

Yorktown Spirit

A Blue Ribbon School-Fostering Success in All Students

June 2017

Principal's Letter

Dear Parents:

You will be reading this as we approach the close of another school year. First, I want to take a moment to thank Yorktown parents and guardians for your interest in and support of our school, staff and programs. With the inevitable but rare exception, I am often struck by how effectively our school staff and students' parents work together. This is important if our students, your children, are to receive the best education possible. Thank you for making that possible. Related to that, let me use this opportunity to thank our terrific PTA President, Kathy Mimberg, and all the PTA officers and members – for all you do to help provide opportunities for all our students and help to our staff.

I believe this newsletter is also going to parents of students in grade 8 who will be attending Yorktown in the fall. Welcome!! We look forward to welcoming your child – and you – to a school that all of us here like to think is special in many ways. Please let your son or daughter know we are looking forward to their arrival.

To the parents who have a child graduating June 21, a reminder again that graduation begins at Constitution Hall at 2 PM. The doors of the Hall will open at 1 PM. I mention this again as it is a little earlier than in recent years.

Finally, a personal note. As many of you know, I am retiring from my position as principal of Yorktown at the end of this school year. This is my 20th year as principal here, and Yorktown has been a truly amazing and wonderful school

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President's Message

With summer just around the corner, it is time to reflect on the past school year and look ahead to the fall when we will welcome new Yorktown Principal Bridget Loft and the entering freshman class.

We are closing a chapter at Yorktown High School as we say thank you and farewell to Dr. Ray Pasi, who has served our school as principal for 20 years. His kind and welcoming presence will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best upon his retirement. The PTA has planted a tree in the Yorktown courtyard in Dr. Pasi's honor, and it will be a lovely reminder of his contributions to our community.

His tree will share space with another tree we planted to recognize 35 years of volunteer service that Paula Dierkes has generously given to Yorktown and other Arlington schools. She and outgoing PTA Vice President Marta Perez Drake are representative of the many volunteers that keep the Yorktown PTA a strong and active organization that supports students, teachers and staff. Thank you, Paula and Marta!

And a special shout-out to returning PTA officers Yvonne Brandt and Michele Rinn, who worked this year to streamline our finances, redesign our website, and manage many other challenges. We all look forward to working next year with incoming officers Ashley Rehr and Joycelyn Harrison.

In 2016-2017, the Yorktown PTA was recognized by the state PTA for increased membership, had a record number of families sign up for the grocery receipts program, and oversaw about \$30,000 in teacher grants. We helped fund

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community. I have found the students to be such an exceptional and enjoyable group – both those who excel in one area or another, and those who contend with more struggles during their high school years. The faculty and staff are particularly competent and caring, and I mentioned above my gratitude that our students' parents work so collaboratively with them. No institution of this size, including Yorktown, is perfect, of course. Within the school, however, I have always felt I worked with individuals committed to ongoing improvement.

For all these reasons, I know it will be hard to leave when the time comes, but I leave with a tremendous sense of gratitude and pride in our school and students, and continued interest in seeing all the great things that will be accomplished here at Yorktown in the years ahead.

With personal best wishes,

Raymond Pasi
Principal

PTA Committee Chairs Needed

Volunteering with the PTA is a great way to get involved with your child's school and contribute to the overall quality of our community. We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

Co-chair for Family Network
Co-chair for First Day Packets
Chair, Grocery Receipts
Co-chair for Reflections
Boat Party (2) -- this is just for senior parents
SAT Prep
Parent Reps for grades 9-12

General information about the positions can be found here: <http://www.yhspta.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/2012YHSPTACommitteeDescriptions.pdf>

Please consider getting involved. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Sonja Schulken at volunteer@yhspta.org

equipment needed in classrooms, buses for college tours, and field trips and activities for many students. A special thank you to Cliff Cohen who is stepping down as the PTA grants committee chair after several years.

The good work that the PTA does would not be possible without the help of Yorktown families – your dues and donations, your volunteer efforts and time, and your willingness to participate make a huge difference in our school community. Thank you to those families whose children are graduating, and welcome to the families who are new to Yorktown. We encourage everyone to get involved in some way – we are always in need of volunteers and parent input, and we promise to put your donations to good use!

We are excited to work with Mrs. Loft in the next year school year, and look forward to launching our new PTA website, and participating in a Community Read with the other Arlington high schools. We will continue to bring many programs and activities to the Yorktown school community.

Congratulations to our graduates and have a great summer!

Kathy Mimberg
Yorktown PTA President
president@yhspta.org

2017-2018 PTA Officers

The PTA elected the following officers for the 2017-2018 school year:

President: Kathy Mimberg
Internal Vice President: Joycelyn Harrison
External Vice President: Yvonne Brandt
Treasurer: Michele Rinn
Secretary: Ashley Rehr

Thank you to outgoing officers Jacqueline Johnson and Marta Perez Drake for their service!

Senior Boat Party 2017 — Anchors Away and All Aboard!

