

The Ligon Link

From your PTA Desk

Here's what our Ligon PTA has been doing, planning, and thinking about lately:

Book Fair which promotes reading and provides funds for the Media Center;

Parent Program Friday, December 13 is during a dance – the topic is Identifying and Understanding Your Child's Giftedness – more info elsewhere in newsletter;

Ligon Family Night Tuesday night, Nov. 26, will be at Skater's Choice on Fayetteville Road in Garner between 6:30 and 8:30. Ligon students, their friends and family will be admitted for \$3, which includes skate rental. Or bring your own roller blades! There's no school Wednesday; so come on out!

Teacher mini-grants In last month's newsletter we told you that the PTA had funded over \$10,000- that's not exactly correct. Alas, we have approved the mini-grants for funding as funds become available. Our Phantom Fund-raiser has brought in about \$20,000, and the raffle raised another \$2,000. We thank you for your support, but we had based our budget on income of \$25,000 from the Phantom, and \$5,000 from the raffle. **If you are intending to make a donation but haven't yet, please do it soon, so we won't have to revise our budget downward.**

IBM matching grant program And along the same lines, our PTA is researching this program as a way to fund the nearly \$5,000 in technology requests from teachers in our mini-grant program. IBM will sell computers and equipment to schools for 20 percent of list price, if the purchases are made with funds donated by

Ligon Arts Boosters



Holiday with the Arts

The first semester has almost come to an end, and so much has happened in the arts. I hope that you have been able to attend one of the many concerts, a performance, or even taken the time to view the art along the halls of Ligon.

As I am writing this, Ms. Thorsen and her team of artists are finishing up the mural for Central Office. I have to say it is just amazing. If you didn't get a chance to see it while it was in the cafeteria at Ligon, you need to go to Central Office and see it. These students did a truly magnificent job and they should be very proud of their accomplishment, as well, as Karen Thorsen for having made this monumental task come to fruition.

I hope that everyone attended our stage performance of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, and will experience our students' talents at the Small Ensemble Concert (Dec.12) and the Large Ensemble Concert (Dec.17).

I would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season, and I look forward to a new semester.

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PTA REFLECTIONS Contest: Calling all talented, imaginative Ligon students!

Here's a way to use your talents! The PTA holds a fine arts contest each year, called "Reflections". We encourage you to participate to earn recognition for your artistic efforts in literature, musical composition, photography and/or visual arts.

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of **this year's theme: "Signs of Courage ..."**

If you're interested in participating, please pick up a copy of the contest rules from your Language Arts, Visual Arts or Music teachers or by contacting Cindi Giles, PTA Reflections chairperson.

The top Ligon-level winners will receive gift certificates to book or art supply stores. Last year, Ligon had five students recognized at the district level. Your entry could possibly earn recognition at the state or national levels.

Make sure your entries are turned in by January 10, 2003 and include a completed entry form, signed by your parent. We'll collect entries in the Media Center from 8 a.m.-noon on January 10.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindi Giles at 362-4568 or cindigiles@nc.rr.com.

IBM employees - there's a bit more to it, but it's a deal that we need to investigate. Please contact Peg Guild if you know of any Ligon students who have family members (parent, guardian, aunt, grandparent, etc.) who work for or are retired from IBM.

Thursday night, January 16, 2003 – Mark this date on your new calendar. Ligon will be hosting an area-wide Parent Program for the 52 schools in the Central and Southern Areas of Wake County. Bill McNeal, Superintendent of Schools, will take questions, and there will be roundtable discussions on a variety of topics. More info elsewhere in the newsletter.

PTA Committee News:

Box Tops for Education

Your holiday baking and entertaining efforts can mean \$\$\$ to Ligon! Please look for products that bear the **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** label. As you purchase such products, cutout **Box Tops for Education** coupons, put them in an envelope or baggie labeled PTA and send them to school via your child's homeroom or drop them off in the office. We'll turn them into **CASH!** It's an easy, cost-free way to support Ligon and your child's education.

Many thanks to those that supported the **Phantastic Phantom** raffle by donating prizes and purchasing

raffle tickets, your support in our fundraising efforts was greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the four grade level top raffle ticket sellers, your enthusiasm and participation guaranteed our success. Lastly, congrats to the lucky winners of the Phantastic Phantom raffle prizes, enjoy your winnings!

LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR CHILD'S GIFTS AND HELP HIM OR HER SUCCEED!

