

The Purple Page



Lanier Middle School 2600 Woodhead St. Houston, TX 77098 (713) 942-1900 September 7, 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 11 6 th Grade Open House	6pm
Sep 12 7 th Grade Open House	6 pm
Sep 13 8 th Grade Open House	6 pm
Sep 17 Fall Holiday – No School	

PTO NEWS

From the PTO President...

The Lanier PTO website is updated frequently, so be sure to bookmark the home page and visit the site regularly for the latest PTO news: www.lanierpto.org. These are just a sampling of the questions answered and information included on the website:

Q: When can I purchase school uniforms or Lanier Gear?

A: Hours for the school uniform store and Lanier Gear store are as follows:

- Monday mornings 7:30 to 8:30 AM
- Thursdays 11:45 AM to 1:45 PM

Q: Do I need to have a background check every year in order to volunteer?

A: HISD now has **NEW REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS** for the 2012-13 school year. For more information, see the VIPS Registration article in this issue or visit the PTO website: www.lanierpto.org.

Q: How do I read my child's schedule? What do Red and Purple mean?

A: Lanier students follow a schedule designed to maximize instructional time and support for all students. Classes meet every other day for 90 minutes. Visit www.lanierpto.org for information about understanding your child's schedule and preparing for next week's Open House.

If you can't find answers to your questions, be sure to email us at asklanierpto@gmail.com.

Sheryl Moore
2012-13 Lanier PTO President
lanierptopres@gmail.com

UPDATED VIPS REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

HISD has changed their VIPS registration process--here's the new set up.

If you registered last year and received a **CLEARED** status, you will be put in **INACTIVE** status again until re-verified for the criminal background check for the 2012-2013 school year. In this case, you do *not* need to register again online; just bring your identification to Lanier's Office B (on the second floor) to be submitted for a background check for the new school year.

If you have volunteered in the past but did not submit your identification for the background check for the 2011-2012 school year you need to register again on-line.

All **New** volunteers must register online and provide acceptable identification to be verified and submitted for the criminal background check.

To register for VIPS, please visit www.houstonisd.org, click on the *Parents* tab, then select *Get Involved* to find the *Volunteers In Public Schools* link.

Please take the time to make sure you're in compliance with the new regulation. It's really an easy process, but if you do have any questions, contact Melva Suarez (MSUAREZ@houstonisd.org) in Lanier's Office B.

Remember, the background check takes 2-3 weeks, so register today!

Scott Wagner, VP VIPS

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are some great things happening at Lanier!

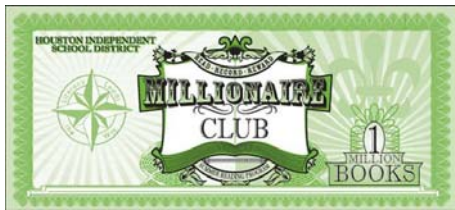
Come to Open House to hear more.

**6th grade Open House will be on Tuesday,
September 11th from 6:00-8:00pm.**

**7th grade Open House will be on Wednesday,
September 12th 6:00-8:00pm.**

**8th grade Open House will be on Thursday,
September 13th from 6:00-8:00pm.**

All three Open House events will begin in the Auditorium with a greeting and message from our principal, Ms. Linda Smith. We hope to see you there.



MILLIONAIRES CLUB

Over the summer, Superintendent Dr. Terry Grier, challenged each student to read at least five books of his/her choice in an effort to prevent summer reading loss. Now, it's time to see who met the challenge!

Lanier students who have completed their reading logs may submit this to their Literacy teacher or to the school library.

Remember to get the logs signed by a parent or guardian. The DEADLINE is next Wednesday, September 12th.

Each student who completes the program and brings back his/her form in the fall will receive a FREE DRESS PASS!

New to Lanier: Clusters 6L, 6M, and 6S

Did you know that all Lanier Teachers are GT certified? At Lanier, our GT students participate in Vanguard level advanced curriculum core classes and our traditional students participate in core classes that follow an on grade level curriculum. Because we have many more zoned students who have been qualifying for the Vanguard program, because we are working on building one Lanier community, and because we were able to accept more VG Magnet students, we did not have enough traditional students to support an entire cluster. Therefore, our 6th grade clusters have been blended, but the individual core classes have not been blended. The GT/Vanguard courses are not affected by this structural change. Vanguard students will remain homogeneously grouped in their core classes. They will have their math, science, social studies, and literature classes at an advanced pace with other vanguard students in the class- there is no change in that aspect. In each of the 3 clusters- L, M, and S there will be one class that will follow the traditional on grade level curriculum and those students will take their core classes homogeneously grouped. Advanced students and traditional students will share the same teachers, but will not share the same core classes.

