

# The Purple Page



Lanier Middle School 2600 Woodhead St. Houston, TX 77098 (713) 942-1900 September 14, 2012

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 17 Fall Holiday No School  
Sep 20 Washington DC Trip Mtg 3:45p & 6:00 p  
Sep 24 Homecoming Game  
Lanier v Pershing 7p  
Sep 26 Early Dismissal 1p  
Oct 11 Parent Teacher Fall Party 5-8p

## PRINCIPALS PARAGRAPH

Principal's Paragraph from Mrs. Smith

What a wonderful start to the school year! We are so excited about the group of students that we have with us this year. Just this evening we had our first open house and it was so well attended. It was fun meeting so many new parents and I enjoyed seeing how engaged the parents were in the cluster meetings. Our teachers are a very professional group of folks that ensure that your child is getting an outstanding education while also providing them with new opportunities to explore.

Speaking of opportunities, there are so many ways for our parents to be involved. Our teachers are always looking for volunteers for service projects, field studies and various other projects. The **Lanier PTO** is a great way to get involved and another avenue for parents to network and enjoy the "middle" experience.

Middle school is such an important time for you as parents to be involved in your child's academic and social well being. **The Parent Connect Portal** is key to remaining connected to your child's grades and ensures no big surprises at the end of the 9 weeks. Our teachers are always willing to talk to you about your child and their academic needs. Please feel free to email them if you have any questions or concerns. As far as the social piece goes, monitor your child's social networking. Find ways to help your child organize their study habits at home; texting while doing homework is not optimal. Monitor Facebook and Twitter accounts to ensure that the right people are communicating with your child. Bottom line here is that we care about your child!

I look forward to another fantastic year. My past three years here at Lanier have been such a blessed experience for me. The Lanier staff, students, parents and community members make Lanier a wonderful place and I feel confident that if you asked around you would hear time after time, Lanier rocks!

## PTO NEWS

### From the PTO President...

Did you know that your child could leave a lasting legacy at Lanier? The courtyard in the front of the school has a beautiful collection of pavers honoring Lanier students present and past. Pavers create an enduring memory for your child, and they're also a great way to support Lanier. The pavers are available in the following sizes:

- **4" by 8" paver** for a \$150 donation, which allows 14 characters per line and 2 lines of text.
- **8" by 8" paver** for a \$250 donation, which allows 14 characters per line and 3 lines of text.

You can order pavers online from the PTO website: [www.lanierpto.org](http://www.lanierpto.org). The deadline is March 18, 2013. For more information, contact Anne Perch ([anneperch@gmail.com](mailto:anneperch@gmail.com)).

Also, don't forget that you can support Lanier in other ways. The PTO's annual *Commitment to Excellence* campaign is in full swing. CTE is the primary fundraiser for the school, and the theme of the campaign is classroom equalization—enabling the school to purchase technology-related tools to ensure that each child at Lanier receives the best education possible. You can donate any amount—every penny helps our school. The benefit levels start at just \$35 and go to the \$1,926 Sydney Lanier Leadership level to commemorate the year Lanier was founded. Visit the PTO website for more information or to donate online.

Sheryl Moore  
2012-13 Lanier PTO President  
[lanierptopres@gmail.com](mailto:lanierptopres@gmail.com)

### LANIER PARENT - TEACHER SOCIAL

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 11, 2012**.

The annual Lanier Parent-Teacher social is a fun, casual gathering for teachers, staff and parents. This event gives you the opportunity to meet the teachers, staff and other parents. This year we will have a raffle for an iPad, Kindle Fire and a Sony PlayStation 3.

Tickets will be on sale soon. Please consider sponsoring a teacher and/or staff member. Watch the Purple Page for more details.

**To make this event a success, we will need parent volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Anju Varadhachary at**

[anju12@gmail.com](mailto:anju12@gmail.com) or Laura Fertak at [murphetak@comcast.net](mailto:murphetak@comcast.net). Hope to see you there.

## COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE A HUGE KICKOFF!

We have had an overwhelming response to our Commitment to Excellence campaign with just a few weeks of school under our belt. To date, we have raised over \$11,000! Thank you, parents, for your generous contributions!

We would like to recognize the following supporters starting with the new Sidney Lanier Leadership Society level:

### **Sidney Lanier Leadership Society**

Kristin Helfand  
Brittney & Max Tribble

### **Poet Society**

Molly Ward

### **Champion**

Angela Wallace  
Annette Van Brunt  
Sarah Dietrich  
Margie Neilirk  
Jessica & Brent Hwang

### **Super Star**

Carole Dickenson  
Monty Myers  
Amanda Nathan  
Tami Grove  
Monica & Danny Kennedy  
Penny Linsenmayer  
Karen Meehan  
Gina & Keith Taylor

### **Star**

Maria Gasi  
Kristin Hennings  
Lisa Aaronson  
Pamela Rosen  
Sandy Nielsen  
Vernon Jones  
Shanna Hayes  
Maria Volodina  
Anne Thompson  
Fris Downing  
Laurie Dalwin  
Helene Sheena  
JoAnn Numata  
Elize Reynolds  
Bettina Siegel  
Rong Yao  
Thu Hang Dao-Jeanjean

Thank you for your support! Please keep those very important contributions coming. Every penny counts!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the campaign co-chairs at [jodibash@gmail.com](mailto:jodibash@gmail.com) or [jgbiggs@gmail.com](mailto:jgbiggs@gmail.com).

