

# Legenda

## Latin for “things to be read”

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News, Notes & Needs of The Washington Latin Public Charter School – 01.21.10

### Word of the Week

The 'Word of the Week' is:

**lacuna \luh-KYOO-nuh\, noun; plural lacunae \luh-KYOO-nee\ or lacunas**

*noun*

1. A blank space; a missing part; a gap.
2. (Biology) A small opening, depression, or cavity in an anatomical structure.

Lacuna is from the Latin lacuna, "a cavity, a hollow," from lacus, "a hollow."

**In this edition of The Legenda:**

- Letter from Head of School, Martha Cutts
- Note from the School Librarian
- PA Meeting Tonight – Decatur Campus @ 6:30 PM
- Lion Sport Report
- Around Town



## I. NEWS

### FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

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

Thursday, 1/21 - PA Meeting at Decatur

Friday, 1/22 – End of second quarter and first semester; 6:30 p. m.; 5th grade parent social at Decatur

Wednesday, 1/27 – Banking & Finance class meets 5:15-7:00

Wednesday, 2/4 – Arts Night: 6:30 at Upshur

Thursday, 2/5 – 8th grade trip to Gettysburg

Dear Latin Parents,

Last evening I attended the 8th grade art show and was so pleased to see not only the quality of artwork on display but also the pride with which students talked about their work. The variety of assignments, creativity, and depth of understanding about the myriad facets of their compositions were impressive. Classmates, younger and older students, teachers and parents saw a new side of students that was illuminating. So much work goes into preparing for and mounting an exhibit like this, and Ms. Stephens' students can be proud of what they presented the Latin community.

Yesterday in ninth grade English classes, students were doing their poetry recitations. Oratory is an integral part of the Latin curriculum, and all seniors will be required to give a public address to the student body before they earn their Washington Latin diploma. Recitation is just one step in the process of acquiring the skill of public speaking. As someone once said: "The mind is a wonderful thing. It begins to work the moment we are born and works until we stand up to speak in public." Each ninth grader had to stand before the class and recite a poem yesterday. This is hard, and I was so proud of them and the way they supported one another. One student asked me afterwards whether I found it hard to stand before them and speak in Morning Meetings. I assured him that when I first became an administrator, I was nervous. With lots of practice it gets easy, though!

As you will remember, all 5th-8th and 10th graders take the DC-CAS each year. While the emphasis in what we read and hear about this test is always on reading and math scores, students in grades 5 and 8 are also tested in science. Schools receive the science scores many months after the results in reading and math. I thought you would be interested in knowing that the percentage of 5th grade students in the District of Columbia who scored at or above the proficient level was 34%. That percentage for Washington Latin students was 73%. For Washington Latin 8th graders the percentage at or above proficiency was 65% versus 29% for District students.

Tomorrow marks the end of the first semester. At this midpoint we have raised \$33,200 from parents towards our goal of \$100,000. The Parent Association has its major fundraiser, the casino night, scheduled for April 23, so be sure to save the date and be there to support Washington Latin!

The school calendar is a little misleading when it comes to spring break. Please note that Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, is a full day of school. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

With warm regards,



Martha C. Cutts  
Head of School

**FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN**

Thanks to the generosity of authors and publishers such as Simon and Schuster, Random House, Penguin Putnam, Clarion, Candlewick and some of their authors, I have mailed back 4 boxes of new books (and 2 suitcases more). Many of them are Advanced Readers' Copies that our students can enjoy before they are even published. I have new books by Andrew Clements, James Patterson, Karen Cushman, Polly Horvath and other favorites of our students and some great non-fiction including:

World War I by Russell Freedman  
Before Columbus by Charles Mann

The Duel the parallel lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr by Judith St. George  
Marching for Freedom, Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary by Elizabeth Partridge.  
Please encourage your sons and daughters to look for them as I get them processed.

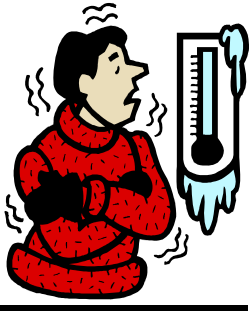
And the winner of the Newbery -- When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead. This book is already in our collection as a gift from my students at the University of Maryland and much enjoyed by our students.

## II. PARENT ASSOCIATION

There will be a Parent Association meeting **tonight**, January 21, at 6:30 pm at the Decatur Campus.

## III. LION SPORT REPORT

### Latin 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education



**PARENTS:** Winter is officially here!!

PE classes are still outside. **ALL** students must have the Latin Sweatshirt and Sweatpants by now. Students not wearing the sweats will not be allowed to participate. Please be prepared for class. 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.

