

# Largo High

# PTSA<sup>®</sup>

*everychild. one voice.*<sup>®</sup>

November 2016  
Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 2



## President's Letter



The month of November is one of my favorite months of the year. I am excited that this year it has brought with it some great weather! I hope, like me, you have been enjoying some time outside with your family and friends during these beautiful days.

November is Florida Family Engagement in Education Month. Family involvement in education is important for developing an appreciation for learning and for student success. Check out these suggestions for Family Engagement on the [National PTA website](#). There are also some great tips on family engagement on the [Pinellas County Schools website](#). PTAs can play an important role in encouraging family involvement. Last month, we held a Family Engagement and Spirit night, where we had interactive games, door prizes, and shared information on the Referendum and ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). This month, at our general meeting we invited parents, teachers, and students to share their thoughts and ideas to help

determine the programs and information our PTSA will work to provide.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Pinellas County Schools will be participating in the Great American Teach-In. Your PTSA has worked with the school to bring in several community members to speak to our students about their career or hobby. When schools, families, and the community work together to support learning, children are more likely to succeed in school and in life.

On Veteran's Day, I hope you took some time to remember and honor our military for their commitment and dedication to our country. Our military personnel make sacrifices every day for our country, and so do their families. The National PTA Military Alliance for Parents and Partners (MAPP) is a group of organizations that work together to provide resources to, and advocate for, military-connected families. PTA created this partnership to bring awareness towards the unique social and educational challenges that our serving military families face due to deployment and mobility, among others. To learn more about what National PTA is doing for our military families go to [www.pta.org/military](http://www.pta.org/military).

With our elections being complete, and the selection of our representatives in our legislature final, I encourage you to stay informed and ready to make your voice heard through our advocacy efforts. For example, we speak up for family engagement language in education; safe, healthy, and technologically advanced schools; and equal opportunity for ALL children, regardless of their situation in life. National PTA offers leaders and members many resources for providing effective advocacy. You can visit their [advocacy page](#) to find more information and helpful tools. We are making plans to send representatives from your LHS PTSA board to the State PTA Summit in December. At the summit, we will be learning from experts from around the state on how to best help students in specific vulnerable situations.

Before I close, I want to extend my gratitude to our members, our school administrators, faculty and staff, and our students and families for supporting our efforts. I also want to say how thankful I am to be volunteering with some great people on your LHS PTSA board.

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



# What is 253?

*...total pounds of food collected!*



*Thanks to everyone who participated in the Food Drive for RCS Food Pantry! We collected a lot of food that will go to help those in need in our community. Two of the student groups in our school worked really hard to meet the challenge we gave them! The challenge was to be the group that collected the most donations. We are #ptaproud to celebrate the Spanish Honor Society and Florida Future Educators with a pizza party from PTA! Thanks to you all, and everyone that donated, for making a difference in our community!*



## Upcoming Dates You Need to Know

- End of second grading period – The date for teachers to close out their grade books is Dec. 16.
- Winter break – Students are off from Dec. 19 through Jan. 2, 2017, with a return-to-class date of Jan. 3

## PCS Discovery Nights

Schools with Application Programs will hold Discovery Night events mid-November through mid-December. All Discovery night events start at 6:00 p.m.

Click here for a detailed flyer: <http://pcsb.org/Page/17234>

For more information contact the Student Assignment department at [StudentAssignment@pcsb.org](mailto:StudentAssignment@pcsb.org) or (727) 588-6210.

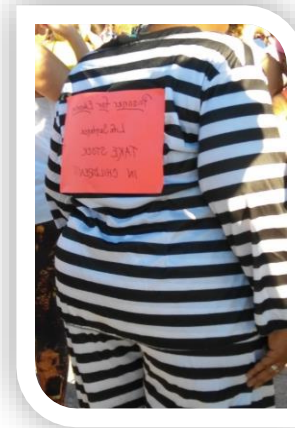


**Pinellas County Schools will be closed Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holiday.**

*Enjoy your time with family and friends!*



Your LHS PTSA had a great time participating in the Halloween Hustle on Madeira Beach. Over 400 people were in attendance! We enjoyed the views of nature, while watching a beautiful sunset, not to mention we got lots of exercise. It was a blast seeing all the costumes too. The one below is a parent participant dressed up in a jail uniform representing "A Prisoner for Education" for Take Stock in Children. Become a mentor today!



*Thank you to Panda Express (Largo) and everyone who came out to support our Family Engagement Night in October. It was a Huge Success! Mark your calendars for our next one on **Wednesday, December 14!***

**Are You a Card Member?**  
It's never too late! Join today!

Member of:

**National PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.®

**Member Name:**

**Unit ID:**

**Local PTA Name:**

To create your PTA profile, login to [PTA.org/Profile](http://PTA.org/Profile) and follow the instructions.

