

The RamGram



Award Winning Newsletter of Robinson Secondary PTSA

November 2009

Detailed information regarding many of these events can be found inside the RamGram ♦ See Robinson's website: <http://www.fcps.edu/RobinsonSS/> for more information including club event dates.

Wednesday, November 4	Crew General Meeting – Gold Cafeteria – 7:30pm
Thursday, November 5	PTSA Making the Grade: A Toolkit for Success – RSS – 6pm – 9:15pm
Sunday, November 8	Crew Round Robinson 5K Run Packets – 7:30am Crew Round Robinson 5K Run Race – 8:30am
Tuesday, November 10	RBOPO Meeting – High School Band Room – 7pm
Wednesday, November 11	TOUCHING BASES
Friday, November 13	PTSA Annual Used Book Sale – RSS – 6 – 9:30pm
Saturday, November 14	PTSA Annual Used Book Sale – RSS – 8:30am – 4pm PTSA Flu Shot Clinic – RSS – 9am RBOPO Senior Regional Orchestra Concert – West Potomac HS – 7:30pm
Sunday, November 15	PTSA Annual Used Book Sale – RSS – 8:30am – 4pm
Monday, November 16	PTSA Board Meeting – Principal's Office – 7pm
Thursday, November 19	Drama <i>Rumors</i> – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Friday, November 20	Drama <i>Rumors</i> – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Saturday, November 21	Drama <i>Rumors</i> – Russell Theatre – 7:30pm
Thursday, December 17	RBOPO Orchestra Winter Concert – Russell Theatre – 7pm
Wednesday, January 20	IB 10 th – 12 th Grade Parent/Student Information Night – Davala Hall – 7:30pm
Wednesday, January 27	IB 7 th – 9 th Grade Parent/Student Information Night – Davala Hall – 7:30pm Crew General Meeting – Gold Cafeteria – 7:30pm
Tuesday, February 9	ABC AMC 10 & 12 Mathematic Competitions – a.m.

Robinson Secondary School

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James W. Robinson Secondary ♦ 5035 Sideburn Road ♦ Fairfax VA 22030

PTSA News

President's Letter

Recap of the Month

October was such an exciting month.

A special thank you to all the parents who attended the October 8th PTSA program on "Sexting" held in conjunction with the Fairfax County Police Department. The program titled, "Sexting: A Dangerous Fad" opened many an eye on how dangerous this activity is and the life-long legal impact it can have on our children. For those that could not attend, an informational flyer on the issue was prepared by the Fairfax County Police Department and can be found in on our website, www.robinsonptsa.org.

On Thursday, October 22nd the Robinson PTSA held its Annual Candidates Forum. Though attendance was not as great as last year, the quality of questions really made the candidates think. A special thank you goes to our wonderful SGA students and Robinson's government teachers for making this event a true PTSA event.

November will be busy month for our Robinson Community. There are a number of events I would like to call your attention to and ask for you to mark your calendars for.

- The first event is on Thursday, **November 5, 2009**, Robinson PTSA will be sponsoring interactive workshops for middle and high school parents and high school students promoting academic excellence. *Free SAT/ACT reading comprehension and 10 question workshops* will be offered for high school students. Informational fair begins at 6 PM; programs at 7:00 PM. Attendees will be eligible for the **prize drawings** including a \$1600 SAT Prep Session with Kaplan.
- **November 13, 14 and 15th, 2009** will be the Annual Used Book Sale. Over 25,000 books (hardbacks and paperbacks) of all topics, CDs, DVDs, videos, computer software and books-on-tape will be for sale. Many volunteers are needed. Email tmatlaga@yahoo.com to volunteer to help bring the books into the school on Wednesday, November 11th; set-up Friday, November 13th beginning at 2:30 PM; sales, book maintenance, Café on November 13, 14 and 15th and clean-up late afternoon on the 15th.
- **November 14, 2009** beginning at 9 AM the PTSA will be having flu shot clinic for the Robinson community to get their flu shots or flu mist. Contact Heather Ripley zripleys418@msn.com for additional information. Appointments can be made ahead of time. Walk-ins are welcomed.

