

# Largo High

# PTSA<sup>®</sup>

*everychild. one voice.*<sup>®</sup>



## President's Letter



Ah, Spring draws near...

It is the time of year when I start planning how I'll shape and grow my gardens. The decisions I make now impact the types of birds, insects and other fauna that I'll see for the next six months. With so many great choices, it can be exciting and a little bit intimidating. Likewise, it is also the time of year when PTA must make decisions about the direction and leadership of our organization. Our Nominating Committee has begun their work of selecting a slate of officers for next year's PTSA board. Please read the information in this newsletter on how to nominate yourself, or someone else to serve.

Besides forming our Nominating Committee, the February's General Meeting featured the "Free Your Mind" program that shared information and discussed strategies to maintain a healthy mind. During that meeting, Dr. Finkbiner presented on the state of the school and shared with us some

wonderful accomplishments by our scholars in the arts, academics, sports, scholarship awards, and college acceptances. He also informed us that some of the construction projects we've seen around campus should be completed while we are away for Spring Break.

Even though Spring Break is just a week away (at the time of this writing) and most of us are ready to wind down a bit, PTA has been gearing up for the start of the Florida Legislative Session in Tallahassee. The session runs March 7<sup>th</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup>. You may have seen our Advocacy Chair, Keith Sargent, around the school – handing out flyers in car line (in the rain) and inviting you to attend our programs. He is going to continue to help keep our members informed, and invite you to join us in our advocacy efforts. One easy way you can get involved is by signing up for [Florida PTA's Voter's Voice](#).

Two of your LHS PTSA board members, Debbie Stotts and myself, will be getting actively involved by heading to the Florida PTA Legislative Conference in Tallahassee at the end of this month.

While there, we will be discussing PTA's [legislative priorities](#); hearing from speakers to become better informed advocates; and talking to our legislators about issues pertaining to the health, safety, and well-being of our children and youth.

It is because of our members that PTA can speak so powerfully on behalf of all children. It is never too late to join PTA! In fact, we are looking for a few more community members to reach our goal for this year. If you know of a business, organization, or community member (perhaps some alumni of Largo) that would like to join our PTA please encourage them to do so. Membership forms and dues can be turned in to the front office.

I hope each of you enjoy your Spring Break. Be sure to spend quality time with loved ones, relax, and recharge. I am going to check on my garden and water some new plantings...

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



# Important Dates

## March

- 13th-17th - Spring Break
- 20th - No school
- 26th-28th - FPTA Legislative Conference
- 31st - Nominations for new PTSA board members due

## April

- 1st - 30th - "First Night Bags" collection drive (NHS and PTSA partnership!)
- TBD - PTSA Election Meeting
- 14th - No School

## May

- 1-5th Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- 2nd Teacher Appreciation Day
- 17th - LHS Graduation, Tropicana Field, 4pm
- 25th - Last Day of School

## June

- 22nd-25th - NPTA Convention, Las Vegas, NV

## July

- 13th-16th - FPTA Leadership Convention

## August

- 10th - First Day of School, 2017-2018



## Teacher's Corner

*March Madness has arrived! Just try to keep up with all the activities, presentations, advocacy efforts, and fund-raisers that involve your PTSA.*

*Since my December blurb I have enjoyed attending an outstanding presentation on financial literacy. Regions Bank provided separate workshops to parents and students. A bicycle was given away in a drawing! Just last week PTSA sponsored a very informative presentation about mental health awareness. I came away from this with a broader view of what my students may be experiencing and a few tips on how to support them.*

*Overall, I can say that I am proud to be a part of this team and continue to be awed by the things they do and accomplish for the good of our school...Largo High School!*

*Go Packers!  
Ms. Brunelle*



## Faculty & Staff Valentine's Day Appreciation!

Thank you parents and students for sending in your donations of candy for our teacher and staff Valentine's Day surprise! We received just what was needed to give treat bags to all 168 staff members. Also, a BIG thank you to our delivery girls for making sure each LHS faculty and staff member received their treats!



## Prom is April 15<sup>th</sup>

### LHS ANNOUNCES BELLE OF THE BALL PROJECT!

Belle of the Ball Project is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization which provides homecoming and prom dresses to in need, low income, high school girls in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and surrounding counties. Our mission statement: "No girl should be denied the opportunity to attend her high school dance because of financial difficulties"

We are a 100% volunteer organization and rely on donations and volunteers. We distribute dresses twice yearly in the fall for homecoming and again in the spring for prom.

Girls qualify for a dress if they appear in person and attest that they are currently having financial difficulties. They also qualify if they have been referred by a school Social Worker, Guidance Counselor, Principal, Community Involvement Personnel, Guardian ad Litem, Foster Care or other non-profit organization or agency. No referral letter is needed.

Our boutique location is: 1210 Holt Ave. Clearwater, FL 33755. Our boutique is ONLY open on designated shopping days. We are not open year-round.

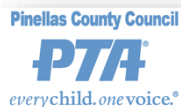
Prom shopping dates: Saturdays, March 25 and April 8, 10am-2pm

These are the ONLY days to receive a dress. No appointments are necessary; no do they make them.



