

Legenda

Latin for “things to be read”

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News, Notes & Needs of The Washington Latin Public Charter School – 02.04.10

### Word of the Week

The 'Word of the Week' is:

**gelid \JEL-id\**

*adjective*

1. Extremely cold; icy.

Gelid comes from Latin gelidus, from gelu, "frost, cold."

**In this edition of The Legenda:**

- Letter from Head of School, Martha Cutts
- SAVE THE DATE: 2nd Annual Multicultural Night - 3/25/10
- PA Meeting Extravaganza: Tuesday, February 23rd
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pizza Lunch Fundraiser
- SAVE THE DATE: Ante Up for Latin – 4/23/10
- Around Town



## I. NEWS

### FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Thursday, 2/4 – 5th grade to Alvin Ailey; Arts Night: 7:30 at Upshur

Friday, 2/5 – 5th grade Science Fair; 8th grade trip to Gettysburg

Tuesday, 2/9 – 9th grade to Terra Cotta Warriors at NGS

Wednesday, 2/10 – 10th grade to Orestes; 8th grade visits Upper School

Thursday, 2/11 – Admission Open House at Upshur @ 6:30 p.m.

Monday, 2/15 – No School – Presidents' Day

Tuesday, 2/23 – 10th grade visit a Federal Court; Science Fair followed by PA Meeting with presentation on Internet Safety

Wednesday, 2/24 – 7th grade to Natural History Museum; Banking & Finance class; 5:15-7:00

Friday, 2/26 – 6th grade to Building Museum

Dear Latin Parents,

First semester grades will be arriving home soon. If you do not receive this important mailing by the middle of next week, please contact the office to let us know. Advisors will be reviewing the grades and comments with students, but you will surely be having some conversation at home as well. I know that students and parents read the extensive comments from teachers with care. Understanding what habits of mind have led to success or what changes need to be made going forward should be the goal. Consistency of homework preparation is, of course, critical. Balancing the many demands of school and extra-curricular activities takes practice. Setting some goals for the third quarter and occasional reminders from mom or dad can be a big help.

I have had the pleasure of seeing some of our girls' and boys' basketball teams play lately, and I am reminded of how valuable the lessons of teamwork are. The hard work, daily practice, and collaboration necessary for success on the court are skills and habits that make for progress in the classroom and in the work world.

Starting next week Upper School parents will twice a month be hearing directly from Diana Smith about activities in the Upper School, and the following week Kimberly Cockrell will email Middle School parents. They are eager to share with you some of the curricular and co-curricular aspects of life at Latin. We hope these added communications will help you to feel more connected to the school and aware of what is going on. We realize that some students don't always choose to say much in answer to your question: "How was school today?"

The Greek Church has begun to bake for Easter, and there are a few days when we are not allowed to use the cafeteria. It would be a big help if Middle School parents could send their children to school with lunch on February 8 and 22. The logistics of providing lunch for fewer students on those days would thus be easier for us to handle.

With warm regards,



Martha C. Cutts  
Head of School

### **SAVE THE DATE: 2nd Annual Multicultural Night at Latin!**

Multicultural Night is a time to celebrate the many cultures of our students, parents and faculty/staff. There will be food, cultural exhibits, and cultural performances! There will also be a contest for the best traditional clothing that represents your culture worn by a student, parent or faculty/staff.



Your participation is crucial in pulling off a successful event. I am seeking parents and students who are willing to provide food, musical/dance/poetry performances or artifacts from their culture. Please email me at [cwilliams@latinpcs.org](mailto:cwilliams@latinpcs.org) ASAP if you would like to contribute in any way.

When: Thursday, March 25th

Where: 4115 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Who: All students grades 5-10, parents, staff/faculty, family and friends

We invite the entire Latin family to participate! Please join us for a fun and educational night for the entire school community.

## II. PARENT ASSOCIATION

### **PA Meeting Extravaganza: Tuesday, February 23rd**

See Grades 6-9 Science Fair Projects on Display! Attend a Workshop on Internet Safety! All WL Parents and Faculty Welcome!

