

Largo High PTSA[®]

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December 2016
Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 3



President's Letter



As first semester comes to an end, your Largo High PTSA board took some time to reflect on the goals that we set, and evaluate what we need to do to continue to reach them. As we reviewed our programs and activities, we realized we had accomplished quite a bit in such a short time. We were encouraged and energized by the successes we have had; however, we are not doing it alone. It has taken your support, your help, and your dedication to make it all happen. Thank you!

I am "PTA Proud" of what we have done so far, this year. Our programs and activities have been educational, informative, and supportive. I would like to share with you a recap of some of what we have accomplished together. We brought an Internet and Cyber Concerns program to both our parents and students. With your help, we provided food for those in need in our community. We showed appreciation and support to our LHS faculty and staff with a luncheon in October, with assistance from our community partners. Our advocacy efforts included inviting a speaker to come and share information about the Referendum, distributing flyers with information on ESSA

and the Referendum, and holding an open dialogue through an interactive program to discuss the needs of our students, parents, and staff here at LHS. We met with students to discuss their leadership roles within PTA, and to provide them with opportunities for community service/volunteer hours. During the school district's Bridging the Gap program, we proudly served as the welcome committee. We worked with Ms. Borasio, Volunteer Coordinator at LHS, to obtain speakers for the Great American Teach-In. We also assisted her with facilitating on the day of the event. Our membership drive has been successful in that we can celebrate an increase in membership over last year, with 100% of our Plant Operators and 100% of our Administrators joining. Three school board members joined our PTA, as well as our Superintendent, Dr. Grego!

Looking ahead, we have another Panda Express Spirit Day coming up on December 14th! Our first one was such fun that we decided to do another. While Panda Express is allowing us to get credit all day, from 10am-10pm (whether you eat in or drive thru), your PTSA board will be there from 4-9pm to hold Family Engagement activities and drawings for door prizes. As this is an exam day, this may work perfectly for hungry scholars after exams in the afternoon too!

I want to thank you for joining us on this journey. We have so much more we are looking forward to doing in the next half of

the year. We will be welcoming our faculty and staff back, and helping to kick off second semester on Wednesday, January 4th, with treats from Panera just for them! Our partners at Regions Bank will be out on January 17th to hold a Financial Literacy program for students and parents (more details below). Lastly, we will be the co-host of a Pinellas County Council PTA (PCCPTA) Meet Your Legislator program in early February. There's more to come!

Please continue to show your support for your Largo High PTSA by coming to our programs and events, inviting your friends and family to attend, becoming a member of our PTA, and/or sending in a monetary donation. If you can volunteer with us, please email ptsalargohigh@gmail.com and let us know you are interested. We have several areas where you can serve. It can be a one-time event, or a reoccurring position. We will work with your availability. Anyone can serve with us...parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, students, community members...ALL are welcome!

Good luck to our scholars as they take their exams this week! I hope everyone enjoys their winter break. Treasure your family time and have a wonderful holiday season!

Michelle Alfred
Largo High PTSA | President
Strong Bonds...Bright Futures

Packers Caring for the Community!



Congratulations to the **Spanish Honor Society** and the **Florida Future Educators!** They collected the most cans and non-perishable items for the RCS Food Drive last month.



Thank you to *Your Pizza Shop* for your generosity in helping provide the pizza party reward to these students!

Upcoming Dates

- December**
 - 14th 10am-10pm Panda Express Spirit Day!
 - 19th - Jan 2nd - Pinellas County Schools closed for students
- January**
 - 3rd - Schools reopen for students
 - 17th - PTSA Meeting & Financial Literacy Program (Hospitality 6:15)
- February**
 - 1-28th PTSA Trivia Contest
 - 28th - PTSA Meeting and Free Your Mind: Mental Health Awareness Program (Hospitality 6:15)
- March**
 - "It's a Wonderful World" Environmental Program, Part II
- April**
 - PTSA Meeting and Planning your Future Program (TBD)
- May**
 - 1-5th Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
 - 2nd Teacher Appreciation Day



www.Photographybyzee.com Facebook: @Zeephography

Thank you to our Student Volunteer, Z'Vante (Zee), for taking pictures during the Great American Teach-In!

Thank you, Kristen Bui, and Mai-Linh Johnson (student) for helping us share PTA information during the Basketball games.

Florida PTA Scholarship Program

Florida PTA is pleased to offer a total of four (4) scholarships, one each in the following categories: University, Fine Arts, Community College, and Vo-Tech, to a student graduating in the 2016-2017 school year. This is a one time (non-renewable) award of \$2,000.00 and will be awarded to a worthy student who is interested in getting a start in life through higher education.

This award is specifically for a student who wishes to pursue their education at a University, Fine Arts School, Community College, or Vo-Tech.

Requirements for each student to apply for this scholarship include:

1. Be a member of their high school's PTA/PTSA. ([Membership Form](#))
2. Graduate from a Florida High School in the 2016-2017 school year.
3. Be a resident of the state of Florida.
4. Plan to continue their education in the 2017-2018 school year in the at a University, Fine Arts, State College or Vo-Tech.
5. Fully complete the application and submit letters of recommendation, an essay, and copies of their official sealed high school transcript, ACT and/or SAT scores.



