

LUSHER CHARTER NEWS

There's so much going on at Lusher that few of us can be aware of all the great things that are happening. The purpose of this communication is to try to keep middle school and high school parents informed of the successes of our students and staff. Parents: If your child has won a contest or received an honor, please let us know by sending an e-mail to jenny_cromer@nops.k12.la.us or susanlkrinsky@gmail.com. Teachers: if your class has done something special, please let us know about that, too. Coaches: We'd love to report on results of games, matches, and meets, so please send them to us.

For upcoming events, EDLINE (www.edline.net) is the most complete and up-to-date source for the dates and times of events.

Awards & Honors

Presidential Scholars

Lusher students Sophia Cinel and Tim Clayton received two of Louisiana's 45 nominations for the Presidential Scholar program. With a senior class of only 38 students, this is an impressive showing. The selection process took place at the State level; students are chosen from two pools. Sophia Cinel was nominated in the category of academic and test scores; Tim Clayton was nominated in the Young Artists category. Sophia is one of Lusher's National Merit Semi-Finalists this year and will have completed 15 hours of early college credit through our joint program with Tulane. She is also a member of Lusher's swim team. Tim Clayton was a member of Lusher's football team in 2007-08, and he is a student in Lusher's Creative Writing program. See below for information about Tim's youngARTS award.

youngARTS Award

Senior Tim Clayton has been selected as a Creative Writing Finalist in the National Foundation for the Advancement of Arts (NFAA) youngARTS Competition. This is the most prestigious arts competition for high school seniors, and is the only venue through which students may be nominated for the Presidential Scholar in the Arts program, which grants significant scholarships. Between 6000 and 8000 students register for the youngARTS program each year, and 150 finalists are chosen. As a finalist, Tim was flown to Miami in January to receive his award for creative writing. Twenty finalists will be chosen as Presidential Scholars in the Arts, to be announced in April. All finalists receive scholarships towards tuition at the college or university of their choice.

National Merit

Three of this year's seniors (in a class of only 38) received formal recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as National Merit Semi-Finalist, National Achievement Semi-Finalist, or National Hispanic Honorable Mention. In this very first senior class, we're proud of these results.

In the News

The February 2008 issue of *New Orleans* magazine included a story about Lusher's Ritual of the Table (formerly known as the Junior Feast).

College Counseling

Senior Class

The college application process is winding down, with applications in and students beginning to hear from the schools to which they've applied. Most students will hear around the beginning of April. Lusher students have already been accepted early decision to: Loyola, Tulane, LSU, Louisiana Tech, Louisiana Scholars College and UNO. Out-of-state schools include Southwestern (TX), University of Chicago, Spring Hill College, College of Santa Fe, Bethel, University of Oklahoma, and Colorado Mountain College. Stay tuned for more.

Junior Class

Kickoff was in January with the Junior Class College Night held on January 22nd. Mr. Prosser is currently meeting with juniors individually. Juniors are responsible for arranging a time to meet with Mr. Prosser by the end of February. Beginning in March, he will be meeting with juniors and their parents. Contact Mr. Prosser to schedule an appointment at Charles_Prosser@nops.k12.la.us.

Sophomore Class

Beginning February 12th and ending February 27th, Mr. Prosser will meet in small groups with sophomores and their parents, each Tuesday and Wednesday evening in Room 207, from 6 pm until 7 pm. Topics to be covered include PSAT/PLAN testing interpretation, a preliminary college counseling timeline, preparing auditions or portfolios, transcripts, summer activities, and scholarships and financial aid. Most importantly, these meetings will give parents and students the opportunity to ask any and all College Guidance questions.

The proposed sophomore schedule is as follows, but it is fine to switch to a more convenient date:

Student's last name: A-D, Tuesday, February 12; Last name: E-H, Wednesday, February 13; Last name: I-L, Tuesday, February 19; Last name: M-P, Wednesday, February 20; Last name: Q-T, Tuesday, February 26; Last name: U-Z, Wednesday, February 27.

Tulane Connection

This semester, 10 Lusher seniors and 3 Lusher juniors are taking Tulane University classes through the Early College Program, which enables students to receive credit toward Lusher's graduation requirements AND receive college credit from Tulane, with tuition waived. As of the end of the 1st semester, approximately 40 percent of this year's

junior class met the requirements of a 3.2 GPA and 1200 on the critical reading and math sections of the SAT to qualify to take Tulane classes over the summer session.

Lusher students are taking such classes at Tulane as Philosophy, Astronomy, Communications, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, and a variety of science classes and labs.

Spring Sports

Dates, times, and locations of games, matches, and meets are posted on the EDLINE sports page. Coaches: please let us know scores and results so that we can publicize them!

Concession stand for all games: Anne Eckert, with a small cadre of devoted parents, has almost single-handedly staffed the stand for every home athletic event. She needs help. If your child played fall sports, please help Anne out this spring. Contact Anne at annebilly@bellsout.net to volunteer. Please consider volunteering for sports when you child is not playing so that parents of current players can watch the game.

High School

Softball, season starts mid-February, coaches are Kimberly Irons (Kimberly_irons@lusherschool.org) and Shannon Harris (Shannon_harris@lusherschool.org).

