

November 2017 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4



Largo High PTSA[®]

everychild. one voice.[®]

President's Letter



As I write my letter this month, I have just wrapped up a weekend away attending the Florida PTA All Children Summit in Miami. It was a great weekend, but very heavy on my heart. We heard from Special Agent Victor Williams, of the Department of Homeland Security Investigations, and Deputy Berry Jerome, Senior Detective in the Special Victims Bureau Domestic Crimes Unit, on the topic of Human Trafficking, specifically Child Trafficking. It was difficult to hear the details of what these children experience during their time in captivity. Our presenters described Human Trafficking as "Modern Day Slavery". They encouraged us to get involved and learn to recognize and report the signs to end trafficking. Florida PTA is making this a legislative priority in 2018. If you would like to learn more, or get involved, I encourage you to visit the [Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign](#) on the Web, or their [Blue Campaign Facebook page](#).

This is just one example of how PTA is involved to help our children and youth.

There are many, which is why it is important for you to be a member of the PTA. By uniting our voices as one, we speak loudly on behalf of our children and youth when it comes to their health, safety, well-being, and education.

Something else I would like to bring your attention to is the CRC. Once every 20 years, Florida's Constitution provides for the creation of a 37-member revision commission for the purpose of reviewing Florida's Constitution and proposing changes for voter consideration. The CRC (Constitutional Revision Commission) has been meeting and I encourage you to be diligent in reviewing their proposed changes. Any amendments proposed by the CRC could be placed on the 2018 General Election ballot. For additional information, visit flcrc.gov, or follow the CRC on social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)).

I have shared just a small amount of information with you, on two topics that have impact on our children and youth. Membership in PTA is one way to stay informed with the latest updates. Another way to stay up to date is to sign up for [Florida PTA's Voter Voice](#) and [National PTA's Take Action Network](#). And yet another, is to attend our meetings and programs.

My hope is that you will continue to support our efforts by joining us in our work, attending our events and programs, and staying informed and engaged for All Children!

Sincerely,
Michelle Alfred
Largo High PTSA, President

2017-2018 Largo High School PTSA Executive Board

Officers

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Michelle Alfred |
| Vice-President | Anjanette Ellwood |
| Secretary | Tina Angles |
| Treasurer | Debbie Stotts |
| <i>Chairpersons:</i> | |
| Membership | Keith Sargent |
| Legislative | Lawrence Clermont |
| Hospitality | Melanie Litchy |
| Newsletter | Dawne DeRemer |
| Teacher Liaison | Brenda Brunelle |
| Staff Liaison | Beth Brock |
| Student Rep | Jacey Velazquez |
| Admin Rep | Jon Marina |
| Principal | Brad Finkbiner, Ed.D. |

Important Dates

November

- 15th - Great American Teach-In
- 15th - PTSA General Meeting, Relections Award Presentation, Information from 211
- 20th - BJ's Spirit Night 1-9pm, Pinellas Park location
- 18th - 26th - Thanksgiving Holiday, No School
- 27th - December 15th - *Linens for Love* Collection
- 30th - Deadline for Faculty Mini-Grant Applications

December

- 6th - Tijuana Flats LHS PTSA Spirit Night , 5-8pm
- 15th - Student Meet Up at Haus Coffee Shop (space limited)
- 19th - 22nd - First Semester Exams
- 23rd - January 7th - Winter Break, No School

January

- 8th - Classes Resume
- 15th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
- 20th - WinterFest, 11am-5pm, @ LHS
- 22nd - 26th - Literacy Week Book Drive with NEHS

BRUNELLE'S BABBLE BLOG

Hello Largo Family!

Breathe in the blast of Fall air as we head in to November. This past month the PTSA sponsored Meet Your Legislator, a Financial Aid workshop, a luncheon for our faculty and staff, Red Ribbon week, tag day at Publix, along with staffing PTSA tables promoting drug awareness during our lunches.