Parents, teachers and students, you can still join the PTSA. We need YOU! The membership form is located on the Robinson PTSA website, www.robinsonptsa.org.

PTSA had the drawing for the 6-month Gold's Gym membership courtesy of Gold's Gym on Thursday, October 22, 2009. The winner was Jeanne Tkacik. Congratulations!

Remember to send in your forms (Internet Safety, Safe Home Pledge, Volunteer Form, and Grocery Receipts Form). Forms can be found at www.robinsonptsa.org.

We are all sold out of Middle School Directories. Thank you. The PTSA has about 150 High School directories left for sale. If you are interested in purchasing a high school directory, please send in your order form ASAP. Directories will be available at Touching Bases on November 11th or you can order using the directory order form at www.robinsonptsa.org.

The PTSA Board is looking to fill the following positions of Legislative and Membership Chairmen and Communications/Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Terry Matlaga Bell at tmatlaga@yahoo.com. Remember do not ever hesitate to contact any member of the Executive Board with any questions or comments you may have. For a complete listing of Board members visit the Robinson PTSA website at www.robinsonptsa.org.

Our next PTSA Board meeting, is Monday, November 16th at 7 PM in the Principal's Office. All PTSA members are invited to attend.

On behalf of the entire PTSA Executive Board, I wish you all a wonderful November.

- Terry Matlaga Bell, Robinson PTSA President



Making The Grade: A Toolkit for Success



Thursday, November 5, 2009

6:00 PM—9:15 PM

Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax, VA

The Robinson Community is committed to helping students not only succeed academically but excel in Middle and High School and in his post-secondary choices. Join the Robinson PTSA for our first annual *Making the Grade Workshop: A Toolkit for Success*. An evening of concurrent sessions for parents and students and a informational fair.

Visit one of the informational tables at the Informational Fair from 6:00—7:00 PM.

At 7:00 PM, parents and students can begin attending one of the concurrent sessions. You will be able to attend up to three(3) concurrent sessions. Concurrent sessions include:

- Creative Management of IB/AP Workloads: Thinking Ahead, Getting Ahead and Staying Ahead
- How to identify your child's academic needs and select a resource to help them succeed in MS and HS;
- SAT or ACT: which one should be taken, what are their differences and what vendors are available to assist students;
- Getting Ready to Apply for College: How to ensure your academics meet your college expectations; and
- Parents can survive the homework battle

HS students can also attend two special 1-hr sessions on SAT and ACT testing: SAT or ACT 10 Question Challenge and SAT Critical Reading Workshop. These workshops will be presented from 7:00 PM– 8:00 PM and 8:00 PM -9:00 PM..

Mark Your Calendar Today. Join us on November 5, 2009.

ALL WORKSHOP SESSIONS ARE FREE

for any Robinson parent and student.

Need Information? Contact Christian Montz, cmontz@gmail.com, Terry Matlaga Bell, tmatlaga@yahoo.com or visit www.robinsonptsa.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Used Book Sale

Robinson Secondary School,

5035 Sideburn Road

Fairfax, Virginia

Friday, November 13, 2009

(Open 6:00 PM–9:30 PM)

Saturday, November 14, 2009

(Open 8:30 AM-4:00 PM)

Sunday, November 15, 2009

(Open 8:30 AM-4:00 PM)



Prices:

Most Hardbacks:

\$1.00

Youth and Adult Paperbacks: **\$.50**

Young Children Paperbacks: **3/\$1.00**

Videos: **\$1.00**

CDs: **\$1.00**

DVDs: **\$3.00**

Books-on-Tape:

\$1.00

Computer Games:

\$1.00-\$3.00

Other Books as Marked

- **Over 20,000 top-quality (just like new) Fiction and Non-Fiction, Classics, Youth, and Kids BOOKS (Hardbacks, Paperbacks), CDs, DVDs, Videos, Computer Software and Games priced to sell.**
- Shop and then relax with a cup of coffee or tea and a muffin or bagel in the Book Café.
- First 50 customers each day receive a free cup of coffee/tea.
- Purchase over \$100 on Friday or Saturday and receive a special coupon for the Sunday sale.
- Participate in the Silent Auction on Collector Items or visit the special collector book table.

