

The Ligon Link

From the President's Desk

Here we are, with another school year winding its way to a close. We hope you and your students have had an enjoyable and productive year. Your Ligon PTA has tried to help by publishing this joint newsletter with Ligon Arts Boosters, sponsoring programs for parents, providing mini-grants to teachers, letting teachers and staff know how much we value what they do for our children during Teacher Appreciation Week, and helping out in other ways.



The PTA is looking for volunteers for next year's Board – we need parents to sign up for the following positions: President-Elect, VP Membership, VP Fundraising, VP Programs, VP Mini-Grants, and Secretary. If you have an interest in any of these areas, please call one of the members of our nominating committee: Karen Reimer, Amy Jones, Marjorie Salzman, Mary Gullede, Wally Thurman, or Margaret Douglass. There are also other committee chair positions open. These jobs range from low-stress, all-year things to short-term jobs with higher stress/energy features. (But they're short-term projects!) Please consider volunteering – if we have more parents involved from varied backgrounds, our PTA will be more reflective of the Ligon community.

Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming Ligon events – the spring concerts by our various performing groups will provide wonderful entertainment for all students and their families.

– Peg Guild & Janet Jennings, PTA Co-presidents

Ligon Arts Boosters

With the end of the school year approaching, I finally have learned what LAB is all about. I know a lot of you are also curious and donate your time and money, but aren't really sure why. But I was given a wonderful explanation at our last LAB meeting and I would like to share it with all of you.

LAB was created so that the visual and performing arts faculty could better serve those children who they see come alive in their classes. Children who might not otherwise be on the honor roll, in sports, even in a year long elective, but who show passion and great accomplishment when they complete an art project or master a musical piece. LAB enables the arts faculty to acknowledge these children and boost their self-esteem. They might not all be the next Picasso, YoYo Ma, or Fred Astaire, but that's what makes it even more important that they are encouraged to let that flicker of light within them grow, enabling them to feel a real sense of self satisfaction that may well be passed on to another subject.

That is why honoring these students is so important, and I extend an invitation everyone who would like to attend the annual LAB Awards Night on Thursday, May 29. By honoring these children, everyone can see why LAB was created and why your support is so greatly appreciated and continually needed.

I would also like to thank my board members for a great year. We will dearly miss Betty Black and Terry Wetzel next year. They were a great Ways and Means committee and did an outstanding job. I would also like to thank Donna Sink for her job doing publicity for the last several years. I am pleased to say that the rest of my board, Mamie

(Continued on page 2)

Ligon PTA Sends Reflections Winners to National Competition

Congratulations to these winners of our Regional competition of Reflections! Again, thanks to all students who participated in this year's competition.

PHOTOGRAPHY : 7th grade--Dylan Giles--first place

VISUAL ARTS: 6th grade--Kathleen Peterman--first place

MUSIC COMPOSITION : 6th grade--Erik Dellblad--first place



Thank You, PTA Mini-Grants Committee!

Ligon's Staff Development Committee gratefully thanks the PTA for awarding a mini-grant of \$225.00 to fund a very special staff development opportunity for Ligon faculty. Linda Robinson, an educational consultant and instructor in AG certification, presented two after-school workshops for Ligon staff members on the issue of student underachievement.

Linda's first workshop, held on January 21, 2003, addressed the topic *The Underachievement Syndrome: What Are the Causes?* Linda explored the forces underlying achievement and underachievement, how each are supported, and how teachers can recognize the causes of underachievement and thereby help students work to their potential. Linda returned on March 31 to present a follow-up presentation entitled *The Underachievement Syndrome: What Are the Cures?* Linda discussed factors and strategies specifically targeting what students, teachers and families can do to increase student achievement and motivation.

The workshops were open to all staff, and many teachers took advantage of the sessions. We thank the PTA for making this opportunity possible!! We are very fortunate indeed to have a PTA that so actively and diligently works to improve the quality of life for everyone at Ligon.

(Continued from page 1)

Cohen, Cindy Hemenway, Bonnie McAdams, and Brenda Shore will be returning next year along with Mary Gullede who has graciously agreed to be in charge of Membership. There are still a few positions we need filled and will be announcing our new board May 29. I look forward to serving another year as your LAB President.

