

Legenda

Latin for “things to be read”

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News, Notes & Needs of The Washington Latin Public Charter School – 11.12.09

### Word of the Week

The 'Word of the Week' is:

**tenebrous \TEN-uh-bruhs\**

*adjective*

1. Dark; gloomy.
2. Tenebrous derives from Latin tenebrosus, from tenebrae, "darkness."

**In this edition of The Legenda:**

- Letter from Head of School, Martha Cutts
- Open House Details
- Letter from the PA Special Programs Committee
- Lion Sport Report
- Events happening around DC



## I. NEWS

### From the Office of the Head of School

Dear Latin Parents,

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, 11/13 - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade field trip to American Art Museum; PA sponsored Game Night (Decatur)

Saturday, 11/14 - 2:00 p.m./ Decatur, Pampered Chef Fundraiser

Wednesday, 11/18 - 5:15 -7:00 Banking & Finance class

Tuesday, 11/24 – Noon Dismissal for Thanksgiving

Monday, 11/30 – Classes resume

Wednesday, 12/2 US Curriculum Night (open to all parents)

**Friday, 12/4 and 12/11 – Parent Conferences**

First quarter reports should be arriving soon. If for some reason you do not get your child's grades and comments by next Monday, please give us a call as the last of them are being mailed today. This year we are asking parents to sign the cover sheet and return this to the advisor/ homeroom teacher or the office. Teachers and advisors spend a give a great deal of time and effort to preparing this reports, and we know that both parents and students read them carefully. Advisors have been reviewing these reports with students, and I am delighted to hear that teachers are already seeing improvements in student study habits and focus as a result of the suggestions made by teachers and advisors. One teacher new to Washington Latin shared the following with his colleagues.

*Though I've written comments at every school I've ever been a part, I've never seen this level of response from students. In the last few days, I've had a number of students either ask me questions about what I've written or take some of my advice to heart already. The question hasn't been "why did I get a C in your class" (well, a few have asked me something like this) but instead the question has been "what did you mean when you said this....?" These are such great conversations to have and get us out of the typical teacher/student exchange. When I mentioned to one student today that she's had an excellent few classes and asked what led to her change, she said that I suggested she participate more in class in my comments.*

Parent Conferences will be held on Friday, December 4 and Friday, December 11. This is roughly the mid-point of the second quarter and will be a good time to meet with teachers to review your child's performance. We will ask you in advance to sign up for a two-hour block of time on one of those days, in which you will have the opportunity to meet for ten minutes with each of the teachers. Please mark your calendars and be ready to register once we have our electronic sign-up ready for you to access. Be sure to check upcoming Legendas for further information on this.

At the most recent Board of Governors meeting, Colleen Eubanks, parent of Delaney in Grade 7, was elected president. I am grateful to Casey Carter for his service to the school as president over the last 18 months and am happy to say that Casey will remain on the Board. I look forward to working with Colleen and know that her expertise in non-profit governance as well as her deep commitment to Washington Latin will help us as we move forward and mature as a school.

Tuesday, November 17, will be a busy one for us. A five-person review team will be with us to review our curriculum, instruction, and assessment as part of the Public Charter School Board's oversight as our authorizer. They will visit some classes, meet with teachers, and talk extensively with Diana Smith, Kim Cockrell and me. In addition, our Mobile Educational Unit will, *mirabile dictu*, arrive that day. It will be placed in the parking lot of the Upshur campus parking lot alongside the grey containers near the back fence. It will take 3-5 days for them to level out the site and assemble it fully. Then the actual installation and fastening down process begins. At the same time, electricity, water, and Internet will be installed. I had hoped that the 8th graders' first day of classes in their new rooms would be on November 30, but it may take a few more days. It is too soon to know exactly, but we

are definitely getting close. It will be good to see the units arrive on Tuesday. I don't know yet whether the carpool line at Upshur will be affected during the installation process, but I will keep you posted.

With warm regards,



Martha C. Cutts  
Head of School

**From the Director of Admissions**

Washington Latin Public Charter School welcomes prospective families to attend our informational open houses.