If you would like more information on the book sale, contact Terry Matlaga Bell, tmatlaga@yahoo.com or Karen Floyd, kfloyd@rcn.com. For directions to Robinson visit www.robinsonptsa.org.

Final Tally Count for VA PTA Proposed Legislative Program

In September at our Back-to-School Nights, PTSA members voted on the 2010 Virginia PTA Legislative Platform. Here are the results: 811 individuals voted out of 1509 members.

Issue	Yes	No	Abstain	Did Not Vote
LAI #1 "prevent crimes against children	773	19	18	1
PS#1 grading scale policies	754	25	30	2
PS#2 teachers are provided fully funded unencumbered planning time	734	41	33	3

Volunteer Nurses Needed

The PTSA is in need of volunteer nurses (RN and LPN) to help us administer the flu vaccines on Saturday, November 14th. A portion of the proceeds from the Flu Clinic will come back to the school. If you can volunteer, please contact either Heather Ripley (zripleys418@msn.com) or Sharon Brown (pskckbrown@cox.net).



LET'S FIGHT THE FLU AND KEEP OUR KIDS HEALTHY !!



Influenza - commonly referred to as "the flu"- is a serious and potentially deadly disease.¹ Students miss approximately 38 million school days due to influenza each year,² and parents miss more than 10 million workdays caring for these sick youngsters.³ Influenza is contagious and can be transmitted easily between adults and children.¹

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the single best way to prevent influenza is to receive a vaccination each year.⁴ Receiving an annual vaccination is more important than ever because the CDC now recommends that all children from six months through 18 years of age should be vaccinated against influenza.⁵ Each year, people come up with all sorts of reasons for not getting an influenza vaccination. But it's important to remember that your decision to get vaccinated or not goes well beyond you. It also affects the many lives you touch...

The Robinson PTSA is committed to helping keep children, parents and the entire community healthy throughout the influenza season. That is why PTSA is partnering with Flu Busters, a leading provider of on-site vaccinations, and Novartis Vaccines to provide convenient access to affordable influenza vaccinations for all members of our community.

FLU SHOT CLINIC
NOVEMBER 14th at 9am
Robinson Secondary School
 Sponsored by The Robinson PTSA

COST (a portion comes back to RHS)
\$25 pre-registered
\$27 Walk-In
\$30 for the Flu Mist (must pre-register)
*Medicaid and Medicare Pt. B Accepted

Flu Facts:

"Influenza can have serious results-Influenza is a contagious disease of the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs) that can lead to serious complications. Including pneumonia and the worsening of chronic conditions such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes; and is transmitted from person to person, including between children and adults. Of 63 children who died of influenza-related causes in the 2008-2009 season*, 58 had not been vaccinated against influenza according to CDC recommendations; Students will miss approximately 38 million school days due to the flu and parents will miss over 10 million workdays caring for their sick youngsters.

"Influenza strains change from year to year !- Even if you were immune to influenza strains circulating in the past, you may not be immune to new strains that emerge this season; The single best way to help protect yourself from new influenza strains is to get vaccinated each year.

"Almost anyone older than 6 months of age can benefit from the flu shot and it isn't all about you ! -Older adults and young children are just 2 of the groups considered to be at increased risk for complications from influenza,⁶ but influenza vaccination can benefit almost anyone over the age of 6 months⁴ Up to 20% of the US population develops influenza every year; Influenza vaccines are not currently approved for children under 6 months of age. Current guidelines from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that vaccination is recommended for all person who want to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza or transmitting influenza to other should they become infected; Vaccination is recommended for the following groups: People aged 50 years or older, All children between the ages of 6 months and 18 years⁴, People with certain chronic medical conditions⁴, All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season, Health care workers involved in direct patient care, Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts⁴ of children younger than 59 months, adults aged 50 and older, people with certain chronic medical conditions, Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Please note that influenza vaccines are not currently approved for children under 6 months of age.