Mary Ann Smith

Fundraising News!

Thank you to all parents who sent contributions during the past month – enough was raised so we can meet our budget for the year.

Here's another way to help: **Office Depot** has expanded its "5% Back To Schools" program to run from May 1 to December 31 – five months longer than last year. When you buy office or school supplies at Office Depot, please give them Ligon's ID#, which is **70062124**. By doing this, you help Ligon earn credits for free supplies at Office Depot. If you forget the number, the people in the store can usually look it up for you.

Psst... Want to buy some textbooks?

We all know how heavy our kids' backpacks can get, and how frustrating it can be when your student forgets to bring home a text he or she needs for homework. Some parents minimize these problems by buying copies of the textbooks to keep at home, then selling them the next year. Our lovely Media Center staff have offered a bit of their bulletin board for parents to advertise any books they have for sale, or may be looking for. If you want to investigate buying next year's texts for your student, check the bulletin board near the entrance to the Media Center. If you want to buy new textbooks (Warning! They're pricey!), here are the phone numbers of the publishers:
Glencoe (literature, science and math texts) 1-800-334-7344

NC State (bought by McGraw) - 1-800-442-9685

Clairmont Press - 1-800-874-8638

You will need the ISBN number and title of each book you want – last year I got that info by visiting the Media Center and copying it down from each book I wanted.

Other textbook news: Ms. Cochran informed the PTA Board that Ligon is purchasing class sets of literature and social studies books for 6th grade next year. This means that each student can leave home those two books all year, as books will be available in class. Thanks, Ms. Cochran, for cutting down on Backpack Fatigue for sixth graders!

Principal's Notes

LIGON IS RECOGNIZED AS A MAGNET SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

Ligon was selected as one of 18 schools in the United States as a Magnet School of Excellence. Schools from across the country submit an 8-page application for consideration. For the past two years, Ligon has been a Magnet School of Excellence. This year the conference was in Long Beach, California where we formally received our plaque. Washington GT Magnet Elementary received the prestigious Ronald Simpson Award for the top Magnet School in the county and three other Wake County Magnet Schools were recognized. Wake County is truly doing a great job with their magnet programs, and visiting schools across the country just makes me appreciate what Ligon and Wake County are doing! Thanks for being part of this success!

Ligon German Days

The Advanced German participated in German Day 2003 at UNC-Greensboro. Ligon Middle School came home with an important trophy: First Place in the Skit Competition. Congratulations go to all the students, especially to Sascha Eisenstein, Alan Guan, Kevin Frac, Jeff Schecter, Philip Marschall, Peter Kerkhof, Rebecca Lee, and Gowri Ramachandran for their dramatic performances. Special thanks to Kristine Jassmann, Erin Gymburch, Sascha Eisenstein, and Alan Guan for their poetry recitations.

The German One students have also worked hard this semester studying and writing their own version of The Bremen City Musicians. Please see their beautiful books now exhibited in the media center...if you need any help reading the German; just come by the German trailer for a quick translation.

Finally, we have been lucky enough to have Lisa Worthington as our student teacher this semester. Lisa is finishing her M.A.T at Chapel Hill and she has an undergraduate degree from Davidson in German. Thank you, Frau Worthington, for the creativity and fun that you have brought to our classes.

Lastly, parents and students: consider German for next year. Classes are small, active and hands-on...it's the perfect opportunity to learn a language in a small and informal environment. German is one of the most well respected languages by colleges around the U.S. and you can get an early jump on this at Ligon, with continuing programs in most high schools in Wake County. Any questions, e-mail Frau Garrison at jgarrison@wcpss.net.

