



LEOTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

February 16, 2024 Family Newsletter

Hello Leota Middle School Families!

As we approach the middle of February and Mid Winter Break, I look back on a successful start to the second semester. There has been a positive vibe at Leota Middle School.

Message from the Northshore Schools Foundation

For The Love of Education! [Honor a Favorite Educator & Raise Future Grant Funds for your School! supporting Northshore Schools Foundation | BetterWorld](#)

This campaign is collecting notes of appreciation as well as donations from the community which will go toward future Classroom Grants at that educator's school. We are...

1. Displaying all of the notes to educators on our website
2. Posting them on our social media channels
3. Sending the note to educators directly so we can be sure they see them.

Now is a great time to start following the Foundation on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn!

Here is the webpage where educators can see the notes of appreciation as they come in. [For the Love of Education - Northshore Schools Foundation](#)

We are hoping to raise \$5,000 to fund classroom grants.

Donations made in honor of an educator will be set aside in a special fund for future Classroom Grants awarded to their school. We are celebrating teachers and helping turn their inspiration into a legacy of grant funding. However, schools who do not have teachers represented in this campaign will still be eligible for classroom grants.

FOR THE OF EDUCATION



From the Leota Counseling Dept:

Hello Leota families,

This will be Northshore School District's fifth year partnering with King County's Best Start for Kids Initiative to provide our students with a screening and intervention program for mental health and wellness. This program is called SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral To Services) and uses the Check Yourself Screener. This year, we will be screening our 7th grade students in their Health Fitness classes. This semester, screening will occur during the week of February 26th. If you would like to read more about SBIRT, complete a practice screener, or opt your student out of the screener, please visit the [Northshore School District SBIRT](#) website. If you have any other questions please contact your student's school counselor, Taryn Bakkane, at tbakkane@nsd.org or 425-408-6513.

Thank you!

Leota Counselors

Upcoming Events

Book Drive March 4th-8th

The Leota chapter of National Junior Honor Society will be hosting a school-wide book drive. We are looking for used books in good condition. The books should be for kindergarten through 8th graders. Students can bring the books into school any day during the week of March 4th through the 8th. There will be a box in their pride classroom where they can drop off the books. The top 3 pride classes that collect the most books (on average) will win a treat for their class! Some of the books will be donated to the Friends of the Woodinville Library. They put on book sales to help support the Woodinville KCLS library. The other books will be donated to Reading Partners Seattle which will bring them to schools in need. If your student is a part of National Junior Honor Society they can earn volunteer hours by helping with the book drive. They can sign up to volunteer by finding the link in the Schoology group.

On March 6th, Leota is hosting an information session to learn about the upcoming Construction. If you want to learn more about the plans for Leota Middle School, please attend the event in the cafeteria. The architecture team has been doing some amazing work in preparation of the new Leota and will be

available to answer questions from 6-8pm. Please know, this event is also taking place during our Incoming 6th Grade Parent Night, so anticipate parking might require additional patience.

Celebrations and Thank you!

This week we wrapped up a number of exciting activities. First, thank you to PTSA for providing the staff with an amazing lunch. Your kindness is very much appreciated. Today, the students wrapped up the Square Dancing activities in their PE classes. We topped it off with a dance assembly, where the students were able to show off their Square Dancing skills. After a slow start, the ASB Food/Hygiene Drive was a success. Thank you to all of the students and families who contributed to the drive. The support at Leota is incredible.

Just a reminder, next week is Mid-Winter Break and the building will be closed. I hope everyone has a wonderful week. When we return from break, Spring will be just around the corner.

