


Liberty Corner PTO

March 2011

A Message from the PTO Co~Presidents -- Jeanne Starr and Laurie Dobson

Spring is almost here! Well at least most of the snow is gone, only a few patches in the shaded areas are left. And I think its unanimous when I say "Good riddance to the snow! Bring on the warmer weather." The few warm days we have had already have started the spring flower bulbs blooming. Have you noticed the brightly colored flowers blooming around Liberty Corner School? That can only mean "Kids in Bloom" month is here. This is your chance to make a donation to your children's enrichment program where 100% of your donation goes to exciting programs which make learning more interesting.



 At the LCS Spring Social, "Denim and Diamonds", held on Saturday March 12, at Fiddler's Elbow, we had a Giving Board fundraiser generated from items on our own Teachers' Wish Lists by grades and specials. If you are the donating type that likes "tangible" items and couldn't make it to the Social, then please review what's left on the Teachers' Wish List which will be on our PTO website after the event. Be sure to check out the many ways you can help enhance your children's learning experience. Maybe the company you work for would be interested in donating any of these items or can get these items at a discount.

Thank you to all the committee chairs and members for all of their efforts in making the Sweetheart Dance, Mother/Son Bowling, Family Movie night and the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf such successes. The LCS students and the parents look forward to getting out and having fun with their friends and family. These events are always well attended. A special thank you to the third grade teachers, administration and the PTO committee headed up by Nes Montag, Sherri Pastor-Orr and Maggie Gould for making the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf a memorable event for the third grade class. You can read more about these events in this newsletter.



March is a special month to Liberty Corner this year because of Wizards of Words. Three popular children authors, Tony Abbott, Ted Arnold and Cynthia Lord will spend the day teaching the children about their creative writing processes. This is truly the highlight of our enrichment program. Remember to ask your children what happened at school March 16 – 18th, when the authors visit, to hear firsthand about their experience with these famous authors.

Upcoming events are the PTO Book Fair the week of teacher conferences March 22-25, the 4th Grade Battle of the Books March 31, followed by the 5th Grade Battle on April 1st, and our first ever Family Walk/Run event at the end of April.

Sweetheart Dance Lost and Found

If your daughter attended the Sweetheart Dance, please double check your child's coat. There seems to have been a mix up. The coats must be very similar, so please look at them very carefully!

Lost:

A Black Shiny Coat with a Fur Cuffed Hood from The Children's Place

Found:

A Black Shiny Coat (with no hood attached) from Justice

PTO Board 2010-2011

Co-Presidents: Laurie Dobson (lbdobson@msn.com) and Jeanne Starr (eagerstarr@aol.com)

Co-1st Vice Presidents (Programming and Scheduling): Zaida Harrison (zaidaharrison@optonline.net) and Bernadette Taylor (bernietaylor@optonline.net)

Co-2nd Vice Presidents (Fundraising): Barbara Sileo (sileo4@hotmail.com) and Linda Picardo (linnyp@optonline.net)

Treasurer: Bridget Jaeger (BridgetJ@JaegerLumber.com)

Assistant Treasurer: Maggie Gould (miscala@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Larissa Milligan (larissa_milligan@hotmail.com)

Communications Officer Heather Whyte-Kattas (heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexus.com)

For more information go to www.LibertyCornerPTO.org

From the Principal's Desk ~~ Dr. Pecoraro

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing Winter break. My daughter, grandsons and I spent a glorious week in Steamboat Springs, CO visiting my son and skiing on amazing conditions. However, now I am so ready for Spring!



March looks to be a very busy month with Wizards of Words as the highlight of the month. Mr. Mullarkey has been busy getting the children ready for author visits with Tedd Arnold, Tony Abbott and Cynthia Lord. WOW is always a special event where children learn how to be successful authors from people who are in the business of writing children's literature. Sincere thanks to Mrs. Giammarino and Mrs. Dignan for preparing and overseeing this wonderful experience.



PTO volunteers continue to work with and encourage the 4th and 5th graders who are preparing for "The Battle of the Books." The final "battles" will take place on 3/31 and 4/1 at 7 p.m. in the gym. PTO volunteers also engaged the third graders in real life lessons about government and the judicial system as the children prepared arguments and gathered evidence for the "Trial of the Big Bad Wolf." Thanks to Mrs. Montag and Ms. Pastor for their tireless efforts.

