



Louise Archer PTA

WHERE THE SUN ALWAYS SHINES

Louise Archer Elementary School
February 7, 2024 @ 8:00pm

PTA MEETING MINS - FEB. 2024

Board Members:

- Nausheen Khan - President
- Tooba Malik - Vice President
- Steve Soliday - Treasurer
- Katie Nevitt - Secretary

Call to Order: 8:03pm

School Principal & VP Report.....Michelle Makrigiorgos & Jennifer Condra

- We are currently in the third quarter, marking the halfway point of the school year. Some classes are celebrating their 100th day of school.
- Midyear progress reports have been uploaded to the SIS website and distributed in students' Tuesday Folders, as well as ParentVue. For any inquiries, kindly reach out to your individual teachers.
- Construction Update:
 - All modular units housing classrooms, as well as our art and music department, are scheduled to move back into the newly renovated building.
 - New furniture will be delivered over Spring Break.
 - During the reconstruction of the old section, the main office will be relocated.
 - For the rest of the school year, the main office will be moved to Door 9, close to the basketball courts.
 - Visitors must enter through Door 9 and follow the signs to check in.
- Just a friendly reminder, we understand that winter is the season for illnesses. However, it's important to remember that attendance is crucial. Missing school can result in social and academic challenges. Therefore, we will reach out to families if we notice any issues to provide assistance and support.

Treasurer's Report.....Steve Soliday

- Not much has changed since we last discussed this in the fall regarding programs and funding.
- Previously, we managed programs through the PTA, but for the spring activities, we have transitioned to using Homeroom, which means the money is no longer routed through the PTA. Consequently, the financial figures may seem a bit erratic.

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- Notable expenses include the Azzara fund, which is slightly over half spent. However, since we are halfway through the school year, this seems acceptable but warrants monitoring.
- The supply closet expenses are at 73%, and there is a supply closet drive on the horizon. Although Alice won't be present tonight, the details are available on the Facebook page, and updates may follow.
- Additionally, we have subscribed to an Evite professional membership, website hosting, and Constant Contact subscriptions. These additions might exceed the budget, necessitating a future vote to either separate the Evite costs or raise the website budget.
- Overall, everything else is proceeding as planned.

Presidents Report & Program Notes.....Nausheen Khan

- This month we're meeting virtually, and we plan to have in-person meetings next month (March). We aim to increase attendance, acknowledging that some find virtual events more convenient, yet value the in-person socializing to discuss programming and support needed. We deeply value our teachers, staff, and parents who participate, especially in person. Transitioning back post-pandemic is challenging, but together we will progress. We welcome all ideas and feedback from our members.
- Join the PTA - different membership levels available; join this year at <https://louisearcherpta.org/>
 - Our current PTA President, Nausheen Khan, will be leaving Louise Archer after this school year. Steve Soliday, our Treasurer, will be shifting to the Webmaster role. Therefore, we are seeking volunteers to take on these positions for the 2024-2025 school year to ensure we can continue supporting our students and community. Please consider volunteering for these roles! Training for these positions should begin immediately. For more information, please reach out to Katie Nevitt at secretary@louisearcherpta.org or any member of the executive board. I do
- Loyalty Programs
 - Harris Teeter Loyalty Program - Please link Louise Archer to your VIC card! Earn money for Louise Archer when you shop at Harris Teeter. (Link your card to Louise Archer ES #6189)
 - Givebacks —> Shop to Give Program where you can link your credit card and shop at local businesses, and they give a kickback to the PTA. Also available is a browser extension which gives 20% back. Please take a look and give it a try to help support that LAES PTA

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Directory.....Manpreet S. Dhanjal

- We are still in need of a directory shadow, especially since my child is a sixth grader at Louise Archer, making this our final year. If anyone is interested, please contact me at directory@louisearcherpta.org.
- Last year, A-to-Z Connect informed us of their intention to charge for the paper directory. After some research conducted at school, we concluded that an online version of the directory was adequate.
- Please visit the online platform to confirm your information. During this process, you can choose whether you want your details to be public. By default, information is made public, so you will need to opt out if you prefer not to be included. Everyone's details are shared unless they choose to opt out.

Faculty Volleyball GameLauren Padgett

- On April 5th, the Friday following spring break, at Madison High School
- We are seeking volunteers for game day. Assistance is needed to help with pizza orders, spreading the word, and more.
- Coach Ryan Lacari is currently working on participant selection and shirt orders.
- More information and details will be provided as the event draws near.

LA5K & Sun Run.....Liz Young

- Registration for the upcoming race is now open.
- Appreciation to Jerry for updating the website and Sunbeam newsletter with race information.
- Efforts are underway to promote the event on Facebook and explore additional marketing strategies.
- Early bird registration discounts available for participants signing up in February.
- Teachers and staff can register for free by contacting the website administrator for a special code.
- The event is scheduled for Sunday, April 28.
- Initial permit approvals secured from Fairfax police with the next step involving VDOT.
- Erin Karney is managing sponsorships, with sponsors to be acknowledged on the website and event T-shirts.
- A T-shirt design contest for students is in the works, with the possibility of board members judging the designs.
- Collaboration with the dining for dollars chairperson to organize a packet pickup event the week of the race.
- Packet pickup locations include the school and Potomac River running store.
- Coordination efforts ongoing to secure a DJ for the event.