Friday, December 13, 2002 @ 6:30-8:45
Ligon GT Media Center

Presenters:

Academically Gifted: **Charlotte Turpin**, Wake NCAE President & Education Consultant

Learning Disabilities: **Doreen Kelly**, Principal Lower School, Future Headmaster, Ravenscroft

Learning Styles: **Margaret Douglass**, Principal Riverbend School & Education Consultant

Sponsored by Ligon GT Middle PTA
Additional workshops are Feb.14, and Apr.4
Your attendance is greatly appreciated.
Thank you!

Principal's Notes

Attention 6th Grade Parents: Please block off some time on February 17. The entire 6th grade will be doing student led conferences with their parents. Each team will be sending home potential meeting times for each parent to come to Ligon for a student led conference. We are really excited about starting this program at Ligon in our 6th grade. More to come....

Show a Teacher Your Appreciation: The Ligon Stars Faculty Recognition Program is up and running for this year. Take a few minutes to stop in the main office to nominate a teacher at Ligon who has gone above and beyond for a Ligon Star. It will only take a few minutes and will be deeply appreciated by the teachers. The teacher will receive a star on the wall in the main hallway, their name will be read on the announcements and they will receive a gold or silver star pin to wear.

WAVE Working Against Violence Everywhere cards were given to students a month ago. The cards have a toll free number on them that students can call any time of the day if they know of a violent act to report at school or if they are afraid of something that happened at school. The calls are anonymous and all reports are followed up on. The number is 1-888-960-9600.

Tutors Needed!!

We still need more parent volunteers to tutor 6th graders during 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th periods. Parents will assist/sit with kids in the classroom as the teacher teaches. This is so beneficial to those kids who need a little extra. To volunteer or ask questions, contact Loree Idol @ lidol@nc.rr.com or 782-8482 or contact Ms. Rebecca Misner at Ligon.

Continued from right column

- Jan. 27 Basketball @ Ligon, 3:45 pm
- Jan. 28 OPEN HOUSE at Ligon, 7:30– 2 pm
- Jan. 29 NJHS Mtg.
- Jan. 29 Central Wake Business Alliance, 7:30 am
- Jan. 30 OPEN HOUSE, at Ligon, 7:30– 2 pm
- Jan. 31 All-District Band Clinic

Calendar of Events

- Nov 25-29 6th Grade Writer-in-Residence
- Nov 25 Basketball@ W.Cary, 3:45
- Nov 26 Book Club Mtg., 2:30
- Nov. 27-31 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 2-6 6th Grade Writer-in-Residence
- Dec. 2 Magnet Intent Forms
- Dec. 3 Basketball@ Ligon, 3:45
- Dec. 4 Career Fair, 8th Grade
- Dec. 5 Shipp Team, Geology, Field Trips
- Dec. 5 Basketball @ N. Garner, 3:45
- Dec. 6-7 Pope Field Trip
- Dec. 7 Arts Fruit Delivery
- Dec. 9 Greene Team Field Trip
- Dec. 10 Yalacki , Chorus Field Trips
- Dec. 11 Moore Field Trip
- Dec. 11 **Magnet Intent Forms Due**
- Dec. 12 Winter Sports Team Pictures
- Dec. 12 Heath, Geology Field Trips
- Dec. 12 Basketball @ Ligon, 3:45
- Dec. 12 Small Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm
- Dec. 13 School Dance, 6-9 pm
- Dec. 13 PTA Parent Program, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 16 Greater Understanding '03, 6-9p
- Dec. 16, 17 Musical Auditions, Wizard of Oz
- Dec. 16 Basketball @ Carnage, 3:45
- Dec. 17 Business Alliance, 7:30 am
- Dec. 17 Large Ensemble Concert, 7 pm
- Dec. 18 Brooks Team, MSEN Field Trips
- Dec. 18 Book Club Mtg., 2:30
- Dec. 19 Basketball @ Daniels, 3:45 pm
- Dec. 19 For Kids From Kids, 7 pm
- Dec. 20 2nd Quarter Ends
- Dec. 21-Jan 5 Holiday Break- NO School
- Jan. 8 Basketball @ Ligon, 3:45
- Jan. 9 Basketball @ N. Garner, 3:45
- Jan. 9 MSEN Pie Mtg., 6:30 pm
- Jan. 10 Reflections Entries Due
- Jan. 11 All District Band
- Jan. 13 Basketball @ Ligon, 3:45
- Jan. 13 LAB Mtg., 7 pm
- Jan. 15 Report Cards
- Jan. 20 Holiday- NO School
- Jan. 20 PTA Newsletter Deadline
- Jan. 21 Business Alliance, 7:30 am
- Jan. 21 PTA Mtg., 7 pm
- Jan. 22 PTA Honor Roll Treats
- Jan. 22 Basketball @ Carroll, 3:45
- Jan. 23 Basketball @ Ligon, 3:45
- Jan. 27 Magnet Applications to 5th, 8th graders

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What's News at Ligon?

