April 21, 2020 | Issue #17



PTSA

PTSA Virtual General Membership Meeting May 20, 7:00 pm

Coronavirus or no coronavirus, the PTSA still must conduct important business this year including approval of our budget and election of officers so we can continue to bring our programming and vital support to our students and staff. We will be holding our next meeting on **May 20 at 7:00 pm** via video conferencing. More info to follow, but please plan on joining us so we can continue to serve you!

LWHS PTSA Seeking Board Members for 2020-2021

Connect and Be a Part of the LWHS Community

Want to put your skills to good use? Want to make a difference? Want greater insight into your student's school? The LWHS PTSA Nominating Committee is looking for people to serve on the 2020-2021 PTSA Board.

We are especially looking to fill the following Board positions:

- Executive Vice President
- VP Student Programs
- VP Student Support
- VP Ways and Means

There are other opportunities to get involved, so don't hesitate to contact us if you're interested. All positions can be shared by more than one person. <u>Click here</u> for complete job descriptions.

If interested and/or would like more information, contact the Nominating Committee at nomcom@lwhsptsa.org

Denise Ferguson, Barbie Collins Young, Dan Olson LWHS PTSA Nominating Committee

National PTA Offers Notes from the Backpack: A PTA Podcast

Tune in to the latest episode: Tackling COVID-19 Anxiety Together. National PTA talked with psychologist, author and professor Dr. Turner to learn how we can keep our families happy, healthy and learning during this difficult time. <u>Listen now.</u>



A Note from LWHS PTSA Inclusion and Awareness Chair

Current school closures are hard on all of us but those with disabilities may be experiencing even more disruption to their all important routine. Many societies have COVID-19 resources and information on their websites. A few examples are:

- National Autism Society https://www.autism-society.org/
- National Down Syndrome Society https://www.ndss.org/

Gwen Harbi

LWHS PTSA Inclusion and Awareness Chair

Special Education Group Meeting - Online Tonight

LWPTSA Council Special Education Group is holding their April 2020 meeting and presentation online due to the Washington school closures. Persons needing accommodations or translations or who have questions about access may email us at specialeducation@lwptsa.net in advance of the meeting.

Topic: Building Community - Sharing Experiences: Our previously scheduled speaker needs to postpone her presentation, so we're going to use this time to gather as a community of parents with students receiving Special Education services to talk about how we're navigating these unique times. Please join us to share your questions, successes and challenges.

When: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Where: Online via GoToMeeting on computer, tablet, or smartphone https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/262087173

You can also dial in using your phone:

United States: +1 (872) 240-3212, Access Code: 262-087-173

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/262087173

For questions or additional information please contact <u>Laurel Spaeth</u>, Special Education Chair

PTSA Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

Do You Want to Honor a FABULOUS Educator, Volunteer, or Student?

We are now accepting nominations for our four LWHS PTSA awards:

- Golden Kang / Outstanding Educator for an outstanding teacher or staff member
- Golden Acorn for an outstanding volunteer
- Outstanding Advocate for an outstanding advocate of all children

 Outstanding Student Advocate - for a student who has made significant contributions in leadership and service

Feel free to nominate more than one person. Please use one form per nominee. Deadline for nominations is Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

Nominations forms, information and award criteria are <u>available here</u>. Email your completed nomination forms to <u>communications@lwhsptsa.org</u> by May 20.

LWHS PTSA Awards Committee Colette Ulloa, Pam Hay and Anne Buck

Sustainability at LWHS: Celebrating Earth Day

Appreciating Our Surroundings

Tomorrow is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! In past Kang Criers, I have talked about rethinking our impact by Recycling and Reducing Waste. But for Wednesday, let's celebrate the day by looking at our surroundings. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place. Look west, look east and you can see amazing snow-capped mountain ranges. Look up into the trees and admire their height, trunks and foliage. Look down and see what spring is bringing forth from the ground (okay, some may be weeds). It's the perfect time to appreciate the beauty outside our doors.