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| April 25 | Dance Field Trip |
| April 25-27 | All State Band Clinic |
| April 25-26 | Encore Performance, 7 pm |
| April 27 | Encore Performance, 2:30 pm |
| April 28 | Interims Week |
| | MSEN Field Trip, 7 am |
| | Softball @Ligon, 3:45 pm |
| | Newcomers Elective Fair, 5:30 pm |
| | Newcomers Open House, 6:30 pm |
| April 29 | 8th Gr.HonorRoll Breakfast, 7:30a |
| | Band Concert, 7 pm |
| April 29– May 4 | Student Council Field Trip |
| April 30 | 7th Gr.HonorRoll Breakfast, 7:30a |
| | Book Club Mtg, 2:30 pm |
| | Soccer @ Martin, 3:45 pm |
| May 1 | Greene Field Trip |
| | 6th Gr.HonorRoll Breakfast, 7:30a |
| | Dance Assembly, 1 pm |
| | MSEN Pie Club Mtg, 6:30 pm |
| May 2-4 | All-State Orchestra Clinic |
| May 5 | Bus Driver Appreciation Wk |
| | Softball @ Martin, 3:45pm |
| May 5-8 | Silver Strings Try-outs, 2:30 pm |
| May 5-9 | Band Try-outs |
| May 7 | Dance Concert, 7:30 pm |
| May 8 | Orchestra Concert, 7 pm |
| May 12-16 | EOG Testing, 7:30 am |
| May 19-22 | Tapestry Try-outs, 2:30 pm |
| May 20-22 | Drama Try-outs, 2:30 pm |
| May 21-22 | EOC Tests/EOG Retests, 7:30 a |
| May 22 | NJHS Mtg, 2:30 pm |
| | For Kids from Kids, 7 pm |
| May 23 | Yalacki Fireld Trip |
| | 8th Gr. Dance, 6-9 pm |
| May 26 | School in Session |
| May 26-28 | Honor Chorus Tryouts, 10:15 a |
| | NCCATS Field Test, 7:30 am |
| May 27 | Chorus Concert, 7:30 pm |
| May 29 | LAB Awards Night |
| May 30 | LigonFest |
| June 2 | Students Last Day |
| | Awards Day, 8 am |
| | 8th Gr. Cookout 12 noon |

Summer Opportunities Booklets Available

A booklet compiled by Anne S. Napier, is available in our front office. The booklet lists numerous summer opportunities that might benefit any of our students. A brief description of each opportunity is given, as well as information about fees and how to contact the various camps and schools. Pick up a copy at your convenience.

The Arts at Ligon

CHORUS and BAND NEWS

Congratulations to **Honors Chorus** for their ratings of superior in performance and sight reading at East #1 District Middle School Large Ensemble Festival February 27th. Congratulations also to **Treble Chorus** for their rating of superior in sight reading and for their outstanding performance at the festival. **Vocal Ensemble** performed at East #1 Small Ensemble High School Festival on March 7th and also received a rating of superior. Congratulations also go to **Dylan Donley, Annie Medlin, and Mason Whitley** who performed at the District Solo Festival on March 8th. Their trio also received a rating of superior.

Many of our choral department members were also cast members in the **Wizard of Oz**. In the Musical Theatre world, drama, singing, and dancing are all critical. Remember that your child will have an audition advantage next year if they have had some experience at Ligon in all three areas.

Our semester Show Choir group, **MAGIC**, performed at the Garner Senior Center in March along with **Dance Ensemble**, and **Men's Ensemble**. They, along with Honors Chorus, Vocal Ensemble, Concert Band and Jazz Band toured together on April 10th – 12th. All of the groups performed at North Johnston Middle School, attended a "new music" concert at ECU, received critique and instruction, and heard about musical careers from vocal and instrumental professors. Our trip concluded with visits to Busch Gardens and Williamsburg, where students relaxed and heard their

teachers scream for fun and relaxation – something new and different! Our Ligon students were absolutely phenomenal, not only as musicians and performers, but also as models of cooperation and decorum. We were so proud of the entire group! Thanks to the many chaperones who helped. Upcoming events are listed in the calendar of events on page 3. Mrs. Bishop and Mrs. Moore

STRINGS STUFF

Congratulations to the Orchestra Members who attended the North Carolina Orchestra Contest this month. Both **Ligon Philharmonic** and **Silver Strings** did an outstanding job representing our school. I was proud of them. The director of the project commented on how well behaved both groups were. The philharmonic came away with a Superior and Silver Strings received an Excellent on very difficult repertoire. I cannot thank the chaperones enough...! Without them we could not go. Our last concert, Thursday, May 8, is entitled "Wild About Williams" and features the music of John Williams. We will play our contest music for the first half and then finish with the pops music. Be sure to check your date books because I think I again listed this program incorrectly. Thanks to my student teacher Johanna Kislik, who is finishing up this week. The kids loved her and we wish her luck as she begins her job at East Millbrook! Congrats, but we will miss her.