8TH GRADE CAREER DAY

All 8th grade students will participate in Career Day on Wednesday, December 4, 8:30 -11:00 A.M. Each student will hear at least 6 different adult guests speak about their trade/profession. Questions? Call Mrs. Douglas or email her PDOUGLAS@wcpss.net

SUNNY SPAIN IN JUNE 2003?

In recent years Ligon Spanish students have had the opportunity to travel to Spain. Our first two trips (June 1999 and June 2001) were very successful. We have had a wonderful experience working with ACIS Tour Company, and you can check them out on the web at www.acis.com.

We are planning our next trip for summer 2003, departure date June 5, 2003. We have chosen the ACIS trip itinerary "Andalucian Fiesta." **Registration forms are due December 2!!** We will know by that date if we have enough participants to make the trip.

If you are interested in discussing our trip to Spain for June 2003 and you haven't been in touch with Ms. Carr, please contact Ms. Carr *as soon as possible* for itinerary information as well as cost worksheets and registration forms.

At Ligon: e-mail secarr@wcpss.net
phone 856-7929

At home: e-mail
timbeth@dellepro.com
phone 467-9354

¡Gracias!

CHELL TEAM SCIENCE

This fall our team enjoyed observing the metamorphosis of Black Swallowtail. Thank you, Mrs. Boytos, for sending in the large netted enclosure filled with numerous caterpillars and chrysalises.

Many students participated in a seasonal project: **Journey North's Symbolic Monarch Migration**. The students created scientific drawings of Monarch Butterflies with greetings to students in Mexico, sent them first to a staging area in Minnesota to parallel the route and timing of real migration. Their winter homes are provided by the Children's Museum of Mexico. This spring, symbolic butterflies will return to our school with messages of friendship from the Mexican students, acknowledging the wonder of this spectacular shared resource.

Kerry Hazen's classes added plants to our courtyard that are attractive to fall migrators such as hummingbirds and butterflies. We are very appreciative of the many plants that were sent in by our parents. Thank you!

We are studying our local Ligon environment by conducting an outdoor field investigation. Thank you to the Calloway family for donating a wonderful library of field guides. Data from the field study is now being used to create computer maps of our study site using GIS software.

YEARBOOK NEWS

Nov 21 ~8th grade panoramic picture will be taken in the gym eighth period.

Dec. 12~ Winter Sports pictures will be taken: Girl's and Boy's basketball, Winter Cheerleading.

Needed: The yearbook staff is in

desperate need of pictures that were taken of the Girls Soccer team, as the last two games were cancelled. If anyone has pictures or negatives from this year and would be willing to share them with us, please send them to Mrs. Young's room 217 or place them in her box. If you have digital pictures, you can always email them to us @ Kyoung2@wcpss.net. Thank you in advance for your help.

GREATER UNDERSTANDING '03

Sponsored by Wake County PTA Council on Thursday, Jan 16, 2003, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Ligon GT Magnet Middle School Media Center

Got a Question? Ask **Bill McNeal**, Wake County Superintendent and other WCPSS administrators. Get information you've wanted but didn't know how to get. This first of three forums allows Central and Southern Area Parents to ask questions and get answers directly. Also, **Participate in one of these Roundtable Discussions:** The Achievement Gap, Curriculum and Instruction, Parental Influence and Expectations, Special Programs and Placements, Suspensions and Alternative Schools, Student Assignment Policy, Raising the Bar: Testing and Academics

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS FORUM? All Wake Co. Central and Southern Area advocates for children, parents, county administrators, teachers, principals, and community leaders. **Please spread the word – we expect a crowd, so please try to carpool.**

The Arts at Ligon

LIGON PARENT TEACHER REVIEW

It's time for the talented teachers and parents of Ligon Students to stand up and perform for a good cause (and some fun). Slated for Friday, Feb. 28th and sponsored by LAB, there will be one rehearsal for performers (music will be sent home for ensembles to practice on their own first). The goal of this evening of entertainment is to help LAB meet their budget for this school year, to give Ligon students a chance to get nervous for us for a change, and for some parent/teacher laughs.