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for March 22-25 as well as the popular PTO Book Fair. The children will be given opportunities to preview and peruse book selections prior to the fair to help them choose books they would like to purchase. Please remember that a 1 p.m. dismissal is in effect for conference days.

Mr. Oliver, Mr. Rauschenberger and I accepted our third New Jersey School of Character award on March 15 at Rider University. We were also invited to present our Character Education program and initiatives at the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD) conference. Initiatives such as Bucket Fillers, One Book Book Club, Peer Mediators, Principal's Journal, service-learning projects, Peace Patrol and the Golden Tray were shared with conference participants. Our grassroots program was implemented in 1999 and has continued to evolve as teachers and students reflect on our Character Education practices, fine-tuning them to meet the needs of all school community members. The NJSOC recognition was earned because our teachers and students have a clear understanding of what good character development means and how a person of good character thinks and acts. We are very proud of our accomplishments in this area.



Thank You!

Sweetheart Dance — Patty Vollmar and Heather Watson-Kramer for making the Sweetheart Dance a night to remember. The decorations and food displays were truly amazing. The girls and their dates had a wonderful time dancing, eating and chatting with their friends.



Trial of the Big Bad Wolf — Nes Montag and Sheri Orr for the outstanding job they did with the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf for our 3rd grade students. The trial certainly taught our children a lot about our legal system. We also want to thank the children and their families for all their hard work and dedication You made it a very successful event.


Staff Winter Breakfast — Melissa Castner and Mary Carpenter Kupsch, Co-Chairs for the Staff Winter Breakfast. LCS Teachers and Staff were hosted to breakfast, including made to order waffles, in the cafeteria. Their many tasty selections of breakfast foods and drink satisfied all and made for good conversation and camaraderie. Thank you for your hard work in successfully putting together a great meal for our well deserving LCS staff.




Movie Night — Jan Blakeman and Robin LaVersa, Co-Chairs for Movie Night. Just before our winter break, LCS families were treated to a special movie night. The family movie was How to Train Your Dragon, a great cartoon enjoyed by all in the gym. Thank you for all your hard work in making the evening special for the LCS children and parents.

Your PTO at Work

Look what PTO volunteers and donations have accomplished in the past month:

Sweetheart Dance: A wonderful night was held for dads (or other significant men) and their daughters. We had close to 80% of all LCS girls attend the event for a magical night of dancing, crafts, dinner and dessert, along with portraits and all the Shirley Temples you could drink. 


Spring Social — Denim and Diamonds: The Committee continued planning our fun filled March 'grown ups only' social event. 

Movie Night: We had a Family Fun evening for all in February with popcorn and the movie *How to Train Your Dragon*.

Staff Winter Breakfast: A big thank you event for our teachers included a wonderful breakfast before they started on their busy day.

Trial of the Big Bad Wolf: The third grade attorneys rested their cases as the juries deliberated the fate of the Big Bad Wolf!

Many Thousand Gone — The Underground Railroad: The PTO funded a full school assembly featuring Rochel Gardner Coleman who skillfully told the story of the men, women and children of the Underground Railroad.

High Touch High Tech — Edison's Workshop: The PTO funded a fun interactive program for the 4th grade from the traveling Franklin Institute where they explored the amazing world of electricity. 

High Touch High Tech — Rainforest Safari: The PTO funded a presentation to each 3rd grade classroom on the rainforests.

Safety Cables: New safety cables were purchased for the new gymnasium climbing ropes.

Directory Corrections

Please make the following changes to your 2010-2011 Liberty Corner School Directory:

BYRNE, CHRISTOPHER (5 - House)
BYRNE, ALEXANDRA (3 - Benson)
ptbyrne3@yahoo.com

KO, SOPHIA (5 - Russo)
647-1817
20 Parkwood Lane

STOTO, NICHOLAS (3 - Semler)
STOTO, ANTHONY (1 - Clark)
201-787-6788

TURNER, LILY (K - Baliko)
brigcturner31@gmail.com
647-0805

If you have corrections, please fill out a directory correction form at www.libertycornerpto.org

PEC Event — Harlem Wizards

"Tip-Off" Autism Awareness Month with the Harlem Wizards! Join the Bernards PEC and HOPE Autism Foundation as we co-sponsor Trick Hoops and Alley-Oops with the Harlem Wizards vs. the Ridge Devils in honor of Autism Awareness Month. Game day is Sunday, April 3rd from 2-4 pm at Ridge High School Gym. Tickets are limited, so order yours now. The tickets cost \$10 when booked in advance and \$15 at the door. Don't miss the fun! Come get your game on for a great cause! See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more info and registration form.