Washington Latin Parents and Faculty, please join us on Tuesday, February 23rd for a line-up of PA-sponsored events! This evening showcases the best of WL! From 3:30 to 6:00 you are invited to drop by the Grades 6-9 Science Fair Open House organized by Science Department Head Megan Hannon in conjunction with the PA Programs Committee. Up to 13 winners will go on to compete in the DC State Science Fair! (The Fair will be visited by WL children and visiting judges during the school day). Then, partake of light refreshments, before joining an adults-only PA meeting that will include an educational workshop by NetSmartz, a project of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. A NetSmartz project leader will present the latest research and facilitate a frank discussion of the benefits (and perils!) of the digital age for our children. Do not miss two HOT back-to-back opportunities to appreciate our children and teachers' scientific efforts through the High School level, to commune with other WL parents while enjoying a delicious snack AND to learn about keeping your child SAFE on the WWW. What a remarkable school! Mark your calendars to come to the Lollapalooza of all PA meetings on Tuesday, February 23rd. The EC looks forward to seeing you there!

Skaidra Waggoner, Secretary EC

### **PIZZA LUNCH FUNDRAISER**

The 7th grade parents will be hosting a pizza fundraiser for the Echo Hill overnight trip this spring (7th graders).

Lower Campus students (5th - 8th grades) can purchase pizza slices, chips and bottled water on Friday, February 12th during lunch.

Students must pre-order!

Pre-orders will be taken next week...cost: \$1.50 per slice, .50 bag of chips, .50 bottled water

Pre-order forms will be distributed in advisory. Payment will be taken on Friday, February 12th during lunch.

Thanks for your support!

7th Grade Parents

*The Parent Association Presents*

♠ ♣ ANTE UP FOR LATIN ♥ ♦

A CASINO THEMED FUNDRAISING EVENT WITH PANACHE

FRIDAY, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>

WASHINGTON ETHICAL SOCIETY

7750 SIXTEENTH STREET, NW



## 2009-2010 Parents' Campaign

# 100% and \$100,000

**Latin's Goal is 100% Parent Participation and \$100,000 in contributions.**

Join us for a swanky evening of fun and community. We are betting big on this event to get us to the "100 - 100 Mark".

Funds raised through the Parents' Campaign support the operations of the school, including curriculum, faculty training, athletics, transportation and more!

**GO ALL IN** for a night of gambling excitement featuring professional staff and "funny money" so all can take their chances at the tables.

Your tax deductible entrance fee includes access to the gaming tables, a silent auction opportunity, delicious food and drink and swinging music.

### III. AROUND TOWN

#### Great Books for African American History Month

February is African American History Month. While many of us are waiting for the day when there is no longer a need for African American History Month to balance the history that children learn, the commemorative month provides an opportunity for celebration and information that enriches the minds of all children. There are wonderful books available to help children of all ages learn about African American culture.

At what age does history become relevant? Very young children have no concept of the past, and it isn't until around age 4 that children realize people can live very different lives, some far away, some long ago, and some close to home. But stories, folktales, and nursery rhymes can open their minds to the idea of alternate lives before they understand the idea of past.

From the time children begin exploring books, they should be exposed to multicultural images. Four-year-olds can imagine living differently and are interested in how people and the lives that they lead are the same and different. School-age children are steadily constructing a picture of a world around them and trying to place themselves in time and space.

Here is list of great books that offer windows into the world of African American lives and history. Note: Many of the books for older readers are good read-alouds for younger children.

[\*Elijah of Buxton\*](#), by Christopher Paul Curtis. Narrator 11-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves. Elijah ends up on a journey and becomes exposed to the horrors of slavery. This Newbery Honor book is at times funny, exciting, thrilling, suspenseful, and deeply moving; a subtle, original story by a wonderful writer.

[\*A Friendship for Today\*](#), by Patricia C. McKissack. Rosemary, who is black, develops an unlikely friendship with mean Grace Hamilton, considered "white trash" by classmates, after school integration in 1955. Rosemary is a plucky character with wry observations on life and people and the book offers a great view of life in the 1950's.

[\*Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters\*](#), written by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn. An engaging and inspiring look at the contributions of 10 women from former slave and abolitionist Sojourner Truth to the first black congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm. Pinkney tells the stories of Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, and others — stories of hardship and struggle, determination and strength. Alcorn's beautiful and exciting oil painting illustrations bring life to each story. This is a good read aloud for kindergarten and young school-age children.