Tuesday, December 1, 2009  
Thursday, January 14, 2010  
Thursday, February 11, 2010  
Thursday, March 4, 2010

**6:30 – 8:00 PM**  
***4115 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (corner of 16th and Upshur Ave)***

Washington Latin PCS is accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year beginning on Tuesday, December 1, 2009. All applications received by March 5, 2010 will be included in a random lottery by grade level if the number of applicants exceeds openings.

Please spread the word to your friends, family and neighbors!

## **II. PARENT ASSOCIATION**

Special Programs  
(2009-2010)

11/12/2009

Dear Washington Latin Parents,

The following Special Programs are being offered by Washington Latin for 2009-2010. The School has currently registered for these programs and materials are arriving. Teacher point people are busily preparing these activities, and scheduling information and other details are being

disseminated by the school through flyers and the Legenda. Interested parents are gently reminded to pay special attention to these flyers and communiqués.

These Special Programs represent a huge commitment from the Washington Latin Public Charter School and its faculty to build a core of meaningful and renowned opportunities in which Washington Latin children can compete and shine. Due to individual schedules, the school acknowledges that not all children who wish to are able to participate in every activity. Please discuss these programs with your child to see if any are a 'good fit' in terms of interest and scheduling demands. In an effort to acknowledge the time and effort of individual students, a 'Certificate of Participation' will be given to students who complete a given program in its entirety.

While most of the programs detailed below are designed for Middle School, Upper School is currently creating programs designed specifically for Upper School needs and interests such as a college counseling program, and a plan for future Model UN and World Bank activities. Some students in the Upper School are currently taking Arabic and going to Qatar, readying to go to Rome, and taking a financial literacy class. Plans are underway for Upper School students to work with a nursing home on 16th Street. Exciting programming for Upper School will continue to unfold, so stay tuned!

Please contact Skaidra Waggoner at skaidra23@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer to support one or more of the great program opportunities below. Ongoing volunteers are currently needed to support Science Fair, Debate Team and Math Counts, while the Bees will need more intensive support during the actual contests. Once you submit your name, the coordinating teacher will contact you as need arises.

We hope you are as excited about these great opportunities as we are! We thank Assistant Head for Academics Diana Smith for investing tremendous legwork into implementing these programs, and each and every dedicated faculty member who embraced this opportunity for the children.

Sincerely,

Programs Committee  
Skaidra Waggoner, Chair  
Elie Bosco, Chair

### **Science Fair**

All students in grades 5 and 9 will be required to complete a DC Science Fair project as part of their curricula. Motivated, independent students in grades 6, 7, and 8 who wish to complete a project may do so outside of school time.

### **Debate Team**

Debate Team is open to students in grades 5 – 8. Practices will be held on Thursdays; Debate competitions are held on the occasional Saturdays.

### **Spelling Bee**

Students in grades 5 – 8 will participate in the Scripps Spelling Bee. Each grade will host a spelling bee and the Middle School Champions will go on to Scripps.

**Geography Bee**

Students in grades 5 – 8 will participate in the National Geography Bee. Each grade will host a Geography Bee and the Middle School Champions will go on to the National Geography Bee.

**Math Counts**

Math Counts is open to students in grades 6, 7, and 8. This activity will require time outside of school.

**Junior Classical League**

Junior Classical League (JCL) is an organization that supports a variety of classical competitions. Competitions include “Certamen,” a trivia competition based on classical knowledge, a “catapult” competition, and other contests that involve classical information. The Middle School will host a chapter. Students in grades 7 and 8 are eligible.

### III. LION SPORT REPORT

The Washington Latin PCS Department of Physical Education and Athletics will be selling beautiful poinsettias in many sizes and colors, as a fundraiser for equipment needs, etc. These magnificent Maryland greenhouse grown poinsettias will make a spectacular addition to any holiday setting. They also make wonderful gifts!



