

Largo High

PTSA[®]

everychild. one voice.[®]

January 2017 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4



President's Letter



...and it's second semester! Just like that. I'm always amazed at how quickly time goes, yet it happens every year. Blink, and it's the holidays again. Well, not quite yet. Time does move quickly, so I hope everyone enjoyed their winter break and spent time doing things you love; with those you love.

I'm looking forward to the next half of the year with much excitement! Your PTA has "kicked things up a notch" by planning a variety of quality programs. Please read through this entire newsletter and mark your calendars! We also post updates on our [Facebook page](#) so like and follow us. If you don't have Facebook, you can always go to the [Web page](#) that Ms. Howard created and updates for us regularly. Ms. Howard also sends our flyers and newsletters via email, through a program called Peachjar. Please follow the [Peachjar](#) link to register for PCS Flyers and more. (Thank you Ms. Howard!)

Our program for this month will be Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30pm on Financial Literacy, sponsored by Regions Bank. Regions has a comprehensive program for students covering banking basics, budgeting, and how to be successful financially with good decision making. They will also present a program at the same time for adults. The adult program focuses on developing good saving habits, planning for medium/long term savings goals, and tips on paying for college. At the close of the program, we will be giving every LHS student an opportunity to enter a drawing to win an Old-School Style Beach Cruiser Regions Bike. *They must stay to the end of the program to enter.* Please join us, and feel free to invite others. We believe this is a great opportunity to learn more about an important life skill.

Another way you can help prepare our students for life is through mentoring. January is National Mentoring Month. Two of your LHS PTSA board members currently mentor students at LHS and they love it! If you are interested, email ptsalargohigh@gmail.com, and we'll be

glad to tell you more. You can also contact Ms. Borasio, LHS Volunteer Coordinator, borasiom@pcsb.org, or Michelle Roberge, District Volunteer Coordinator, robergem@pcsb.org for more information.

PTSA has a fun, friendly contest going on from now until Jan 31st called "Viva la PTSA!". It is a challenge to all our current members to try and help us increase our memberships by asking others to join our PTSA. The contest form and details are below.

And finally, we are PTA PROUD of our young artists that submitted entries in the Reflections program. Three of our students have been selected to move from the county to the state level. It is very exciting for them and for us! Thank you for supporting your LHS PTSA! We are working hard to build bridges and encourage engagement between home, school, and the community.

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

Important Dates

January

- 17th PTSA Meeting and Literacy Program (Hospitality 6:15)
- 10-31 - Members Challenge Contest "Viva la PTSA!"
- National Mentoring Month
- 17-26 - "Bears to Build" Fundraiser

February

- TBA - Meet Your Legislator - Senator Jeff Brandes
- 28th PTSA Meeting and Free Your Mind: Mental Health Awareness Program (Hospitality 6:15)
- "Show the Love" - New socks and underwear drive for Clothes to Kids. (all month long)

March

- TBD "It's a Wonderful World" Environmental Program - Part II
- "First Night Bags" Collection for kids being placed in foster care. More details to come.

April

- TBD - PTSA Meeting & Planning Your Future Program

May

- 1-5th Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- 2nd Teacher Appreciation Day



PTA[®]
 MAKING A DIFFERENCE
 ONE MEMBER AT A TIME!



Member Spotlight

100% of our
 Guidance
 Counselors
 are now
 LHS PTSA
 members!

A Note from Ms. Brunelle, LHS PTSA Teacher Liaison...

I joined the PTSA as a Teacher Liaison because I wanted to be a part of a collaborative group. I soon realized that this is certainly true with this organization. There are meetings, educational programs, events, a bit of fundraising, and county and state meetings. All are related to the good of the school and the students!

It has been wonderful to meet parents and students from Largo High School whom I generally would not interact with. Everyone accepts responsibilities and it just amazes me how much these members do. Right now, I am in last place trying to keep up with them, the events, programs, and all my curricular work, but my hope is for more parents, students, and faculty involvement as Largo High School will only gain in strength from this wonderful organization...the PTSA!