### Dealing with the Cold

Question: How do you cope with the cold weather in Latin PE?

Answer: LAYER UP!!

Layer #1 – Latin T-Shirt and Latin Shorts

Layer #2 – Latin Sweatshirt and Latin Sweatpants

Layer #3 – Winter Jacket, Winter Hat, and Gloves/Mittens

If you get warm, shed a layer!!



## *Latin Athletics*

### **In this Report:**

1. Want know the time your Latin basketball player will return from their game?
2. Where do I find Game and Practice Schedules?
3. How do I sign up for alerts for Game and Practice changes?

***1. Go to [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) and locate the Washington Latin page. In ‘The Chalkboard’ section you will find a ‘FORMS’ tab and in there is a document that gives approximate return times from games.***

***2. [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) is the place for all upcoming games and practice schedules, directions, etc. Go to the site and search Washington Latin and all the information will be there!!***

***3. Get Practice & Game alerts sent to you!!***

**HIGHSCHOOLSPO RTS.NET** Subscribe [here](#), or go to [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) to receive last-minute notifications of game schedule changes, and follow these steps:

1. Click “My Account” at the top of the screen
2. Create your user id and password
3. Choose the “Edit” link next to “Team Subscriptions & Notifications”
4. Select Washington Latin Public Charter School
5. Select team(s) for which you wish to receive notification

# ***Go Lions!!***

## IV. AROUND TOWN

### **Part-Time Census Takers Needed for the 2010 Census**

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary, part-time census takers for the 2010 Census. These short-term jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, paid training, and reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses, such as mileage incurred while conducting census work. Best of all, census takers work right in their own communities.

Census taker jobs are excellent for people who want to work part-time, those who are between jobs, or just about anyone who wants to earn extra money while performing an important service for their community.

Most positions require a valid driver's license and use of a vehicle. However, use of public transportation may be authorized in certain areas. Bilingual speakers are encouraged to apply.

If interested, please contact Ebony Downtin at 202-701-8706 for more information or contact your Local Census Office by calling 1-866-861-2010.

### **Smithsonian Black History Month Family Day Celebration**

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The Smithsonian kicks off its celebration of Black History Month with a day of music and drama performances, arts and craft activities and other themed activities. This is the first featured event in the Smithsonian Heritage Month 2010 family-day series, the theme of which will be “Tapestry of Cultural Rhythms,” an exploration of the dynamism of cultural expression.

Participants include:

- Anacostia Community Museum
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- National Museum of American History
- Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies
- Smithsonian Discovery Theater

### **Madame Tussauds Wax Museum**

The Washington, DC museum will celebrate Black History Month this year with the launch of its "Black History Discovery Trail & Scavenger Hunt," taking visitors on an educational and entertaining scavenger hunt, featuring more than a dozen wax figures of prominent African American icons. The scavenger hunt runs February 2 - March 1, 2010 and is FREE with admission to the attraction. As part of this interactive experience, guests can learn about and interact with more than a dozen life-like wax figures of famous African Americans, including President Barack Obama, Muhammad Ali, Tyra Banks, Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington and more.

### **Young America Works Community Workshops**

Young America Works Public Charter Vocational High School is hosting a series of classes on home repair and computer skills. Click [here](#) to download the 2010 schedule, which includes fee amounts. For more information, call Arthur Medley with YAW at 202-722-9295, ext. 267 or send him an e-mail at [amedley@youngamericaworkspcs.org](mailto:amedley@youngamericaworkspcs.org).

### **DC Youth Orchestra Program**

The DC Youth Orchestra Program provides music education to approximately 600 students ages 4 1/2 to 19 from throughout the DC metropolitan area. All students are accepted into the program regardless of ability and costs are low. In the last four years, approximately 25 percent of the students have received free or subsidized tuition to participate. For DC residents, the current early registration price comes out to \$15 per week for the 15 week semester (for those paying full price). The DCYOP mission is: "Music for Young People; Achievement for Life!" Interested parties can also visit the program's Web site at [www.dcyop.org](http://www.dcyop.org). Or send an e-mail to [info@dcyop.org](mailto:info@dcyop.org).

### **2010 Summer STEM Program**

Grades 8-11 (Applications will open early February 2010).

<http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem.html>

### **Eligibility Requirements**

The Naval Academy Summer STEM program is offered to rising 8th - 11th graders. Students must demonstrate superior academic performance to include GPA, class standing, math / science courses taken and PSAT/SAT/ACT (if taken). Selection is also based on overall accomplishments in and out of the classroom. All applicants will be notified of their status by May 1st.