And this still does not include everything we do!

I attended several of these events along with my first Pinellas County [PCCPTA](#) meeting. Joining this team has created wonderful opportunities to network with professionals, businesses, colleges, teachers, parents, and scholars. I would love to see many more teachers, parents, and scholars at these events!

Hope to see you! ~Ms. Brunelle

SAVE THE DATE

Your Largo High PTSA will be hosting a [WinterFest](#) on Saturday, January 20th from 11am - 5pm at our very own Largo High School. This is our largest PTSA fundraiser of the year, and many of our clubs, boosters, and sports teams will also benefit from participating at the event. This will be no ordinary school fundraiser. With the Largo Chili Walk, Largo Market, Live Entertainment, Carnival Games, Student Artist Auctions, Great Food and much more, this will be an event to remember! The entire event, including activities, will raise funds to support the PTSA mission during the school year. Our mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for ALL CHILDREN! We are looking forward to strong community support for this event! More information can be found at: www.simplyeventsfl.com/largo-winterfest/



Thank you to our volunteers!!
These volunteers helped at our faculty/staff appreciation luncheon in October!

Michael Cooney
Jennifer Mueller
Tina Wagner
David Kadau
Robert Cavallara
Catherine Litchy ~ Student
Heather Angles ~ Student
Gideon Alfred ~ Student



Join us for
..... a delicious way to
RAISE MONEY!

Date: November 20, 2017 - Monday

Time: 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM

At this BJ's location: 3800 Park Blvd.
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
727-525-4640

Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along with your family and friends while earning funds in support of:

Largo High PTSA Spirit Night

With each flyer presented during this **FUNDRAISING EVENT**, BJ's will donate **20% OF FOOD AND SOFT BEVERAGE SALES** to the designated organization!

Valid for dine in or take out. Not valid towards alcoholic beverages or Happy Hour specials.



BJ's Favorite Deep Dish Pizza



Crispy Fried Artichokes



Crispy Jalapeño Burger



N O V 3 1 4

LHS PTSA Loves Our Staff!

We love showing our LHS faculty and staff just how much they are appreciated! We hope you had a great time at your 'Brew-Ha-Ha'. It was a pleasure having Dr. Corbett with us for this event.

Thank You to our PTSA Parents for their donations of door prizes, root beer, and lemonade.

*A BIG Thank You to our local business partners for their generosity and support:
BJ's Restaurant and Brewery, Olive Garden at Largo Mall, Cracker Barrel, Village Inn Largo, and Smallcakes at Largo Mall.*



you
can
help



Want to support your PTSA??

We would graciously accept any check or gift card donation you would like to make!!

PTSA purchases refreshments that are served at General Meetings and special events such as Meet Your Legislator Night, breakfast for the N.O.P.E presenters, Financial Aid Information Night, Human Geography AP parent night, Student Meet Ups, and much more.

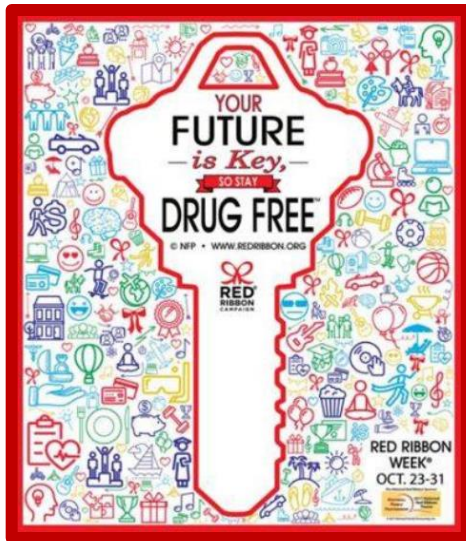
PTSA also makes sure Largo High teachers and staff are well taken care of by providing them with appreciation lunches and other treats, holiday gifts, and a fun-filled Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

We need donations to make all this possible!