The YHS Class of 2017 will be celebrating graduation on June 21st with an all-night, post-graduation Potomac river cruise. The senior boat party is a special graduation night event that serves two purposes: 1) it gives YHS seniors a super fun, high school send-off and a last big hurrah with all their classmates; and 2) it provides parents peace of mind knowing that our seniors are spending graduation night (from 10pm to 3:00am!) in a safe, chaperoned, alcohol-free environment. The party is an evening full of fun that includes a DJ, dancing, casino games, photo booth, raffles and food galore!

Tickets are \$50 and can be ordered on-line at <http://yhspta.org/seniorboatparty>. Each ticket includes a T-shirt printed with the names of all 2017 graduates. Don't miss this one last night to celebrate with your graduating class!

BOAT PARTY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Traditionally, parents of lowerclassmen/women volunteer to assist with this event. It takes a lot of help to get a class of over 400 seniors to Alexandria, on a riverboat, on the night of graduation! This is a great opportunity to see what goes on, in preparation for your own child's graduation.

If you are willing to volunteer, please use the following link to the sign-up genius:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084da5ad2b0-yhsboat>

Keep Shopping to Support YHS

Amazon Smile: You Shop and Amazon Gives. Amazon will donate .5% of the price of eligible purchases to the YHS PTA. Sign up at smile.amazon.com, then **Yorktown High PTA**. Supporters must always start shopping at smile.amazon.com to support Yorktown High PTA. Questions: contact yhscards@gmail.com.

Attending YHS Next Year? Make Sure to Get Connected

It's important to stay connected. Communication is the key! One of the best ways to know what is going on at YHS is to receive the PTA Weekly Updates and the class specific updates. Take a moment and sign up for BOTH the YHS Weekly PTA Update and the Class of 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021 updates. It's easy to do:

Click on this link -- <http://eepurl.com/dxBk>;

Enter your e-mail address;

Choose the YHS Weekly PTA E-mail and your particular class graduating year;

Press submit.

If you already have a student at YHS, but need to add the class of 2021, you can do so through this link as well. Just enter your e-mail address and choose Class of 2021. The system will then tell you that your e-mail address is already part of the system. It will send you an e-mail with a link to update your profile and include the Class of 2021. Or you can visit www.yhspta.org, go to the drop down menu under Communication and choose PTA and Class E-mail Sign Up. Enter your e-mail address, choose both the YHS Weekly PTA E-mail and your particular class graduating year and click on Submit.

If you have questions or problems, contact Lisa Koch at kochfamilyva@gmail.com.

Important Dates for End of Year and Back to School

June 7: Senior Awards Night

June 15: Full day, exams periods 7 & 8

June 16: Half day, exams periods 1 & 2

June 19: Half day, exams periods 3 & 4

June 19-21: Senior Portraits (for Class of 2018)

June 20: Last day of school, half day, exams periods 5 and 6

June 21: Graduation for YHS Seniors and Senior Boat Party

June 22: Report cards sent home

August 18: Student schedules mailed

August 31: New student evening orientation at 6:00 PM

September 5: First day of school

PTA Reflections Contest 2016 Winners and Theme for 2017-2018: “Within Reach”

Congratulations to the following Yorktown students for winning county-level awards in the 2016-2017 Reflections Contest:

Dominick Coccozza, Outstanding Interpretation in Visual Arts
Sarah Murphy, Award of Excellence in Literature
Carson Wood, Award of Merit in Photography

The Reflections Contest is a National Arts Program sponsored at the Yorktown High School-level by the YHS PTA and at the county-level by the County Council of PTAs.

As the school year comes to a close, get a jump start on next year's PTA Reflections Contest with the selected theme “Within Reach.” Categories include: dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. More information can be found at: www.pta.org/programs/reflections.



Plan Ahead For Fall Sports — Tryouts Begin First Week of August

The official start of fall sports for area schools can be as early as August 1, but most sports at YHS will start during the first week of August. Students will need a valid VHSL physical dated **after** May 1, 2017 to participate in tryouts in August. Please plan accordingly.

Please check the Yorktown sports website for details on fall sports try-out dates at www.yorktownsports.org and check it regularly for updates. You can also sign up there for email alerts by sport.

Get Your YHS Summer Spirit Wear

School may be just about over, but you can show your YHS spirit all summer by wearing your school colors! Incoming freshmen — stock up on Spirit Wear for back to school!

T-shirts (\$10) and crew style sweatshirts (\$20) are available for purchase. Both items are navy blue with "Yorktown" printed across the front in Patriot Blue in S, M, L and XL.

To order, email Spirit Wear Chair Diane Small at wee@smallfam.com.



A Must Read for Incoming Freshman Families

As we head into summer and you begin to ponder life at Yorktown, take time to visit Yorktown's PTA website at www.yhspta.org. You can find information about PTA programs, how to get involved, how to sign up to receive PTA emails and grade-specific emails, and much more.

Also, if your child is interested in sports at Yorktown, visit www.yorktownsports.org. You can sign up to receive email alerts from specific team sports by clicking on the "Email Alerts" tab.

Lastly, Yorktown's website <http://www.apsva.us/Domain/2430> is a great source for all information related to the school. Summer is a great time to familiarize yourself with these wonderful sources of information.