Note: Deadline for all applications is February 1, 2017. All applications MUST be postmarked by that date to be considered. Go to the [Florida PTA Scholarship Page](#) for more information and for the application.

You can also see Ms. Chévere in room 2-202
for a Largo High PTSA Membership Form and Florida PTA Scholarship Application!

PTA VISION

Making Every Child's Potential a Reality!

PTA MISSION

To Be A Powerful Voice For ALL CHILDREN

To Be A Relevant Resource For Families & Communities

To Be A Strong Advocate For The Education & Well-Being Of Every Child

Florida
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]

LHS PTSA Environmental Program - “It’s a Wonderful World”

December is Part 1 of our “It’s a Wonderful World” Environmental Program. Look in your hallways for posters with tips on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle! Here are a few links you can check out for Friends of the Environment Information/Tips:

[Pinellas County Recycling Directory](#)

[Christmas Tree Recycling](#)

[Going Green Tips](#)

[School Recycling Information](#)

[Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)

Check out our Facebook Page
for more on our
“It’s a Wonderful World”
Program!

Watch for Part II coming in
March 2017!



Are you a
STUDENT LEADER?

Attention Packer Students: Are you a leader, do you like for your voice to be heard, interested in learning how to advocate for you – your friends – your school, would you like to learn leadership skills, like sharing great ideas, do you need to earn some volunteer hours? If so, your LHS PTSA has the position for you. We are looking for Student Representatives to be on our LHS PTSA board. If you are interested, please contact us at ptsalargohigh@gmail.com.

STEP UP YOUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS!

Join the other 300,000 in Florida by making your voice count! Sign up for the Florida PTA’s Take Action Network alerts to learn more about legislative issues affecting families, schools, and communities. By signing up for these legislative alerts, you will also stay informed on the latest updates from Tallahassee. You must renew annually. Sign up by visiting [Florida PTA Voter’s Voice](#).



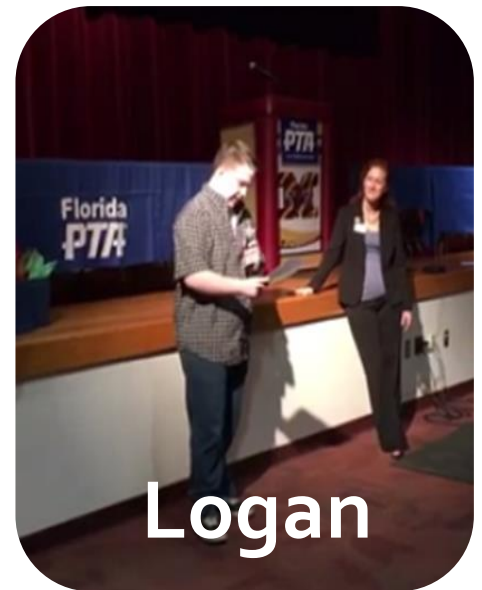
Florida PTA All Children Summit



PTA PROUD – Four of your LHS PTSA board members (including one student) received a grant from the Florida PTA to attend the *All Children Are Our Children State Summit* on Saturday, December 3rd. The summit took

place at Middleton High School in Tampa. Other PTAs/PTSAs from around the state were present. We heard from representatives of the Pinellas County Schools HEAT group (Homeless Education and Assistance Team); a panel of speakers discussing the Juvenile Justice system; Zackary Gibson (Chief Child Advocate and Director of the Office of Adoption and Child Protection for the State of Florida); a representative from

the Guardian Ad Litem program; and we ran into some friends – BACA (Bikers Against Child Abuse). The summit included information from National PTA on ESSA and some hands-on projects involving Direct File and Civil Citations. Our student representative, Logan, was the speaker for one of these projects. Be sure to visit our [Largo High PTSA Facebook Page](#) and listen to his wonderful presentation.



Logan



Yum and Funds

Your LHS PTSA is promoting Family Engagement! Please join us Wednesday, December 14th! Be sure to show or bring this flyer to the event. LHS PTSA will receive credit all day from 10am – 10pm, with Drive-Thru Orders, Dine-In Orders, Take-Out Orders and Catering! PTSA board members and their families will be at this event to have dinner with your families from 4-9pm. We will have games, drawings, and winners for some Panda Pails, gift cards, and more!



JOIN LARGO HIGH PTSA!

When

**Wednesday, December 14, 2016
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM**

At This Panda Location

**Panda Express
2200 East Bay Drive
Largo, FL 33771
P.7275590375**

Participating guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (hard copy or smart phone) with each order to receive credit for the fundraiser.



Support Largo High PTSA by shopping at AmazonSmile.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Largo High PTSA. Support us every time you shop.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

Help us, while you shop!
If you shop online at Amazon for your holiday gifts, use this link to help Largo High PTSA!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3384977>



Financial Literacy Program - January 17th

Make plans to join us for our next program! We will have two programs at the same time; one for students and one for adults. Regions Bank has generously donated a bike to our PTSA! We will be holding a drawing for PCS students to enter to win the bike! See the flyer below for more details. Everyone is welcome to attend!



