

# Pride Post

Volume 1, Issue 5, May 2011

## Principal's Corner

Scott Lyons



*Dear Leesville Road High School Parents:*

As the 2010-2011 school year draws to a close, I hope that you will take a moment to read this newsletter for important information about previous and upcoming events, as well as exciting student and staff accomplishments. We have had a great year overall and are already making preparations for the 2011-2012 school year.

In our last newsletter, I shared with you some of our End of Course test results from first semester. If you have not had a chance to look at these results, please do so. I am very proud of our students and staff. We have had a push this year to try and increase the use of technology in education at our school. As a result, I surveyed the staff to see what types of technology would be useful in classrooms to help facilitate learning. As a result of this survey, we purchased five SMART Boards, ten document cameras, three classroom sets of clickers, and a class set of flip cameras. Many of our teachers have been using these resources and we will continue to add to our technology resources throughout the coming years so that we can give our students the most relevant education possible.

Our enrollment for next year will be dropping from approximately 2,400 students to 2,100 students, so we are going to be hiring our teaching staff according to the courses students are required to take and what they are interested in taking. Almost all students have registered for the 2011-2012 school year in SPAN. Very soon you will be receiving a Course Verification Form from our Student Services Department. This form will indicate what your student has requested to take next school year. If you want to make changes to your requests, please follow the instructions that will accompany the forms. This information will be helpful as we make staffing decisions for next year.

Since this is the last newsletter of the year, I want to congratulate all of our graduates and their parents, and I wish you the best in the future. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and I look forward to a great 2011-2012 school year.

Warm regards,

Scott Lyons

## PTSA President's Corner

*Andrea Scheviak*

Dear LRHS Families:

With the school year's end looming ever closer, the PTSA is busy preparing for end of year activities and planning for next year.

The nominating committee (Jane Patterson, Cathy Kratt and Diane Michaud), with the assistance of Frances Lewis, worked with me to reorganize the structure of the PTSA Board of Directors for next year. We will have five Vice Presidents instead of three, to better share the workload and more evenly distribute responsibilities. These committee members have also been doing a wonderful job of filling the slate of officers for next year. There are still some open slots. Please nominate yourself or someone you know to serve on the board by emailing [jlbpatterson@gmail.com](mailto:jlbpatterson@gmail.com).

As part of this restructuring, we expect to name more committee chairs than in the past, so more people can contribute to the efforts of the PTSA, and no job will be overwhelming. If a request to serve comes your way, or you see a position advertised, please help if you are able to do so.

The final **PTSA general meeting** of the year will be held on **Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:30 PM in the Media Center (note the time change!) We will vote on the slate of officers for next year. The PTSA Academic Scholarship and the Sherry Frost School Involvement Scholarship will be presented to two well-deserving students. The budget for the next fiscal year will be voted on so that our work may continue over the summer. There will also be a short presentation about enrolling in the American Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Study-3, for which LRHS is the only registration site in Eastern North Carolina.

The LRHS PTSA will host the **Academic Excellence Breakfast** on **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** in the cafeteria. Students who have achieved a 3.5 (weighted) grade point average for both the first semester and third quarter of this school year will be honored, as will Senior Scholars. Parents of the Senior Scholars will receive mailed invitations to attend the Senior Scholar recognition ceremony held in conjunction with this breakfast.

In preparation for graduation, the final Principal's Chat of this school year will be held on **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** and will have a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade focus, although (as always) parents and guardians of all students are welcome to attend.

Volunteer Christina White is spearheading the PTSA effort to freshen and update the furniture in the main office. Thanks to her design skills and energetic nature, the office is now sporting a new up-to-date look more in line with the Leesville Pride colors.

We are grateful to Ann Wallach for responding to our request for someone to head up Driving Safety programs for the PTSA. She is working to bring some very effective programs to Leesville, and also has some creative ideas for additional school-based initiatives.

Teacher Appreciation Week is the first week of May. A nice way to recognize a teacher who has had a special impact on your student is to send a hand-written note explaining how he or she has made a difference in this young person's life and education. Sharing these thoughts is quite meaningful to teachers, and lets them know how much their efforts are appreciated.