PTA Reflections Program Update



Back in November, we recognized several students for their creative entries in the PTA Reflections program hosted by your LHS PTSA. We were very excited and proud of them for their hard work and willingness to share their artistic expression. Four of those talented students were selected to move on to the county level judging. Our Reflections chair, Kelly Violante, took great care to make sure each entry met the guidelines for submission to the next level. On January 6th, the Pinellas County Council PTA held their award ceremony to recognize the county level entries and announce those that would represent at the State level. We are delighted to announce that three of our students' entries will be moving on to the State level!

Congratulations!

Amber Winfy

Ivan Rivera

Cameron Leonard



These students were entered in the Special Artist Division, in the Literature category.

Our appreciation goes out to Ms. Shelton for encouraging these students to participate in the Reflections program and for guiding them along the way.



PTA REFLECTIONS

Faculty and Staff Appreciation

Your LHS PTSA had fun playing the role of PTA "elves" one evening before the winter break. With the help of our awesome plant operators, we were able to leave holiday gifts in each classroom and office on campus for our Faculty and Staff to find the next morning. Our "That's A Wrap" theme was a successful surprise, along with gift cards from our community partners!

Thank you to the following businesses and community partners. They all helped with our Faculty and Staff Appreciation efforts before and after the winter break! We appreciate your generosity and support of our efforts.



Santa's Helpers



Thank you to our FABULOUS LHS Faculty & Staff!

Largo High PTSA also hosted a Welcome Back/Kick-Off to Second Semester Brunch for our Faculty and Staff.

We served bagels and cream cheese, yogurt, berries, bananas, oranges, coffee, tea and juice.

Thank you to our community partners for making it possible!



LHS PTSA Fundraiser



Give to someone you can't
"BEAR" to be without!

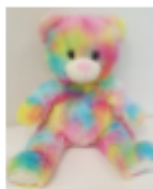


Valentine's Day "Bears to Build" Fundraiser!

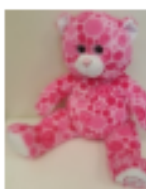
Step 1: Pick which animal(s) to order. Each animal costs \$18.00
Each animal is 15 inches and comes with a custom Largo High T-shirt for the animal.



Penguin



Rainbow Bear



Peace/Love Bear



Swirly Bear



Smiley Dog



Tan Lab Dog



Black Bear



Long Hair Bear

Step 2: Turn in orders to the front office, mail orders to Largo High PTSA (410 Missouri Avenue, Largo, 33770), or place your order during lunch January 17-26th.

Cash or Check Payable to Largo High PTSA – ORDERS DUE THURSDAY, JAN 26TH!

Step 3: Receive your animal in time for Valentine's Day, (Feb 9th and 10th) ready for you to build, including stuffing materials and LHS T-shirt for the animal!

**Return bottom portion with payment*

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Purchaser Name (if different than above): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please write in the quantity for each animal you would like to purchase.

Penguin # _____ Rainbow Bear # _____ Peace/Love Bear # _____ Swirly Bear # _____ Smiley Dog # _____

Tan Lab Dog # _____ Black Bear # _____ Long Hair Bear # _____

Total # animals ordered _____ x \$18 = _____ Amount Enclosed

PTA use only: Cash _____ Check # _____ Items Received: _____ Date _____

Viva La PTSA! - A Fun Contest for Members



Viva la PTSA!
by Jan. 31st



Are you a proud LHS PTSA member?

Then tell your family! Tell your friends! Tell your community!

For every new LHS PTSA membership that you refer, your name will be entered to win a Fiesta Basket. The basket includes a gift card to Tijuana Flats and other fun fiesta themed items.

You do not have to have a student in school to belong to the PTA. Anyone who cares about children can join our association. It is important that we have a voice in the decision-making process relating to the laws and regulations—whether in the schools or governments—that affect children. You can have that voice through membership in the PTA. Every child needs you! Do you want to make a difference?

