



Laurel Hill Lions

Pride Press

February 2012

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,

February will be a very busy month at Laurel Hill! I want to highlight two of the many programs that are scheduled.

On Friday, February 10th, we will present our first-ever Sing-Along. Under the direction of our wonderful music teachers, this is a great opportunity to celebrate your school spirit through song! See the article at right for more information.

On Thursday, February 16th, the Laurel Hill staff will present Math Night for parents and students. Topics such as estimation, problem solving, math vocabulary, and others that parents have told us often cause confusion at home will be presented. The format will be similar to our Literacy Nights, where parents and their students attend several different sessions and work together to practice what they learn. This night is presented as a response to parent requests to better understand our math instruction. Child care will be provided. We hope to have a large turn-out.

Check out the other activities happening at school this month throughout this newsletter and other fliers that will be coming home. We are thrilled to see our community involved in the school and hope you will attend the activities that look interesting and fun!

Add Your Voice to the Laurel Hill Sing-Along

The halls of Laurel Hill will be ringing with the sounds of singing on February 10th, as we host our first-ever school sing-along that's open not only to our students but to families and community members as well.



Led by music teachers Marietta Morris, Ashley Townsend and Kathy D'Alelio, this family-friendly event will feature a variety of songs, showcasing our talented students and our outstanding music program.

All families are welcome to attend. The hour-long event begins at 7 p.m. in the Laurel Hill Cafeteria. We hope to see – and hear – you there!

Also in This Issue ...

**Laurel Hill Music Students in the
Spotlight at School Board Meeting**

Getting a Jump on Heart Health

Academic Program Deadlines Coming Soon

**Make Math a Family Affair at
Math Night on February 16th**

**"Reuse a Shoe" to Help Those in Need
February Holidays and Schedule Changes**

B-I-N-G-O Brings Luck This Month

Upcoming Events

Laurel Hill Music Students in the Spotlight at School Board Meeting

About 20 fifth- and sixth-grade students from the Laurel Hill Chorus will sing the National Anthem at the monthly School Board meeting tomorrow, Thursday, February 9th. The meeting will be held at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, and the performance will mark the start of the meeting at 7 p.m.

Parents and friends are welcome to come listen to the performance and then leave before Board business begins. Participating Chorus members should arrive at Jackson Middle School no later than 6:15 p.m. and be dressed to perform (white tops and black bottoms).

If you're not able to attend the performance, be sure to tune in to Channel 21. The meeting – including the singing of the National Anthem – will be broadcast live beginning at 7 p.m.



Getting a Jump on Heart Health

Valentine's Day week isn't just about red paper hearts here at Laurel Hill.

Real hearts and how to keep them healthy are also on the calendar. Our annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for the American Heart Association will be held Monday, February 13th through Friday, February 17th when students will do some serious jumping to raise funds for heart-related research.

Information packets and pledge sheets will be sent home soon. All students will participate during their P. E. class time, regardless of the amount they've raised.

Academic Program Deadlines Coming Soon

If you are interested in placing your rising first-grade child in one of the county's language-immersion programs next school year, you must register online by **Friday, February 17th**. Once registration has closed, a random computer-generated lottery determines acceptance and wait-list placement for these popular programs. Languages include Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. You can find more information on individual programs and registration links at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersi on.shtml>.

Applications for the county's two elementary magnet schools are also due soon – **Thursday, March 1st**. The magnet schools in FCPS are Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and Hunter's Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. To be eligible, students must be above grade level in language arts and math and demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behavior. Applications are available online and in our school office. More information is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/magnetschools/index.shtml>.

Make Math a Family Affair at Math Night on February 16th

Are you looking for ways to help your child with math at home? Then you won't want to miss this night of math excitement and explanation that's packed with tips and tricks to practice math facts and reinforce key math skills. Sessions will be suitable for all grade levels and will focus on ways that parents can help their child at home with math. Math vocabulary and how Laurel Hill teachers teach math will also be highlighted.