March Is Kids In Bloom Month

March is an exciting month at Liberty Corner School as our "Kids In Bloom" campaign kicks off with a bang. "Kids In Bloom", co-chaired by Kate Townsend and Karen Feringa, is the vehicle by which the Liberty Corner School and Parent Teacher Organization (LCS-PTO) funds enrichment programs for our children.



Now in its fourth year "Kids In Bloom" continues to have an important responsibility - maintaining the programs our children already enjoy and funding them in full through your generosity.

Civil War reenactments, Wizards of Words and visiting scientists are a few of the unique programs that your child will participate in and learn from. Liberty Corner teachers file mini-grant applications to Dr. Pecoraro, who then determines and awards those that best suit and enhance the particular grade curriculum.

Like any LCS PTO project the "Kids In Bloom" annual return is based solely on your support. Please commit to participating at any level your budget allows. Any gift makes a real impact and gifts are 100% tax deductible.

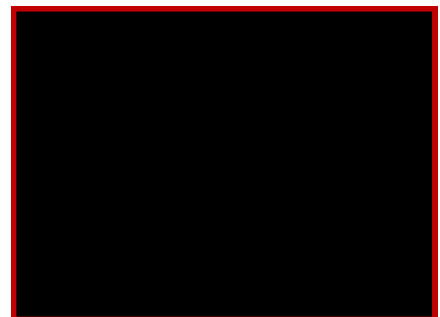
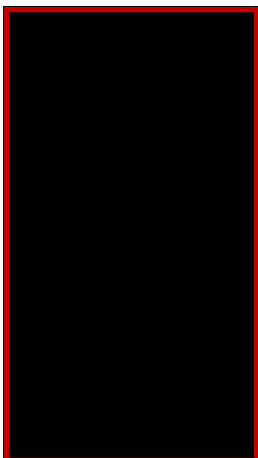
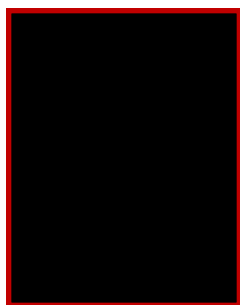
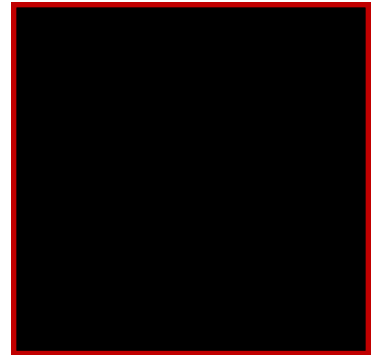
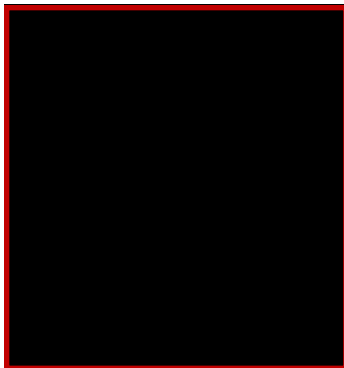
Simply return your reply envelope from the brochure mailing including a check made out to LCS-PTO for "Kids In Bloom" and watch our children bloom!