In partnership,

Scott Leick, Principal
Leota Middle School

Next few weeks:

School is Closed February 19-23

02/26

Periods 1-6, Pride

Drama Club Spring Play Rehearsal: 2:35 Theater

02/27

Periods 1-6, Pride

Drama Club Spring Play Rehearsal: 2:35 Theater

ASB Meeting: 2:35 P-5

Peer Tutor Club: 2:35 Room 606

Orchestra Pathways (Philharmonic): 7:00pm LMS

02/28

Periods 1-6, Early Release

Black Student Union: 7:30 Room 604

Band Pathways Concert (Symphonic Band): 7:00pm WHS

02/29

Periods 1-6, Pride

Latino Cultures Club: 7:30 Library

East Asian Club during lunches in P2

Drama Club Spring Play Rehearsal: 2:35 Theater

Star Time: 2:35-4:05 Library

Geography Club 2:35pm Room 720

6th Girls Basketball: 3:30 Kenmore@Leota

7th Girls Basketball: 3:30 Leota@Kenmore

8th Girls Basketball: 4:30 Leota@Kenmore

03/1

Periods 1-6, Pride

Wrestling: 3:30 Timbercrest&Kenmore@Leota

03/04

Periods 1-6, Pride

WHS & NCHS Registration Pick up in Science Classes

Drama Club Spring Play Rehearsal: 2:35 Theater

Game Club: 2:35 Library

6th Girls Basketball: 3:30 Leota@Timbercrest

7th Girls Basketball: 3:30 Timbercrest@Leota

8th Girls Basketball: 4:30 Timbercrest@Leota

03/05

WHS & NCHS Registration Pick up in Science Classes

Periods 1-6, Pride

Drama Club Spring Play Rehearsal: 2:35 Theater

ASB Meeting: 2:35 P-5

Peer Tutor Club: 2:35 Room 606

03/06

Periods 1-6, Early Release

South Asian Club during lunches: Choir Room

5th Grade Parent Orientation Night 6:30pm (Optional Pre-sessions@6:00)

03/07

Periods 1-6, Pride

East Asian Club during lunches in P2

Drama Club Spring Play Rehearsal: 2:35 Theater

Star Time: 2:35-4:05 Library

Geography Club 2:35pm Room 720

6th Girls Basketball: 3:30 Leota@Skyview

8th Girls Basketball: 3:30 Skyview@Leota

7th Girls Basketball: 4:30 Skyview@Leota

03/08

Periods 1-6, Pride

NSD Middle School Band Festival Symphonic Band all day Inglemoor High School

Wrestling: 3:30 Skyview&Leota@Kenmore

Bookworms Book Club: 2:35 Library



E-newsletter originally published Feb. 14, 2024

In this issue:

- School Dance
- New memberships
- Financial Review complete
- Science successes
- Congrats mathletes
- Next PTSA General Meeting
- Speaker ideas
- Student Store signup
- Thank you, sponsors

It's the return of the School Dance!

Plans are underway for our first School Dance in over 5 years! The DJ is booked and ASB students are whipping up theme ideas and fun activities. **The dance will be held Friday, March 22, on campus right after school, 2:35-4 pm.** Activity buses will be available for kids after the dance.

This event will not happen without the help of a lot of chaperones. It's up to us! Chaperones will be responsible for monitoring doors, in and out activity, and overall supervision for a safe event. We also need help setting up and cleaning up. [Sign up here to volunteer.](#) Help make this highly anticipated event happen!



Memberships on the rise

We are happy to report a **16% increase in membership** during the Great PTA Sign-up Day. Leota's total went from 91 to 106! Welcome to our newest Leota PTSA members!

During the membership drive we received 2 donated memberships for teachers, and we would love to have more! On this Valentine's Day, **show your appreciation by donating a membership to our wonderful teaching staff.** Just click here: <https://leotaptsa.com/Packet/Join/FamilyInfoPacketPage/0>

For more info about membership, please email contact@leotaptsa.com.



Special thanks to Financial Review volunteers

The Financial Review is complete--yay! Big thanks to volunteers **Victoria Kramer, Katie Nicoara,** and **Anya Stolyarova** for going over the Leota PTSA's financial books to help keep us in compliance. We will report their findings at our next General Meeting, on March 20.

We'd also like to thank **Theresa Miller, Alma Sanchez,** and **Prajinesh Jayan** for offering up their time and expertise to complete this review. The timing didn't work out this time but we hope to work with you in the future!

