

Legenda

Latin for “things to be read”



News, Notes & Needs of The Washington Latin Public Charter School – 06.10.10

Word of the Week

The 'Word of the Week' is:

val-e-dic-tion [*val-i-dik-shuhn*]

noun

1. an act of bidding farewell or taking leave.
2. an utterance, oration, or the like, given in bidding farewell or taking leave; valedictory.

Origin:

1605–15; < L valedictiōn- (s. of valedictiō), equiv. to valedict(us), ptp. of valedīcere (vale farewell + dictus, ptp. of dīcere to say) + -iōn- -ion

In this edition of The Legenda:

- Letter from Head of School, Martha Cutts
- Lion Sport Report
- Around Town



I. NEWS

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Latin Parents,

Many of you who attended recent grade level meetings have heard about our plans for next year regarding location, but I wanted to write all families now with an update. The Middle School will remain on its current campus at Upshur, but the Upper School will have additional space to accommodate our growing upper school. With the addition of an eleventh

grade next year, our upper school will have approximately 175 students compared to our present 110.

We are about to sign a lease that will allow us to rent space at Simpson-Hamline United Methodist Church at 4501 16th Street on the corner of Allison. We will use at least four classrooms there and their large fellowship hall. We will also be allowed to use the sanctuary on occasion for all-school gatherings. The walk between the Decatur campus and our new Allison campus is a short one, just three blocks, and will give the Upper School students the feeling of a real campus. Students will always be accompanied by an adult as they travel between the two buildings, and adequate passing time will be built into the schedule.

At today's Valediction Ceremonies students and adults at each campus celebrated their year together as a campus community. They shared some of the special moments of this year, thanked those who have supported them in various ways, and acknowledged the departure of teachers who will not be returning next year. At the Middle School event, the eighth graders were acknowledged as they make the big step from middle to upper school. Both events included some memorable musical performances as well. The spirit of community and shared purpose were strong in both ceremonies. The talent, enthusiasm, hard work, collaboration and support in evidence were a wonderful reflection of life at Latin this year.

Students in grades 5 through 8 were told in homerooms about the opportunity to serve as a buddy to new students who will be in their grade next year. With over 150 new students we are still looking for students and parents who can reach out to both the new student and the parents over the summer in an effort to make their start in their new school smooth and comfortable. The responsibilities are as follows:

For students:

- 1) Contact your new student early in the summer to introduce yourself and see if you can answer any questions.
- 2) Call or email again just before the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 22, to see if your buddy will be attending. If yes, plan to meet there.
- 3) The first several weeks of school are exciting for new students, but they can also be a bit nerve-racking. If you have some classes together, encourage your buddy to sit next to you. Making your buddy feel welcome and included is always the goal, so be sure that your buddy is not alone at lunchtime.
- 4) Be sure to introduce your buddy to others and to include him or her in conversations during breaks and downtime.
- 5) An occasional call in the evening or over the weekend will help to make your buddy feel a part of the Latin community, too.

For parents:

- 1) Call the parents of your child's buddy once your child has made contact and see if you can answer any questions. Providing tips on the logistics of school life and sharing your positive experience can be reassuring and helpful.
- 2) A gentle reminder (if needed) to your child to be in touch right before school starts will help ensure the buddy system works well.
- 3) Seek out the parents at the Ice Cream Social on August 22.
- 4) Encourage the new parents to contact you at any point if they have questions.

5) Check with the parents before the first Parent Association meeting to encourage their attendance.

If you and your child are willing to serve as a buddy family to a new Latin student and parents, please email Crystal Williams (cwilliams@latinpcs.org). I hope you will consider helping the school community in this way.

We had hoped to post our summer reading list earlier, but we were simply not able to get it ready as quickly as we had hoped. It will be posted on the website within the next week. Please encourage pleasure reading this summer!

In the fall we set a goal of raising \$100,000 from 100% of the parent body this year. While we didn't quite hit our target, we have thus far received \$92,700 from parents and friends of the school, and I am grateful for this strong support of our work with the students of Washington Latin. Since we didn't get over the 50% participation rate, there is room for improvement next year.

We had hoped to have the **summer reading list** out by now; it will be posted on Monday. As we finish up this school year, I want to acknowledge the work of our gifted and caring faculty and staff. They are the heart of the school and the essential ingredient in the recipe for the success this school has had. Without their tireless effort, high expectations for themselves and for their students, Washington Latin would not be the quality institution it is.

With best wishes and many thanks for your support,

N. B.

We have had some nice press of late on our Arabic program. In addition to the article in the June 2 issue of the Northwest Current and the Kavitha Cardoza reports on WAMU radio, you may want to take a look at the article in Tuesday's *KidsPost*.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/07/AR2010060704403.html>

II. LION SPORT REPORT

Have a wonderful summer vacation! See you in the fall.



