremonies, and a variety of other activities and presentations throughout the year. It is also used during classes that are taught on the stage including Public Speaking, Drama, and

some English classes;

- a grant to Mrs. Dalpez to purchase portable, hard-shell cases for storage and transportation of new cellos and 3 new bass chairs which are essential for our bass players to be stable (the old stools can pitch backwards);
- a grant to Ms. Vogel to purchase a digital camera and the software and accessories needed to print the photos for the LRC2 classroom. Several times a week the students go on field trips into the community to learn more about their community as well as how to access services and the social skills needed for public places. When they return from their field trip they will be required to write about their recent adventure using current and new vocabulary. The increase in their reading and writing skills will improve the overall WASL score for the entire school.

There will be another round of grants funded in February and again at the end of the school year to ensure all the money you donated is put to work on behalf of our students.

I am grateful for our dedicated and hardworking staff who have made their life's work, the molding and shaping of young lives and minds. I am grateful for the many coaches and other advisors who daily encourage our students to reach for their best and give many of them a reason to stay in school and a way to feel connected. I am grateful for the leadership at Liberty that encourages all of us to set the bar higher and not settle for less than the best while not losing sight of the needs of all students, not just those with vocal advocates. With all the turmoil at the present time, I remind my children (and myself) that it is important to not lose sight of the many gifts we sometimes take for granted, our Liberty Community is one of those.

Sincerely, Robin Callahan, Debra Rogers, Co-Presidents

In This Issue

PTSA

Campus

Career Center

Booster

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

patchakra@comcast.net
425-271-0426

Secretary

Diane Christensen

Treasurer

Diana Ransier

Newsletter Editor

Carolyn Timm
(425) 392-3095

carolyntimm@comcast.net



PATRIOTS

NOVEMBER 2008 PTSA MEETING

Parent Education: Brenda Atkins and Whitney Richardson from Sylvan presented information on PSAT/SAT/ACT, student learning styles, and college preparation.

Enrichment Grants: Presentation and approval of \$5,446.23 for physics equipment, resource camera, drama/music lightboard, and orchestra cello cases and chairs.

Principal's Report: Mike DeLetis announced upcoming parent survey for feedback on summer registration and Patriot Days. District and school status report also coming to update community on what has happened since Superintendent's schedule letter. Work being done to improve school parking lot lighting at night.

President's Report: Robin Callahan reported WSPTA Bronze level award received for enrolling 50% of previous year's membership by end of September.

Wednesday PTSA meeting change due to conflict with Tues. Financial Aid night. New school board member Chad Magendanz is local area resident.

Boundary review process continuing to Superintendent and School Board for final decision, expecting no changes for Liberty. Bond & levy springboard proposal coming, with need for Liberty person on

Committee. District pilot program on writing curriculum for high schools proposed. Future open enrollment for Liberty.

School fotozoomer bought and in use for producing sports, weight room, drama, and other banners and posters. Legislative roundtable meeting on November 20 with local legislators.

Parents, Teens, and Law seminar at Liberty on February 23. Membership approved presenting "Parents Who Host Lose The Most" program from Drug-

Free Action Alliance at seminar.

Treasurer's Report: Diana Ransier

Beginning October bank balance was \$31,577.06. Income of \$397 in Membership, \$35 in Donations-Matching Funds, \$432 in

Freedom From Fundraising, \$36 in Issaquah Press, \$90.50 in United Way, and \$188.66 in Escrip.

Expenses of \$850.58 in Phone Directory, \$235 in Council Assessment, \$200 in District Parent Education, \$3,354 in State & National PTA Dues, \$210 in Conventions-

Workshops (Legislative Assembly, PTA & Law), and \$3,000 in Challenge Day Program Ending October bank balance is \$24,906.64.

552 members total to date (33 more in October).

\$100 scholarship donated for staff membership use. (CONT on Pg 3).

