

LUSHER CHARTER NEWSLETTER #3 – Late March 2008

Parents and Teachers: we are relying on you to forward news of honors and accomplishments to us at jenny_cromer@lusherschool.org or susanlkrinsky@gmail.com.

We would also like to publish information about summer programs in which students may be participating, so please let us know about those, too!

Awards and Honors

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards – Alliance for Young Artists & Writers

Three Lusher 9th and 10th grade students received Gold Key Awards for work submitted through this prestigious competition and are progressing to the national level.

Gold Key recipients are:

Rene Mercadel, 10th grade, *Drawing – Glass*

Kenneth Rayes, 9th grade, *Drawing – Distorted Glass*

Kenneth Rayes, 9th grade, *Printmaking – Self-Portrait I*

Joshua Taylor, 9th grade, *Printmaking – Self-Portrait*

The letter announcing these awards indicated: “Only the most accomplished of works submitted to the regional programs earn Gold Keys; out of 6000 submissions in the art category of the Region-at-Large this year, 650 works were given this distinction. Overall, more than 100,000 works are submitted to regional programs and the Region-at-Large with only 10000 earning Gold Keys.”

National award recipients will be announced in April. For more information about this competition, see <http://artandwriting.org/enter.htm>

Literary Rally Results

Lusher teacher Marco Meneghini, Rally Coordinator for Lusher, reports that 28 Lusher students were chosen to participate in the UNO District Literary Rally held on Saturday, March 15th.

Of the 28 students who were chosen to participate in the District Literary Rally, 15 students placed, and 8 students were state qualifiers. The state qualifiers will go on to the State Rally at LSU on April 19th.

Hannah Brower, 11th grade, *English III, 2nd place, State Qualifier*

Jalisa Roberts, 11th grade, *Journalism, 1st place, State Qualifier*

Rachel Roberie, 8th grade, *French I, 4th place*

Susannah Albert-Chandhok, 10th grade, *French II, 2nd place, State Qualifier*

Vy Ky, *12th grade, French III, 5th place*
Ana Treffinger, *11th grade, French IV, 1st place, State Qualifier*
Filips Gonçaruks, *11th grade, Spanish I, 3rd place, State Qualifier*
Maris Jones, *10th grade, Spanish II, 5th place*
Emily Chen, *7th grade, Algebra I, 4th place*
Hollis Jones, *9th grade, Geometry, 1st place, State Qualifier*
Stephen Walker, *10th grade, Algebra II, 5th place*
Dalton Bender, *11th grade, Advanced Math I, 5th place*
Malaika Hankins, *9th grade, World Geography, 1st place, State Qualifier*
Leo Olivares, *11th grade, American History, 3rd place, State Qualifier*
Robert Logan, *11th grade, Psychology, 2nd place, State Qualifier*

Other students chosen to represent Lusher at the District level are:

Seth Brown, *10th grade, Biology I*
Ben Long, *12th grade, Biology II*
Samaneh Khoshini, *12th grade, Calculus*
Marcus Pierre, *11th grade, Chemistry*
Tim Clayton, *12th grade, Civics*
Caroline Morris, *8th grade, English I*
Max Katner, *9th grade, English II*
Chase Crowder, *12th grade, English IV*
Phil Yiannopoulos, *12th grade, Free Enterprise*
Emma LeBlanc, *11th grade, Physical Science*
Miro Hoffman, *11th grade, Physics*
Lydia Nichols, *10th grade, Spanish III*
Gabriel Pinto, *11th grade, Spanish IV*

National Geographic Bee

Dillon Bender, 8th grade student, has qualified to participate at the state level competition of the National Geographic Bee, to be held in Baton Rouge on April 4th. Dillon qualified by achieving a high score on the written school-level competition test in January, securing his spot in the state-level competition.

Urban League Award Goes to Lusher 12th Grader

May Mzayek has won the Clarence L. Barney “Student of the Year Fellowship” presented by the Urban League of Greater New Orleans and WDSU Channel 6.

National Council on Youth Leadership – Town Meeting on Tomorrow

Lusher's attendees at the Greater New Orleans Council on Youth Leadership training seminar were Alex Ates, Michaela Compagno, Jemila Dunham, Samaneh Khoshini, Robert Logan, Meredith Massey, Bradley Nzinga, Marcus Pierre, Jalisa Roberts, and Jason Wong. Meredith Massey was chosen as a recipient of a \$500 Youth Leadership Award, along with being selected as one of six New Orleans representatives to the “Town Meeting on Tomorrow,” to be held in St. Louis, Missouri in October. For more

information about the National Council on Youth Leadership, see http://www.ncyl.org/town_meeting.php

National Society of High School Scholars

May Mzayek, 12th grade student, and Yasmin Mzayek, 11th grade student, have been invited to join, and were accepted into, the National Society of High School Scholars, a prestigious organization which recognizes high school students demonstrating academic excellence.