#### ○ GPS Units Needed

**Latin Athletics are looking for a donation of two (2) GPS units to use for the upcoming Basketball season. In an effort to control expenses, we will be utilizing vans that the coaches will be driving and a little navigational assistance will be much appreciated. Contact Mr. Bettencourt if you can help!!**

## Lower School Physical Education

**PARENTS – The weather is getting colder and we will still be outside. If your child does not have the Latin Sweatshirt and Sweatpants, please send money with your child to purchase them. They are \$15.00 per piece.**

**Students may wear another layer OVER their sweats, if necessary.**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Grades Explained

The Grades may appear a bit different than what was explained on Back-to-School Night. The same five categories were used, but a number was assigned to the equivalent grade. Each category was based on 20 points. Students received a final percentage, and letter grade, based upon their point total from the five categories.

The five categories used to assess each student in Physical Education and Health are:

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

1. Pays attention to class instruction and follows directions
2. Sustains participation throughout physical activity.
3. Works up to physical potential.
4. Applies basic rules and strategies in individual and group activities.
5. Demonstrates respect for others and a positive attitude.

#### Grade

C – Consistently – 20 Points  
U – Usually – 17 Points  
R – Rarely – 15 Points

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

1. Pays attention to class instruction and follows directions.
2. Sustains participation throughout physical activity.
3. Works up to physical potential.
4. Applies instructional concepts and strategies in intramural play.
5. Displays good sportsmanship, respect to others and a positive attitude.

#### Grade

C – Consistently – 20 Points  
U – Usually – 17 Points  
R – Rarely – 15 Points

**\*A copy of their scores in each category will be given out in your child's next health class.**

## Latin Athletics

**ATTENTION PARENTS OF ALL LATIN ATHLETES...**

**YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR THE SPORTS ALERT SYSTEM. THIS IS HOW WE CAN ALERT YOU OF PRACTICE AND GAME CHANGES!!!!**

***How to Get Schedule & Game Updates to your EMAIL and/or PHONE***

Our HighSchoolSports.Net service offers complete and up-to-date scheduling information.

Many features are available FREE to you to help you manage your athletic schedules.

You can access Washington Latin PCS on HighSchoolSports.Net anytime by clicking on the following link <http://www.highschoolsports.net>, choose our state (DC), then choose our school (Washington Latin).

Today's Events is a list of athletic events happening today.

The calendar shows this week's activities. If you "roll over" an event with your mouse pointer, a small screen will pop-up to provide you with even more information about the event with facility scheduled for the event and transportation depart and return times.

Click on "**Click here to view the Month**" to see the entire current month and to view other months.

"Sync Calendar" immediately syncs the calendar THAT YOU ARE VIEWING to your handheld, desktop, or Microsoft Outlook. If you are viewing the weekly calendar, all events that you see on the weekly calendar will immediately sync. If you are viewing the monthly calendar, then all of the events on the monthly calendar will immediately sync.

Click on "**Advanced Sync**" to sync specific events.

At the bottom of the page are a number of options.

On the left, chose a team from the list. When the team's schedule is displayed, you can download the team's schedule into your handheld or Microsoft's Outlook by clicking on PDA/Outlook Sync.

Clicking on any school's name underlined in blue will take you to MapQuest.com for directions to that school.

This is also where you go to view game scores.

If you sign up for Change Notifications, you will get an email or a message on your cell phone letting you know that a game has been postponed or cancelled.

The first step is to sign up. You will get an email with instructions to complete the sign up procedure and to choose what team you want to receive notices for. You can log in at any school on HighSchoolSports.Net and sign up for any amount of teams. To change what teams you receive notices for, go to that particular school, log in and change your preferences. You can also add your cell phone or pager number or extra email addresses.

### **Upper School**

The following activities will be offered to students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades:

- Boys JV Basketball – Monday, November 16 – Try-Out REQUIRED
- Girls JV Basketball – starts Monday, November 9 – Try-Out REQUIRED
- Winter Conditioning – starts Monday, January 4
- Dance – starts Monday, January 4
- Cheer – start date TBD

Basketball rosters will be no larger than 12 players. All other activities may limit numbers due to space and safety concerns.

### **Middle School**

The following activities will be offered to students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades:

- Boys MS Basketball – starts Monday, January 4 – Try-Out REQUIRED
- Girls MS Basketball – starts Monday, January 4 – Try-Out REQUIRED
- Winter Conditioning – starts Monday, January 4

Basketball rosters will be no larger than 12 players.