Latin Athletics

Congratulations to our Latin 3-Season Athletes!!

The following student-athletes are to be congratulated for their outstanding commitment and contribution to the Washington Latin Public Charter School athletic program during the 2009-2010 school year. Learning to balance coursework and athletics can be challenging, but mastering this process is one of the great benefits of a stringent educational athletic program. Great job!

Middle School:

7th Grade

Evelyn Andrulis

Dominic Bosco

Saadiq Garba

Julia Guidry

Skyler Mackey

Crystal Travers

Maggie Wood

8th Grade

Gabe Cano

Taiwo Dosunmu

Camille Lynch

Ian Perry

Jack Price

Daniel Starnes

Upper School:

9th Grade

Hunter Battle

Keira Clement

Avant Griffith

Jennifer Jimenez

Joshua Jones

Bito Mujal

Matthew Quirong

10th Grade

Johanna Figueroa

Ewing Moussa

Responsible Sports: Weekly Parent Tip

When you arrive at your child's game, tell yourself you are about to experience one of the special times a parent deserves.

When you resist worrying about playing time and your son or daughter's performance, it will be easier for you to enjoy the game, and will also make it easier for your youth athlete to do the same!

• Do you want Latin gear!

Go to www.highschoolsports.net and click on the Shop and you can design your own!!

Fall Sports INFO

Upper School Athletics

- Boys Soccer
Preseason/Tryouts starts Monday, August 16
- Girls Soccer
Practice/Tryouts start on Monday, August 23
- Boys & Girls Cross Country
Season begins Monday, August 16

IMPORTANT: ALL students should have a current physical on file at the school BEFORE beginning participation. No athlete will be given permission to play until it has been received.

Middle School Athletics

- Boys Middle School Soccer
- Girls Middle School Soccer
- Boys & Girls Middle School Cross Country

All Middle School sports will begin on Wednesday, September 8th. Forms will be distributed during the first week of school.

IMPORTANT: ALL students should have a current physical on file at the school **BEFORE** beginning participation. No athlete will be given permission to play until it has been received.

Have a great summer vacation! It is never too early to start planning for next year. Starting preparing now!!

Go Lions!!

III. AROUND TOWN

The Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank's My Generation Essay Competition

The Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank, with the help of a grant from the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities, announces an essay competition open to all writers of the District of Columbia, regardless of age.

Awards

- 1) A First Prize of \$1,000, and Second and Third Prizes of \$500 will be awarded.
- 2) Two Honorable Mentions with no cash attachment will also be awarded.

Winning entries will be published in a brochure, which will be distributed free of charge. Awards will be announced in a public ceremony organized by the IDB Cultural Center, and held at the IDB's EVI Conference Center (1330 New York Avenue, NW, Metro Center), on September 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Winning essays will be read during the award ceremony. A well known DC author will give an introduction on the importance of writing.

Theme

The title and theme of the essay is MY GENERATION. The term does not refer to any particular generation other than your own. Life is different in Washington, DC because it is the nation's capital, and the stage for so many kinds of events. The purpose and result of your effort should be a self examination of life, at any particular moment, experienced in relation to the evolution and transformation of the city of Washington, DC. The essay should convey something about your generation that could have been influenced **ONLY** by living in Washington, DC; the city is the context, and events in the life of the city can define a generation.

Guidelines

The length of the essay will be 700 words. Essays should be submitted electronically to AnneV@iadb.org, reference: MY GENERATION. The writer must be a resident of Washington, DC. Poems and short stories are not eligible. Deadline for submission of entries is June 30, 2010. Employees and contractors working for the IDB/IIC, and their family members, are not eligible. This competition is made possible by a grant from the DC Commission on the Art and Humanities.

Newseum Presents: Ace Reporter Scavenger Hunt: Uncover the Clues, Crack the Code

Imagine a cross between a treasure hunt, a crossword puzzle, a sudoku and a scavenger hunt. Intrigued? The Newseum's "Ace Reporter Challenge" is a mind-bending, wit-testing game that will test your reporter's instincts and eye for detail.

In the spirit of the famous Washington Post Hunt, competitors follow a string of brain-teasers. Each puzzle leads teams deeper into the museum as they race to find clues hidden among the exhibits and artifacts. The first team to crack the cipher and uncover the secret code word wins a prize-- and everlasting bragging rights!

So whether you're looking for a unique team-building activity or a memorable birthday party, draft your friends, family or co-workers and head to the Newseum to find out who's got what it takes to win "Ace Reporter" glory! Go to http://www.newseum.org/education/about.aspx?item=special_offerings&style=a#arch for more information. To register, please call the education reservation line at 202/292-6650 or write to educationprograms@newseum.org.