

## Important Dates

October 22	High School Options Night: 7:30 -9 PM in the Longfellow cafeteria
Nov. 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Grading Period Ends
Nov. 5-6	Teacher Work Days-Student Holidays
Nov. 7	Parent Lecture Series: Dr. Sidney B. Simon on <i>Practical Strategies for Change</i> , 7:00pm – 9:30pm, Temple Rodef Shalom
Nov. 8	PTA meeting @7:30 in the library <i>ALL WELCOME</i>
Nov. 15	Marshall High School IB Program Orientation for 8th graders. Starts @ 7:00 PM in the Marshall Auditorium.
Nov. 16 & 17	Longfellow Drama Club presents, <i>A<sup>3</sup>-Auditions/ Actors/ Audiences</i>
Nov. 21	Students released 2 hours early
Nov. 22-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 24 –	Winter Vacation
Jan.1	
Jan, 17	PTA meeting @7:30 in the library <i>ALL WELCOME</i>

### Membership Drive Progress!

We currently have **738** members & **13** teachers from **528** families. Our goal is **100% membership** from each family. There are approximately **1000** families at Longfellow. **It's not too late to join!** [Membership Form](#)

### High School Options Night October 22nd 7:30 PM!

Langley, Marshall, McLean and Thomas Jefferson (TJHSST) High Schools will give brief presentations on their [International Baccalaureate](#) and [Advanced Placement](#) programs. The presentations will be held in the cafeteria with a Q & A session to follow.

### Parenting Programs

#### "Parenting the Adolescent" offered at Longfellow

*Parenting the Adolescent* is a 6-week program and will be offered for the 10th consecutive year at Longfellow. Topics covered include adolescent development, communication, conflict resolution and problem solving skills, and using natural and logical consequences. Parents are updated on alcohol and other drug usage, parties, cyber-bullying and other teenage issues. This inter-active class involves presentations, discussions and group activities. Each session is two hours, from 7 to 9 p.m. starting on Thursday, October 11, 2007. Cost for the program is \$20 and covers the *Parenting Teenagers* handbook.

The instructors for the course are Joan Packard, counselor at Longfellow, Marge Bleiweis, Conflict Resolution Specialist, Safe and Drug-Free Youth Office and Estelle Brauer, retired Longfellow counselor. Parents of pre-teens and teens are encouraged to attend. Contact Joan Packer (703)533-2639 for registration and further information.

#### Opening Parent Lecture Series Event:

The first event of our parent lecture series is set for Wednesday, November 7th at Temple Rodef Shalom. Dr. Simon Sidney will be engaging parents and educators in a discussion about values, choices, and decision making. Dr. Simon brings to the community new insights into how to explore and impart responsible decision making to our youth. He will also address issues of negative criticism, self-esteem, family unity, and ways to reduce bullying in schools and public places. Tickets are **\$10.00** in advance or at the door.

To register: [Practical Strategies for Change Registration](#)

### Longfellow Drama Club presents, *A<sup>3</sup>-Auditions/ Actors/ Audiences*

The show is made up of 3-one act plays. The performances are November 16 & 16 at 7 PM in the cafeteria.

### **Longfellow Directory Information**

Pre-ordered directories went home Sept. 25-26. If you did not receive one, but believe you paid for one; please contact [Sherrie Burson](mailto:Sherrie.Burson@longfellowpta.org) (703-506-1819). If you would like to purchase a directory, please fill out the attached directory [order form](#), attach the money for the directory (and optional PTA membership) as directed on the form, and send it to the office for the PTA mailbox.

We will be doing an addendum to the directory for those families whose forms did not make it to us by the September 7th deadline established for the original directory. Please look for a form coming home with your children sometime this week with more information about the addendum. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Edie Ashton](mailto:Edie.Ashton@longfellowpta.org) or [Sarah Swett](mailto:Sarah.Swett@longfellowpta.org).

### **NEW! Longfellow PTA Yahoo Group added to *Keep in Touch* as communication methods for the Longfellow Community!**

Since there is no "backpack folder system" at Longfellow, the only way to stay in-the-know is electronically. These are the two ways to get information from the PTA and the School via e-mail:

1. For PTA Information about Student and Parent Events and Volunteer Opportunities: Join the Longfellow PTA Yahoo Group, new as of September 2007. Log on to [Yahoo](http://www.yahoo.com). (Or use the quick link on the PTA home page). Click on "Groups". Type "LongfellowMiddleSchoolPTA " in the search line. When the Longfellow Middle School PTA group comes up on your screen, click "Join This Group" and follow the prompts from there. This information will supplement the information on the PTA website. Note: You do not need to create a new Yahoo e-mail address to be part of the Longfellow group. When asked, put in your own current e-mail address.
2. The school administration encourages you to sign up for e-mail distributions from the school and Fairfax County Public Schools via their Longfellow *Keep In Touch* e-mail system. This helpful link provides weather delay, emergency and school notices.

### **For Great Things to Happen at Longfellow - The PTA Needs Your Help with our One and Only Fundraiser!**

Our annual fundraiser couldn't be easier: there's no event to attend, no merchandise sold, no time commitment. Simply send us your donation for any amount and *every dollar will support our children*. And, it's tax deductible! **And don't forget to check if your employer will match your generous donation!** We are still a little short of matching last year's campaign of \$25,000.

For your convenience, a [donation form](#) is linked. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact [Audrey Mulholland](mailto:Audrey.Mulholland@longfellowpta.org) (703.241.5560). Together, we can reach our goal.

### **Parent Guide to Longfellow A-Z Now Available**

To help parents navigate the new world of middle school, a parent guide is now provided on the PTA website [Parent Guide](#). This guide is intended to provide quick glance answers to frequently asked questions and was current as of May 2007. Much of the information can also be found on the school website or in the Student Directory. Any new communication from the school administration will supersede this guide. We hope parents will find this to be a useful tool.

### **After School Clubs and Activities**

The school year is off to its usual busy start! Information about after school activities can be found on the school and the PTA websites. Most of the activities are open to all students and can still be joined. [Click here for more information](#)

*Updated October 16, 2007*