# PTA in Action!

## PCCPTA Meeting



We were very excited to host the February meeting of the Pinellas County Council PTA/PTSA at Largo High School! Dr. Grego was the guest speaker and delivered a "State of the District" address. Dr. Grego shared information on both the accomplishments and future goals of the district. School Board Member, Linda Lerner, also spoke briefly, complimenting PTA for their dedication and commitment to the well-being of all children. Ms. Lerner became a member of our LHS PTSA that evening! We are excited to have another school board member join our PTSA! Thank you Ms. Lerner! Our thanks go out to Dr. Finkbiner, Mr. Marina, and our Plant Operators, for their help and use of the auditorium, and to LHS student, Minh Nguyen, for running the sound and lights.



## Free Your Mind



On February 23rd, your LHS PTSA held a program to increase awareness and provide tips on good mental practices. Our guest speaker, Dr. Kate Merricks, presented information on how anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns affect adolescents and children. Dr. Merricks shared ways we might be able to identify and understand when someone is struggling. She then followed up with tips on how to help someone work through these various difficulties. Vicki Koller, the Project Aware Program Manager from Pinellas County Schools, wrapped the program up by offering two training classes for parents and faculty to attend. The class would allow attendees to receive more in depth education on how to help someone struggling with a mental health concern. Prior to the program, Dr. Finkbiner gave a "State of the School" address, and brief PTA business was conducted. Thank you to everyone that attended the meeting and program!



# Show the Love - Clothing Drive



During the month of February, LHS PTSA sponsored a collection drive to benefit Clothes to Kids called "Show the Love". We received many packages of socks and underwear that were delivered to the Clothes to Kids location in Clearwater. Thank you to everyone that contributed these MUCH needed items! Visit [www.clothestokids.org](http://www.clothestokids.org) for more information about this organization.



*Thank you for supporting our Family Engagement Event! It was so nice seeing everyone & hearing how you enjoyed supporting LHS PTSA with Sonny's drive-thru as well as dining-in. We saw some old friends & made some new ones! Thank you to the Largo Sonny's BBQ for allowing us the opportunity to partner with them!*



*Thank you, Sonny's BBQ, for your support of our school!*





## PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS High School Summer Bridge

### Register Soon to Ensure a Seat!

- Register at [reservation.pcsb.org](http://reservation.pcsb.org)
- Questions? Contact your school or visit [www.pcsb.org/summerbridge](http://www.pcsb.org/summerbridge)
- Registration info? Call the Student Assignment office at 727-588-6210



## HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- **CREDIT RECOVERY** TO HELP STUDENTS GET BACK ON TRACK TO GRADUATE!
- **ALGEBRA 1 JUMPSTART** TO HELP BUILD ALGEBRA SKILLS FOR INCOMING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS
- **ALGEBRA 1 EOC PREP** TO HELP STUDENTS PREPARE TO PASS THE EOC ON JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup>
- **SATPRACTICE.ORG PROGRAM** SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS TO PRACTICE LITERACY AND MATHEMATICS SKILLS TO RAISE THEIR SAT SCORES!

**June 6 – July 13**

**Monday – Thursday**

**8 a.m. – noon**

**Largo High**  
**PTSA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.one voice.*<sup>®</sup>

**By May 1st**



# Reach100%

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

**It costs only \$5!**

**Become a PTSA student member and your name will be entered to win one of several prizes.**

Our entire mission is to help you achieve in school, at home and in life.

For more than a century, millions of us across the United States have come together to help you succeed. But while our organization's membership includes adults – parents, educators and community leaders who care about you – no voice is more powerful than your own.

With your membership, guidance and involvement, we'll keep changes at your school and in neighborhoods across the country moving forward together.

Take advantage of this opportunity to speak out for students and bring change to your community, state and nation. Make a difference today: Join PTA!

Member #1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Student Memberships



\_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Call for Nominations!



*Your LHS PTSA Nominating Committee is looking for people interested in serving on next year's board! Our job is to select one nominee for each of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving in one of these positions, please let us know. More information on the responsibilities of each Officer will be provided to interested candidates. Self-nominations are accepted!*

*Nominations should be submitted, in writing, no later than March 31st to [ptsalargohigh@gmail.com](mailto:ptsalargohigh@gmail.com), or turned in to the PTA mailbox, Attention: Nominations. The nominating committee will announce the list of nominees at the election meeting in April, or once the nominations for officers are complete.*

*Anyone interested in serving as a committee chair, may also contact us. Your name, and area of interest, will be recorded and given to the incoming officers after the election, as these positions are filled by the Executive Committee. Some of our committees include: Advocacy, Programs, Membership, Hospitality, Newsletter, Reflections, and Resource Development. If you would like more information on the responsibilities of these positions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We encourage you to...Get Engaged!!*

Your Nominating Committee,  
Anjanette Ellwood, Chair  
Brenda Brunelle  
Jacey Velazquez



Largo High PTSA  
March 2017 Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 6  
Newsletter Chair, Maria Black  
President, Michelle Alfred



Email: [ptsalargohigh@gmail.com](mailto:ptsalargohigh@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/ptsalargohigh](http://www.facebook.com/ptsalargohigh)  
Webpage: [www.pcsb.org/domain/7851](http://www.pcsb.org/domain/7851)