Liberty Parents Chat with the Superintendent

About 12 Liberty parents took the opportunity to chat with Superintendent Dr. Steve Rasmussen over coffee last Thursday November 13th at Liberty. Maryann DiPasquale and Nancy Julius make the following report about what they heard.

It was a lively 90 minute meeting with parents posing a myriad of questions. Also in attendance was the newest member of the School Board Chad Magendanz. (Chad lives in Mirrormont, giving us 2 liberty-attendance area parents on the school board). Dr. Rasmussen explained his 'good, not great' comment that he had used previously as a reference to a book "Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap ...and Others Don't" that is about how good can make some organizations complacent about achieving greatness. It was also in regards to Liberty consistently scoring 20 to 30 percent lower than the other district high schools in science and slightly lower in math.

We believe from his comments that he is open to looking at all schedule possibilities, including perhaps a hybrid of some subjects being taught everyday and others on an A/B day basis. He is letting this be a committee decision-making process and is also looking into what other things might be affecting the performance gap. We think he truly got the message that major changes need to have the buy in of the school community.

Liberty parent, Alesa Trager, spoke about one benefit of the A/B schedule over the 6 class day. Her son already had 25 UW credits when he graduated from Liberty last June because he took advantage of programs unique to Liberty because of the flexibility of the block schedule. The superintendent also explained how only 2% of the school district budget is discretionary and 98% goes to salaries, building operations and other set operating expenses.

The Superintendent said that it was possible when the review was over that the committee recommends all of the high schools change to A/B days. He is looking to see where that 2% of the budget might be best spent. Parents gave several suggestions.

PTSA Minutes: Cont. There was also some discussion about the ratio of 400+ students to each school counselor not being sufficient to meet student needs, especially in addressing academic needs of borderline but not failing students. Other subjects discussed were new construction (on schedule, the old Briarwood will be razed after the new building is built next to it.) and what changes may be coming to the WASL given the new Superintendent of Public Instruction. And that's **oHospitality:** Martha McCready reported snacks provided for Senior Interview adults.

EScrip: Betsy Pendleton reported that Target sign-ups & on-line mall available.

Issaquah Schools Foundation: Robin Callahan reported grant applications available.

8% Amazon purchases towards ISF if you go through ISF website.

Reflections: 4 entries from Liberty, judging on December 4

No PTSA meeting in December

ur report. Maryann & Nancy



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 _____ #	Total at \$3 each \$ _____
Sold to PTSA members only.	
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



TARGET SUPPORTS EDUCATION

Do you have a Target Visa or Target Guest Card (r)? Call Target at 1-800-316-6142 to designate Liberty High School (ID #105678) as your school of choice. Target will donate 1% of Target purchases charged to their card to Liberty High School and when you use your Target Visa anywhere else, Target will donate 1/2% of total purchases. Currently, there are 44 people who have designated Liberty to earn from their purchases which resulted in \$182 being earned by the school in September. Please call today to help our school!

Online Shopping Is Rewarding!

Do you plan to do some on-line shopping over the holidays? If so, start your shopping at www.shopping.escrip.com and you can earn money for Liberty High School PTSA just by shopping at your favorite stores. There are over 1,000 companies (including Amazon.com, Barnes and Nobel, Nordstorm, 1-800-Flowers, and Harry and David) that provide a percentage of your shopping back to the PTSA as long as you enter through the eScrip online mall even if the credit card you are using is not does not registered with eScrip.

Worried you'll forget to start your shopping at the eScrip online mall? If you use a PC, you can download the "AutoEARN" program from the eScrip online mall which will automatically capture your purchases for most merchants. When you shop at an eScrip vendor online, a box will appear that shows how much you are earning for the PTSA. (Note that Amazon.com does not utilize the AutoEARN program.)