"Influenza vaccines are safe for most people⁷. However, the influenza vaccine is not appropriate for those who have had a severe allergic reaction to eggs or to a previous influenza vaccination.

For More Information, Contact: Heather Ripley at [703-239-436](tel:703-239-436)/zripleys418@msn.com

If you want to pre-register go to: <https://secure.flubusters.com/home.aspx>.

JOIN PTSA TODAY November 2009 ♦ Robinson PTSA Newsletter ♦ 5 ♦ **JOIN PTSA TODAY**
 James W. Robinson Secondary ♦ 5035 Sideburn Road ♦ Fairfax VA 22030

PTSA Student Directory Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (in case there are questions): _____

Please send me:

_____ Middle School Directories @ \$5/each + \$1.50 S&H = \$ _____

_____ High School Directories @ \$6/each + \$1.50 S&H = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Return this form, along with your check made payable to **Robinson PTSA**, to:
Robinson PTSA Directories, 5308 Esabella Court, Fairfax, VA 22032. If you have any questions,
please contact Deb Bush, PTSA Directory Sales Chair, at 703-239-0478 or bushbrood@cox.net.

Robinson Secondary School

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2009-2010 Robinson Secondary School PTSA Meeting Schedule

Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

Monday, November 16, 2009
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, December 21, 2009
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Wednesday, January 20, 2010
General Membership Meeting/Program, Media Center

Monday, February 22, 2010
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, March 15, 2010
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, April 19, 2010
Board Meeting, Principal's Conference Room

Monday, May 17, 2010
General Membership Meeting/Program, Gold Cafeteria

Monday, June 7, 2010
General Membership Meeting, Hallway in Front of the Principal's Conference Room

Questions about an upcoming meeting? Contact Terry Matlaga Bell at tmatlaga@yahoo.com

General School Class News

IB Information Nights

The IB Office will be holding two parent/student information nights:

Wednesday, January 20, 7:30 p.m., Davala Hall: for parents and students, grades 10 - 12
Wednesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m., Davala Hall: for middle school and 9th grade parents/students
Snow make-up date: Wednesday, February 10

We will discuss the entire IB program from the philosophy to the courses offered, explain the full diploma and certificate options and answer questions about pupil placement.

For more information, contact Lisa Green at lbgreen@fcps.edu or Hernan Ruiz at raruiz@fcps.edu or call 703.426.2254.

Boosters, Clubs and Departments News

Academic Boosters Club and Mathematics Department

The Robinson Mathematics Department, with the support of the Robinson Academic Boosters, will once again sponsor the AMC 10 and AMC 12 math competitions. The AMC exams are competitive mathematics contests for high school students. The contests take place the morning of February 9, 2010. Students need to pre-register through their math teacher during the month of January. Please watch for announcements on Good Morning Robinson, ask your math teacher, or contact Bob Collidge (Robert.Collidge1@fcps.edu) for more information.

Robinson Theatre News



RUMORS

by: Neil Simon

Nov. 19, 20, 21 7:30 pm

PG-13

www.RobinsonDrama.org

Come see Neil Simon's comedy farce, performed by Robinson's wonderful cast: Caitlin Viccora, Alex Alferov, Micah Chelen, Kyle Lynch, Rachel Mehaffey, Jesse Bethea, Julieanna Novak and Sam Wharton. (Warning: in addition to comic mayhem, this production contains some strong language.)

It's not too late to become a Drama Booster. You can get season tickets, priority admission, free refreshments, and TheatreSports tickets depending on your Booster level. Go to www.RobinsonDrama.org to become a Booster!