VANGUARD TESTING SEPTEMBER 10-14

Any student who would like to apply for Lanier's Vanguard program, and all students who are new to HISD, will be taking the Naglieri and/or Stanford exams on September 10-14. Applications are available from the Lanier Vanguard Office C or from the website <http://www.purplepups.org/domain/5559>. Please contact Ms. Terry if you have any questions.

IB CORNER

THEME OF THE WEEK: AREAS OF INTERACTION

– Approaches to learning, community and service, human ingenuity, environments, and health and social education. These provide the main focus for developing the connections between the disciplines, so that students will learn to see knowledge as an interrelated, coherent whole.

www.ibo.org

PURPLE PUP PRAISE

LANIER DEBATE TEAM NATIONALS

Here's how the team fared in Indianapolis at the 2012 NJFL National Tournament. A coach who was there for the first time since 2006 told me he was utterly shocked over how intense the competition had become. When it was all said and done we had awards in all three categories of Speech, Debate and Overall and we were the only school to accomplish that, but in terms of "winning" Nationals I have to admit that we did not succeed this year (Looking through this years results, there isn't any school at the tournament that really claim to be champions). Nonetheless, I couldn't be prouder of how hard they worked and persevered; of how much professionalism they showed even in the face of unprofessional competition and opposing coaches. And now we have a definite mission next year.

A tremendous THANKS goes to Brent Nyquist, Thea Goldin, and Natalie Baker for traveling with us - and to Brock Hajdik, Larry Selna and Teri Donaldson for helping out when duty called. And of course we would not have come close to having any of the success we had if it hadn't been for our alumni who worked with the team during the camp and those who traveled with us: Sesenu Woldemariam, Michael Tekie, Olivia Arena, Lucy Chen, Nick Harris, Fernando Grimaldo, Nikki Foreman, Cari Bonilla and Brittney Sheena.

Overall School of Excellence Award

Speech School of Excellence Award

Debate School of Excellence Award

Poetry Interpretation

Mary Tindall – Quarterfinalist

Dikla Taylor – Quarterfinalist

Prose Interpretation

Betsy Broaddus – Finalist

Dikla Taylor – Quarterfinalist

Extemporaneous Speaking

Connor Selna – 3rd Place

Sam Tekie - Finalist

Gregory Pauloski - Finalist

Jason Lan - Finalist

George Zhang - Semifinalist

Dane Byrd - Semifinalist

Tirthana Khedkar – Semifinalist

Original Oratory

Ariana Fletcher-Bai – Quarterfinalist

Lekha Sunder – Quarterfinalist

Impromptu Speaking

Lekha Sunder - Semifinalist

Luke Lawyer - Semifinalist

Connor Selna - Semifinalist

Vishnu Narayana – Quarterfinalist

Mary Tindall – Quarterfinalist

Nikki Goldin – Quarterfinalist

Dane Byrd – Quarterfinalist

Duo Interpretation

Betsy Broaddus & Maddie Spence - Semifinalist

Congressional Debate

Erin Sheena – Finalist

Tomas Arango – Finalist

Lauren Nyquist – Finalist

Michael Murphey – Finalist

Matthew Baker – Finalist

Vishnu Narayana – Finalist

Policy Debate

Ashley Liu & Lauren Nyquist – Octafinalists

Public Forum Debate

Gregory Pauloski & Sam Tekie – Quarterfinalist

Andrew Hollenberg & Bowen Song – Octafinalists

Jack King & Daniel Liu – Octafinalists

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

All information contained in the Purple Page is correct as of 10pm, September 6, 2012, and has been printed with the approval of Linda Smith, Lanier Principal.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR THE PURPLE PAGE

Please follow the guidelines below for any submission to the Purple Page:

- Submit your article to purplepageeditor@gmail.com.
- **All articles are subject to approval by Ms. Smith.**
- All submissions are due by **5:00pm on TUESDAY**, but **EARLIER is BETTER!!** Later submissions must have principal approval.
- If your submission needs to be translated, it must be submitted **by Tuesday 9:00am**.

Please create a Word Document (Font: Arial, size 10) for all submissions as an attachment to your email.