

# Legenda

## Latin for “things to be read”

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News, Notes & Needs of The Washington Latin Public Charter School – 11.19.09

### Word of the Week

The 'Word of the Week' is:

**convivial** \kuhn-VIV-ee-uhl\

*adjective*

1. Fond of feasting, drinking, and good company; sociable.
2. Merry; festive.

Convivial comes from Latin convivium, "a feast, entertainment, a banquet," from conviva, "a table-companion, a guest," from convivere, "to live with, hence to feast with," from com-, con-, with + vivere, "to live."

#### In this edition of The Legenda:

- Letter from Head of School, Martha Cutts
- DENARII Update
- Special Education and Student Support Contact Info
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- Note from the School Librarian
- Lion Sport Report
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## I. NEWS

### From the Office of the Head of School

Dates to remember:

Tuesday, 11/24 – Noon Dismissal for Thanksgiving

Monday, 11/30 – Classes resume  
Tuesday, 12/1 – Admissions Open House (at Upshur) 6:30 p.m. – spread the word!  
Wednesday, 12/2 US Curriculum Night (open to all parents)  
Friday, 12/4 and 12/11 – Parent Conferences  
Monday, 12/7 - 10<sup>th</sup> grade to the Newseum

Dear Latin Parents,

Yesterday we sent all parents an email with a link to a survey. The WLPCS Board of Governors is engaged in strategic planning and is eager to have a sense of parents' views on a variety of issues. Thoughtful consideration of the school's mission and how best to plan for the future is important; the Board looks forward to hearing from you.

I want to alert you to the fact that I was interviewed today by a reporter from Channel 7 for a story on "cyber-bullying." This story came about as a result of a call the TV station got from a Latin parent. His daughter received, on her Facebook page, an unkind and inappropriate message from another student at our school. We are handling the situation with the girls and the parents. I encourage you to speak to your child and to reiterate the School's message: "Words Matter." Students need help in seeing that these public electronic spaces are just that, public, and that one cannot vent one's private angers in these public spaces.

Some of the times listed on the bus registration sent home with report cards was incorrect. Here is the accurate information; I apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Two bus routes will operate in the morning and at dismissal time. Each route will pick students up at the specified location and take them directly to the Upshur and Decatur sites. There will be no stops along the way.

Tenleytown Metro Station  
Pick-up at 7:35am.  
Drop-off at @3:30pm

Union Station  
Pick-up at 7:20am  
Drop-off at @3:45pm

On Tuesday of this week, we had a 5-member visiting team on campus all day for a targeted Program Development Review that focused on curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Each member of the team had visited the school before, so it was good for them to see the school now. Preparing for such a visit is time-consuming for us, but the team got an in-depth view of the school by reading the materials we had prepared, talking with faculty and students, and observing classes. As a still young school, we naturally have things to continue to work on as we develop our curriculum, but the team acknowledged all the progress we have made. That was nice to hear!

As for progress on another front, it was exciting to see the first two units of our MEU arrive at our Upshur campus on Tuesday. The other two will come on Tuesday, and the installation process will begin in earnest. Some additional conversation with the folks at DCRA about which method we would use to secure the units has caused some delay, so it now looks as if the 8th graders will be in their new rooms on December 7.

Parents are invited to sign up for conferences with teachers on either December 4 or December 11. Please go to the following link - <http://latinpcs.org/conference/> - to sign up for your two-hour block of time when you can meet individually with your child's teachers for ten minutes. Be sure to choose the correct grade level. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE FOR YOURSELF OF THE TIME AND DAY YOU HAVE CHOSEN! Students are invited to join you for these conferences, but they are not required to attend. No classes will be held on those days.

Upper School girls interested in developing a community service project in an area of civic involvement that interests them should speak to Ms. Wilson or Ms. Afshar about Girls For a Change. As their website explains, Girls For A Change (GFC) is a national organization that empowers thousands of teen girls to create and lead social change. GFC provides girls with professional female role models, leadership training and the inspiration to work together in teams to solve persistent societal problems in their communities. Ms. Wilson will serve as one of the mentors of our program. This is a wonderful way to get involved and accrue hours toward the graduation requirement of 100 hours.

School dismissal will be at noon next Tuesday, November 24. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! The school policy re homework over vacations follows:

"New" homework cannot be assigned over vacation break in any class. However, any student who has make-up work to do can do it over break, at the teacher's discretion. Please encourage your child to read for pleasure. I hope that those of you who will be traveling in order to spend the holiday with friends and relatives have a safe trip.

With best regards,



Martha C. Cutts  
Head of School

**From the Director of Institutional Advancement**

**DENARII UPDATE**

We are delighted to report on our first biannual Friends Reception at Jones Day law firm thanks to our Board member Joseph Clark. The event was to introduce the school to philanthropists, recent donors, and local educators. It was highly attended. Sponsors to our reception were: Cannons Seafood, Pearson Wine, Wagner's Liquors, and Whole Foods.

