



From the Desk of the PTA President

Welcome back for the second semester. January has totally thrown me for a loop, so I'll be brief!

We are busy recruiting for the next school year. Please be an advocate for Ligon and the Magnet program. Tell people how your child has benefited from being at Ligon and the merits of the magnet system.

We are in the process of preparing a slate of officers for next year's PTA executive board. If you are interested in serving on this board or on the general PTA board, please contact Amy Jones or Anne Ramsay.

Lastly, we are drastically short of our fundraising goal. Please consider making a contribution if you have not already or making additional one to the Phantom

fundraiser. Despite all the sales that various groups have held, this is PTA's ONLY fundraiser. Make your checks payable to Ligon PTA and return it to the office.

Thanks to all of you that are volunteering at the Open Houses and sending in goodies. All are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bonnie McAdams
sbmcards@aol.com
 PTA President

Anne Ramsay
aeramsay@bellsouth.net
 PTA president-Elect



From The Principal's Desk...Ms. Beth Cochran

January 25, 2005

Dear Parents/Guardians:

January has been an interesting month in Raleigh. A big thank you to all our parents and guardians who came to pick up their child during the ice on January 19. Thanks also to all the parents who were willing to take other students home. As a magnet school with students all over the county, it is pretty amazing that our faculty did not have to spend the night at Ligon. We left about 11PM. A big thank you to all the faculty and staff who stayed with our students as well and of course a big thank you to our bus drivers!

January and February are our big recruiting months for prospective Ligon students. Thanks for all your help in bringing food, talking to other parents and presenting at our evening sessions for prospective students.

Our next school dance is February 11 and the annual

school musical which will be Children of Eden this year will be presented February 25, 26 and 27. Come out and see our whole arts department working together with our students!

Just a reminder to parents that we have a Ligon Stars program for our faculty at Ligon. Parents, students or other faculty can nominate faculty for Ligon Stars for going above and beyond the call of duty. All you do is fill out the form in the main office and drop it in the box and the faculty member will receive a Ligon Star and get a star put on the arch in the main hallway. Please take a moment to recognize a faculty member that has gone above and beyond for you and your child!!

Have a great February!

Beth Cochran
 Principal

Phantom Fundraiser Short by 25%!

First of all, a big thanks goes out to the 256 families that have supported the PTA's **ONLY** fundraiser. Even with their generosity, giving to the Phantom fundraiser is down. Last year 350 families gave.

The PTA does not currently sell or raffle anything. However, if giving to the no-fuss Phantom does not increase we will be changing this next year.

The PTA is in the process of examining the budget to determine which programs will be cut if the budget is not made. Do you want to see Student Recognition, Teacher Appreciation, or Classroom support go away? If not, we need your support NOW! If you haven't

written your check yet – do it NOW. If you already gave but want to continue to see the support – consider writing another check.

We need an additional 92 families to donate \$75. However, we will accept any size donation. Our goal of \$26,000 is in sight, but we need your help to cover this \$6800 shortfall.

Make your check out to "Ligon PTA". Send this to the school in an envelope marked "PTA Phantom Fundraiser."

Feel free to email me at bradb@national-mortgage.net with any questions.

Ligon Dance Company



Dance Company wrapped up the year 2004 learning an Indian dance choreographed by Megha Bisarya. The dancers thank the PTA for funding our guest artist. Costumes are being custom made in India from Rookkala Sari Palace. The dancers look forward to performing the piece at Duke Children's Hospital February 11th, elementary schools during the months of April and May and at home on our own Ligon stage April 15th and May 5th. The dance is entitled "Dhoom Machale" and means to make noise and celebrate. The dance company loves performing "Dhoom", the dance is so liberating and celebratory.

Ten members of Dance Company will be visiting the Big

Apple during President's Weekend, February 18-21. While in the big city of New York, they will participate in over ten dance classes at Broadway Dance Center. This is a first time experience for Dance Company members to visit and dance in New York. Pioneers of the big trip are Amarachi Anakaraonye, Rashi Bisarya, Ellen Ferebee, Jasmine Kreig, Perri Kritz, Lilly Liu, Jessica Pope, Jordyn Tinstman, Everett Uhl, and Jessica Zhang. A big thank you goes to Phyllis Kritz and Cindy Tinstman for planning the trip as well as accompanying the girls to New York. We also thank Shawn Kreig for joining us as a chaperone.

Mrs. Pope would like to thank the PTA for her PTA grant to attend the workshop with her dancers in February.

