



Building Strength by Working Together



Save the dates:

- PTO Meeting: Feb 5th 6pm Cafeteria
- PTO Pre-Valentine's Day Dance for Grades 5-8, 6-9pm: Feb 8th Gym
- Board of Trustees Meeting: Feb 12th 4pm
- Interim Assessments for grades 3-8: Feb 13th and Feb 14th
- Valentine's Day Gift Shop: Feb 14th 3:30-6:00 pm Cafeteria
- No School for students for professional development: Feb 15th
- NO SCHOOL for President's Day: Feb 18th
- Progress Reports Distributed by: Feb 29th
- Sports, Health, Fitness Fair: Feb 29th 6pm Gym

Honoring Our Roots

February is an exciting and important month at Lady Liberty Academy because we work together to celebrate, honor, and learn about African American History and the remarkable contributions that past and present role models have made and continue to make in our community.

Our teachers are preparing to infuse African American History themes into their lessons school-wide, and staff are planning a number of events that will run throughout the month.

We are looking for contacts with speakers, storytellers, choirs, and other performers to visit our school during this month and help us in our celebration. If you have contacts or ideas, or better still, if you or a grandparent would like to arrange a visit to your child's classroom to lead or participate in an African American History lesson, please contact

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"
Martin Luther King Jr

either your child's teacher or Mrs. Thomas at 973-623-9005 ext 1204.

This month is an ideal month to take time to be involved at Lady Liberty Academy either as a guest speaker/reader or a volunteer tutor in the class. If your schedule does not allow time at school during the school day, please take time at home to talk or read together about the importance of African American History in your children's lives, visit programs at the public library or museum, and set aside quality time to share stories about your history and the history of the elders in your family. Your personal histories and family stories are vital and an understanding of them can help your children make choices and decisions in their lives that will help them grow into powerful leaders and achievers.

Celebrating our Student Stars!

Kids S.A.V.E. by Ms Cenac and Mr. Peterson

Kids S.A.V.E. (Kids Speak Against Violence Everywhere) is a peer mediation group which meets every Thursday after school from 3:45- 4:15 pm to discuss issues of conflict that are present in our school community. This group of dynamic students continues to grow each week and they are advised by Mr. Peterson and Ms. Cenac. Our students work together to identify ways they can help their peers resolve conflicts peacefully amongst each other. This is done through discussions and role-play situations. Students also encourage their peers to use the ASK method:

A-ask someone for advice or help

S-seek the help of an adult

K-knock on the door for someone to assist you

As peer mediation training continues, students will be able to attend our meetings for in-person mediation meetings and peer mediators will periodically present conflict resolution strategies during our morning assemblies. Students who are interested in creating a more peaceful environment in our school are always welcome to join. In the words of Ghandi,

"We have to be the change we want to see in the world."



Please Note!

Interim Assessments

Grades 3-8 Interim Assessments are on Feb 13th and Feb 14th. Please make sure that your children are in school and on time!



Progress Reports

Please make an appointment to pick up your child's 2nd Cycle Report Card if you have not done yet done so. Progress reports will be distributed February 29th and like Report Cards, they are an important way for teachers to communicate to you and your child about academic performance.

Please make sure you take time to sit with your child and discuss the highs and the lows. Create a plan together to make sure that the highs stay high and the lows are turned around! Don't wait until the third report card comes out to address warning signs of failure or poor performance.

If you are concerned and/or your child's teachers have indicated their concern, please make an appointment for a conference and continue to closely watch your child's homework and study habits.

Together, teachers and parents can make a difference and ensure high standards for academic success.

Suggestions, comments, questions:

please contact Mrs. Thomas

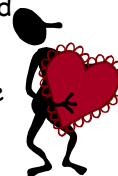
Phone: (973) 623-9005

ftomas@ladylibertyacademycs.org

<http://www.ladylibertyacademycs.org>

Shout Out for Support! by Ms Fentress

Students in the Speech and Language Program are still collecting children's books and computer software programs for use in our Media Center. We have organized over a thousand books so far. Please bring new and gently used items to the donation box outside the basement level Media Center near the Main Office. We are also in need of bookends and magazine holders. Thank you for your support!



Celebrating our Student Stars!

LLACS & Grenada Partnership by Mrs. Guthrie

Dear Friends:

Too often we think that what we have isn't enough; that we need more to be complete. Appreciation is often hard to find because our American society usually posits that more is better. But valuing the current materials and opportunities that we have as Americans can be a truly rewarding experience.

The middle school students at Lady Liberty Academy are taking on one such path. Students will be encouraged to write pen pal letters to fellow students in primary and secondary schools in Grenada, West Indies. These letters will share the daily activities of a Lady Liberty Academy student and the things that they value and appreciate.

A disposable camera was given to each homeroom class in grades 5 through 8 and students were asked to take photographs that best represent the spirit of Lady Liberty Academy. These photographs and pen pal letters will be sent to Grenada along with four disposable cameras for the students in Grenada to take similar photographs of their own experiences, homeland, and school.

While we anxiously wait for the response of students in Grenada, our goal is to see how our students will gain a heightened awareness and appreciation of the many opportunities afforded them here and help to promote positive cultural communication between students in two very different countries. It is an exciting prospect and one, which I hope, will develop and flourish as the years roll by.

8th Grade Genetics Expo by Ms Cenac

On January 25, 2008, the students in the 8th grade class, the Scarlet Knights hosted a Genetics Expo. During our course of study in science class students were introduced to the work of scientist Gregor Mendel and they developed an understanding about heredity and how organisms acquire traits. Students also learned about the role of genes and gene mutations. To take their learning outside of the classroom, students were assigned to select a genetic disorder of their choice and conduct research that they would then share at the Expo. The students explored disorders such as Sickle Cell Anemia, Cleft Lip, Autism, Mental Retardation, Hyperthyroidism and Color Blindness. Research information was presented to parents, faculty, administration, and students during oral presentations using PowerPoint displays, 3D- visual boards, newsletters and brochures. This assignment afforded students an opportunity to work closely with Mr. Silver, our technology teacher, where they developed their research and technology skills. In addition, the students worked with Mrs. Quinn, who helped them organize their research information accurately and sharpen their presentation skills. The Expo was a huge success and students and parents should be proud of their accomplishments.