Suggested items include gift cards to local grocery stores, Target, Walmart, etc. Any checks should be made payable to Largo High PTSA. Funds will be used to support our various programs and events held throughout the year. Donations can be dropped off in the front office in an envelope labeled LHS PTSA, or mailed to the school's address, 410 Missouri Avenue, Largo, FL, 33770, Attention: LHS PTSA.

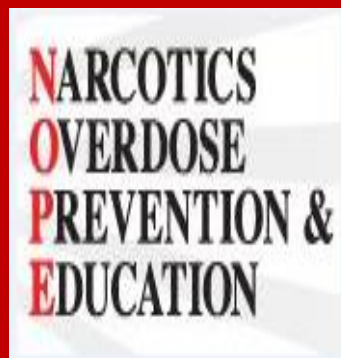
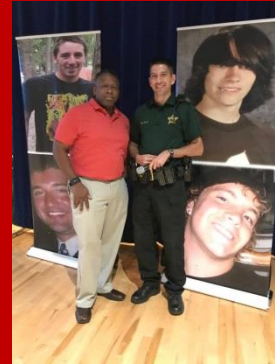
For more information, contact Melanie Litchy, at 727-452-1045 or Melanie.litchy@gmail.com

RED RIBBON WEEK (Oct 23rd - Oct 31st)



What does Red Ribbon Week mean to you? Have you heard of Red Ribbon Week? Are you REaDy to just say NO TO DRUGS?! Red Ribbon Week is a program designed to raise awareness of the dangers of Drug, Alcohol, and Substance Abuse.

During the week, your LHS PTSA, with help from Dr. Finkbiner and Mr. Marina, delivered short messages about the dangers of substance abuse. Two LHS Scholars, were randomly selected each day from our PTSA membership list to receive a special gift commemorating the week. We asked a representative from *Live Free* to come out and spend time talking with our scholars, handing out information, and encouraging them to take the pledge to be drug free. On November 1st, our staff and students "Painted the Auditorium RED" for our NOPE presentation. Ask your scholars about this impactful program!



Making the Pledge to Live Drug Free

We are so proud of all our students that Took The Pledge to SAY NO TO DRUGS! Special thanks to Wanda Stuart from *Live Free* for taking the time to talk with our scholars about the dangers of drug, alcohol, and substance misuse and abuse.

Visit: www.redribbon.org to learn more, spread the message, and Take the Pledge!



ADVOCACY

YOUR LHS PTSA WAS IN MIAMI TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR CHILDREN AT THE FLORIDA PTA ALL CHILDREN ARE OUR CHILDREN STATE SUMMIT!

Topics discussed included child trafficking and undocumented minors.

You can also follow along on our Facebook page [@PTSALARGOHIGH](https://www.facebook.com/PTSALARGOHIGH)



LHS PTSA President, Michelle Alfred and Florida PTA President, Cindy Gerhardt



LHS PTSA President, Michelle Alfred and LHS PTSA Treasurer, Debbie Stotts

FLORIDA PTA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Florida PTA offers a total of four (4) scholarships, one each in the following categories: University, Fine Arts, Community College, and Vo-Tech, to a student graduating from a PTSA High School each 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.

The 2018 deadline is February 1, 2018.

[2017-2018 FPTA Student Scholarship Application 08272017 \(1\)](#)

[2017-2018 FPTA Scholarship Application Information sheet 08272017](#)

If additional information is needed,
please email: scholarship@floridapta.org.



FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION PROGRAM

Our Financial Aid Information Night, held October 17, was a huge hit with over 100 in attendance! There were parents, students, community members, staff, and families from other schools.

They learned about FAFSA, Bright Futures, Scholarships and additional local, state, and national resources. Thank you all for attending!

And thank you to our speakers, Brooke Pair, with Pinellas County Schools, and Donna Reynolds, with St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus.



Largo High PTSA Needs YOUR Help!

Linens for Love



LHS PTSA needs your help!