Visual Art News

Calendars for UNICEF

The Drawing II and Drawing I classes of Ms Thorsen have just completed pencil and marker drawings that have been made into calendars. The proceeds of the calendars will go to UNICEF, helping children not only victimized by the Tsunami in South East Asia but in Africa as well. Contributions will begin at \$1.00 and hopefully the Ligon student body, family and visitors will contribute what they can to this worthy organization. Eight drawings were chosen and Haiku poetry written by the drawing students accompany the drawings. The Artists are: Erik Dellblad, Jessica Zhang, Margrethe Williams, Madeline White, Chad Friesen, Reggie Livingston, Carley Kane, and Meredith Gillespie. The Poets are: Bailey DeBarmore, Erik Dellblad, Kim Lorello, Jason Lee, Reggie Livingston, and Meg Aldridge.

Scholastic Art Awards

Congratulations to Hartley Tempest 8th grade and Grey Idol, 7th grade who were both awarded Gold Key Finalist Awards at the Eastern Regional Scholastics Art Competition. Their pastel paintings will go to New York City for the next round of evaluation covering awardees from the east coast. If their work is accepted at this level, it will go on to the national competition this summer. Julianna Jing, a recent graduate of Ligon was also awarded a Silver Key award. This is a highly competitive event and we are very proud of these students but also the others whose work was chosen to be entered. The award ceremony and opening of the exhibit is January 23, 2005 at Barton College, Wilson, NC.
—Karen Thorsen

LigonREADS: Our One Book, One Community Initiative

Our all-school reading program, LigonREADS will kickoff at the beginning of April. Everyone in the Ligon community will read the book, Leon's Story by Leon Walter Tillage who grew up in Fuquay, NC.

"In this riveting autobiography, Baltimore janitor Leon Walter Tillage reflects on his life with all the vitality of a storyteller gathering his audience around him. He recalls his childhood as an African American sharecropper's son in 1940s North Carolina...Tillage's words describe a time, only a few short decades back, when Klansmen and Jim Crow laws ruled the South...Roth's dramatic black-and-white collages pay homage to the power of Leon's story, a tale that does more in its gentle way to expose the horrors of racism than most works of fiction ever could." - Starred, *Publishers Weekly*

Each student and faculty member will receive their own copy of the book —courtesy of a PTA minigrant and a

service-learning grant. (Thank you PTA!)

We will partner with the Raleigh City Museum to fulfill the service-learning portion. Ligon alumni will return to school to read to our students and participate in class discussions/activities during DEAR times in April. The themes of race relations and civil rights correspond directly with the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education and Ligon's initiation as an all-black high school.

We invite all parents to read Leon's Story with us and talk about it at home. Family participation will increase your child's community reading experience. Sharing our thoughts with each other builds bonds between us and exposes each of us to new insights. Look for more details next month!

—Angie Morris
Media Specialist

Testing Dates

mid February: 8th grade computer skills tests makeup
Wednesday, February 23: 90 8th graders take NAEP math test

March-May: window to test a sample of 40 8th graders for the Spring online computer skills field test

Tuesday, March 1: 7th grade writing test

Wednesday, March 2: 7th grade writing test makeup

Tuesday, May 10-Thursday, May 12: all grades EOG tests

Friday, May 13: all grades EOG test makeups

Monday, May 16-Thursday, May 19: all grades EOG test retakes

Tuesday, May 17: Algebra I EOC test

Wednesday, May 18: Geometry EOC test

Thursday, May 19: Algebra II EOC test

It's imperative your child be present on applicable test dates. Mark those dates on your calendars now!

Interested in proctoring EOGs or EOCs? If so, please contact Kim Shelton, lead Test Coordinator, by sending an email to kshelton@wcpss.net or calling 856-7935.

Ms. Shelton needs at least 15 parents to volunteer.

Help as many days as your schedule warrants.

Media Center News

Thanks to the volunteers who staffed the Book Fair in November. Special thanks is extended to Barbara Styers and Melanie Benham, PTA Book Fair co-chairs, for all of their hard work in making the Fair a success. The library had a net profit of approximately \$1,400. Part of the money was used to buy a set of 2005 World Book Encyclopedias for student use.

The library is still seeking donations for comfortable butterfly or bean bag chairs. They'll be used to create a student leisurely reading area. If you have one you're willing to donate, please call 856-7935.

Come and cheer for Ligon at the WCPSS Battle of the Books competition! Ligon hopes to field three teams, one for each grade level. The competition will be held Saturday, March 12 at Southeast Raleigh High School. It begins at 8:30 a.m.

Students may pick up an application for a Wake County Public Library card in the library. Completed and signed applications are due by March 31.