**SENIOR CLASS of 2010
ALL NIGHT GRADUATION PARTY**

June 17, 2010

Ticket Order Form

All Night Grad Party (ANGP 2010) is in the works, Seniors! Every year a special party is held for the graduating class. The event is great fun and a celebration of your Robinson years. Food, games, casino, DJ and dancing, prizes, tattoo artists, will be featured and MUCH MORE! The event is the night of graduation and will run from 11 PM until 4 AM. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!! Tickets will be on sale during the year. Right now the price per ticket is \$80 but this will increase. So fill out the form and include your check made out to Robinson ANGP 2010 and mail it in right now! Questions? Email patsydupre@aol.com or pskckbrown@cox.net

Print Student Name _____
Order now and pay only \$80 \$ _____
Additional donation (i.e. may help pay for ticket \$ _____
for another student) ANGP is a 501(c) (3)
TOTAL AMOUNT enclosed \$ _____

All Night Graduation Party 2010

I understand that participation in this activity involves public property, and neither the All Night Graduation Party (ANGP) Committee nor its parent volunteers will have any responsibility for the condition or use of this property. I have been made aware of the purpose of this activity and the variety of events, to possibly include swimming, to which my student may participate. I agree that, to the best of my knowledge, my child is physically able to safely participate in the ANGP activities. I understand that I can contact the ANGP to have all my questions concerning this activity answered.

Please print neatly!

Student Signature _____
Student Cell _____
Print Parent/Guardian Name _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____
Parent/Guardian Address _____
Parent/Guardian EMAIL Address _____
I am interested in volunteering. YES NO
Home Phone _____ Parent Cell _____

Make \$80 Check out to Robinson ANGP

Mail to

ANGP 2010

P.O. Box 424

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

An actual ticket will NOT be issued right away. A list of students that have paid will be maintained and can be found on our website, www.angp2010.org

*****GMU Front Row Seat Raffle*****

Try for your chance to be one of the 4 winners. Each winner will receive 8 RESERVED front row seats at George Mason University the night of graduation. One Raffle Ticket costs \$ 10.

Name: _____ # of Tickets _____

Robinson Band and Orchestra Parents Organization (RBOPO)

The music programs at Robinson are in full gear and off to a great start. Our Middle School and High School Band and Orchestra students are working very hard. Check out our websites www.robinsonband.org and www.robinsonorchestra.org and see what we are up to. Please join us at our next RBOPO Meeting at 7pm on November 10 in the High School Band Room.

Marching Rams

The Marching Rams are having a successful season performing the show Rhapsody in Blue and Gold based on music of Gershwin. At the North Stafford Marching Invitational, they received 1st place in Division 5A for Music and Percussion, and 1st place Overall. At the Oakton Classic, the Marching Rams received 1st Place in Division 5A and Grand Champion. The band traveled to Towson in October 24 and 25 to compete in the USSBA Mid-Atlantic Regional Marching Competition and received 1st place in the Group 6 Open Category as well as 1st place in Music, Visual, and Effect. Congratulations to Robinson Marching Rams! On October 31, they will play one more time for the VBODA competition at West Springfield.

Orchestra Concert

The Robinson Orchestras Winter Concert will be on Thursday, December 17 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Russell Theater. All Robinson High School Orchestras will perform. Join us for a relaxing evening of music that will get you into the holiday spirit! Congratulations to Mrs. Anne Rupert, recipient of Virginia American String Teachers Association 2009 Outstanding Orchestra Director Award! She will be presented this award at the concert.

Senior Regional Orchestra

Congratulations to each of the following HS Band and Orchestra students from Robinson selected for the 2009 Senior Regional Orchestra. These exceptional musicians will be participating in the rehearsals and concert on Nov. 13 and 14 at West Potomac High School. Please come to this free and surely fantastic concert!

David Chung, violin
Jennifer Lee, violin
Kayla Elias, violin
David Katahira, violin
Victoria Olmer, cello
Leif Van Acker, cello
Erina Ishita, cello
Kevin Thompson, bass
Robert Brese, trumpet
Stacey Kropaczek, trombone

These students will perform Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition", Dvorak's "Roman Carnival Overture" and Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun" under the direction of A. Scott Wood. The concert will be on Saturday, November 14th at 7:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School.

Fall Fundraising

RBOPO is selling White House Ornaments, Holiday Greens, Pies, and Fruit. Visit the website www.robinsonband.org for more information.