Jennie Biggs and Jodi Bash  
*Commitment to Excellence*  
Campaign Co-Chairs

## HELP WANTED: AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK SHACK

In past years, the Lanier PTO has offered snacks and drinks for sale after school hours. The Snack Shack is currently closed, and we're looking for volunteers to make this program successful. Here are our needs:

- Shoppers for the store. Shopping can be done on your own time and does not require you to be at the school at a certain time.
- Sales people to operate the store from 3:30 to 4:00 PM. Our goal is to open the store every day of the week. Currently we have volunteers to cover Friday afternoon sales only. You can choose to work one day or multiple days a week.

If you can help with the Snack Shack—as a shopper, sales person, or both—please contact our VP of Volunteering, Scott Wagner ([slwagner@earthlink.net](mailto:slwagner@earthlink.net)).

## LANIER GEAR AND UNIFORMS

Uniform shirts in all sizes are now in stock in the uniform store. New stock of Lanier hoodies (all sizes) and paw print magnets will be available in the store on Thursday, September 20. As a reminder, the store is open Mondays from 7:30am to 8:30am and Thursdays from 11:45am to 1:45pm.

## LANIER LINES

If you are interested in attending the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Spring Tour there is an informational meeting scheduled for **Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting will be held in the **Lanier Library** and you have the choice of attending at either **3:45 or 6:00 PM**. This is an annual event open to any 6<sup>th</sup> grader. This will be our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip. The dates of the trip are March 8-12, 2013. We leave from school on the Friday before Spring Break and return on Tuesday of Spring Break which leaves you with 5 days left to enjoy the rest of your Spring Break.

Information on pricing and a tentative itinerary will be available at the meeting. This is an all-inclusive trip with the cost covering air, hotel, coach bus while in Washington DC, food and all paid venues. This trip sold out last year so if you are interested in going be sure and attend the meetings. Parents and families are also welcome to go on the trip as well. If you have any further questions you may contact Gary Keese at [gkeese@houstonisd.org](mailto:gkeese@houstonisd.org).

## IB CORNER

### THEME OF THE WEEK: APPROACHES TO LEARNING

How do I learn best? How do I know? How do I communicate my understanding? Through approaches to learning, students are provided with the tools to enable them to take responsibility for their own learning. Central to this is "learning how to learn" and developing in individuals an awareness of how they learn best, of thought processes and of learning strategies. [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

**LANIER 2012  
FOOTBALL SCHEDULE  
8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**



**DATE   VISITOR   HOME   TIME   LOCATION**

19 Sep   Welch   Lanier   5:00 pm   Delmar  
Wednesday

24 Sep   Pershing   Lanier   7:00 pm   Delmar  
Monday   (\*Homecoming Game\* 2012)

2 Oct   Lanier   Johnston   5:00 pm   Butler Sr  
Tuesday

9 Oct   Lanier   Westbriar   5:00 pm   Butler Sr  
Tuesday

16 Oct   Lanier   Pin Oak   5:00 pm   Butler Sr  
Tuesday

24 Oct   Lanier   Dowling   5:00 pm   Delmar  
Wednesday



**\*\*\*ALL GAMES, TIMES, AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE AT ANY TIME THROUGH OUT THE SEASON \*\*\***

**NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

All information contained in the Purple Page is correct as of 9pm, September 12, 2011, and has been printed with the approval of Linda Smith, Lanier Principal.

**ATTENTION LACROSSE PLAYERS:** Pin Oak Middle School is looking for 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade boys to round out their team. The season runs February to May, with informal practices beginning in November. For more information, contact Victoria Arrington at [svsjmail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:svsjmail@sbcglobal.net).

**CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT**

**DO YOU NEED A COOL BAG FOR YOUR STUFF?**

The Lanier Choirs can help you out! We are selling cinch bags that come in a variety of colors and patterns. They can be embroidered with whatever you want or you can put your favorite collegiate team logo on it! You can grab any Lanier choir member to make an order. You can stop by the choir room to check them out and make your design choices or ask a choir kid to show you the choices on the order form. Bags will also be sold during lunch next week and can be purchased by check (payable to LMS Choir Boosters), credit card or cash. These bags will make great gifts so get your holiday gifts early! For more information, e-mail [designedforyou@gmail.com](mailto:designedforyou@gmail.com).