While you're checking out the online mall, don't forget to register your Safeway Club Card on-line with eScrip.com.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

THE PTSA Hospitality Committee [which is me and a small cadre of generous souls] provided a light continental breakfast for community volunteers who conducted mock job interviews for all LHS seniors on November 5th and 12th. Liberty High School's awesome career specialist, Susan Fesser, ably assisted by Kathy Jones & Susan Meeks, had the event beautifully organized. All I had to do was show up with some banana bread and take bows. Thanks to PTSA members Diane Christiansen, Carolyn Kine and Robin Callahan for bringing pumpkin bread, goodies, juice, fruit, etc., and assisting with set up. Carolyn, intrepid and energetic soul that she is, brought baked goods both mornings that were still warm!!! Susan Meeks, always our go-to gal when something doesn't work out quite right, stopped on her way in and grabbed some extra orange juice and fruit. And let's not forget Debby Getty, manager of the Renton Highlands McDonalds, who keeps us supplied with lidded coffee cups, coffee, and other service stuff.

In appreciation,

Martha McCready
Hospitality Chair

LIBERTY STUDENTS HELP OUT



Liberty students teach youth how to say “No”

Sometimes it’s hard to say “no,” especially when it’s one of your friends. At the final session of *Guiding Good Choices*, a Best Practice parenting series taught by Friends of Youth staff Phoebe Terhaar and Dawn Dugan, Issaquah School district parents and their children ages 9-14 learned how to practice refusal skills and keep their friends, too.

Liberty students were invited to participate through Delores Leber, faculty for the Teaching Academy program, due to their interest in the teaching field, and also because of their ability to interact well with youth.

Teens, as it turns out, are quite effective trainers - they bring a unique energy and enthusiasm to their teaching, speak the language of their peers, serve as role models to young people, and provide a fresh perspective on current issues. When schools provide pro-social opportunities for involvement such as this, teen peer educators develop leadership and training skills that benefit them as well as the students in their audience.

“Younger kids need someone to look up to. Contrary to what some people think, not all teens are using drugs, and what better group to deliver this message than High School students themselves,” says Terhaar. The feedback from parents and youth was that they really enjoyed having the teens as part of the class. This is a win-win for everyone, and we’ll definitely want to include teens again next year as part of the program.

The free *Guiding Good Choices* program funded by King County Alcohol and other Drug Prevention Program and Greater Issaquah Youth and Family Network will be offered again next October at Liberty High School.

For more information about this program, contact Phoebe. phoebe@friendsofyouth.org

SCHOOL NURSE NOTES

The last day to register for the Holiday Program with the Food Bank is December 4. Please call the school nurse at 425-837-4812 if you need more information.

Lots of sick kids with viruses are coming through the health room. The best defense against a virus is good hand washing. Use soap and water and rub your hands thoroughly together for 20 seconds to create friction. Other tips to stay healthy include drink lots of fluids, get plenty of rest every night and eat a well-balanced diet.

CAREER CENTER NEWS

Financial Aid Reminder!

Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in January. You can complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or use a paper form. Financial aid offices use information from the FAFSA to determine if you are eligible to receive federal student aid from grants, loans, and work-study programs. States and schools also use the information from the FAFSA to determine if you qualify for additional aid. It's advisable to fill out a FAFSA even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

If you will be filing electronically, you can apply for a PIN (Personal Identification Number) now and download a pre-application worksheet so that you have a paper copy to use as a guide. **It is recommended that you complete the form online as soon as possible after January 1** because the "free" financial aid is given away quickly by colleges. Online is the fastest way to submit information and reduces the chance for errors.

Looking for an early start on the financial aid process? You can use FAFSA4caster to learn about the financial aid process and get an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid. How do you access FAFSA4caster? Go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov or www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Some private colleges also require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, a supplementary financial aid form, which can be submitted online by going to www.collegeboard.com.

College Planning Night

January 13, 2009 at 6:30 PM in the Liberty Auditorium

Students and their parents are invited to attend College Planning Night on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 PM in the Liberty auditorium. This presentation will focus on the college admission process, pre-college requirements, and financial aid. This informational event is intended to answer your questions and provide parents with some tips on how best to help their student plan for life after high school.