Sweetheart Dance ~~ Co-chairs Patty Vollmar and Heather Watson-Kramer

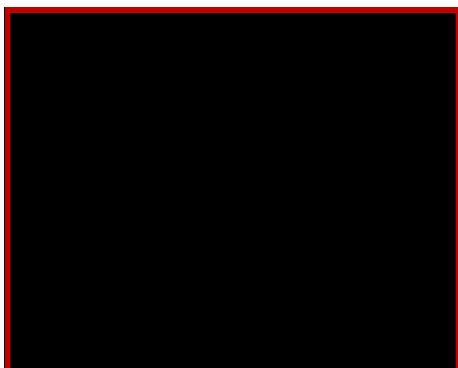
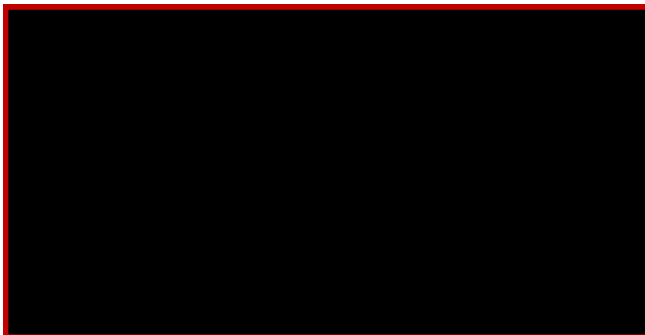
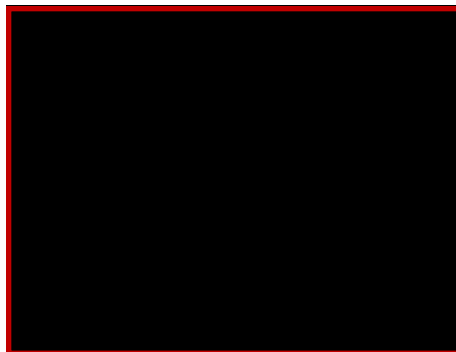
On Friday, February 11th, the Fourth Annual Liberty Corner School Sweetheart Dance was held at LCS. Over 220 girls and their dates had a blast as they danced the night away in the beautifully decorated LCS Gymnasium. Each girl was greeted with a corsage and her date was given a boutonniere. The couples were then photographed before they ventured to the gym to join the party. There were special prizes handed out to the girls that were dancing with their dads, crafts to be made, and delicious food, desserts, and beverages for the "Sweethearts" to enjoy. The girls received goodie bags and delicious homemade LCS Heart Cookies as they left the dance.

Along with having a great time, the "Sweethearts" also helped out our community. Each girl was asked to bring a donation for the Somerset County Food Bank. We collected over six large containers of donations which were delivered to the food bank the following week.

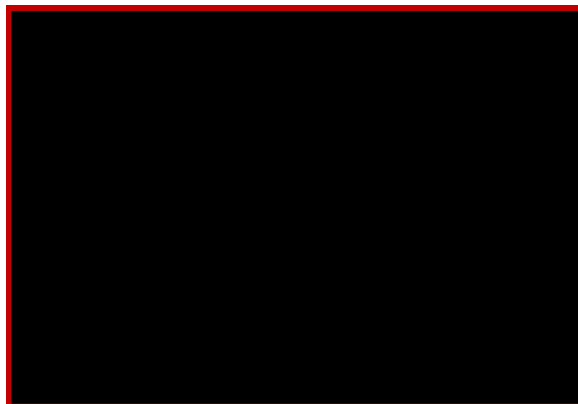
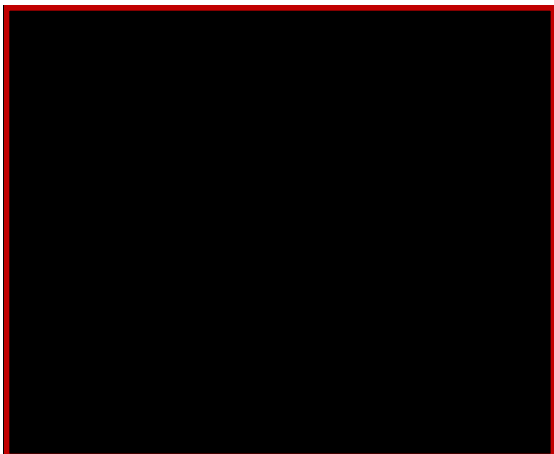
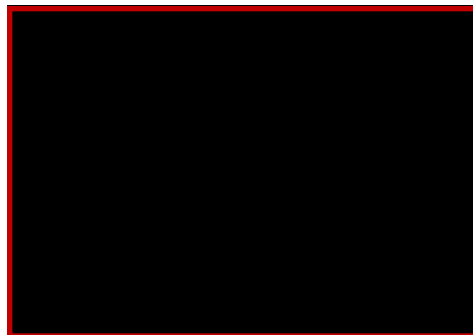
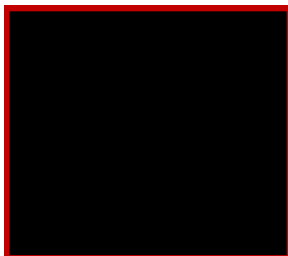
We had a really great committee this year- a mixture of working Moms who fit in activities where they could, Moms who knew they couldn't attend the dance but did all they could in preparation and others that were meeting every other week getting all the details down. The committee members were Jackie Blank, Jill Bond, Tracey Byrne, Cathy Cheo-Isaacs, Alexa DeCandia, Tina DelGiorno, Denise D'Airies, Marion McGlynn-Egan, Felice Fullem, Nancy Gallo, Michelle Ivarone, Lisa Janjua, Maureen Johnson, Anita Keller, Dorit Kransdorf, Terri Laird, Michelle Martucci, Larissa Milligan, Allison Newman, Sheri Pastor-Orr, Ellen Perillo, Alexis Pinto, Roe Schottenfeld, Flo Smith, Nicole Smith, Bernie Taylor, Sandra Thier, Carolyn Wightman, Donna Wilson, and Wanning Wu. Thanks for all the planning, preparation and execution!