Coaches of all programs will have clear expectations and rules, in addition to the ones outlined in the Handbook, that all participants will be expected to follow. Please review the Athletics Section of the Handbook before signing up for the season.

- *Please check [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) for upcoming games and practice schedules, directions, etc.*

## Upcoming Schedules

### **Cross Country**

|                     |          |                           |      |         |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------|------|---------|
| Coed Junior Varsity |          |                           |      |         |
| Saturday            | 11/14/09 | DC/MD State Championships | Away | 11:00AM |

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Coed Middle School | Season Complete |
|--------------------|-----------------|

### **Soccer**

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Boys Junior Varsity | Season Complete |
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|                    |                 |
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| Boys Middle School | Season Complete |
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|                      |                 |
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| Girls Junior Varsity | Season Complete |
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|                     |                 |
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| Girls Middle School | Season Complete |
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|---------------|-----------------|
| Flag Football | Season Complete |
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## IV. AROUND TOWN



### **2009 Engineering Day**

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Physics Building, 8:00AM – 12:30PM

Registration opens at 7:30AM

University of Maryland, College Park

### FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Lab Tours
- Hands on Activities
- Workshops for Parents

Sponsored by Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering (CMSE) at University of Maryland, College Park.

To register, visit [www.cmse.umd.edu](http://www.cmse.umd.edu). Call us at 301-405-3878 or email [bberhane@umd.edu](mailto:bberhane@umd.edu) with questions.

Cost is \$10.00 per person – see website for details.

\*This event is open to students in grades 5,6,7,8 and parents are strongly encouraged to attend as well.

### **4th Annual College Fair**

**WHAT:** College Fair & Scholarship Giveaway

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 14, 2009; 10:00am-1:00pm

**WHERE:** Stephen Decatur Community Center, 8200 Pinewood Drive, Clinton, MD 20735

**DETAILS:** The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Kappa Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Prince George's County, Maryland will have it's 4th Annual College Fair this weekend. The fair is free and we anticipate having over 50 colleges/universities participate. They will also give away one new laptop and a \$1,000 scholarship. We encourage all high school age students and parents/guardians to attend the fair. There will also be workshops and a step show. Some of the colleges and universities that have committed include Penn State University, Wellesley College, Old Dominion University, United States Naval Academy, Dickinson College, Spelman College, University of Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana, Johnson C. Smith University, University of Tennessee, Trinity University, Central State University, Ohio University, Bowie State University, South Carolina State University, Clemson University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Wilmington University, Johnson and Wales University and American University.

**CONTACT:** call 301-943-9036 or visit <http://aphiakel.org/> for more information.

### **National Geographic Warehouse Sale**

**WHAT:** National Geographic Warehouse Sale

**WHEN:** Friday, November 20th - Sunday, November 22nd, 2009; 9:00am-5:00pm

**WHERE:** DC Stadium Armory

**DETAILS:** The Washington Convention and Sports Authority announced today that the National Geographic Warehouse Sale will return to the DC Armory next month. Truckloads of books, maps, globes, toys, clothing, luggage and more will be available during the annual sale. Admission is Free. Many of the items seen in National Geographic gift catalogs as well as 300 book titles will be available. Prices will be discounted up to 90 percent. New to the sale this year will be a display of rolled and framed prints of some of National Geographic's most iconic photographs, which are also available at [www.printsNGS.com](http://www.printsNGS.com). Books are discounted from 20 to 90 percent off list price.

**CONTACT:** [www.wcsa.com](http://www.wcsa.com) or call 202-608-1199 for more information.

### **Join the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities**

Join the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities for Art Salon--a monthly convergence of artists, techies, green-collars, art enthusiasts, bloggers and educators that are creating the momentum for the new era of art in DC.

Art Salon is modeled after the Paris salons of the late 19th century to inspire and provoke the minds of the creative community.

Each month, we gather at a different location. This month, we invite you to converge @ Long View Gallery - 1234 9th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001, Wednesday, November 18, 7-9pm. For more information and to RSVP, contact: [dccaevents@gmail.com](mailto:dccaevents@gmail.com).