Silver Strings auditions are May 5-8. The kids should already be preparing. Sign up for auditions on my door. Send your students to music camps over the summer to keep them motivated!!

RAJohnson

VISUAL ARTS

Ligon was honorably represented at the **Gifts of Gold** Art Exhibit by art works created by 7th grader **Andrew Dunbar** and 8th grader **Charlie Gaul**. Charlie was further awarded the First Place Honor for all middle school artwork in the show. We are proud to have such accomplished artists representing our school.

Lots of exciting works of art are being displayed currently in the hallways. **Drawing II** students are showing an exhibit of tonal drawings with words in Braille embedded in the imagery in the Cafeteria. **Fiber artists** have been using stencils to discharge (bleach) designs in fabric, and making handmade paper collages and books. **Painting students** are exploring the technique of the Impressionists and studying color theory through color wheels. Thanks to **student council students and TA's** who are modeling, students are mastering figure drawing.

Ms. Thorsen would like to send out a **wishful plea for fabric scraps** from the Ligon family members who sew. Cotton or blends (not jersey) would be great in any pattern, tame or wild, large or small. Watch for appliquéd portraits to appear in the halls later this spring.

Notice: TO ALL PARENTS

Please come and look for all lost items that were lost during March 10-June 2nd in the Student Services office. All lost items will be donated after June 2nd. **Parents who have children who presently take medication that is on file in Student Services**, please pick up all unused medication by June 6th, otherwise it will be discarded. Questions? Call 856-7940. Ms. Watson-White

Ligon in our Community

Wake Education Partnership

When I attended a meeting as Ligon liaison for Wake Education Partnership, I realized how important it is for parents who are pleased with the education their children are receiving at Ligon to become advocates, even activists, for the magnet program. It was clear that disgruntled parents from parts of Wake County would be pleased to see the magnet program dismantled; some of these people are expressing their dissatisfaction loudly and clearly. As Ligon parents, we must not take the magnet program for granted.

When recruiting for Ligon in my neighborhood, I discovered that parents often do not understand the magnet program. For example, one of my neighbors asked if there would be a charge for him to send his daughter to Ligon. Then he was surprised to discover that the bus comes to eastern Wake County. Because of my daughter's excellent experience in both academics and arts at Ligon, I was enthusiastically promoting the school. This prompted his questions, which indicated his daughter might be a potential recruit. Yes!

Mary Wayne Watson, Ph.D.

From the Media Center

--The annual Battle of the Books pizza party was held April 4. Any student who participated in Ligon's competition was invited, with their LA teachers and administrators. Over 60 individuals attended.

--Ligon's **8th grade Battle of the Books team** placed 2nd in WCPSS competition April 29. Team members, whose LA teacher is Shanora Kingsberry, were Samantha Aycok, Peter Kerkhof, Katherine Lyman, Victoria Ma, Alyssa Peavey, and Hannah Thurman. Other grade level teams representing Ligon were...

6th grade: Eric Wallace, teacher Michael Chen, Kevin Chien, Christine Diepenbrock, Katie Hawthorne, Aswin

Lingachary, Wilson Sayre

7th grade: Sylvia Gorham, language arts teacher

Tracy Brader, Alex Kilpatrick, Diane Morris, Gowri Ramachandran, Haily Vora

-The **LIGONFEST BOOK-SWAP** is planned. Please donate books in good shape that are developmentally appropriate for middle school readers.

Ligon Middle School students participated in the **JUNIOR SOLAR SPRINT** – a nationwide event where students learn about alternative fuel sources and build and race solar cars. The "Final Event": a competition against 80 middle schools all across the state. Cars were judged on creativity of design, technical innovation, and speed. We sent 7 groups of 6th graders from the Chell & Sumrell teams and came back with 5 trophies! In the creativity division we took 3rd place, 5th place and got an honorable mention. In technical innovation division we took 3rd place and got an honorable mention. The teams did a great job and we are very proud of their efforts and sportsmanship at the event! Way to go JSS participants!