Sweetheart Dance ~~ Continued



Sweetheart Dance ~~ Continued...



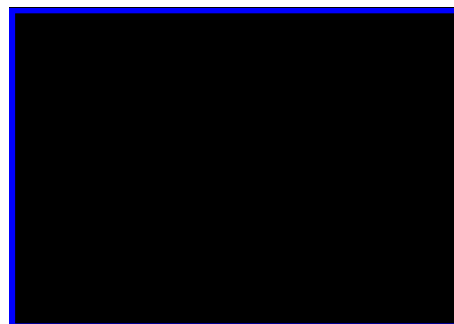
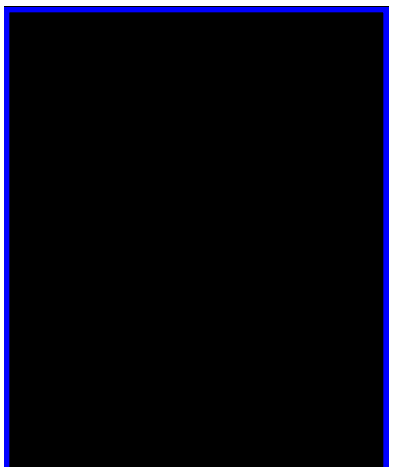
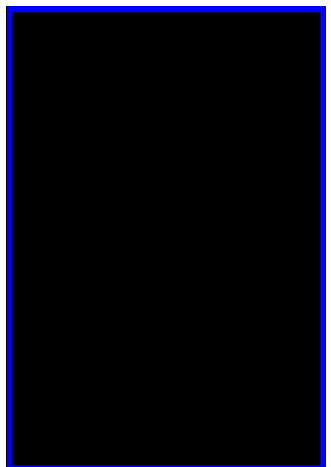
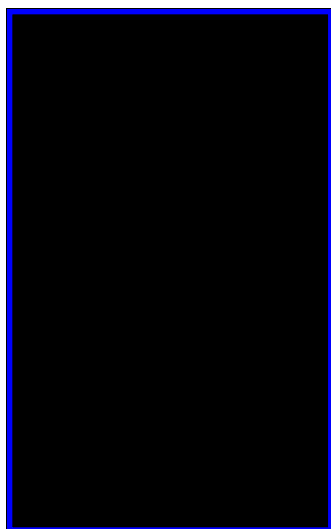
Family Movie Night ~~ Co-chairs Jan Blakeman and Robin LaVersa