I also want to recommend the film, *The Biggest Little Farm*. This documentary follows two dreamers and a dog on an odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land they are farming. It is a testament to the immense complexity of nature and how everything is related and intertwined. (Rated PG. It's available on many streaming services.)

If you would like to do more to celebrate Earth Day, check out the Daily Challenges at <u>earthday.org</u>.

STAY WELL and TAKE A MOMENT TO ENJOY YOUR SURROUNDINGS

For Questions & Comments, Contact <u>Pam Hay</u> LWHS PTSA Sustainability Chair

LWPTSA Scholarships Extended

Due to the King County school closures, LWPTSA Council has extended its scholarship submission deadline to May 1, 2020, and is now accepting applications via email. Please see the revised applications and instructions below.

The Lake Washington PTSA Council is pleased offer 13 student scholarships of \$1,250 each and two \$500 staff scholarships. The Scholarship Program is funded by money raised at the Council's annual Scholarship Basket Auction, by annual donations from the 44 PTSAs in the LWSD and LWEA, and by donations from the greater community.

- Download the new <u>Student Scholarship Application</u>
- Download the new <u>Staff Scholarship Application</u>

For more information, contact Scholarships Co-Chairs Andrea Stoppani and Reva Racmachandran at scholarships@lwptsa.net.

Finding Post-Graduation Path Presentation Now Available Online

The March 31 parent education event "Navigating the Post Graduation Path" was canceled but LWSD's College and Career Specialists have provided a copy of their presentation in lieu of the in-person presentation.

Find out what supports and services are available to your student and learn about the college admissions process. Please send questions to LWPTSA Council's <u>Parent</u> Education Chair Irene Neumann.

Washington State PTA Advocacy Platform Submissions Now Being Accepted

Any PTA member is encouraged to submit an issue, resolution, or principle that addresses concerns that affect children on a state-wide level. As a grassroots association, we rely on our members to provide the priorities that we will advocate for at the state-level and within our communities. Learn more about our legislative priorities here and the history of our advocacy efforts here.

The submission process is now open.

- Legislative issue submission information
- Legislative principle submission information
- Resolution submission information

To assist you in the process, WSPTA has developed a series of four videos, "The Savvy Submitter's Guide to Issues, Resolutions, and Principles", to walk you through the required steps:

- Part 1 Overview
- Part 2 Legislative Issues
- Part 3 Resolutions
- Part 4 Legislative Principles

The current legislative issue platform will be replaced at the 2020 Legislative Assembly. Members will adopt a new Top 5 platform including the additional issues that will comprise the "also supported" list.

School

LWSD Resources During School Closures

Lake Washington School District is working to provide services during the school closures. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the <u>LWSD Coronavirus (COVID-19)</u> website.

Meals: <u>Grab and Go student meals</u> for students are available at six middle school sites across the district. <u>Delivered meals</u> are also available at 24 sites across the district. Pantry Packs will distribute weekend packs on Fridays at the middle school meal sites. Please check the <u>Pantry Packs website</u> for the latest information in case of changes.

<u>Childcare</u>: The YMCA and Bellevue Boys & Girls Clubs are providing care for families in our district that need care. They have multiple locations to choose from. First responders and health care providers of direct services can use this program for free. More <u>details and instructions</u>.

Education: Find supplemental educational resources with supports for at-home learning. Please read the <u>March 27 update</u> for details about LWSD's plans for Curriculum-Based Remote Learning.

<u>Community Resources</u>: Find resources including health, wellness, food, finances, technology, Internet, legal and more.

Have a coronavirus or closure related question? Please check the Frequently Asked

Questions or submit a question.

From the Counseling Center

Important Statement from Washington State Colleges and Universities

Just a few days ago, Washington's colleges and universities released the following: "Students who complete high school coursework in spring 2020 and receive a "pass" in lieu of a letter grade will not be negatively affected in the admission process at Washington's public and private, not-for-profit four-year colleges and universities. This includes 8-12 grade students taking high school coursework during this term at a high school in the State of Washington. Washington's public four-year and Independent Colleges of Washington member colleges and universities do not re-calculate pass/no pass scores into numeric grade equivalents."