I hope to see you at these upcoming events:

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 PM General PTSA Meeting, Media Center

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** Academic Excellence Breakfast & Senior Scholar recognition (volunteers needed)

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 AM Principal's Chat, Multi-purpose Room (12<sup>th</sup> grade focus)

With Warmest Regards,

Andrea Scheviak  
LRHS PTSA President  
leesvillehighptsa@yahoo.com

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR GRADUATION 2011

*Heather Dinkenor, Graduation Coordinator*

\*Friday, May 27: Senior Assembly in the LRHS main gym at 8:45 a.m. with the senior picnic (for seniors only) immediately afterwards.

\*Wednesday, June 8 at 4 p.m.

Graduation Rehearsal at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center. Seniors must be present and on time to rehearsal to participate in the ceremony and to receive graduation tickets. Seniors should consider carpooling to practice. Please check the school's website as well as the Senior Bulletin for a map of places to park.

## ADMISSION TO GRADUATION BY TICKET ONLY

Tickets are required for admission to LRHS commencement exercises. The size of the graduating class dictates that each senior will receive SEVEN tickets (yes, that is correct; Mr. Lyons has increased the number of tickets from six to seven based on the seating capacity of the Civic Center). Graduating seniors do NOT need a ticket, but every other person (children, toddlers, and babies included) will need a ticket. Once tickets have been distributed to seniors, the school is no longer involved with tickets so please do not call the school seeking more tickets. If you need additional tickets, requests should be made among the seniors.

\*Saturday, June 11 from 4:30-6:30

Graduation Reception in the LRHS Food Court, prior to the graduation ceremony. This would be a great place to gather prior to the ceremony for a light meal, leave cars at the school, and then carpool to the Civic Center. With graduation late at night, it will be difficult to get a full meal prior to the ceremony so the Reception provides a wonderful opportunity to eat, socialize, carpool and have some closing memories of LRHS.

\*Saturday, June 11 at 8 p.m.

Commencement Exercises at 8 p.m. at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center.  
Doors will open to the public at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Graduation is a time of celebration. We want the commencement exercises to be an experience all seniors can remember with pride as well as an event that continues traditions set by previous LRHS graduating classes. LRHS is committed to sponsoring a ceremony with the dignity and formality that such a momentous occasion deserves. As parents of seniors, your cooperation is vital. If you help us set the proper tone for commencement, other guests and students will conform to make the ceremony a success. We recommend the following guidelines for a smooth ceremony:

- Doors for the general public will open at 7:15. Guests should enter the Civic Center from the Salisbury Street or Cabarrus Street doors only. Once inside the Civic Center, guests may wait in lobby B. The actual hall being used for graduation will not be open until 7:15 for the general public to find seats. There is no reserved seating, but tickets are required for admission to LRHS commencement exercises.
- Be on time. Allow at least 40 minutes travel time to the Civic Center from North Raleigh and an additional 10 minutes to park (most decks are \$7) and walk.
- Handicapped individuals should enter from the Marriott Hotel parking deck, putting them on ground level outside of section A. Handicapped persons will enter the elevator outside room A to the area of graduation. Only one person may accompany a handicapped individual in the handicapped seating area. Also, the Civic Center has a small number of wheelchairs. If a member of your group requires one, consider bringing one of your own as there may not be one available once there.

- Please do not bring the following items inside the Civic Center as they will not be allowed on the floor due to fire code: strollers, camera tripods, flowers in glass vases, signs, balloons, noise makers or wrapped packages.
- No concessions will be sold at the ceremony. No drinks, including water, are allowed on the floor of the Civic Center.
- The audience should stand during the processional and recessional. All cell phones and pagers should be turned OFF during the ceremony, and hats should be removed.
- An official photographer will take photographs of your senior as he/she receives a diploma. Parents may take photos only from their seats or the designated photo area.
- Finally, each student deserves to hear his/her name read and heard. We ask that all applause be held until the appropriate times indicated in the commencement program. Regularly scheduled pauses will occur in the reading of graduates' names when your applause will be invited. Cheering and yelling are not appropriate for this ceremony.