—Kim Shelton

LIGON TEACHERS NEED HELP TO FIGHT FLU

Gina Cornick, Ligon's School Nurse, suggested that the following supplies could assist Teachers in fighting the flu in their classrooms. To help keep your child from catching the flu and other cold viral diseases, please consider sending the following into your child's teachers. They (and your child) will greatly appreciate it.

1. Tissues
2. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer
3. Anti-bacterial wipes
4. Lysol, Mr. Clean or similar spray cleanser.

German at Ligon

Alles Gute im 2005! Best wishes for a Happy New Year. The Ligon German students are looking forward to 2005. On March 2nd, the advanced students will participate in German Day festivities at UNC-Greensboro. We will begin rehearsing our songs and plays for this event as well as practicing our German trivia questions. Best of luck, German students. We will also perform 2 Grimm Fairy Tales at some local elementary schools in order to let the future Ligon students know about our great foreign language programs here at Ligon.

German One students spent most of December comparing world cultures. They researched and shared information about festivals in North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. They found out that all cultures have certain foods, ceremonies, games, arts and crafts, stories, poems and songs associated with their important

festivals. Did you know that most cultures of the world have New Years festivals but they don't all happen on January 1st?

Congratulations to **Matt Berry** and **Hyun Kim** who attended the German Immersion Weekend in November at Camp Caroway. 24 hours of German: they were great!

Congratulations are also in order for **Colleen Calliham**, **Maury Smith**, **Danielle Ureta-Spontek**, **Sarah Biscoe** and **Matt Berry**. These students were named to PROJECT CAFÉ, a statewide initiative to identify students who would be outstanding foreign language teachers. They were presented with their awards in October at the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina Conference.

--Jo Garrison

Geography Champion



Ligon's schoolwide Geography Bee was held on January 12 at Ligon. Participants competed against Team Finalists from all three grade levels in the Championship Round. Ben Mueller, a sixth grader on the Chell team, is Ligon's 2005 Geography Bee

Champion! Ben will now take a written test, hoping to be selected for the statewide Bee at Exploris in the Spring.

We congratulate him and all the team winners for demonstrating their geography knowledge so masterfully!

--Ruth Chell, Social Studies Dept. Head

French at Ligon ... and beyond

There are 13 French students preparing to go to France during Spring Break with Mrs. Chapman. They will stay with the French students they hosted in October. We'll let you know how the trip turns out so stay tuned.....

Ligon Sports Boosters Report

Team updates...

Congratulations to the Boys Basketball Team whose record is currently 8 -3! Have you come out to support them yet? Well you still have time. The Girls Basketball Team is currently 5-6 and is looking forward to a winning record as the season continues. The Spirit Day Game against Daniels was postponed due to the weather...but we have a make-up Spirit Day scheduled for February 2nd! So support your schoolmates and come out to watch the games on February 2nd. Advance tickets will be available...listen for those morning announcements so you don't miss the opportunity to attend this exciting event!

Spring Sports...

Ready for the Spring??? Well it's about time for spring sports to gear up. The preseason meeting will be announced soon and tryouts for boys and girls track, boys soccer, and girls softball will begin on February 9th!

Contact Coach Grigas if you have any questions.

Ligon Sports Boosters Spectators...

Calling all participants in Spectator Sports!! We need you for the Ligon Sports Boosters Board of Directors. We are currently filling all positions for the 2005-06 board and would love for you to become part of this exciting group. All levels of participation are needed...from team representatives to the executive board. Does your child play a team sport? This is a great way to get involved. Rising 6th grade parents thru rising 8th grade parents are needed. Please contact our current President, Jami Holt (holtfamily@)bellsouth.net) or Ligon's Athletic Director, Joe Grigas (JGRIGAS@ wcpss.net). Thank you for considering being a volunteer for this important aspect of Middle School.

--Fairley Cook



Join Ligon Arts Boosters for 2004-2005!

Without **acting overdramatic**
you and LAB can make beautiful **music** together.
And isn't that a perfect **picture**?

Join Ligon Arts Boosters
And give a young **artist** the moon.



What does LAB fund in particular? LAB pays for instrument repair and rental, performance costumes, sheet music, field trip scholarships and day-to-day arts materials. It helps pay for kilns and specialty art supplies. LAB funding allows the Ligon arts department to offer over 20 visual arts classes, 15 dance classes, and a vast array of band, orchestra, choral and drama classes. LAB's sole purpose is to help keep Ligon's arts programs at the superior level we have come to expect when we hear Ligon's name.

Why should I join LAB today? LAB needs all of the financial and volunteer help it can get! You can be part of the group that helps make possible the varied and creative arts programs at Ligon. We'd love to have you!

