



# Bruin Voices

Lake Braddock Secondary

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

## Newsletter of the LBSS Parent\*\*Teacher\*\*Student\*\* Association

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[www.lbssptsa.org](http://www.lbssptsa.org)

### Message from the President, John Long

Hi Everyone,

I hope that the new year has brought a renewed dedication to things that are important to you and a fresh outlook on the new challenges of 2009. The PTSA has been busy with a couple of issues that I urge you to review. The issues are the Fairfax County grading scale and the Fairfax County School Board budget.

As you have probably heard, the School Board is considering changing the grading scale in a couple of significant respects. First, they are considering adding a 1.0 weight to AP and IB courses and a 0.5 weight to honors courses. Additionally, they are considering changing the grading scale to a 10-point scale. Whether such a change would include pluses and minuses will depend on further research to be done at a later time (which, of course, assumes that the School Board adopts a 10-point scale at all).

The PTSA recently adopted a resolution supporting the weighting changes set forth above, and supporting implementation of a 10-point grading scale that is consistent with the national norm. The entire PTSA membership will have an opportunity to speak about this resolution at our February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 General Membership Meeting. You can read the text of the resolution on the PTSA web site at [www.lbssptsa.org](http://www.lbssptsa.org).

The School Board will vote on the grading issue at their meeting on January 22, 2009. No further public comment will be heard at that meeting. The School Board holds its public hearing on the Budget on January 21, and Tuesday, January 27 (if needed), at Jackson Middle School. There will also be a work session in early February. Please visit [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) and [www.fairgrade.org](http://www.fairgrade.org) to review the literature available on these topics and make your views known to the School Board. Your participation is critical to ensuring that our School Board members understand how their constituents feel about these important issues.

Best, John Long  
PTSA President

### Mark your calendar!

- February 3
  - 3-hour early closing
- February 5-12
  - Middle School Book Fair
- February 10
  - PTSA General Membership
  - 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
- February 10
  - Hispanic Parents' Meeting
  - 7:00 p.m.
- February 12
  - MPEE Meeting
  - Faculty Dining Room
- February 16
  - Presidents' Day
  - No school
- February 23
  - Spring Sports begin
- March 2
  - LBABC Meeting
  - 7:00 p.m., Faculty Dining Room
- March 4
  - Winter Sports Banquet
  - 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria
- March 9
  - PTSA Board Meeting
  - 7:00 p.m., Lecture Hall

*Bruin Voices* is published by the LBSS PTSA.  
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"Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe."  
Gail Devers



## **PTSA Announces Mini-Grant Awards**

The holidays came early for over forty teachers at Lake Braddock! This year the Education Committee of the PTSA received over forty applications for mini-grants totaling \$30,420. Due to the success of our membership drive, Craft Fair and Great Harvest "Baker for a Day," we were able to award over \$8,500 in December. Teachers completed mini-grant applications in November describing their request in terms of how it would impact the instructional program in their classroom and how many students would benefit. Some of the approved requests include:

- \* Heart Rate Monitors for the PE Department
- \* Skull Restoration Sets for HS Science
- \* Books for AVID students
- \* Support for the Faculty Mentoring Program
- \* Math Games for MS Math teachers
- \* Speaker Honorariums for 9th - 12th Career Center Presentations
- \* Speaker Honorariums for annual Lake Braddock Writer's Forum
- \* Support for ESOL, Special Ed and Bruin Ambassador student groups
- \* Professional staff enrichment

The approved grants were equitably distributed to middle and high school, and many departments within the school received funds. We are impressed that so many Lake Braddock teachers look for ways to enrich their classroom and create unique learning opportunities.

Many thanks to all the parents, students and staff that made the mini-grant awards possible.

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## **Still Collecting Computers!**

Lake Braddock students benefit from your donation of a computer. Visit [www.lbssptsa.org](http://www.lbssptsa.org) or contact Helene Hammer at [helene.hammer@fcps.edu](mailto:helene.hammer@fcps.edu) for more information. Thank you for helping.

## **Lake Braddock Secondary School Parent \*\* Teacher \*\* Student \*\* Association**

### **PTSA MEMBERSHIP - HAVE YOU PUT IT OFF UNTIL LATER?**

Well it is officially later! But it is not too late to invest in the students at LBSS with a PTSA membership.

*Your dues fund some of the wonder.*

**Sometimes the PTSA just peeks around the corner so you know it is there (gets your back)** - like keeping up with school board decisions and how they effect LB and working with LB administrators to develop a school plan.

**Sometimes it holds hands and encourages** - like providing tips to parents, copying for teachers, benches out front for the students.

**Sometimes it pushes and fights** - like advocating for new programs and supplying an army of volunteers for all sorts of activities and programs.

**And sometimes it creates and makes things happen** - like holding the all-night grad party or sending out weekly bulletins or offering student directories to members.

Be a part of the PTSA, join today. Find information at [www.lbssptsa.org](http://www.lbssptsa.org) or email [eahurst@cox.net](mailto:eahurst@cox.net).

### **Helpful Websites**

[www.lbssptsa.org](http://www.lbssptsa.org) (all things pertaining to your LBSS PTSA).

<http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/> (updated school information, announcements, schedules, etc.).

[http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/career\\_center/career\\_center.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/career_center/career_center.htm) (college and career information).

[www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) (updated information about FCPS schools and all weather delays and cancellations).

[http://www.giantfood.com/our\\_stores/bonus\\_bucks/index.htm?opco=GNTL](http://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/index.htm?opco=GNTL) (sign up for a+ Bonus Bucks program).

### **Don't Forget!**

The Bear Facts is offering ad space to LBSS families and friends. Contact [kathryn.helmke@fcps.edu](mailto:kathryn.helmke@fcps.edu) or [ca.stanger@verizon.net](mailto:ca.stanger@verizon.net).

Student Directories are still available with PTSA membership or for \$5. Contact Sue Brantlinger, 703-455-2569 or [sebdrb@cox.net](mailto:sebdrb@cox.net).