TUESDAY, JAN 17TH FINANCIAL LITERACY

Everyone is invited to attend this informative program!

Join us for a seminar designed to set you up for financial success presented by Financial Wellness experts from Regions Bank. We will be holding two programs at the same time for both students and adults. The student presentation will cover practical, day-to-day financial fundamentals that are designed to help them gain more control over their money. Students will learn banking basics, how to develop a personal spending plan and understand how to position themselves for a successful financial experience. A separate program, held at the same time, will help adults take their next financial steps with confidence. Adults will learn how to reach their long term financial goals and plan for unexpected events. Both groups will be able to ask questions and get assistance with their important financial decisions during the Q&A at the close of the seminar.



Regions Bank has donated an Old School Style Beach Cruiser bike to our PTSA! Every student that attends this seminar will be given an opportunity to enter a drawing to win the bike. Drawing will be held after the program. One entry per student. Student must be present to win.

PTSA Meeting
Tuesday, Jan 17th
6:30pm
Research Center

Students!
Set yourself up for success! Learn the basics of making smart financial decisions.

Adults!
Empower yourself financially! Learn to take your next financial steps with confidence.

Light Refreshments will be served

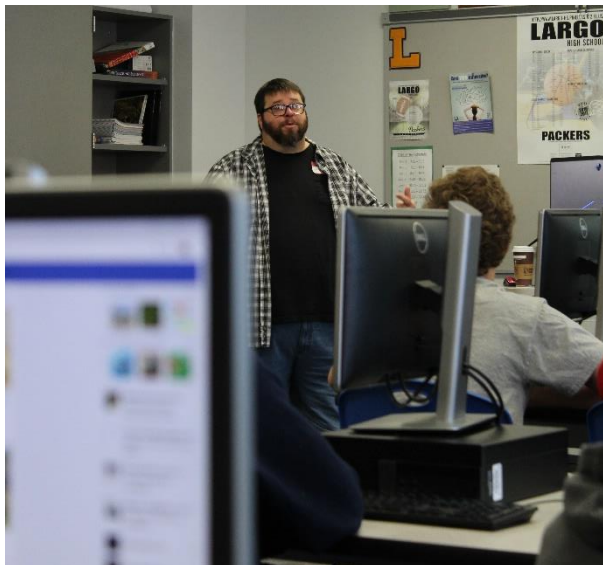
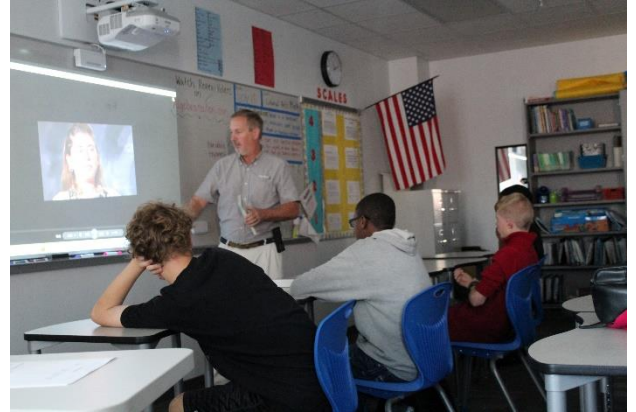
LARGO HIGH PTSA
410 MISSOURI AVENUE
LARGO, 33770

For more information:
ptسالargohigh@gmail.com



Great American Teach In

The Great American Teach In, held on November 16th, provided an awesome opportunity to bring in individuals and outside organizations to educate and inform our scholars on career opportunities, life skills, history, and personal development. Participants were invited to come out and share their work experience, hobbies, and personal interests. Your LHS PTSA enjoyed the task of helping to recruit speakers and working with Ms. Borasio, LHS Volunteer Coordinator! Below are just a few pictures from that day.



2016-2017 Executive Board

President, Michelle Alfred
 Vice President, Kelly Violante
 Secretary, Brenda Chévere
 Treasurer, Debbie Stotts
 Membership Chair, Anjanette Ellwood
 Advocacy/Legislative Chair, Keith Sargent
 Hospitality Chair, Melanie Litchy
 Teacher Liaison, Brenda Brunelle
 Teacher Liaison, Laura Whitfield
 Student Representative, Logan Brawner
 Administrative Representative, Jon Marina
 Principal, Brad Finkbiner, Ed.D
 Committee Chair
 Newsletter, Maria Black

Shout out to our 100th
 Facebook Follower...

JACEY VELAZQUEZ!

Be sure to 'like and follow us' on Facebook
 @ptsalargohigh.

Follow us this month for our
 "It's a Wonderful World" Program and
 environmental tips.



**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DEPENDABLE VOLUNTEERS!
 LHS PTSA COULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT YOUR
 RELIABILITY, YOUR GENEROSITY, AND YOUR KINDNESS!**

Largo High PTSA
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 Volume 1 Issue 3
 Newsletter Chair, Maria Black
 President, Michelle Alfred



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