Member 2016-2017

**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.®

# Engaging Parents, Teachers, and Students in Education and PTA...

*Our general meeting, on November 7, included some great discussion that will guide the future plans for our PTA. Parents, teachers, and students all gave their input on what advocacy efforts they would like to be a part of, as well as information they would like to have presented, relating to the health, safety, and educational well-being of all children. This interactive part of our meeting began with a "State of the School" address by Principal Finkbiner, followed by group discussion facilitated by National PTA, Director of Education and Leadership Development, Mary Pat King.*

*The best part of the meeting was when we proudly recognized all the students that chose to enter into our Reflections program! We had seven entries all in the Special Artist Division! Students of all grades and abilities are able to participate in this nationally acclaimed program. Students may choose to enter in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Music Composition, Film Production, Photography, Literature, and Visual Arts. They create their work of art based on a chosen theme. This year's theme is "What Is Your Story?"*

*All work was judged by experienced arts and education volunteers based on the following criteria: Interpretation of the Theme, Creativity, and Mastery of Skills. All students received a certificate, ribbon, and "Members for a Day" passes from the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts; which allows two guests free entry into the museum.*

*We are very excited to announce that we have four entries moving on to the county level! One is in the Visual Arts category; three are in the Literature category. Congratulations and good luck!*



PTA REFLECTIONS

## Congratulations to all our 2016-2017 participants!

### Visual Arts

Zachary Ford, 10th grade

### Literature

Ivan Garcia-Rivera, 10th grade

Cameron Leonard, 11th grade

Timothy Malarkey, 10th grade

Angel Wimer-Koski, 10th grade

Ambrosia Winfrey, 12th grade

John Zamminer, 9th grade

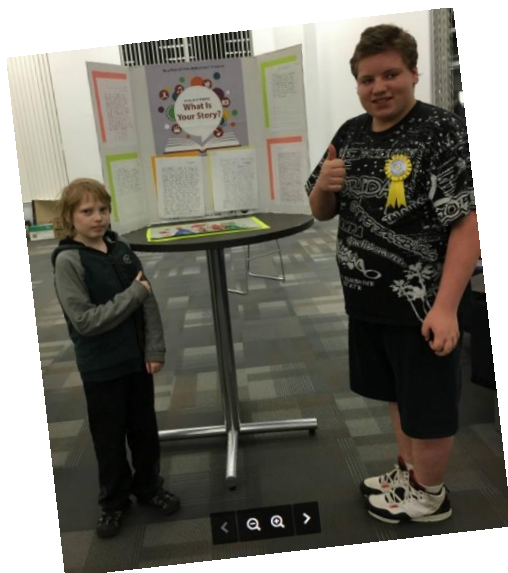
Thank you to our judges!

Ms. Julie Daniel, Author

Ms. Lisa Sweet, Art Teacher, St. Petersburg



Thank you to the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts for helping us recognize our students that participated in the Reflections program!



Check out this video of Ms. Shelton speaking about her students' participation in the Reflections program:

<https://goo.gl/AA1VRW>

## Pinellas County Schools From the Office of Strategic Partnerships

### Mentoring Matters, Become a Mentor Today!

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?

#### We've made it easy for you!

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

- Mentors attend a 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!*

#### Mentor Workshops

During the workshop, participants will learn about effective listening skills, goal setting, communication skills and relationship building. Attendance is required for all mentors. Sign up today to attend one of our workshops!

To register, call the Office of Strategic Partnerships, Family & Community Relations: 727-588-5050 or email Michelle Roberge at [robergem@pcsb.org](mailto:robergem@pcsb.org).



**NOVEMBER**  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT MONTH

## Take The Pledge to Get Engaged!

Family Engagement Month is celebrated during the month of November to highlight the roles parents and families have in their children's education.

During the month, parents, grandparents, guardians and extended families are encouraged to be involved in their children's education throughout the year.

Take time this month to become more involved in your child's education. You already have what it takes!

Here is a calendar of ideas to help get you started:  
[Florida Family Engagement Calendar](#)



### Register now for the *ALL Children Are OUR Children* State PTA Summit!

Florida PTA is bringing together PTA leaders, educators, and experts from around the state to explore how we can better support our state's most vulnerable students through resources and programs designed to strengthen families and support all children.

#### Topics to include:

Juvenile Justice, Direct File, Civil Citations, Foster Care, Aging Out, Guardian Ad Litem, Homelessness.

**When:** Saturday, December 3, 2016, 8:30am - 3:00pm

**Where:** Middleton High School, 4801 N. 22nd Street, Tampa, FL 33610

**Registration is \$55 (\$25 for students) and includes breakfast and lunch. We look forward to seeing you!**

**Online registration form can be found here:** <https://goo.gl/pl2sdW>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please email [info@floridapta.org](mailto:info@floridapta.org) or call the Florida PTA State Office at 407-855-7604 or 800-373-5782.