Baseball, season starts mid-February, coaches are Larry DaGate (lawrence_degate@lusherschool.org) and John Travis

Tennis, season starts March 1 for **boys and girls**, coaches are Gian Balsamo (gian_balsamo@lusherschool.org) and Gianni Baham

Track and Field-Boys, season starts mid-February, coaches are Theron Cross (theron_cross@lusherschool.org), Gian Smith, and Louis Landrum (louis_landrum@lusherschool.org)

Track and Field-Girls, season starts mid-February, coaches are Tanya Johnson (Tanya_johnson@lusherschool.org), Jessica Perkins (Jessica_perkins@lusherschool.org), and Louis Landrum (louis_landrum@lusherschool.org)

Middle School

Softball, 6th-8th grades, season starts mid-February, coaches are Rebecca Hanson (Rebecca_hanson@lusherschool.org) and Shannon Harris (shannon_harris@lusherschool.org)

Baseball, 6th grade, season starts end of February, coaches are Cornell Charles and Steve Volo (Steven_volo@lusherschool.org)

Baseball, 7th-8th grades, season starts end of February, coaches are Steve Volo (steven_volo@lusherschool.org), Cornell Charles, and Chuck Greiner (charles_greiner@lusherschool.org)

Tennis - Boys & Girls, 6th-8th grades, season starts March 1, coaches are Gian Balsamo (gian_balsamo@lusherschool.org) and Gianni Baham.

Track & Field - Boys and Girls, 6th-8th grades, season starts mid-February, coaches are Louis Landrum, Gian Smith, Theron Cross (theron_cross@lusherschool.org), Jessica Perkins (Jessica_perkins@lusherschool.org)

Other Athletics

Lusher has partnered with the New Orleans Fencing Club to offer a fencing program to Lusher students, parents and staff. Beginners meet Tuesday and Friday from 6:15 pm until 7 pm in the dance studio on the 1st floor, Nashville Street side of the Fortier campus. Intermediate and advanced fencers meet in the gym at 7:00 pm on same days. The fee is \$40 per semester, and scholarships are available. For more information, contact Jonathan Cohen, dgtiger1@aol.com

Student Clubs

As outlined in the Lusher Student Constitution, the High School Student Council is the body responsible for approving clubs. Students interested in chartering a new club must obtain a form from the Club Committee of the Student Council. Students must develop a mission for the club, identify at least three chartering members, and find a sponsor. The Club committee meets on Mondays.

Clubs presently approved at Lusher include: Key Club, National Honor Society, Library Club, Natural Hair Club, Step Club, Science Club, Lusher PodCast, Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Runners Club, Philosophy Club, Film Club, French Club and Spanish Honor Society. Clubs currently in the process of chartering are Hacky-Sacking Club, Young Democrats, and Culinary Club.

In future issues of this newsletter, we hope to have more information about student club events and activities.

Performances

Monday, February 18th, 6:30 pm – Dance Works in Progress, Fortier campus dance studio 104

Sunday, February 24th, 3 pm – Lusher Strings, K – 12, 1st Presbyterian, St. Charles Avenue

Tuesday, March 18th, 6:00 pm – Lusher Choral Concert, High School and Middle School, Fortier campus, Lion’s Gate Theater

April 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19 – “Dinner Theater” Showcase, Fortier campus, Lion’s Gate Theater (matinees on 15th and 17th; 6:30 pm on 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th, 19th)

April 18th, 7 pm – Evening of Dance, Dixon Hall, Tulane campus

April 19th, Lusher Dance Company at DramaRama at the CAC

May 9th, 6:30 pm - Lusher Visual Arts Exhibition Opening, Fortier campus

Upcoming

For a complete list of upcoming events, please see the Combined Calendar on EDLINE. What follows are some highlights:

National Honor Society Induction, Thursday, February 21, 6:30 pm. Families invited. Fortier Campus.

Scheduling: Current 8th – 11th graders will begin course scheduling at the end of February. Look for those packets and course descriptions to come home in the next two weeks. Please note that course scheduling is a separate process from re-registration, which must also be completed. See below for date and time.

Re-registration: Registration (which is separate from course scheduling) for all returning students will take place March 5th from 8 am to 6 pm. This includes 5th graders at Willow Street who plan to enroll in 6th grade at the Fortier campus. Forms will be available in advance, and parents will need to submit proof of residency. **Parent volunteers will be needed on this day – please contact Michelle Andrews in the Fortier office at 304.3960 if you can help.**

3rd Quarter Exams: February 29th - March 6th for High School, no school March 7th; March 3rd – March 7th for Middle School, no school March 7th.

iLEAP and GEE Standardized Testing: March 10 – 14, High School and Middle School

Crawfish Boil

Our biggest community event and fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 5th. This is a must-attend event for all, with great food, games, student performances, and entertainment. **You will be hearing from a Boil representative asking for parents to volunteer on boil day. Please sign-up for as many shifts as you can.**

Lusher/NOCCA Literary Festival

April 10th, locations to be announced

Junior/Senior Prom

Saturday, April 12th, location to be announced.

Graduation

Commencement ceremonies for Lusher's first class of 12th grade students will be held Sunday, May 18th at 3 pm on the Tulane campus.