Can you help us in any of the following ways:

Parent/Teacher Art Coordinator to coordinate parent/teacher art
Parent/Teacher Band Ensemble Coordinator to work with Ms. Bishop
Dance Ensemble Coordinator to work with Mr. Heath
Posters/ Publicity
Individual Parent/Teacher Performers (solo or group) and Artists
Stage Crew to work with Ms. Yalacki

We would like to form small ensembles for a choir, band, and dance, so some of you shy ones won't have to perform alone! Solo performances would be great, too! Art will also be accepted from talented parents to be sold during the event. Please e-mail soon and list how you would like to help. Don't forget to include your name, e-mail address or phone #, your talent (specific instrument, vocal, art to display, dancer, etc...) or preferred role to Kim Hanchette, parent (hanchette@aol.com, 781-5186)

NEWS FROM STUDIO 406

Student-Created Mural for WCPSS Central Office

The most exciting event is about to take place. On Saturday, November 23rd, the giant mural that has been hanging in the cafeteria since September will be installed at WCPSS Central Office on Wake Forest Road. Congratulations go to the many students who helped design and develop this scene of children playing, running, sharing, and laughing as they reflect the theme of "Leaving No Child Behind." Our thanks go to Mr. Ernie Reddish who initially commissioned our artists to create this 28'x8' work of art, and to Susan Petrie and Associates for installing it. Artist-Advisors, Cathy Reece and Susan Warlick gave us helpful critiques and encouragement. Great thanks go to Ms Thorsen's First Quarter 8th period class, and the volunteers who met after school bringing it to completion.

Pixel Portraits

Two Total Picture classes have completed very time and texture intensive self portrait drawings. Students studied the work of Chuck Close and enlarged a grid picture of themselves with imaginative patterns and textures. Currently on display...come see.

Needed: tunafish and catfood cans. Perfect for water containers for painting. Also, wide mouthed and squatty glass jars with lids (mayo and salsa jars) can be used.



HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Congratulations to Alice Henderson and Glynnis McIntyre for their outstanding performance at the Middle School State Honors Chorus on November 10th.

Upcoming holiday performances:

Vocal Ensemble and Men's Ensemble:

Sing for the Ruritans Civic Organization – Dec. 10th at 7:00 pm

Small Ensemble Concert at Ligon – Dec. 12th at 7:30 pm

Elementary School Invitational at Ligon – Dec. 13th

Small Ensemble Student Body Concert – Dec. 16th

Honors Chorus:

Sing at the State Capitol – Dec. 11th – 11:00 am

Large Ensemble Concert - Dec. 17th – 7:30 pm

Large Ensemble Student Body Concert – Dec. 19th

Piano I students and Apprentice Chorus will also perform during the month of December. Letters will be sent to parents soon with the specific dates.

***Reminder: Fruit Order Delivery** – Saturday, Dec. 7 8 am-noon

TAPESTRY, MEN'S TAP

Both of these groups traveled to Greensboro for the North Carolina Physical Education and Dance Convention, where both groups were selected to participate in the Dance Showcase for NC Dance Educator's. Mr. Heath was selected to present a session for NC's Dance Educators entitled- "**Combos To Go**"-to spark creativity in the classroom.

Tapestry was a part of WRAL TV's Golden Years Celebration, Raleigh Convention Center on Dec. 12, 2002.

New Members Inducted into Ligon's National Junior Honor Society

Ligon's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) held its first induction of this school year on November 13. Fei Fang, the president, acted as the mistress of ceremonies. Morgan O'Malley, the historian, discussed the history of NJHS, and Anasuya Ramasubramanian, the treasurer, covered the requirements and responsibilities of new members. Both Tracy Bradar, vice president, and Rachel Bahler, secretary, explained NJHS monthly meetings. Julian Hester, public relations, gave out certificates and was the first to welcome each member into the society. Parents and new inductees enjoyed fellowship and refreshments. Please join with us in congratulating the new members:

Peter Borbely
Elizabeth Brunk
Madison Bullard
Sally Fry
Emma Harbaugh
Lex-Jordan Ibegbu
Helen Johnston
Matthew Kauffmann
Cory Li
Meredith Motsinger
Kenee Jeffries
Eric Zhang
Rebecca Lee
Marie Rawlings
Casey Hester

William Aldridge
Elise Benham
Laney Bolick
Daniel Brader
Alexandra Copeland
Brandon Edgerton
Katie Gardner
Charles Gaul
Stephanie Gomez
Elizabeth Harris
Wade Townsend
Peter Kerkhof
Alexandria Nystrom
Lisa Hartland
Sarah Myers Stephenson

Courtney Lindt
Cecilie May
Jessica Maynard
Kevin McVerry
Alyssa Peavey
Jessica Peterkin
Susan Ramsay
Mason Caroline Whitley
Lindsey Williams
Nitin Tiwari
Jonathan Jerkins
Linda Zhang
Sabrina Harris
Thomas Rusher
Katie Jackson

Wake County Public School System

Ligon GT Middle School
706 E. Lenoir Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Phone: 919 856-7929
Fax: 919 856-3745
<http://ligon.wcpss.net/>

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