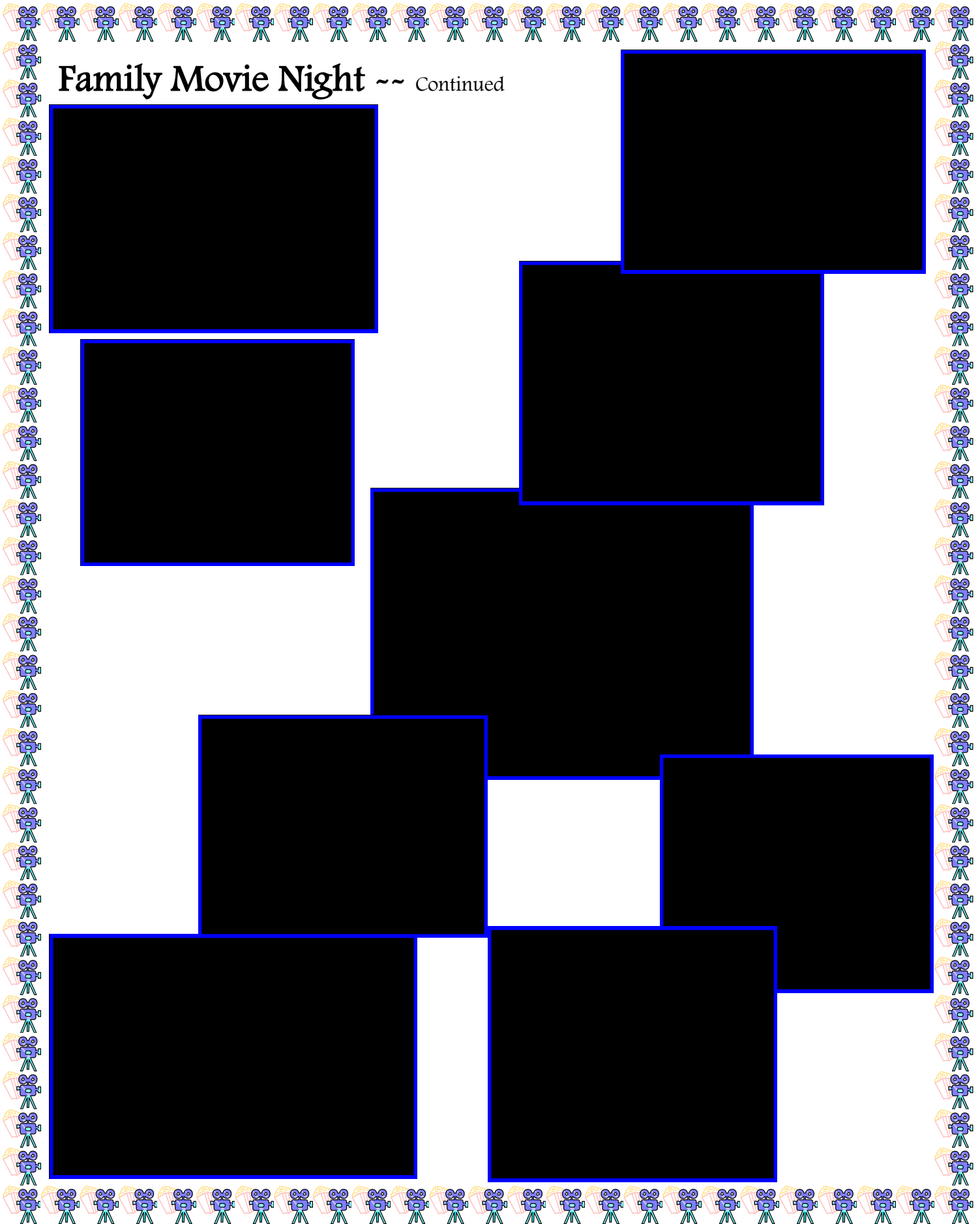
The first annual (free!) Family Movie Night was held in the LCS gym on Thursday, February 17th. "How to Train Your Dragon" was the movie shown, and everybody had a good time! Many thanks to Robin LaVersa & her daughter Amanda for the movie trivia shown before the movie and during intermission. Any family who RSVP'd before the event was entered into a raffle, and the winner was announced during intermission. Congratulations to the Bowen family who received a great movie night package - a "How to Train Your Dragon" DVD, a snuggly blanket throw, and several movie-size boxes of goodies.

Intermission featured a 5th-grade bake sale and Spiritwear sale, and we're happy to report that the proceeds will go to the 5th-grade celebration at the end of the school year.