How can I volunteer for LAB? There are many ways you can help out. Check any area of need below that is of interest to you. By checking several areas does not mean we expect you to help in all of those areas. It just means you are OK with someone calling you and asking for your help in those areas. Thanks in advance for your willingness to help!

Please make checks payable to Ligon Arts Boosters. Return your tax-deductible contribution and this form to: **Mamie Cohen; 4816 Winterwood Dr.; Raleigh, NC 27613.** Questions? **Call Mamie at 676-2764 or mamiecohen@nc.rr.com.**

GIVING LEVEL:

- Halo \$300-500
- Diamond \$200
- Gold \$100
- Silver \$50
- Bronze \$25
- Member \$10

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Donate refreshments for performances & events
- Help with fundraising
- Make, or help make, costumes
- Sell tickets
- Help with membership or publicity
- Be a teacher liaison
- Help visual arts teachers mat paintings and hang displays

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Student's Name(s) & Grade(s): _____

Performing Arts News

Choral and Piano News

Congratulations to our students who participated in State Honors Chorus in November: Allison Bonner, Laura Buff, Taylor Goes, Michael Gottstein, Sarah Moore, and Robert Narron. This is the highest honor a middle school choral student in our state can receive.

After a busy holiday concert season – Large Ensemble Concerts for Honors Chorus, Small Ensemble Concerts for Vocal Ensemble and Men's Doo-Wop, a Governor's Mansion performance for Vocal Ensemble, a Wake-Med performance for Apprentice Chorus, and final recitals for Piano I students – we are currently again working towards a busy performance schedule for 3rd nine weeks. Honors Chorus and Treble Chorus are working towards choral festival requirements for March 17th. I am in desperate need of one additional Treble Chorus member (6th grader) in order to meet the number requirements for festival. Please contact me if your student would be interested. I am very pleased with the performance level I am already seeing from this outstanding group of sixth graders. Ligon is the host school for this festival, so I am also in desperate need of many, many parent volunteers. Please let me know if you are interested in helping!

Vocal Ensemble is working towards their festival at Wakefield High School on March 4th.

Second Semester begins our showchoir season with MAGIC, Ligon's own showchoir ensemble. Ms. Pope and I see much promise already in this energetic and enthusiastic group. Piano I is off to a great start as well. We just completed our first playing test.

Many of our choral students, along with many of our dancers and actors and actresses are knee deep in *Children of Eden*. Practice for most of the cast is every afternoon during the month of February. The last weekend in February is our show time. Finally, Mrs. Bishop and I are busily working out all the final arrangements for our chorus/band tour to New Orleans, April 6-10. Choir and band students will be selling candy beginning January 31st to help with their individual trip expenses.

Thanks for your support in all of our endeavors and thanks for sending us your children who show dedication to excellence in practice and performance every day!

—Melody Moore

News from Band

Our next band concert will be held on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Ligon auditorium. We are very excited to be able to present a concert of NC Concert Band Festival pieces. Concert Band and Symphonic Band will present their selections at the North Carolina Band Festival during the week of March 7th in Hillsboro. The dates and times will not be assigned until the middle of February, so more information will be forthcoming on this event.

The following students have been selected to participate in the Central District's All-District Band:

Rebekah Austin – bassoon

Rachel Rowe – clarinet

Anna Wormsbecher – clarinet

Jeff Eckert – bass clarinet

Michael Gottstein – French horn

Grant Marley – trombone

Shiv Parikh – percussion

These students will participate in a clinic and concert at the North Carolina School of Science and Math during the weekend of February 11th. Additionally, Rebekah Austin, Rachel Rowe and Jeff Eckert have earned the privilege of auditioning this March for North Carolina's All-State Band. Congratulations to these students and to all who worked so diligently to prepare for the audition.

Jazz Band will perform at Pieces of Gold on Wednesday, March 9th, in the mezzanine prior to the concert. It is always exciting to participate in Pieces of Gold in this way. Please come early to enjoy the great tunes! We will begin playing at 6:15 p.m.

—Helen Bishop

CHILDREN OF EDEN

ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL

FEB. 25, 26, 27

Auditions were held just before winter break and 130 students sang and danced for the performing arts teachers. A cast of 50 was the goal, but since 130 auditioned, the judges decided to increase the cast to 70. Many tough choices were made, based on quality of vocals as the first criteria.