SGA

The Robinson SGA is happy to announce that its 2009 Homecoming festivities were great successes! We had fun events all week: Powder Puff, the Win-A-Date with a senior Homecoming princess, Locker Bay Decorations competition, the pep rally, parade, Taste of Robinson, and Dance. Our kids worked extremely hard, and it showed! Thank you to the parents who helped us clean up after the dance; you made it a manageable task!

We then spent the next few weeks planning new events. We had to postpone our Faculty-Student kickball game due to poor weather conditions, but we hope to have a rescheduled date for our friendly competition. We have also started planning some service projects: a canned-food drive and hunger awareness campaign, a winter clothing drive and "Reuse the Shoe" collection, a "Safe Driving" awareness campaign, and a few other activities, as well. Our students are excited to bring service opportunities to the community, and we hope to make a difference this fall!

Thank you for your continued support, and stay tuned for more information about upcoming events!

-Robinson SGA

Crew



2009 'ROUND ROBINSON 5K RUN

Clear your calendars! The date for the annual 'Round Robinson 5K Run has been set. This year the race will be on **World Run Day, Sunday, 8 November**. Start time for the race is 8:30 a.m. and race day packets can be picked up 7:30 a.m. The run will be held rain or shine and the registration fee is \$25.00 and runners will receive a T-shirt. Runners will enjoy a beautiful run around Robinson Secondary School. Support Robinson Crew by running with us on November 8th! Details and registration forms are available at www.robinsoncrew.com.

Photo: Kim Griffin finishes the 'Round Robinson 5k Run in 2008

Winter Training Begins this Month for Robinson Crew

Students interested in joining Robinson Crew are urged to participate in winter training which will begin on Monday, November 16th. Winter training is held inside and around Robinson Secondary School and the team works on conditioning and skills by using the erg machines. All students wishing to join the Robinson Crew Team must register and have a physical before beginning winter conditioning. A general meeting of the Robinson Crew Team will be held on November 4th at 7:30 in the Gold Cafeteria. Registration forms and information about our award winning crew team can be found online at www.robinsoncrew.com or you can contact our vice president of membership, Ellie Oakley, at eoakley@cox.net. The crew team is looking forward to successful spring season.



Photo: Virginia Fritsche on the type of erg machine used for winter conditioning. From the erg sprints competition in January 2009. Photo: Carl Fritsche

ROUND ROBINSON 5K RUN - Sunday NOV 8, 2009 8.30am

Robinson CREW FUNDRAISER

To register online by 10/20 go to: www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1802406



NAME: _____ email: _____

Address: _____ phone: _____

Circle gender: M F Age as of race day: _____

Will you be running with a stroller? Yes No

If you are a crew member, which school do you row for: _____

Teams Only: Name: _____ Names of all Team Runners: _____

Circle T-shirt Size YM YL AS AM AL AXL

I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decisions of the race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in this event. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, in consideration of your accepting my entry, I for myself, anyone entitled to act in my behalf, waive and release the Robinson Crew Boosters Club, Robinson Secondary School, the County of Fairfax, and all sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims of liabilities of any kind arising from my participation in this event.

Signature (parent/guardian if under 18): _____

Entry fee if received by Oct. 20 is \$20 (\$15 Children 12 and Under) Late and Race Day Registration is \$25

Please make checks payable to **Robinson Crew Boosters, mail to:**

**Round Robinson Run C/O Patti Stevens
10841 Split Oak Lane Burke VA 22015**

ROUND ROBINSON 5K RUN - Sunday NOV 8, 2009 8.30am

ROBINSON CREW FUNDRAISER

To register online by 10/20 go to: www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1802406



NAME: _____ email: _____

Address: _____ phone: _____

Circle gender: M F Age as of race day: _____

Will you be running with a stroller? Yes No

If you are a crew member, which school do you row for: _____

Teams Only: Name: _____ Names of all Team Runners: _____

Circle T-shirt Size YM YL AS AM AL AXL

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