The final list of students who meet graduation requirements will be compiled June 7. Only those seniors eligible to graduate will be permitted to participate in graduation activities. Thank you for all your help and cooperation as we finalize plans for Leesville's 17<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony.

## **LEESVILLE BANDS WIN TOP AWARDS IN STATE AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

The Symphonic Band received a perfect score with all Superior Ratings from all judges at the Central District Music Performance Adjudication held on March 21 at Heritage High School in Wake Forest. The band performed music in the Grade Six Level, the highest and most difficult level of music in the competition. The combined Ninth Grade Band and Concert Band received straight Superior ratings in Grade Four Level of music. Over three-dozen high school bands from the Triangle participated in the event.

The Ninth Grade Band and the Concert Band participated in the Atlanta Heritage Music Festival, March 24-27, and was awarded second place receiving the Silver Award for its performance.

The Symphonic Band and Color Guard traveled to New York City, April 15-18, and participated in the Big Apple Music Festival. The band and color guard won the highest awards in the competition, 1st Place and Gold Award for both groups. In addition, the Symphonic Band was awarded the Grand Champion Instrumental Ensemble award.

Mark your calendar for the final band concerts under the direction of David S. Albert, who is retiring at the end of the school year. Mr. Albert started the band program when the high school opened in 1993. The 9th Grade and Concert Bands will perform on Thursday, May 5. The Symphonic Band performs on Friday, May 6. The concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the LHS Auditorium. Tickets are available from band members or at the door.

## **Leesville Chorus**

*Diane Covington, Choral Director*

Capital Pride has been invited to sing for the General Assembly on Wednesday, May 4. They will also attend the session, where they will be recognized for their accomplishments this year.

The Spring Chorus concerts will be on Friday, May 13 at 4:30 and at 7:30. Tickets will be sold during all chorus classes on Monday, May 9. Dress Rehearsal for the concerts will be held Wednesday, May 11 from 2:30-5:00. All choral students should be present.

The End-of-Year Picnic for the Leesville Choral family will be on Tuesday, May 17 at 5:30. This year our picnic will be held at Williams Park located at 6601 Leadmine Road. All choral members and immediate families are invited to attend.

The Intermediate Chorale will travel to Williamsburg, VA on Saturday, May 21. There they will compete in a national music festival.

Capital Pride 2012 members will have a rehearsal on Wednesday, May 25 from 2:30-3:30 in the chorus room. As it is our tradition to have next year's group sing at graduation, we will need this time to rehearse. Graduation will be Saturday, June 11 at 8:00 PM at the Civic Center. More information about call times and transportation will be given to the singers on May 25.

There will be a New Parents meeting in the chorus room at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 31. This meeting is very informative and helpful to families that will be new to the choral program next year.

## **Dance Club News**

*Cindy Hoban*

Leesville Dance Ensemble enjoyed a four day trip to New York City where they had the dance experience of a lifetime. Classes in modern, hip hop and theater dance at three New York studios, Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center and Alvin Alley. The weekend was also filled with two theater productions, Memphis and Spiderman as well as a dinner cruise along the Hudson, walk in Central Park, dinner in Lil Italy and of course shopping. It was a very exciting weekend. Another performance for April was Day of Dance held at Millbrook High School. Still to come is the dance spring concert on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, this is the dancers final concert for the year. Dance Boosters will meet on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to elect new officers for the 2012/2013 school year, as well as welcome the new dance ensemble members. Dance Boosters is open to all dance program members, please join us!

## **Spanish Club News**

*Katie Mundell*

The Spanish Club is going strong this semester with one final activity left. So far this semester, the Spanish Club has done activities at Las Palmas Mexican Restaurant, Game Day, and had Merengue and Bachata lessons followed by a dance competition. The Merengue and Bachata lessons and Game Day were big hits! All participants learned a lot and had a blast! The last activity of the year will be to celebrate Cinco de Mayo and will take place on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> in the Multipurpose Room. The Election for Spanish Club Officers for the 2011-2012 school year will be held on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> in room 205. Students who are interested in being an Officer in the Spanish Club must be current members and need to stop by Room 205 to let Ms. Mundell know what position they would like to run for by Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the Spanish Club, our activities, and how you can become part of this group, please contact our faculty advisor, Ms. Mundell, in room 205 or by email @ [kmundell@wcpss.net](mailto:kmundell@wcpss.net). We look forward to finishing out the year with these fun activities!

