



Lebanon Elementary School - PTA

Phil Johnson, President

www.les-pta.org

February 1, 2008

President's Corner

WHO IS THE PTA AND WHAT DO WE DO?

The PTA is parents like you who volunteer and care about the school, and what goes on there. Our mission and purpose is to promote the welfare of the children and youth in the home, school, community and place of worship. Also to bring closer the relationship between home and school that the parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of the children and youth. Basically, we are about the kids! Of every dollar the PTA raises in fundraising 85 cents is turned back into the school. These funds bring the kids:

- the assemblies the kids see like Bill Harley, Prismatic, the laser show and others.
- 4th Grade Celebration and Spirit Week Activities
- The Ladybug Ball
- The Reflections Program
- and countless donations of equipment and books to the school

Is what The PTA does important to you? The kids? The School? The PTA meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 in the LES Cafe. However, at our February (4th) meeting we will start at 6:00 and we will be serving pizza for dinner before the meeting. We'll return to our normal meeting time, 6:30, in March (3rd) and if you bring someone new to the March meeting, you will be entered into a special door prize drawing. I invite everyone to come to a meeting and see what the PTA is doing. The meeting last about an hour and childcare is provided by the PTA.

Upcoming Events:

Date	Time	Program	Location
Mon, Feb 4th	6:00 PM	LES PTA Regular meeting	LES Café
Fri, Feb 8th	3:30 PM	SCRIP Order	LES Café or Phil Johnson
Fri, Feb 15th	3:30 PM	SCRIP Pickup	LES Café or Phil Johnson
Mon, Feb 18th - Fri, Feb 22nd		LES School Vacation	

PTA Meeting - It's a Pizza Meeting!

The next meeting of the LES PTA will be on **Monday February 4th at 6:00pm** in the LES cafe. This Regular Meeting will start at 6:00 instead of 6:30 and Pizza, Salad and Dessert will be served. Childcare is provided by the PTA for all meetings. We hope to see you there.



Gray Days Can Be Great Play Days

Winter is often associated with pristine white snow and all those things attendant on snow: snowmen, snow angels, skating, skiing...But the winter months can also be just plain cold and wet, with nobody much feeling like going outside. Here's a few ideas for keeping your family's bodies—and minds—active on those days the weather keeps you indoors:

- Build an obstacle course with tunnels to crawl through, mats for tumbling and obstacles to climb over.
- Throw a dance party with music selected by you and your children.
- Play follow the leader. Take turns leading each other around your home and making up crazy movements that the others have to imitate.
- Play Twister or charades.
- Have your children act out a story as you read aloud. Encourage them to act out both the actions and the emotions.
- Dress up as pirates and hunt for treasure. Write clues that your children must decipher to find the next clue and, eventually, the hidden treasure.

Ideas based on activities suggested on the website www.stlouischildrens.org

The Connecticut State Department of Education is considering a new high school reform plan.

An ad-hoc committee was convened to look at secondary school redesign in the State of CT. The charge of the committee was to develop recommendations to the state legislature to:

- Improve Connecticut's high school graduation rate; and
- Prepare graduates for successful entry into college or the workplace, predicated on the completion of required full- and half-year courses, end-of-course examinations, authentic assessments and career paths reflecting the individual needs and aspirations of each student

A five-year comprehensive plan was adopted by the committee in January, 2007. The plan centers on high school reform and ensures the graduation of all students prepared for the global marketplace.

Public Forums

The Connecticut State Department of Education will be holding public forums around the state to present and get input on the new high school reform plan. It is important that parents and educators attend these forums and offer their opinions and feedback. No matter what age your child is these reforms will effect them!

TOWN	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Westport	Bedford Middle School 88 North Ave. (203)341-1510	1/14/08	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Storrs	E.O. Smith High School 1235 Storrs Rd. (860) 487-0877	1/16/08	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Montville	Montville High School Old Colchester Rd (860) 848-9208	1/22/08	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Plainfield	Plainfield High School 105 Putnam Rd. (860) 564-6422	1/30/08	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
North Branford	North Branford High School 49 Caputo Road (203) 484-1465	2/7/08	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Torrington	Torrington High School 50 Major Besse Drive (860) 489-2294	2/11/08	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Hartford	CREC Central Office 111 Charter Oak Ave. (860) 524-4063	2/13/08	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Newtown	Newtown High School 12 Berkshire Road (203) 426-7646	2/14/08	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

For More Information

- *CT Department of Education High School Redesign Initiative*
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=321690&sdeNavPage=|
- *A Case for High School Reform*
PowerPoint Presentation to the Connecticut State Board of Education Dr. Mark K. McQuillan & Dr. Jay Voss, December 5, 2007
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/powerpointpresentations/Commish/Dec5HSReform.ppt
- *Framework for Connecticut's High Schools: A Working Guide for High School Redesign*
Connecticut State Department of Education, June 9, 2006
www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/word_docs/curriculum/hs_redesign/hs_frameworks_finaldraft_8_21_06_2_.doc

From the Editor.

We hope you are finding these LES PTA newsletters to be beneficial. Please let us know what you think. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to send an email to AskThePTA@les-pta.org.