Mr. Heath and Ms. Pope are doing the choreography and Ms. Moore is rehearsing all the vocals; all 43 songs. Ms. Bishop auditioned musicians and has a pit band learning all the songs. Ms. Yalacki and Mr. Tomzack have been busy with her tech students building set pieces. Building an ark with a ramp that lowers is proving to be quite the challenge as is the tree that splits when Father throw his lightning bolt at it. Ms. Dodd and students are making animal masks. Ms. Thorsen and students are creating a show t-shirt and publicity poster. Ms. Haischer and students will add some multi-media effects and Mr. Pusser and students will videotape the shows. The show will be a total Arts department project.

See the set, hear the band and singers, watch the dancers and actors at CHILDREN OF EDEN, Feb. 25 and 26 at 7 pm and Sunday Feb. 27 at 2:30. The general admission ticket prices are \$3 for students and senior citizens and \$5 for adults. Tickets can be purchased one hour before show times at the box office. Doors to the theatre will open one-half hour before curtain.

—Deborah Yalacki



Reflections Program for 2004-05

“A Different Kind of Hero”



The Reflection committee would like to congratulate all participants and thank the teachers for encouraging and promoting to the students to participate. We would also like to thank the judges for taking their time in selecting the entries. We had about 41 entries, of which 32 were Literature, 4 Photography, 4 Visual arts and 1 Musical composition.

The following 8 entries were selected for the Council level:

The results for the Council will be known on 2nd Feb 2005. All participants will be recognized in a reception, the date and time will be intimated to the students.

Literature:

Allison Hren, 6th grade, Sumrell Team
 Holly Potts, 6th grade, Chell Team
 Amanda Mills, 8th grade, Kingsberry Team
 Andrew Fisher, 8th grade, Kingsberry Team
 Pradeep Gopinathan, 8th grade, Kingsberry Team

Musical Composition:

Zachary Smith, 8th grade, Kingsberry Team

Visual Arts:

Betty Lou Poston, 8th grade, Kingsberry Team

Photography:

Elizabeth Capel, 8th grade, Kingsberry Team

Usha Gopaldaswamy, Reflection Committee

Support Ligon Arts Boosters

The membership drive for the 2004-2005 Ligon Arts Boosters is still underway. **We are currently \$3000 short of our budgeted goal.** Please re-check your membership status for this year. There are many students in year-long classes or who are taking multiple quarterly classes whose membership is not up-to-date. The LAB membership drive is an annual membership drive just like the PTA. Please consider joining now. Our school musical, “Children of Eden” is now in the rehearsal stage and there are many expenses in order to produce a quality production such as this one. Just a few other items that the LAB membership fund pays for are art supplies, dance shoes and apparel, band instrument and repair and sheet music. If you are uncertain as to whether you have joined for this year please e-mail Mamie Cohen at mamiecohen@nc.rr.com or call Mamie at 676-2764.

The form for this year’s membership drive is printed on page 5 of this month’s Ligon Link. Please fill out the form today and mail it to the address on the form. Thank-you for your support!



LIGON 50th ANNIVERSARY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



FEBRUARY 2005

17 1:30 pm —Showing of Joseph Holt Documentary – Ligon Student whose lawsuit went to the US Supreme Court. Mr. Holt and daughter, film’s producer will lead discussion following. Optional Assembly

MARCH 2005

4 TBA “Brown v Board”, a one-person play (Optional Assembly - TBA)

APRIL 2005

LIGON READS School wide reading of novel Leon’s Story: Program Coordinated by Media Staff

APRIL 2005

27 PREMIERE of LIGON student produced video featuring Ligon Alumni **PUBLICATION** – Commemorative program featuring student visual art, photography and writing as well as archival photos from Ligon’s history

APRIL or MAY

TBA LIGON and CIVIL RIGHTS FORUM **DISCUSSION** featuring Alumni and Students



Monthly Reminders

- 2/01 — Magnet Open House 7:30 am
- 2/07 — LAB meeting 11:00 am
- 2/09 — Spring Sports Try Out 2:45 pm
- 2/11 — School Dance 6:00 pm
- 2/11 — Cash Flow for Parents 6:00 pm
- 2/17 — Joseph Holt Documentary 1:00 pm
- 2/18 — Make-up day for January 20
- 2/21 — Teacher Workday
- 2/22 — Sports Booster Meeting
- 2/25 — *Children of Eden* at 7:00 pm
- 2/26 — *Children of Eden* at 7:00 pm
- 2/27 — *Children of Eden* at 2:30 pm
- 2/28 — Spring Pictures



To find other events not listed here, please visit our online calendar at: ligon.wcpss.net

We're on the Web!
ligon.wcpss.net

The Ligon Link is sponsored by Ligon Middle School's PTA and LAB

Ligon Middle School is acknowledged as an Exemplary School and School of Distinction by the Wake County Public School System

Phone: 919-856-7929
Fax: 919-856-3745

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

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