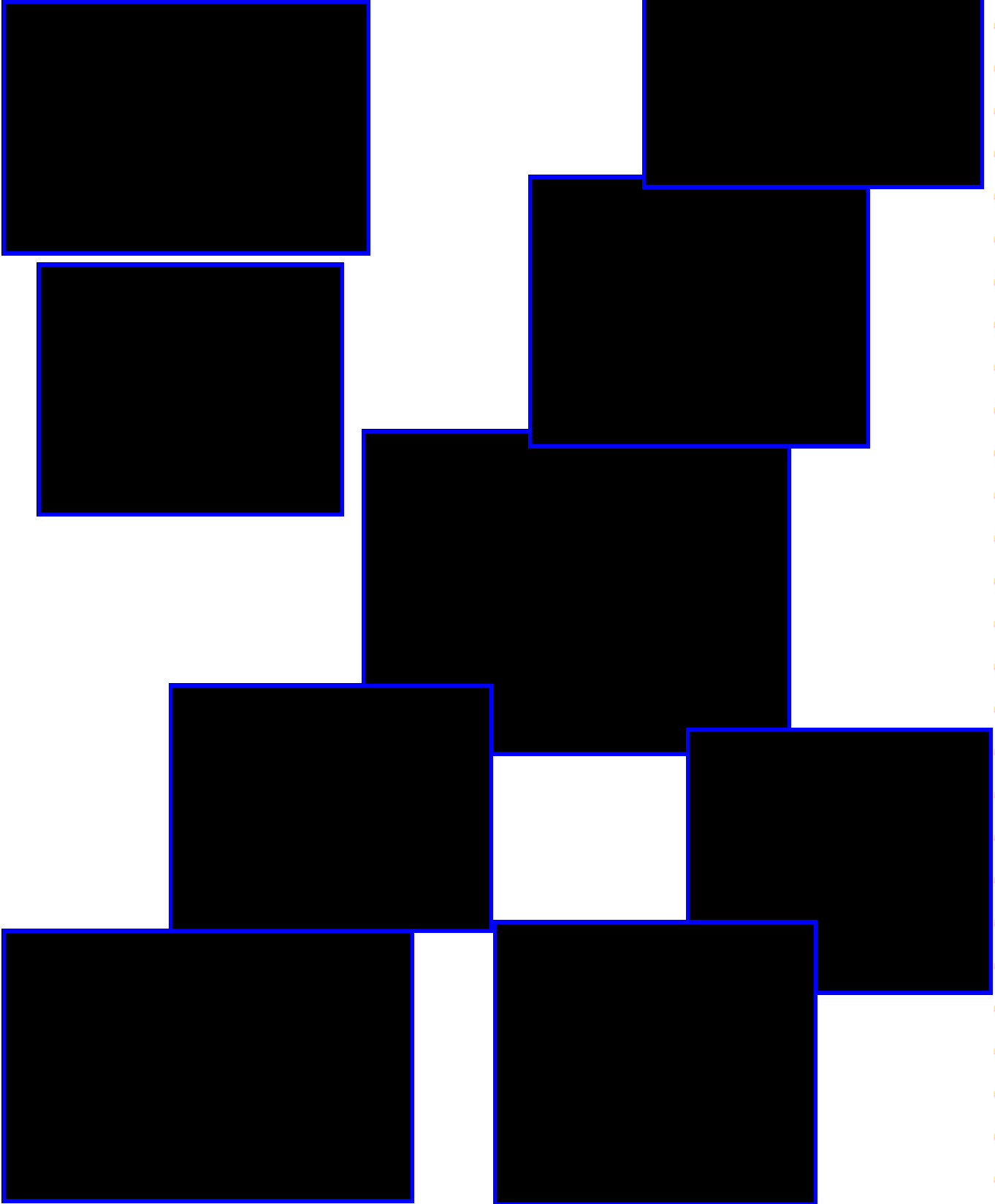
Many thanks to the members of the Movie Night committee for their hard & appreciated work: Mary Kate Melilli, Jen Crewe, Melissa Castner and Lisa Laurino.

Thank you to the Clearview Cinema in Bernardsville and to Dunkin Donuts for the donations of popcorn and donuts, which helped to make this night a success!





Family Movie Night ~~ Continued



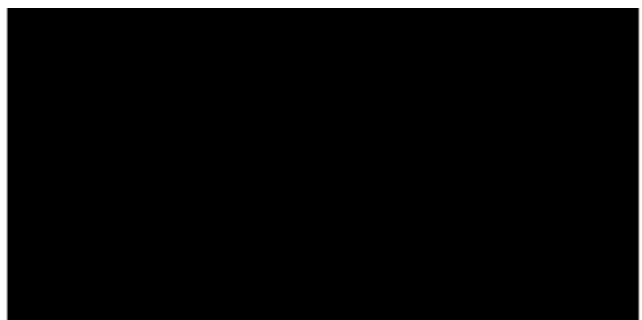
Trial of the Big Bad Wolf

On February 17, the third graders enjoyed the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf. The trials - one in the morning involving Ms. Kalfus' and Ms. Semler's classes, and one in the afternoon involving Ms. Benson's and Ms. Len's classes - were a great success! The lawyers, witnesses and bailiffs were all very well prepared for their roles, and the juries - which found the wolf guilty in the morning and innocent in the afternoon - were thoughtful and wise in their deliberations. All the children, whether they participated or simply watched the trial, had great fun as they learned about the legal system from their trial experiences and their classroom lessons.



Many thanks to the student trial participants who prepared for the trial after school and during their recesses, and helped assure that it was an enjoyable and educational experience for all.