“Reuse a Shoe” to Help Those in Need

Are old shoes cluttering up your closets? Have your kids outgrown their favorite footwear? If so, don't throw those old shoes away! Reuse them instead!

This month the Laurel Hill SCA is collaborating with South County Secondary School to collect shoes to help our community. During the “Reuse a Shoe” campaign, we will be collecting shoes of all shapes and sizes (athletic to formal, toddler to adult). Boots are welcome too!

The condition of the shoes does not matter. We'll accept gently used to ready for the trash shoes. Shoes in good condition will be donated to the local Lorton Community Action Center and Art for Humanity in Washington, D.C. Those ready for the trash will be sent to Nike Corporation, which will break them down and use them to create playground surfaces, basketball courts, and running tracks.

The drive will run until Friday, February 10th. Collection bins are located in the front lobby. Please tie each pair of shoes together with the laces or bind together with rubber bands (no boxes or plastic bags).

Thank you for your support of this great community effort!

February Holidays and Schedule Changes

Please remember that school and the office will be closed for the President's Day holiday on Monday, February 20th.

Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14th is a regular school day and many classes will have classroom celebrations. Please check with your child's teacher about sending in cards and snacks.

The PTA meeting scheduled for Valentine's Day evening, however, has been rescheduled to accommodate parents' plans for the night. The new meeting date is Tuesday, February 21st.

B-I-N-G-O Brings Luck This Month

Will we call your lucky numbers on February 24th at the PTA's annual Basket Bingo? You can't win if you don't play, so make plans now to attend this family-friendly night of exciting chance and great prizes.

The prize for the winner of each round of Bingo will be an entire themed basket or other container filled with special items donated by our Laurel Hill families and local merchants. Families are asked to donate items to the following themed class collections*:

Kindergarten – Arts & Crafts
1st Grade – Girls and Boys ... It's Playtime!
2nd Grade – Sports Spectacular
3rd Grade – Family Game and Movie Night
4th Grade – Book Bonanza
5th Grade – The Great Outdoors
6th Grade – A Day at the Beach.

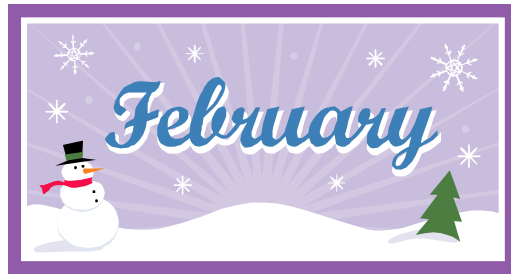
In addition to the Bingo games and prizes, the PTA will hold a raffle during this event. Tickets for the raffle will be sold that night, or you can pre-order them with your Bingo tickets. Raffle prizes range from restaurant and hotel gift cards to river cruises and free bowling or a day at the salon. The PTA is still looking for raffle donations. If you own a business, or know of one, that might like to donate, please contact Basket Bingo Coordinator Peggy Shahin at mpshahin@cox.net.

Pizza dinners will also be available before Bingo begins. Pre-order forms will be sent home soon, and only pre-orders will be accepted.

Watch for more details on all the Basket Bingo activities in Wednesday folders!



** If you prefer to make a tax-deductible monetary donation toward your child's class basket, just send it in to school in an envelope marked “Basket Bingo.” Please note the basket you would like the donation to support. All donors will be recognized in the event program.*



Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, February 8 –
Friday, February 10**

“Reuse a Shoe” Campaign
continues

Friday, February 10

School Sing-Along
7 p.m., Cafeteria

**Monday, February 13 –
Friday, February 17**

Jump Rope for Heart
During P.E. Classes

Thursday, February 16

Math Night
6:15 p.m.

Monday, February 20

President’s Day Holiday
School and Office closed.

Tuesday, February 21

PTA Meeting
7 p.m., Laurel Hill Library

Friday, February 24

PTA Basket Bingo

Friday, March 2

Dr. Seuss’ Birthday/
Read Across America