Piano & Swimming Accomplishments

11th grade student Jason Wong has received his 10th straight “Superior” rating in the New Orleans Music Teachers Association annual piano festival. Jason is also a competitive swimmer. He is state champion at the 200-yard freestyle and a runner-up in the 500-yard freestyle in Division 4 of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association’s swimming championship held last November at Sulphur, Louisiana. For his accomplishments, he was chosen as an all Metro swimmer-Division III and IV, together with Lusher 12th grade student, Sophia Cinel.

Fencing Victory

Senior Ben Long participated in the Crescent City Open fencing tournament at the Hilton Riverside on March 15 and 16. The CCO annually attracts fencers from throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. Ben tied for 3rd place of 41 fencers in the Mixed Foil event. Along the way, Ben beat fencers from perennial powerhouse Caddo Magnet Fencing Team and the Lafayette Fencing Club, among others. The tournament was organized by Jonathan Cohen, who heads up Lusher's after-school fencing program. For more information about the fencing program, contact Mr. Cohen at dgtiger1@aol.com.

Community Service Activities

St. Baldrick’s

Do you remember last year’s build-up to *Times-Picayune* writer Chris Rose getting his head shaved? This year, our own Tyler Scifres, 11th grade Lusher student, participated in the St. Baldrick's fundraiser on March 12th at Tulane Hospital for Children. St. Baldrick’s is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research. Thousands of volunteers shave their heads in solidarity of children with cancer, while requesting donations of support from friends and family. Tyler Scifres has grown his hair since 9th grade, with one or two minor trims. He has raised \$1,099 so far. In addition to the money he raised, some of his hair went to Locks of Love to make wigs for cancer patients. To see Tyler’s “before” and “after” photos, go to: http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee_info.html?ParticipantKey=2008-23785

College Counseling

Senior Class

Since the last issue of this newsletter, members of the senior class have been admitted to:

Swarthmore College (Swarthmore, PA)
American University (Washington, DC)
University of Miami (Coral Gables, FL)
New York University (NYC, NY)
Colorado College (Colorado Springs, CO)
Washington University (St. Louis, MO)
Bard College (Annandale-on-Hudson, NY)

By the time we get back from Spring Break, we expect to have a much longer list as students hear from the schools that announce offers of admission on or about April 1st.

Junior Class

Junior Class Members and Parents: Every 11th grade student, with at least one parent, should meet with Lusher's college counselor, Mr. Charles Prosser, by the end of the school year. These meetings are very important to the college application process. If you and your 11th grader have not yet had your college counseling appointment with Mr. Prosser, please call him at 304-3965, or e-mail him at charles_prosser@lusherschool.org. Mr. Prosser is available by appointment before school at 7:30 a.m., during the school day, or after school at 3:45 p.m.

REMINDER TO ALL: The registration deadline for the May 3rd SAT is April 1st. Students planning to take this test should register at www.collegeboard.com.

Advanced Placement Program (AP)

Lusher's Advanced Placement (AP) program is part of an international program run by the College Board to expose high school students to the rigors of college-level classes in a high school setting. AP classes allow highly-motivated students to engage in an accelerated curriculum, modeled after freshman-level college classes. All students who enroll in the courses are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May, an exam administered nationwide. Students earn a score of 1-5 on the exam, and have the potential to earn advanced standing (or occasionally college credit) at many colleges and universities based on their performance. Underclassmen at Lusher must meet certain performance criteria on standardized tests and previous course grades to be eligible to enroll in AP classes. All Lusher students need the recommendation of the academic department or the high school guidance counselor to take the courses.

AP exams will take place May 5 - 15. Lusher currently offers the following AP classes: English IV (English Literature), English III (Composition), Human Geography, European History, French IV AP, Spanish IV AP, American History, Biology, Calculus AB, Physics, and Psychology. Teachers have attended AP training conducted by the College

Board on how to structure curriculum and content specifically for AP exams and how to prepare students for the exams.

For more information on the AP program check the College Board website.
www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html.

Student Council

The Student Council, in its new Student of the Week program, recognizes Lusher students for exceptional academic efforts and performance. This might include exceptional work on a report or project, dedication to bringing up their own standards, outstanding improvement, or any number of other criteria. The following students have been named Students of the Week so far:

Anneshi Booker
Tony Sisco
Brendan Bowen
Don Washington
Alaina Boothe
Michael Shargois
Bradley Nzinga

Other Student Council News: On Wednesday, April 2nd, the Student Council is sponsoring a Slam Dunk Spirit Day. Fall and winter sports will be honored and recognized all day.