### **Tuition and Expenses**

All students selected to participate will receive a full scholarship to attend the camp, which includes your room and board, meals as well as a variety of materials. Plan on bringing extra cash for snacks and souvenirs.

Each student is responsible for arranging transportation to and from the Naval Academy (Annapolis). Those flying commercial air should make arrangements to arrive at BWI between 9 am - 3:30 on day one of program and after 2 pm on the last day of the program. Buses and midshipmen escorts will be on hand to get you to and from the Academy and BWI.

### **So What Really Happened to the Titanic? Challenger? the Ford Pinto?**

The tragedy of the Titanic as well as other engineering disasters have served to foster many technological discoveries and innovations. As you learn more, you will break steel and investigate crash mechanics. You'll examine Material Fingerprints to characterize technical crimes. You will visit the Hydro and Fluids Labs to study hull designs and structures and in the Aero Labs, you will investigate the forces of nature.

### **Cryptography, Computers and Code, Forensics and Fingerprints**

Can you break the code? Learn how mathematics, computer science, and engineering have been used throughout history to keep messages hidden and cryptic. Create and program your own video game to solve a crime in 3D. Use chemical analysis to solve crime and investigate fingerprinting of physical phenomenon.

### **Biometrics, Electronics, Robotics**

Learn how technological advances in engineering assist in catching criminals, spies and other bad guys. Build and program your robot to master the maze. Wire and solder your own electronic device for voice modulation. A tour of Biometrics Lab will find you performing iris scans and facial recognition techniques.



## **PSI NU CHAPTER TALENT HUNT**

The Talent Hunt idea has become one of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's international projects, with all graduate chapters mandated to conduct an Annual Talent Hunt Program. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the Psi Nu Chapter Talent Hunt will receive cash prizes in the amounts of \$350, \$150, and \$100 respectively. The 1st Place winner of the Psi Nu Chapter Talent Hunt must represent Psi Nu Chapter at the Third District Talent Hunt; details as presented below:

Date: Saturday, April 17, 2010

Venue: To be Announced

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Awards: (1st) - \$1,000, (2nd) - \$500, (3rd) - \$300

### Basic rules for participation:

Contestant must be a high school student (grades 9 -12) at the time of the competition.

All contestants must enter to compete in only one of the seven categories: Classical instrumental; Classical vocal; Contemporary instrumental; Contemporary vocal; Dance – to include ballet, tap, or modern, not to include any form of hip-hop dance; Dramatic interpretation; and Visual arts to include painting, drawing, and sculpture.

All presentations including instrumental selections must be memorized and must be dignified and in good taste.

No performance should exceed six minutes.

Track music may be used for accompaniment as long as there is no lead instrumental or background vocals included on the track.

Pre-recorded accompaniment cannot be used for musical presentations.

If an accompanist is necessary, the contestant bears the responsibility of providing an accompanist for the performance.

For the participants, recommended dress is business attire (females – suit or dress, males – coat and tie or suit and tie.)

For the District Talent Hunt participants ONLY, recommended dress is formal (females – long formal gowns, males – black tuxedos/black tie)

Contestant Information Form must be completed. All contestants must submit a Parental Consent Form.

All mailed/electronic applications must be completed and received no later than Monday, March 8, 2010. All mailed correspondence must be postmarked by March 8, 2010. These deadlines are final.

### Address:

Bro. Tellas L. Minor

4775 West Braddock Road #2

Alexandria, VA 22311

Cell Phone: (571) 243-1026

Home Phone: (703) 933-7650

E-mail: [psinutalenthunt2010@gmail.com](mailto:psinutalenthunt2010@gmail.com)

[www.psinuomega.org](http://www.psinuomega.org)



**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**  
**Psi Nu Chapter**

# **2010** **OMEGA** **TALENT HUNT**

**Saturday, March 13, 2010 @ 3PM**

We are looking for students grades 9-12 to compete for

**CASH PRIZES**

Come Out and Display Your Talent!

**T.C. Williams Minnie Howard Campus**

**3801 West Braddock Road**

**Alexandria, Virginia**

Applications available online:

**[www.psinuomega.org](http://www.psinuomega.org)**

For more info, contact: Tellas Minor 571.243.1026 email: [psinutalenthunt2010@gmail.com](mailto:psinutalenthunt2010@gmail.com)

*D*RAMA



*V*OCAL



*D*ANCE



**1st Prize**  
**\$350**

*I*NSTRUMENTAL

