

SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL PTSA NEWSLETTER

Several parents gathered in the Lecture Hall on Sept. 8 for the first PSTA meeting of the year. Following a brief welcome from PTSA president, Julia Jung, those in attendance heard from and engaged in Q&A time with some SLHS staff, namely:

- **Jane Lewis** (English Teacher), who explained the new SOAR Advisory block – a time to recognize the social-emotional learning (SEL) needs of students that will focus on relationship building and creating community within their class/cohort).
- **Karen Mrowka** (School Counselor), whose presentation on the counseling services available to SLHS students dovetailed with Ms. Lewis's SOAR Advisory presentation.
- **Mackenzie Moore** (College and Career Specialist), who explained how to access the Naviance, where students and parents can see what/when colleges will be visiting SLSH, either in-person or virtually. *Note:* If you don't already get [Ms. Moore's newsletter](#), I highly recommend doing so. In addition to information about college visits and scholarships, it's also chock-full of information about internships, programs, job opportunities for students and much, much more.



Upcoming Events:

Sept. 22 — Parent Info. Night

Oct. 11 — Student Holiday

Oct. 13 – PSAT/ NMSQT and SAT School Day

Oct. 17 – Do It Your Way 0.5k SLHS Pantry fundraiser

Oct. 29 — End of First Quarter, 2-Hr. early release

Principal Retzer closed out the meeting with a report on the successes and challenges of the past few weeks – a well-received Open House, adjusting to a new COVID protocol, the morning traffic tie-up in the drop-off lane – along with information about several upcoming events, such as:

- **Parent Info Night**, currently scheduled for Sept. 22, which will include breakout sessions and information about the new Schoology platform.
- The availability of **two late buses**, scheduled to start Sept. 20, that will run on Mondays and Wednesdays with a possible departure time from SLHS of 4:45 pm.
- The return of the annual **Homecoming Parade**

PTSA meetings are a great opportunity to hear from speakers who are knowledgeable about a variety of school-related topics and staff members, and include frequent reports from Principal Retzer. They are held on the second Wednesday of each month, so join us for the **next PTSA meeting on October 13**.

We Want to Hear from You...

Take a few minutes to let us know your interest in and how the PTSA can best help you. Complete our Parent Survey at <https://forms.gle/Nrm32mQ9f9FJhpMz7>.

An Immediate Need...ANGP Volunteers

The South Lakes All Night Grad Party, aka ANGP, has been the talk of the town each year – that is until the past two years! As the name implies, this party begins on the night of graduation and continues until the next morning.

I know the year just started, but the planning for this event needs to get underway now — you'll be amazed at how quickly time flies! Volunteers and parent involvement are absolutely crucial.

We need parents to help lead and support the committees that ensure our “over the top,” drug-free, alcohol-free ANGP tradition continues! If you're the parent of a senior, your help this year is also needed. If your child is a freshman, sophomore or junior, this is a great opportunity to pay it forward and get some insight for your child/children's ANGP! Click [here](#) to learn about the volunteer opportunities and then email angp@southlakesptsa.org, indicating the committee you'd like to work on.

The SLHS Food Pantry



The award-winning SLHS PTSA Food Pantry is available for students and families in the SLHS Pyramid. It was created in April 2017 to help close the hunger and nutrition gap for the 30 percent of SLHS students who are on free and reduced lunch. Through the generosity of businesses and individuals in the Reston-area, the Pantry has distributed 38,000 bags of food and toiletries since it opened. The Pantry is open on Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for student-only shopping and then from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. for food distribution to families in the SLHS Pyramid.

Want to Get Involved?

- Donate food and toiletries
- Save the Date for our annual Do It Your Way 0.5k — **October 17, 2021**
- Volunteer
- Provide monetary [donations](#) and we'll do the shopping for you. Checks payable to SLHS PTSA are also accepted (please write Food Pantry on the memo line and mail to SLHS PTSA Food Pantry, [11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston, VA 20191](#))



Contact pantry@southlakesptsa.org for more information regarding collections, distribution, or donations.

Welcome Back!

Staff and teachers returning for the 2021-2022 school year were treated to an assortment of breakfast food donated by Seahawk parents and friends during the annual Welcome Back Breakfast on August 19. The SLHS PTSA thanks all those who contributed food and time to show appreciation to our amazing teachers and staff.



Above left: SLHS staff select from a wide assortment of breakfast options. Top right: Volunteers help set out the donated breakfast food items. Above: Some of the volunteers who helped out during the teacher appreciation breakfast.

Additional Ways to Support SLHS PTSA and Our School Community

Here are a few ways, in addition to [joining the SLHS PTSA](#), that you can support our efforts to provide the most enriching high school experience for you and your child/children:

- If you shop through [Amazon Smiles](#), you can designate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to South Lakes High School.
- Consider making a tax-free [donation](#).