Sports News

Basketball Camp

Registration is now open for Lusher Lions Summer Basketball Camp for incoming 1st to 9th graders, both boys and girls. Dates and times are:

Regular Camp, ages 6-12, June 2 - 6; 9 am to noon.

Regular Camp, ages 10-14, June 9 - 13; 9 am to noon

Shooting and Offensive Skills Camp, ages 10-14, June 2 – 6; 1 pm to 3 pm

Shooting and Offensive Skills Camp, ages 10-14 June 9 – 13; 1 pm to 3 pm

Shooting camps, which are limited to 10-14 year olds, have limited enrollment of 24 spots. Regular camps have limited enrollment of 50. The fee for Regular Camp is \$100; the fee for Shooting and Offensive Skills Camp is \$125.

Brochures and registration forms are available in the main office of each campus. The camp is run by Coach Hunter Higgins, Lusher High's head basketball coach (and former Jesuit High head basketball coach). Contact Coach Higgins at 218-9319 or hunter_higgins@lusherschool.org

Take Me Out to the Ballgame! – Grades 8 through 12

On Thursday, April 3rd, students in grades 8 through 12 are invited to come out to see Lusher's Varsity baseball team play St. James at Segnette Field. Lusher has chartered a bus for interested students who have a permission slip signed by parents. The cost of the round-trip bus ride is only \$3 per student. The bus will leave school at 3:35 for a 4:00 pm start. Students may take the bus back to school after the game (it should return to Lusher by 7 pm), or may arrange for pick up at Segnette Field by parents. Permission slips and sign-up sheets can be picked up in the offices of Coach Higgins (Rm. 426), Ms. Wanner (Rm. 412), and Ms. Brown (Rm. 419). Bus fee and permission slips are due Tuesday, April 1, 2008. Refreshments will be sold at the concession stand at the ballpark; no outside food or drink allowed.

Middle School & High School Sports

There has been much activity in this area—so much that we can't catch up with the coaches to obtain information for this newsletter.

Message to coaches of all sports: Please send us team news!

See above for information about the Student Council's Slam Dunk Spirit Day on April 2nd, when fall and winter sports will be recognized all day long.

Sports Booster Club

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@bellsouth.net to volunteer. Please consider volunteering for sports when you child is not playing so that parents of current players can watch the game.

Fencing

Fencing now takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the gym, with beginners at 6:15 pm and intermediate and advanced fencers at 7 pm. A new beginners' class will start in the summer, and another will start in the fall. For more information, contact Jonathan Cohen at dgtiger1@aol.com.

Performances and Exhibitions

Middle School Drama Troupe

The Drama Troupe is currently rehearsing a one-act play entitled FULL OF SMITH by Susan Chenet. The play is a farce, with a string of over-the-top characters and situations, it takes place in the fictional town of Smithsville, and it tells the story of a small-town girl with big dreams. The show will open Wednesday, May 7th at 6 pm, with another performance on Friday, May 9th at 6 pm. Both performances will take place in Room 109. Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated.

Strings Program

Members of Lusher's strings program will perform on April 2nd in the District VI Large Ensemble Competition, on April 5th during the Crawfish Boil, on April 11th during musical exchange and clinics with students from Buffalo, NY, and on April 12th in a performance with Lusher's dancers.

Coffeehouse – What is it, anyway?

“Coffeehouse” is a student-run performance opportunity that takes place on occasional Fridays (sometimes middle school and high school combined, sometimes separate), in Room 400. All of the tables in the room are pushed back to one end, and the students create a performing area. Short musical and theater performances take place. Refreshments are served (rumor has it that the food is more plentiful during middle school performances). The next Coffeehouse is scheduled for Friday, April 18th.

Dinner Theater Showcase – “Bus Stop”

The Certificate of Arts Program in Theatre will open its production of William Inge's *Bus Stop* on Thursday April 10th. Evening shows will be held on April 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th and the 19th.

What makes this a Dinner Theater Showcase is that audience members will have the opportunity to dine at the Lion's Gate Theatre before the show and have coffee and desert during intermission. Dinner, provided by a well-known local restaurant, is included as an option in the price of a ticket. Intriguingly, the menu will echo aspects of the plot of *Bus Stop*. Tickets are \$20 dinner and the show, or \$5 for the show only.

Bus Stop is the fourth play produced by the Certificate of Arts Program in Theatre over the past 12 months, and the rehearsal work happening in the Lion's Gate Theatre is very exciting. The CA program constitutes pre-professional training and is designed to foster success at the university and subsequently the professional level. Current students have attended classes in voice, movement, acting, history and literature for almost two years, and the training is making a real difference in their performances.