Advanced Placement Exam Updates

College Board has completely reconfigured the content and exam process due to COVID 19. Please remind your student to check out the <u>LWHS Counseling Center webpage</u> and Power School Learning for updates to the AP Exam process.

Marilyn Hargraves

LWHS Counseling Center

Strive Virtual College Exploration Week Program Now through April 23

While we may not be able to explore colleges in person for the time being, many colleges are working to develop ways to share their experiences with students and families virtually! One fantastic opportunity coming up is the <u>Strive Virtual College Exploration Week program.</u> This free event, for **high school Juniors**, allows students to learn about various colleges as well as issues related to the college process. With our spring college fair cancelled, this will be a great event!

The event includes:

- 300+ colleges from 45 states and 10 countries
- 96 sessions over 4 days
- Day and evening options
- Panel presentations on a range of topics for juniors and underclassmen
- Free and open to students nationwide!

Registration for students and parents is still open! <u>www.strivescan.com/virtual</u>

Melanie Conroy

LWHS College and Career Specialist

Attention Spring Athletes: The Yearbook Committee Needs Your Help!

Please submit photos of your spring sports athletes for LWHS yearbook. We are all disappointed that this season barely got underway but we know YOU have some great photos of your student playing at home, practicing, or playing in events from seasons past. Please send your photos to hkreutz@lwsd.org by April 27. Be sure to include name and grade.

Many thanks, Rick O'Leary, LWHS Athletic Director and Janis Rabuchin, LWHS Booster Club President

Follow the LWHS Booster Club on Social Media

KANGARONA Challenges are coming soon to the <u>LWHS</u> <u>Booster Club Instagram Page</u>. Make sure you're following us so you can join in the fun. Guaranteed laughs. Here are our links to Facebook and Twitter too!

Janis Rabuchin
LWHS Booster Club President



Seniors

To Seniors and Their Families

We know the school closure through the end of the year is heartbreaking for you and there are many questions about traditional senior activities and events. We all want to make sure that somehow our Class of 2020 is given the recognition they have worked so hard to achieve and has a chance to celebrate their graduation.

LWHS PTSA Board requests your input as to how we can achieve this during these unusual and trying times. Please reply to the survey link at the end of this email by April 29. We are also collecting feedback in a closed group chat on <u>our Facebook page</u>.

Take the Survey

Purchase Yard Signs to Celebrate the Class of 2020

As the LWHS community continues to seek ways to celebrate our seniors and their accomplishments, the LWHS PTSA is excited to offer **LW Class of 2020 Signs** for display in your yards or windows. These signs are 18 x 24 in size with an H-stake at \$10.00 per sign and can include your student's name. You can view a <u>design sample here</u>.

To purchase a sign, please visit the <u>LWHS PTSA website</u>. You can also elect to place an order to purchase a non-customized sign for a family in need which will be distributed to families via appropriate school channels.



Please place your order by **Wednesday**, **April 29**. We hope to distribute signs the week of May 11. Exact distribution details will follow as we find ways to comply with social distancing guidelines. We will communicate more information to all purchasers once signs are available.

For questions, please contact Megan Gardner at ihbgardner@comcast.net.

Community

Lake Washington Schools Foundation Balance in Mind Chats and Webinars

Balance in Mind is supporting parents and teens with weekly chats. Check one out this week:

Teen Chat on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm: Livestream on Instagram with a YES counselor

and a teen host. Follow @bimteens

 <u>Parent Chats on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm</u>: Talk with mental health professionals and other parents in a supportive space. New topic every week. Register at <u>tinyurl.com/BIMParentChat</u>

Events

April 21: Special Education Group Meeting

May 1: LWPTSA Scholarship Applications Due

May 20: LWHS PTSA General Membership Meeting

<u>Website</u> <u>Facebook</u> <u>Join/Donate</u> <u>Amazon</u> <u>Fred Meyer</u>

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