



Building Strength by Working Together

January 2008



Save the dates:

- PTO Meeting, 6pm: Jan 7th
- Board of Trustees Meeting: Jan 8th 4pm
- Enrollment Lottery and New Family Orientation: Jan 11th 5:30 pm
- End of 2nd Marking Period: Jan 18th
- K-4 Dance Recital: Jan 18th
- NO SCHOOL for MLK Day: Jan 21st
- Scholastic Book Fair: Jan 22nd-25th
- 12:15 dismissal for Parent-Teacher Report Card Conferences: Jan 31st



There is still an open vacancy on the leadership team of the Parent Council. Please reach out to Ms Reed in the Main Office if you are interested in the position of Secretary.

Growth in Learning

Lady Liberty Academy's mission is founded on the core belief reflected in Dewey's words in our quote for this month. Our mission states:

"To have all children be active learners who participate in constructing knowledge and understanding; and provide them with the necessary resources and learning opportunities so they can transform their thoughts into concrete tools that can be used to shape and control their environment."

As parents and teachers, we are our children's best models for how we can use active learning as a tool for positive change and empowerment.

As teachers and administrators, we can learn from you, from each other, and from our students. As parents, we can learn from our parents, our children, and our children's teachers.

As we begin a new year, set goals for continuing to effect growth in our school community, and prepare for important high-stakes State NKASK tests, let us take time to reflect on our openness to learning and our readiness to use the lessons we receive in order to make adjustments in our lives and improve. Our children need and deserve our encouragement and support in order to make positive choices about their education and help them to use their learning wisely. Here are some tips to help this happen:

- ❑ Find out about and be enthusiastic about your child's interests, talents, and

"The object and reward of learning is a continual capacity for growth."

- John Dewey

passions. Do research to find out how these interests can be nurtured through community and school related programs.

- ❑ Take time to sit down and plan for the future. Discuss prospective high schools, scholarship opportunities, and colleges. Always AIM HIGH!
- ❑ Never give up teaching your child that education is the key to success. Show them through your own example and by ensuring that they take school seriously. Show them that EVERYTHING counts – arriving to school on time and attending each day; completing quality homework each night; wearing school uniform; following the school rules; practicing the core values; and going above and beyond what is asked.
- ❑ Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way to expose your child to more education and different, culturally enriching experiences.
- ❑ Stay actively involved in the school. Join the Parent Council, attend report card conference days and school events, and check homework daily. Keep in touch with your child's teachers.
- ❑ And finally, share the results and fruits of your learning with your children and help them understand the important role that education plays in your life.

Book and Computer Software Drive

by Ms Fentress

Students involved in the Speech and Language Program are sponsoring a Book and Computer Software Drive. We are collecting new and gently used children's books and educational computer programs. All materials are being organized for student and teacher use in the media center on the Basement level. A donation box is located near the security desk by the Main Office. So, clean off your bookshelves and help benefit our students! Our goal is to receive 1,000 DONATIONS. We need you to help us reach our goal! We look forward to having an Open House at the end of January to show all the work and effort we have put into this project. For more information, please contact Ms Fentress, Speech-Language Pathologist in the Child Study Team office on Mondays and Thursdays.



Dress for Success Every Day!

Our uniform should be worn in a way that demonstrates pride and self-respect. Pants must be pulled up and securely belted around the waist. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.

The uniform for boys and girls is:

- Light blue long or short sleeved polo shirt with the Lady Liberty logo
- Dark gray twill pants
- Navy blue pocket cardigan sweater with the Lady Liberty emblem
- Black shoes (*Absolutely no sneakers* except for gym days)
- Black or gray belt with plain silver or gold buckle (No nameplate, rhinestone, colored, or other ornate buckles)
- White or dark, solid-colored socks

On days when students have gym, the uniform is:

- Navy blue sweatshirt with the school logo
- Lady Liberty Uniform T-shirt
- Navy blue sweatpants
- Gym shoes with laces or Velcro closures (*No slip on gym shoes permitted*)

In addition, with regard to jewelry and accessories:

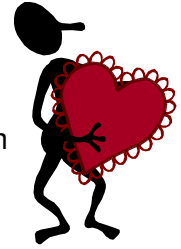
- No chains, bracelets, or bangles may be worn
- Only small stud or post earrings may be worn
- No hoops or dangling earrings of any size will be permitted
- Headbands may not dangle or drape
- No grills or other dental appliances worn for cosmetic purposes may be worn

During cold, inclement weather:

If boots or other non-uniform layers of clothing (including thermals) are worn to school, they must be removed when the student reports to homeroom. For students who feel cold in the building during the day, they are encouraged to wear the long-sleeve style polo shirt and/or the uniform sweater. Non-uniform sweaters, coats, and thermals worn under short sleeve shirts will not be permitted.

Please help us to enforce our uniform policy and encourage our students to dress professionally and with pride.

Shout Outs of Appreciation!



Thank you to all parents who supported the KSS after school program Holiday show and for the leadership of Ms Murray-Nolan, Ms Abnathya, Ms Kienast White, Ms Owens-Chavers, Ms Reed, Ms Lofton, Mr. Lindsey, and all after school program staff.

Thank you to all parents who continue to support our fundraising and wish list efforts by donating Box Tops for Education, books, and school uniform items.

Bullying

We want to continue to ensure that our goal to create a bully-free school environment is addressed. This column shares some research tips on what parents and guardians can do in order to equip children with effective ways to report and manage acts of bullying.

“1. Encourage your child to report bullying incidents to you.

**Validate your child's feelings by letting him/her know that it is normal to feel hurt, sad, scared, angry, etc.*

**Let your child know that s/he has made the right choice by reporting the incident(s) to you and assure your child that s/he is not to blame.*

**Help your child be specific in describing bullying incidents: who, what, where, when. (Look for patterns of repeated bullying behaviors.)*

2. Ask your child how s/he has tried to stop the bullying.

3. Coach your child in possible alternatives.

**Avoidance is often the best strategy.*

Play in a different place.

Play a different game.

Stay near a supervising adult

**Look for ways to find new friends.*

encouraging him/her to extend invitations for friends to play at your home or to attend activities.

Involve your child in social activities outside of school.

4. Treat the school as your ally.

**Share your child's concerns and specific information about bullying incidents with appropriate school personnel.*

**Work with school staff to protect your child from possible retaliation.*

**Establish a plan with the school and your child for dealing with future bullying incidents.*

5. Encourage your child to seek help and to report bullying incidents to someone s/he feels safe with at the school.

6. Use school personnel and other parents as resources in finding positive ways to encourage respectful behaviors at school.

**Volunteer time to help supervise on field trips, on the playground, or in the lunchroom.*

**Become an advocate for school wide bullying prevention programs and policies.*

7. Encourage your child to continue to talk with you about all bullying incidents.

**Do not ignore your child's report.*

**Do not advise your child to physically fight back. (Bullying lasts longer and becomes more severe when children fight back. Physical injuries often result.)*

**Do not confront the child who bullies.*

**Do not confront the family of the child who bullies.” (Extracted from: Bullying in Schools and what to do about it. Dr. Ken Rigby)*

If you are interested in being on a committee taskforce to create our school wide anti-bullying program, please call Mrs Thomas as soon as possible. We are eager to have you share your insights and expertise as we continue to develop policy and strategies to create a bully-free school.