[\*Through My Eyes\*](#), written by Ruby Bridges, illustrated by Margo Lundell. Bridges gives voice to her innocent 6-year-old self who every day walked through a mob of howling, angry protestors to integrate the New Orleans public schools in 1960. Bridges recounts how

she innocently thought at the time that, "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want to integrate" was a jump rope chant, even while the mob was carrying a black doll in a coffin. Many sepia-toned period photographs and excerpts from newspaper articles, comments by her teacher, and a timeline place her story within the context of the larger Civil Rights Movement. This book is a 1999 Parents' Choice® Gold Award Winner.

[The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963](#), written by Christopher Paul Curtis. The Watson family heads from Michigan to the deep south of Birmingham, Alabama in 1963 to straighten out fourth grader Kenny by depositing him at the home of his strict grandmother. This Newbery Medal-winning book is both funny and moving. Kenny narrates his family's trip into the pivotal time and place in civil rights history — the bombing of a Baptist Church with four little girls inside.

[Only Passing Through](#), written by Anne Rockwell, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. A powerful picture book biography of one the most remarkable women of the 19th century. Sojourner Truth was a slave sold three times by age 13 and watched her parents die of cold and hunger. She became one of the abolitionist movement's strongest voices. Christie's dramatic impressionist illustrations complement Rockwell's moving storytelling.

[A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1966](#), by Diane McWhorter. This is a brilliant, well-illustrated history of the Civil Rights Movement centered on Birmingham, based on McWhorter's prize-winning book, *Carry Me Home*.

[The Old African](#), by Julius Lester, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Lester, with Pinkney's powerful illustrations, has done a wonderful job chronicling the African American experience of slavery to young readers. Other notable books by Lester are *To Be a Slave* and *Day of Tears*.

## **Kids Philosophy Slam**

<http://www.philosophyslam.org/>

The Mission of the Kids Philosophy Slam is to give kids a voice and to inspire kids to think by unlocking their intellectual and creative potential through a unique and powerful philosophical forum.

2010 Topic: Is the Pen Mightier than the Sword?

With all of the diplomatic efforts, conflicts, wars and terrorism going on in the world today, does the written word still have an impact on society? Given this context, the Kids Philosophy Slam selected the topic for 2010; the famous question coined by English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton: Is the Pen Mightier than the Sword?

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact us at: [info@philosophyslam.org](mailto:info@philosophyslam.org)

The Kids Philosophy Slam is designed to make philosophy accessible and fun for kids of all ages and abilities, to promote a philosophical dialogue between kids and adults, and to promote a greater awareness of philosophy and education in everyday life. Over \$5,000 in prizes are available to students & schools. Home school entries and international participation are encouraged.

The Kids Philosophy Slam has been featured on: The NBC Today Show, The New York Times, National Public Radio, Christian Science Monitor and TIME Magazine for Kids

A downloadable participation certificate is available for teachers to print out to give to all students who participated in the 2009 Kids Philosophy Slam. Thank you to all students and teachers who participated in the 2009 Kids Philosophy Slam!

Listen to National Public Radio Weekend Edition Saturday, May 6, 2006 - Scott Simon on National Public Radio talks to Ryan Adams, 16, a finalist in the 2006 Kids Philosophy Slam in Washington, D.C.

### **Young Women's Conference on Non-Traditional Careers**

The 2010 Young Women's Conference on Non-Traditional Careers will be held at the McDowell Hall of American University on March 6. The conference will offer young women in eighth grade (from DC public and public charter schools) to first year college students. This will be a professional conference to explore non-traditional careers fields, participants will also have the opportunity to network with successful female role models in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields.

Conference highlights will include

- Keynote speaker Raelene M. Sanders, SE Network Engineer/Program Manager for Microsoft
- Interacting with robots and their creators
- Workshops by successful trades women representing – Certified Electricians, Plumbers, IBEW, Iron Workers
- Interactive workshops by NASA Scientists
- Information on Secondary and Postsecondary mentoring and scholarship opportunities
- Expo/Exhibit Session: National and regional Industry, Trades, Unions, organizations, and other Post-secondary institutions will host Inter-active information/exhibits.
- Breakfast, Lunch, and Door Prizes

The conference is free but pre-registration is required. For more information and registration please contact your school counselor or Julia A. Martas, State Civil Rights & Gender Equity Coordinator, at 202-279-0561 or [julia.martas@dc.gov](mailto:julia.martas@dc.gov).