On Saturday April 5th, the **LIGON SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM** competed in the NC State competition. The Ligon team placed 15th in the state. Ligon also took 3rd place in the trial event - Robo Billiards. The following Ligon students received individual medals: Mystery Architecture - 2nd place Ben Wang and Joey Martin Metric Estimation - 4th place Joey Martin and Noah Kittner Fossils - 4th place Josh Sokol and Steven Lin Picture This - 5th place Steven Lin, Connie Wang, Noah Kittner Paul Lucas

CONGRATULATIONS TO KURT WORMSBECHER for successfully competing in 5 of the 7 elimination rounds of the geography bee at Exploris on April 4th as he represented Ligon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LIGON FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING TEAMS:

for their excellent performance at the North/South Carolina competition in Laurinburg on April 11 and 12. The results were:

1st place booklet division: Junior-Laura Buff, Katie Martin, Kate Stover, Mary Kathryn Suttle Intermediate-Jeff Schecter, Peter Chisnell, Heather Sit, Kurt Wormsbecher

2nd place booklet division: Intermediate-Rachel Mason, Christine Diepenbrock, Blake Addison, Shivani Salunke

1st place booklet: alternate division---David Behuniak

3rd place booklet:alternate division---Hannah Jaegars

First place teams will represent North/South Carolina in the international competition in June.

The Shipp Team is proud of our **MSEN Students:** Amber Hardy, Rachel Jackson, and Crystal Burt placed first in the poster art section. Kirsten Garriss won First Place in the Oratorical Section of the Competition. Bethani Wilson's "Jesus' Flower Pot" will be published in Letters from the Soul, A Volume of Poems from various authors. Brandon Edgerton, Sabrina Harris, and Mrs. Shipp will be attending "The Conversations About Diversity: The Dialogue Continues" on April 24, 2003. They will represent our school well. The Shipp Team thanks all of our students for a wonderful School Year!
Sandra Shipp

Jabberwock Presented by Encore Performance Ensemble

Jabberwock is about the improbabilities lived and imagined by James Thurber in his fictional city of Columbus, Ohio. Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee have made the late boyhood years of James Thurber into a play. It takes place from about 1910 until the Armistice of World War I. Thurber is shown as a teen age non-conformist. He also fights hypocrisy, self-deception, and the thought that life is a bore.

Jabberwock will be presented April 25 & 26 at 7 pm and April 27 at 2:30 pm. The costs are three dollars for students and senior citizens and \$5 for adults.

Besides Jamie Thurber, you will meet his two brothers, Herman and Roy. Their grandfather Fisher, sleeps in the attic with his Civil War saber, which he often brandishes, for he thinks the Yankees still need to be kept out of the South. His mother, Mary Agnes, often plays acts to get rid of maids that are not working....out.

Many Aunts appear in the fireplace portrait frame, become animated, interact with the family, and then become portraits again. The set is a final masterpiece for the Stagehands. They have created an 8 room Victorian interior, complete with Grandpa's attic, ice box, and cast iron stove. MANY extra hours after school and on weekends have been given to make this final set, before renovation of Ligon's auditorium, one to remember.

The cast is Julian Hester, Dylan Donley, Alex Marden, Zak Schwartz, John Glass, Trent Murray, Alice Henderson, Rebecca Putterman, Ashley Pittman, Gregory Pittard, Ross Maloney, Austin Pryfogle, Jim Gullede, Rikki Gibbs, Caroline Graebe, Peter Borbely, Sally Fry, Amy Thurmond, Makaiya Bullett, Holly King, Suzanna Ziko, Caroline Kirby. Student Directors: Gregory Pittard & Rachel Bahler.

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/>
Editor: Amy Jones
Ajones916@hotmail.com

**Nonprofit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Raleigh, NC
Permit Number 2373**



LIGON GT
Where Academics + Arts
= Achievement