Bus Stop promises to be the students' best work yet, and after their wonderful presentation of *Twelfth Night*, in the fall, that will be no small accomplishment. The cast includes Alex Ates, Isabel Balee, Seth Brown, Christian Brusseau, Brendan Bowen, Margaret de Veer, Rachel Holton, Malaika Hankins, Wesley Kohler-Bergene, Alex Root, and Tyler Scifres. The play is directed by Greg Baber, and technical design is by Terry Marik.

Please come join us for an exciting evening of theatre.

Choral Program Concert

On Tuesday, March 18th the first performance of the Fortier campus choral program took place, with both middle school chorus and high school chorale performing. The Coordinator of the choral program is Laura Catherine Gallien. Middle School Chorus members are: Johanna Busch, Kate Earnest, Eilise Gancarz-Davies, Remy Gaudin, Erin

Howard, Alice Mao, Haley Rowe-Kadow, Luke Tang, and Sarah Wang. High School Chorale members are Hannah Brower, Abby DiGeorge, Savanna Ganucheau, Meredith Madden, Ayla Miller, and Rebecca Zerlin. Each choral group performed separately, followed by a joint performance of two pieces. Solos turns were taken by Johanna Busch, Meredith Madden (in a luminous performance of Stormy Weather), Abby DiGeorge, Savanna Ganucheau, Alice Mao, and Remy Gaudin. Rebecca Zerlin and Savanna Ganucheau sang a beautiful duet, as did Hannah Brower and Savanna Ganucheau. The program also included two small ensembles (Johanna Busch, Remy Gaudin, and Alice Mao; and Eilise Gancarz-Davies, Kate Earnest, Erin Howard, Haley Rowe-Kadow, and Sarah Wang).

Also participating as instrumentalists were Jamal Mathurin on saxophone, Kevin Mah on violin, Jordan Cooperman on bass guitar, and Evan Baird on guitar. The Lusher Theater Department provided use of the Lion's Gate Theater, with Technical Director Terry Marek assisting throughout the concert. The chorus and chorale will next perform on April 5th at the Crawfish Boil.

Upcoming Performance & Exhibition Dates

April 5 – Performances throughout the day during Crawfish Boil

April 10 - 17 – Dinner Theater Showcase Performances, Fortier Campus

April 18 – Coffeehouse performances

May 7 and 9 – Middle School Drama Troupe Performances, Room 109, Fortier Campus

May 9 – Visual Arts Exhibition Opening, Fortier Campus

Lusher Arts Guild

Lusher Arts Guild is a parent group aimed at supporting the arts at Lusher. The Guild is currently in the organizing stage and is looking for parent representatives from each of the arts areas to sit on a by-laws committee. The Guild has representatives from theatre and creative writing, but is looking for parents to represent dance, musical theatre, visual arts, media arts, instrumental music and vocal music.

The group plans to support fundraising and grant writing activities, particularly to support summer study for students at specialized camps or programs. Allyson Brusseau is the parent heading this effort. She can be reached at lusherartsguild@gmail.com. The group would like to meet before Spring Break. If you are interested in this effort, please contact Allyson.

Crawfish Boil Sponsorships

The 25th Annual Crawfish Boil will be held on April 5, 2008 on the Fortier campus field. In addition to being a terrific community celebration, this is the PTSA's largest single fundraiser, and Lusher relies on these funds to cover budget shortfalls. Every year we ask our supporters to help underwrite the costs associated with the Crawfish Boil.

Please log on to our website at www.lusherschool.org and go to the Support Lusher page. The link will connect you to a secure site where you can donate directly on line. Any amount is appreciated. Alternatively, you can make a check out to the Lusher PTSA and return it to school.

Other News

Dance Program News

George Smallwood, New Orleans native and current dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company and Battleworks Dance, was a Visiting Artist at Lusher on March 17th. He taught a master class for Level 3 dancers and for Dance Company. The dance program regularly brings visiting artists into the program to provide exposure to other techniques and other teachers. This practice allows students to see what is happening on the national level and helps keep dance offerings “fresh.”

Summer Arts Intensive

Lusher’s Summer Arts Intensive will run June 2 through 27, 2008 for rising 4th through 12th graders. Classes will be offered in dance, music, creative writing, visual arts, mixed media & film, music, and musical theatre workshop. Applications are available now. Lusher students will be given first priority, but students from the community will also be registering, so get your registration form in early to save your spot.

Upcoming Events

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

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.**

Junior Ring Ceremony

The Junior Ring Ceremony will be held Wednesday, April 9th on the front steps of the Fortier building.

Junior/Senior Prom

Saturday, April 26th; 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.