Regional success for science team

Kudos to the Leota Science Bowl team, which traveled south to the University of Portland to compete in the Regional Science Bowl on Feb. 3. They matched up against 49 middle school teams from across Washington and Oregon. Our Lions competed and won against 4 teams in the round robin, then moved on to the double-elimination round of 16. The team finished 9th overall in the competition!

Pictured here are team members, from left, **Laya Mohan** (8th), **Akshaya Nandigama** (8th), team captain **Sushrut Yearva** (7th), **Sushant Vegineti** (7th), and **Surendra Yearva** (parent coach).

Special thanks to Science Olympiad chair **Surendra Yearva** for his leadership and coaching of this team!

If you are a current 6th or 7th grader at Leota who is interested in participating in Science Bowl in 2025, please email leotascienceolympiad@gmail.com for more information.



Great showing for Math Olympiad competitors

Congratulations to the Math Olympiad students who participated in the MathCounts school competition on Jan. 31. It's been amazing watching them grow their problem-solving skills. The following 12 students earned spots in the chapter competition on Feb. 24. Good luck to all in the next round!

Ronit Agarwal, 8th

Samuel Joseph Thommana, 7th

Maxim Kolosov, 6th

Alan Zhu, 7th

Ruhaan Sidhu, 8th

Trishul Reddy Bodala, 6th

Varun Ramanathan, 8th

Rayan Sajid Alam, 8th

Mila Fong, 6th

Kaylee Hu, 6th

Se-Hun Kim, 8th

Ahmed Ceyhan, 8th

Save the date: General Meeting

The next Leota PTSA General Meeting will be **Wednesday, March 20, at 7 pm in the Leota Library.** Please add this event to your calendar.

Note: Applications for National Junior Honor Society are due March 29, and we know students are looking for volunteer opportunities to complete the membership requirements. We plan to offer a service project opportunity during the meeting: birthday card-making for a local senior center.



Ideas for the next guest speaker?

Who would you like to hear from next? Our last General Membership meeting featured a wonderful guest speaker who touched on the topic of artificial intelligence. What topics are you interested in learning more about? Email us your suggestions: contact@leotapsa.com.

Student Store would love your help

Sign up to volunteer in the Student Store! We have several openings in the coming months. Take advantage of this opportunity to experience middle school lunch culture! [Click here to sign up](#) or [email Emily Cavanaugh](#) if you'd like to be added to the mailing list or sub list.



Reminder: Volunteer background checks

To volunteer on campus at Leota or any other facility in the Northshore School District, you'll need to submit an online application for a Level 1 background check. Volunteers must update the application every year, and it must be completed before the first day of volunteering. To begin the process, visit the district's [Become a Volunteer webpage](#).

Thank you to our sponsors

The Leota PTSA thanks all the Paving the Way Together donors, and especially this year's sponsors (listed below). Our programs and events are possible because of you all!

Lionheart Champions

Anonymous

Cheng Peng & Jerry Zhang

Noli Bruk

Gene & Sharon Park

Lionheart Heroes

Mosaic, Pablo Sala, Vijay Ankireddi

Lionheart Friends

Carrie Mosley, Paul Chang, Held Family, Stodola Family, Prajinesh & Priya, Peter Waddington, Randy Graybeal, Dynamic Natural Medicine, Theresa Miller, Tracey Ward

Let's get social

For the latest news and opportunities, follow us on social media:

- Join the Facebook page [Leota Middle School PTSA](#)
- Join the Facebook private group [Leota PTSA Volunteers and Info](#)

About us

Leota PTSA is a parent, teacher, staff, and student membership organization that advocates for all students. We make a variety of educational and community programs possible at Leota. For more information, visit www.leotaptsa.com.

Thanks for reading our e-newsletter! We hope you find it a valuable resource to learn about the events, programs, and opportunities available to all Leota families. If you have feedback or suggestions, please reach out to us at communications@leotaptsa.com.

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