Here is the link to support Largo High PTSA: [smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3384977](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3384977)

Your donation can help LHS PTSA to:



- Provide programs to enhance the education, safety, health, and well-being of students at LHS.
- Keep parents informed and aware of what is happening in the school district.
- Host service projects to benefit the Largo community.
- Advocate on behalf of our students and teachers, speaking to decision makers in our district and in Tallahassee. Teaching our students how to advocate for themselves in the process.
- Encourage family involvement at school, while helping LHS meet the requirement of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the School Improvement Plan (SIP).
- Build connections between families, our school and the community.
- Provide scholarships to graduating seniors, who are PTSA members.
- Give opportunities to our students to learn leadership skills and earn volunteer service hours.
- Show appreciation to our LHS faculty and staff.

Help your LHS PTSA to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education by sending in your donation today!

Feel free to contact us at [ptسالargohigh@gmail.com](mailto:ptسالargohigh@gmail.com) with any questions. Please mail your donation to Largo High School, 410 Missouri Avenue, Largo, FL, 33770, Attention: PTSA Support.

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Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Great news...your donations are tax deductible**

Thank you so much for taking an interest in changing the life of a child and supporting your local PTA!



**We are here to support you!**

If you live in any of the the following situations anytime during the 2016-2017 school year let us be your first confidential call.

## **Pinellas County Schools HEAT Program**

**Office: 727-507-4766 Liaison: 727-588-6063**

### **McKinney-Vento Act Definitions**

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence  
 Share the housing of others due to financial hardship (this is called "doubled-up")  
 Live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, substandard housing due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations  
 Living in emergency or transitional shelters  
 Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live  
 Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.  
 Migratory children living in above circumstances



### **McKinney-Vento Rights and Services**

Removal of all barriers to a free, appropriate public education  
 Education in a mainstream school environment  
 Free meals at school, Transportation to school of origin, School supplies  
 No isolation or stigmatization due to their homeless status  
 Placement in their school of origin the entire time they are homeless, and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing  
 Consideration of parent's requests regarding placement at the school of origin or the zoned school  
 Educational, social, athletic, and recreational services offered to other students  
 Prompt resolution of disputes regarding educational placement

### **Trauma Informed Care**

Experts explain that trauma is not an event itself, but rather a response to a stressful experience in which a person's ability to cope is dramatically undermined.

Homelessness is a traumatic experience. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness are under constant stress, unsure of whether they will be able to sleep in a safe environment or obtain a decent meal. They often lack a stable home and also the financial resources, life skills, and social supports to change their circumstances (Shelter from the Storm: TIC in homeless services settings).



### **Contact Us**

Website: <http://pcsb.schoolwires.net/domain/1626>  
 Homeless Liaison Christina Fields [fieldsc@pcsb.org](mailto:fieldsc@pcsb.org)  
 Grant Monitor Christine Cantrell [cantrellc@pcsb.org](mailto:cantrellc@pcsb.org)  
 Resource Teachers Dr. Patricia Williams [williamsp@pcsb.org](mailto:williamsp@pcsb.org)  
 Stephanie Lawson [lawsonst@pcsb.org](mailto:lawsonst@pcsb.org)  
 Social Workers Jennifer Gallman [gallmanj@pcsb.org](mailto:gallmanj@pcsb.org)  
 Suzanne Hennessey [hennesseys@pcsb.org](mailto:hennesseys@pcsb.org)





## Join Largo High School PTSA! 2016-2017 Membership Form



As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, Parent Teacher Student Association (PTA/PTSA) reminds our country of its obligations to children and provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students. Membership in PTA is open to *anyone* who is concerned with the education, health and welfare of children and youth. At the high school level, students are encouraged to get involved too! That's why Largo High is a PTSA!

Annual membership dues\* help 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.

### Support the effort to Make Every Child's Potential a Reality!

\*\$3.75 of every membership goes to PTA State and National Dues.  
The PTSA is organized under IRS code section 501(c)(3), and therefore, membership dues are tax deductible.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## PTA Resources for Families: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was first passed in 1965 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson. In December 2015, the U.S. Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a new law to replace the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). President Obama subsequently signed ESSA into law on December 10, 2015. With a new ESEA/ESSA, focus for advocacy now turns to effective implementation of the law to ensure every child has the ability to reach their full potential. The U.S. Department of Education is currently in the implementation phase of ESSA.

National PTA, and advocates across the country are seeking to empower all families to be active participants in the state and local implementation of ESSA to ensure equity and opportunity for all students. Visit [www.pta.org/essa](http://www.pta.org/essa) for more information on how you can get involved.

### 2016-2017 Executive Board

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



Like us on  
**Facebook**

*Follow us this month for several  
Family Engagement Activity  
Suggestions. #ptsalargohigh*

Largo High PTSA  
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 Newsletter Chair, Maria Black  
 President, Michelle Alfred



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Webpage: [www.pcsb.org/domain/7851](http://www.pcsb.org/domain/7851)