We are partnering with **Grace House** to assist struggling families with getting back on their feet. Grace House offers transitional housing for families in crisis.



**We are collecting
Twin Bed Sheets and
Bathroom Towels.**

We are collecting items from Nov. 27-Dec. 15.

Please drop off your donated items to the
Front Office or Research Center.

The sheets and towels are used to furnish the apartments they are using. The families will get to take these items with them when they can transition to their own place.

We are also looking to see if any of our service clubs would like to "adopt" an apartment. When a family moves out, volunteers are needed to clean and repaint the apartment.

Questions? Please email ptsalargohigh@gmail.com

#OTP Corner

Hello Packers! I hope all scholars were able to attend the very moving NOPE presentation on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

In December, I will be leading a student meet up at the Haus Coffee Shop to discuss the wonderful benefits of being a PTSA student member. Thank you to Rhonda Reed, the owner, for offering 50% off coffee or a pastry to students attending this meet up.

*Space is limited, so [sign up](#) now!
I look forward to seeing you around campus.*

*Jacey Velazquez, LHS PTSA
Student Representative*

PTA Reflections Program



Largo High PTSA Reflections Program is excited to announce that we have received 1 entry for Photography and 5 entries for Visual Arts, and 4 entries for 2019-2020 Theme Search! Everyone is invited to come to the LHS PTSA General Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 6:30pm where all our scholars will be recognized for their entries. Scholars who received the distinction of "Award of Excellence", and who are moving on to the county level, will be announced!

Pinellas County Council PTA Reflections Award Recipients will be announced on Tuesday, January 30th, 2018, at Pinellas Park High School. Further advancement is in March/April 2018 for State PTA Award Recipients and May/June 2018 for National PTA Award Recipients.

Best of Luck,
Anjanette Ellwood, Reflections Chair
Vice President of Largo High PTSA



Join Us at the PTA Reflections Award Ceremony

WITHIN REACH



WEDNESDAY, NOV 15

211 TAMPA BAY CARES RESOURCES & PTA REFLECTIONS AWARD CELEBRATION

Everyone is invited to attend, parents, scholars, faculty, and community! Dessert Reception will follow program.

Join your Largo High PTSA, as we celebrate our scholars' artistic expression through the PTA Reflections Program. We will be recognizing all students that submitted entries and announcing those moving on to the county level. In addition, 211 Tampa Bay Cares, Community Relations Manager, Geri Costello, will be presenting a brief history of 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, details on programs & services available, and ways to contact 2-1-1, including online.

2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc. provides the only free, confidential, multi-lingual, 24-hour hotline with specialists that provide information and help accessing a multitude of services including, but not limited to: basic human needs, crisis intervention, counseling, drug/alcohol intervention, Medicaid/Medicare, children's health insurance programs, employment support, support for older Americans and persons with disabilities, and support for children, youth and families. Come hear more about how to access these programs and services.

**LHS PTSA
Meeting & Program
6:30pm
Research Center**

**Join us as we
celebrate all our
scholars who
submitted entries in
PTA's Reflections
Program!**

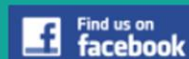
**Learn about the
many programs &
services that can be
accessed through
211 Tampa Bay Cares.**

**Dessert Reception
will follow program.**

LARGO HIGH PTSA

410 MISSOURI AVENUE
LARGO, 33770

For more information:
ptsalargohigh@gmail.com



SUPPORT LARGO HIGH PTSA

Join the Largo High PTSA!
[2017 -2018 Membership Form](#)



Support us when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at smile.amazon.com. You shop. Amazon donates.

amazonsmile



Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3384977 and Amazon donates to Largo High PTSA!



Largo High PTSA
November 2017 Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 4

Newsletter Chair, Dawne DeRemer
President, Michelle Alfred

Email: ptsalargohigh@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/ptsalargohigh

Webpage: www.pcsb.org/domain/785