## **French Club News**

*Nicole Cesaril, French Club Secretary*

QUOI DE NEUF?

Bonjour! Leesville's French Club has been very busy over the past couple of months! It sponsored the students who participated in the Wake County French Festival where Leesville won two first place awards - one in Traditional Songs and

one in Poetry Recitation. Many of our French students also took the National French Exam sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French on March 22. We are eagerly awaiting the results. The French Club has held two meetings so far this semester. Our Mardi Gras meeting was held on Mardi Gras and was quite a success! The room was decorated with regalia, balloons and streamers in the traditional colors for Mardi Gras. The King cakes were delicious and prizes were won for masks created during the party. Most recently, the April meeting involved a service project where members participated in a "campus clean-up" by cleaning up the student parking lot.

## Latin Club News

*Dr. Mark Mash*

This past March, 50 Leesville Latin students participated in the 2011 National Latin Exam along with over 150,000 other Latin students from all fifty states and 12 foreign countries including Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, England, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Zimbabwe, Iran and Malaysia. We are pleased to announce that 26 of our 50 students won national awards in this year's competition, in every level entered:

### Summa Cum Laude (Gold Medal):

Level 1.....Nicola McIrvine  
Level 4.....Nicole Curtis\* and Dominic Sirkin  
Level 5.....Rebecca Dixon\*

\*Because of their outstanding performances, senior Latin IV Honors student Nicole Curtis and senior AP Latin student Rebecca Dixon have each qualified to compete for one of 21 national scholarships as they continue their study of Latin and/or Classical Greek in college.

### Maxima Cum Laude (Silver Medal):

Level 1.....Claudia Kennedy  
Level 2.....Federico Menozzi  
Level 3.....Eleanor Cain and Michael Meli  
Level 4.....Jessica Jones and Michaela Ulman  
Level 5.....Thomas McDonough

### Magna Cum Laude:

Level 1.....Alan Bishel  
Level 2.....Elbrus Batca, Kim Dang, Sarah Jolleys, Elena Mulligan, and Tyler Scheviak  
Level 5.....Stephen Ryan

### Cum Laude:

Level 1.....Kristen Shireman  
Level 2.....Angela Johnson and Alyssa Morisi  
Level 3.....Jeffrey Burruss, Grace Dorman, Michael Elderkin, and Melissa Goto  
Level 4.....Andrew Wood

Latin Club members conducted a successful drive for the Wake County SPCA in March. We also celebrated Rome's 2764<sup>th</sup> birthday at their April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, complete with birthday cake and the world debut of "Felix Dies Natalis, Roma!," a video produced by Andrew Wood, Latin Club treasurer. We will be electing officers at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting; interested students should sign up in room 210 or 211. We will complete our year's activities at the Latin Club Banquet on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all our members for another successful year!

## Fall Sport Tryouts

Are you looking for a fun, active, and safe activity for your child this summer? The LRHS Pride Athletic Club is once again sponsoring summer sports camps for children ages 6-15. The camps are run by LRHS coaches and will help improve your child's basic athletic skills. The dates for this year's camps are:

**Cheerleading** June 16 – 18 / Day Camp May 14th

**Baseball** June 13 – 17

**Basketball (girls)** July 11 - 15

**Tennis** June 20 - 24

**Basketball (boys)** June 27 – July 1 and July 18 – 22

(please note this camp will be moved to first camp date if there are not enough campers)

**Soccer Boys** July 11 - 15

**Soccer Girls** July 25 - 29

**Football** June 20 – 24

**Softball (girls)** July 25 – 29

**Girl's Volleyball** June 20 – 24

The hours of operation for camps will differ, so please check the brochure for a description of each camp. The brochures and registration can be found online at [www.leesville.org](http://www.leesville.org).