BOOSTER CLUB

ARE YOU A BOOSTER MEMBER YET?

We know that the change in this year's registration process - online vs. Patriot Days - may not have given you the opportunity you're used to "to get it ALL done." Or, maybe your kid isn't in any sports/activities until Spring and you just don't think about it until the coach brings it up or, it's something you've been meaning to do but life has just gotten in the way.... **GUESS WHAT?!** You can still sign up to be a Booster member and help support Liberty's student body.

NOT SURE ABOUT WHO & WHAT WE ARE? The LHS Booster Club is an organization comprised of parents, community members and volunteers dedicated to providing excellence in Liberty's educational opportunities as well as extracurricular activities. The Boosters donate time and financial aid to help support worthwhile programs at Liberty High School. Our goals are to:

- Provide funding to support educational/extracurricular programs
- Be an advocate for Liberty High School students

HOW DO WE PROVIDE FUNDING? Membership (\$25), Merchandise Sales, Concessions, Employer Matching Funds, LHS Auction and ongoing fundraisers activities.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR STUDENT'S CLUB, PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY?

JOIN. Become a Booster member and join a parent organization that advocates for students.

VOLUNTEER. Your time, talent and/or resources are valuable to our school body.

BE INVOLVED. Help us help students to increase academic success, promote school spirit and provide support to Liberty's educational and school-sponsored activities and programs.

Parents with a student at LHS are encouraged to join the Booster Club. By becoming a member you can help make a difference in the students' experience here at Liberty.

Membership is only \$25. You can access a membership form through the LHS website by clicking on Booster Club.

Also, all coaches, advisors/staff of Liberty's programs should have a supply of membership forms.

Please help us provide and promote quality high school experiences for the students at LHS. Our students are counting on your support!

BECAUSE WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT...

The LHS Booster Club will have a monthly drawing for members in appreciation of the support we've received so far. THANKS! WE APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU! The first drawing will be held December 10th. All members will be entered to win. Our first gift will be your choice: an LHS themed basket filled with Patriot goodies, or a basket filled with wonderfully things to keep you warm in the chilly weather: Starbucks coffee, hot cocoa, tasty treats.....yum!

WHAT'S NEW WITH BOOSTERS?

Checkout the Liberty gear available online. Visit Liberty's official online store today for exclusive Patriot gear! Hundreds of products including t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, jackets and polos for men, women and kids. Choose a design and customize with your name and number. Show your school spirit and order today.

Fieldhouse.com/libertyhighschoolboosters A great place to shop for the holidays!

Thanks everyone for helping and supporting Booster activities.

Vanessa McDonald

LIBERTY HS DRIVER'S EDUCATION CLASS

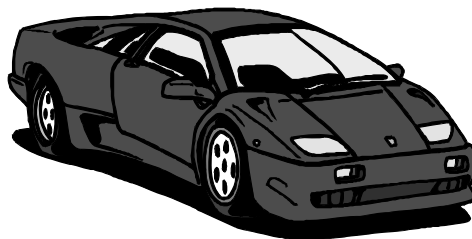
This is a 9 week, 46 hour program including 36 classroom
Periods, 6 behind-the-wheel sessions with 6 observation sessions.

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. There are a few seats left.

Third Session – Feb 19th to April 28th (no classes during the breaks)

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

Phone (425) 837-4916. Hurry! The class fills up quickly. First come, first served.

\$100 will reserve a space in the class. Course fee: \$425. Payments can be arranged.

(There may be a tuition increase coming due to gasoline price increases).

GRAD NIGHT 2010 COMMITTEE FORMING

If there are any junior parents who would like to participate in planning for the graduating class of 2010 please e-mail Vanessa MacDonald at or Sabrina Carlson at GradNight.2010@gmail.com. (*Please note the period between Grad Night and 2010! It's kind of hard to see!)