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- Volunteers needed for various race day tasks including registration, packet pickup, and event assistance.

Pizza Bingo.....Andrea LoBalbo & Pam Bombardi

- The proposed date for Pizza Bingo is April 19th. Advertising planned to begin next week.
- Some key challenges we faced last year were the long wait for pizza and the inconvenient location of moving from the cafeteria to the gym. Considering this, could we explore the idea of hosting Bingo outdoors while using the cafeteria for pizza service? This way, participants can enjoy both eating and playing Bingo simultaneously.
- Additionally, we are considering offering pre-ordered family packs that include pizza and drinks at a fixed price to expedite the process and avoid delays from last year.

STEAM Fair.....Erin Simpler

- We're hosting a STEAM Fair called the STEAM Extravaganza on Thursday, March 14th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.
- This event is similar to a science fair but with a more open-ended approach, allowing kids to explore technology-related research if they wish.
- Due to ongoing construction, we won't have daytime activities as we did in the past.
- This marks the first STEAM fair at LAES since 2019, originally planned for March 2020.
- Please note that due to space limitations, the presentations will take place exclusively in the cafeteria with around 40 students participating.

Sunshine Times Newspaper.....Reshma Patel

We started off slowly with submissions, but it turned out to be the largest number I've ever received in the three years I've been doing this. We received 54 entries covering various genres of art, writing, games, puzzles, and more. I don't want to spoil the surprise, but Sarah will have a lot of work organizing everything. Each student who submitted will receive a hard copy, teachers will get two to three copies per classroom, and we'll provide an extra copy to the library. Our entire staff will also receive a copy. We are incredibly proud of the children's work. Our extensive advertising efforts really paid off. We are eagerly anticipating the final newspaper.

Supply Closet Committee.....Alice Tran Suh

The PTA is calling for supply donations to stock the supply closet! In support of our wonderful teachers, the PTA created a supply closet to help replenish needed supplies this past Fall. We've traditionally had a supply collection during Teacher Appreciation Week which is too late in the year for the teachers to use the supplies. So, we are moving up our supply donation drive up! If you would like to donate any of the following items we have several drop off options 1) the porches of 435 Lewis St NW or 2240 Loch Lomond Drive 2) for student drop offs: bin by

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cafeteria/kiss n ride or 3) for drop off during school hours: bin in the front office. Please drop off supplies starting Monday, February 12th thru Friday, March 1st. If you have any questions, you can email Alice Suh (alice.tran@gmail.com) or Peggy Femenella (pfem22@yahoo.com). Thank you for your generosity!

Skate Night.....Erin Berk

Scheduled for Saturday, February 24th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, with an admission fee of \$10 per skater. I have been coordinating with Webmaster Jerry to set up a pre-registration link and have a blurb included in the Sunbeam. Additionally, I have a flyer ready for distribution in next week's Tuesday folder. Everything seems set, just a few volunteers are needed, I plan on having my son help for middle school service hours and another adult to assist with credit card transactions.

Yearbook.....Anita Cheng

The class photo collection is progressing well, with only a few classes still missing photos. I plan to reach out to take these photos during school specials in the upcoming 2 1/2 weeks. The early bird special for the yearbook is priced at \$20, and the deadline to place orders before the price increase is the 23rd. We have already sold 212 yearbooks, which is a positive sign. This week marks the final week for booster sales, with 48 sold so far and a goal of reaching 60.

FCPS Family Connection Group.....Tooba Malik / Shannon Aimone

The PTA has two parent volunteers who will be representing LAES in the FCPS Superintendent's bi-monthly 'Family Connection Group'. The intent of the Family Connection Group is to share feedback with Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid about your family's experience with Louise Archer ES. As our volunteers attend, provide feedback, engage with other parents, and learn about the actions the Superintendent plans to take they will share this information with us via multiple channels including PTA meetings and the PTA newsletter. Previous topics raised span from overcrowding, language barriers, boundaries, to the FCPS budget (remember this is a county-wide forum to include elementary, middle, and high schools)

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments for our FCG liaisons please use the anonymous Google survey or you may email them directly.

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We want to express our gratitude to everyone who has joined us. A special thank you to all our committee chairs for their incredible efforts in organizing these events. Your dedication is truly invaluable, and we couldn't do it without you. Just a reminder, without a president or treasurer next year, the PTA cannot function. Although we have funds in our account, we are unable to hold events or make any payments as per the bylaws. So, please consider this if you are thinking about contributing and volunteering in the community next year.

Questions / Comments: (none)

Call Meeting to Close: 8:57pm

Upcoming Events:

February

24 Skate Night (6-8pm)

March (TBD : Dining for Dollars)

1 Readathon Kickoff

13 PTA Meeting (In-Person)

25-29 Spring Break

April (TBD : Cultural Arts Assembly, Pop-up Party, Dining for Dollars)

5 Faculty Volleyball Game vs Wolf Trap

13 Reflections Student Awards Celebration (Richmond)

17 PTA Meeting (Zoom)

18 Spring Pictures with Classes

19 Pizza Bingo

28 LA5K & Sun Run

30 Picture Day (Staff & 6th Grade panoramic)

May (TBD : Dining for Dollars)

6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week

14 PTA Meeting (In Person)

17 International Night

June* (TBD : Pop-up Party)

7 6th Grade Celebration @ JMHS

12 Early Release; Last Day of School