The Parents' Initiative has raised about \$10,000 towards our \$100,000 goal. Parents should ask their place of business if they provide matching funds. Please consider contacting Angela Iovino (202 669 1562) to discuss a gift before the end of the year.

**From the Director of Special Education and Student Support Services**

The Student Support Team provides assistance with students who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally. Members of the team, along with parents and teachers, will use a collaborative process to discuss the student's needs and identify interventions. The Student Support Team process works as an early intervention/prevention system to help students maximize their potential for success.

Student Support TEAM: Contact any of the team at:

Decatur Campus  
202-541-1591

Upshur Campus  
202-223-1111

*Martha Cutts* – Head of School  
*Diana Smith* – Assistant Head for Academics

*Matt Boyd* – Dean of Students  
*Kate Chieco* – Counselor  
*Sara Stanton* – Special Education

*David McCoy* – Dean of Students  
*Phil Castle* – Special Education

*Crystal Williams* – Director of Admissions and Parent Liaison  
*Katy Johnson* – Director of Special Education and Student Support Services

**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!

**From the School Librarian**

Just a reminder that if you would like to honor a family member or member of the Latin community with a book placed in the library in their honor, please contact me. I am keeping a running list of teacher requests and student favorites. And, for another suggestion of a great new book that your children might

enjoy, look for *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead. It is magic realism involving time travel, friendships, family relationships and a mystery, all the while paying tribute to *A Wrinkle in Time*.

## II. 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

*Mr. Bettencourt's Health Class LOOK HERE – Your homework is for you and your parents to read the *Legenda* and to go on the internet and find a web page that talks about 'Nutritional Facts'. Print the Home Page and bring it in to share with class.*

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.

#### 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/Step – 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.*

## **III. AROUND TOWN**

### **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 its 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.

### **Bark for Books**

WHAT: Bark for Books This Sunday!

WHEN: Sunday, November 22; 1:30 - 3:00 pm

WHERE: 71 Oglethorpe Street NW, Washington, DC 20011  
 DETAILS: Come to the League for a fun-filled, literary, family event with author readings, illustration workshops, and opportunities to buy books signed by the authors and illustrators (or "pawed" by protagonists) -- just in time for the holidays! The books make delightful gifts for the animal-loving children in your life, and extras can be donated to the League's Read-2-Me

program, which provides humane-themed books to classrooms, school libraries and students. Plus, enjoy free refreshments and meet dogs and cats for adoption. CONTACT: Email: warl@warl.org, phone: 202-726-2556, or visit the web: <http://www.warl.org>

### **Feast of Sharing**

WHAT: Feast of Sharing Event

WHEN: Wednesday, November 25, 2009; 9:30am – 2:30pm

WHERE: Washington Convention Center, Hall D, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW

DETAILS: job fair, training, employment opportunities, give-a-ways, health screenings, and food provided.

CONTACT: Faith Williams at 202-422-8968, [feastofsharing@hotmail.com](mailto:feastofsharing@hotmail.com), for more information

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### **Flamenco en Familia: Zapateo and Castanet Workshops**

WHAT: Flamenco en Familia: Zapateo and Castanet Workshops for Kids and Family Alike!

WHEN: Saturday, November 28; 11:00am-12:30 pm and 2:00pm-3:30pm

WHERE: Gala Theater, 3333 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20010  
DETAILS: Free lecture and demonstrations in guitar and castanets for children and the entire family by local flamenco artists, Natalia Monteleon and members of the ArteFlamenco Company. This event is part of the three-week Fuego Flamenco Festival Begins!

COST: This event is free for the whole family.

CONTACT: For more information about the Festival, and to purchase tickets for other Flamenco events, contact 202-234-7174 or visit [www.galatheatre.org](http://www.galatheatre.org).

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### **Rollergirl's Holiday Bash & Craft Fair**

WHAT: 2nd Annual DC Rollergirl's Holiday Bash & Craft Fair!

WHEN: Saturday, December 12, 8-11 pm

WHERE: McFadden's, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20037 (<http://www.mcfaddensdc.com>)

DETAILS: This is our holiday party fundraiser benefiting DCRG and our charity this season, N Street Village (<http://www.nstreetvillage.org>). The show includes music, dancing, a bake sale, pictures with Santa, and general Rollergirl fun!

CONTACT: <http://www.dcrollergirls.com/>

# AMERICAN YOUTH CHORUS

David Simmons, artistic director

## FALL CONCERT

*Raising Our Voices In Song*

*Opening its second season, the American Youth Chorus lifts its voice in a spirited program featuring songs from across the ages and around the world.*

**Saturday, November 21, 2009 • 8:00 pm**

The Atlas Performing Arts Center  
1333 H Street, NE • Washington, DC 20002

Tickets - \$15 (Seniors and Students ages 6 to 15 - \$10)

[www.atlasarts.org](http://www.atlasarts.org) or at 202-399-7993, x2

[WWW.AMERICANYOUTHCHORUS.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANYOUTHCHORUS.ORG)