As a current LHS PTSA member, you could do just that by asking others to join! Membership offers a wonderful opportunity to support the various programs and events sponsored by Largo High's PTSA. Our PTA advocates on behalf of children and youth, hosts informative programs that are important to parents and public school teachers and administrators, participates in teacher appreciation activities, and makes connections to increase family and community involvement in education.

Referred by _____
 Current LHS PTSA Member Name

Member #1 Name _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Circle One: Parent/Grandparent/Staff/Student/Community

Member #2 Name _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Circle One: Parent/Grandparent/Staff/Student/Community

Member #3 Name _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Circle One: Parent/Grandparent/Staff/Student/Community

- _____ \$10 Individual Memberships
- _____ \$5 Student Memberships
- _____ \$35 Business Membership (recognized in our newsletter)
- _____ Additional Donation Amount (one time)

_____ Total Enclosed (Cash or Checks made payable to LHS PTSA)



After completing the form above, please return it to the school office, or mail to: LHS PTSA, 410 Missouri Ave N, Largo, FL 33770, Attention: Membership.

OFFICE USE: AMT RECEIVED: _____ PAID BY: _____ CARD(S) ISSUED: _____

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!

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](#).



January is National Mentoring Month



From Pinellas County Schools, Office of Strategic Partnerships,
Family & Community Relations

Mentoring Matters - [Become a Mentor Today!](#)

The month of January is National Mentor Month. Every day, mentors in communities across our nation provide crucial support and guidance to young people. Whether a day is spent helping with homework, playing catch, or just listening, these moments can have an enormous, lasting effect on a child's life.

[National Mentoring Month Presidential Proclamation.](#)

If you're thinking... I just don't have the time. Or, maybe you're asking...What would I do with the student? What would I talk about? Does mentoring really make a difference?

Mentors in Pinellas County Schools meet with students once a week for thirty-minutes, and only when school is in session.

- Mentors attend a 1 or 2-hour workshop, given plenty of resources and activity ideas.
- District and school personnel are always on hand to support you, and answer all your questions.
- A mentor's most important job is to show up, listen and be a caring friend.
- Conversation starters are as easy as talking about your: *favorite foods, hobbies, what's on your bucket list, and what it's like to be a kid!*

Students who have mentors are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in college or a vocational school, and are more willing to participate in sports, and other after school activities. With renewed confidence, students with mentors hold leadership roles in school and are better able to advocate for themselves. These positive relationship outcomes benefit not only the student, but their families, the mentor, and the community.

Pinellas County Schools
Office of Strategic Partnerships
301 4th St. SW, Largo, FL 33770
Tel #: 727-588-5050 - or email: robergem@pcsb.org



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Teacher Liaison, Laura Whitfield

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Principal, Brad Finkbiner, Ed.D

Committee Chair

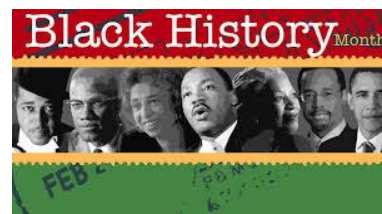
Newsletter, Maria Black

Black History Month - February

February is Black History or National African American History Month and a great time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout our great nation's history. It is a great time to learn about the rich legacy left by so many historical figures of African descent.

One great story is currently being released on film. *Hidden Figures* is a recently released film based on a nonfiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly. *Hidden Figures* is the story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. They were incredibly brilliant African-American mathematicians who worked at a segregated research center during the 1960's. Their calculations for flight trajectories were used for Project Mercury and Apollo 11. There are so many untold stories of African American greatness. Black History Month is a great time to celebrate the told and untold stories!

Keith Sargent
Advocacy/Legislative Chair



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Newsletter Chair, Maria Black
President, Michelle Alfred



Email: ptsalargohigh@gmail.com
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