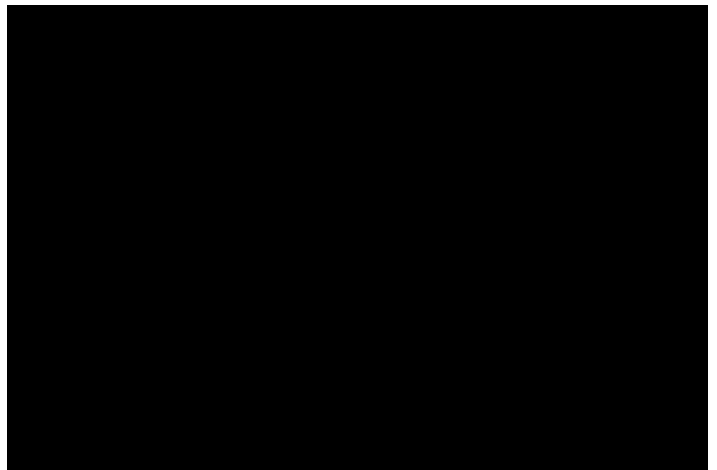
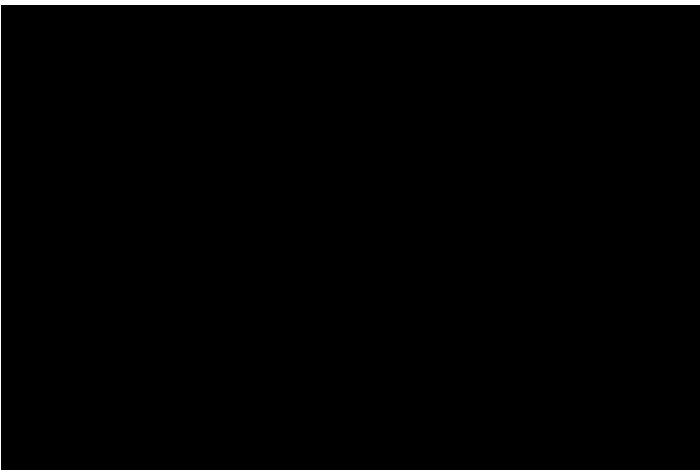
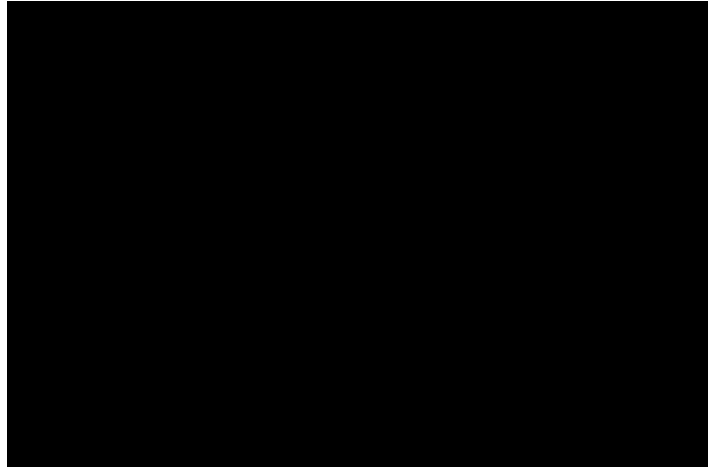
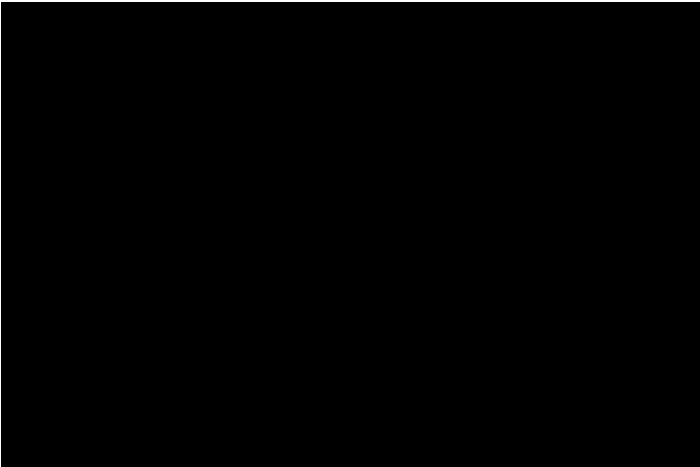
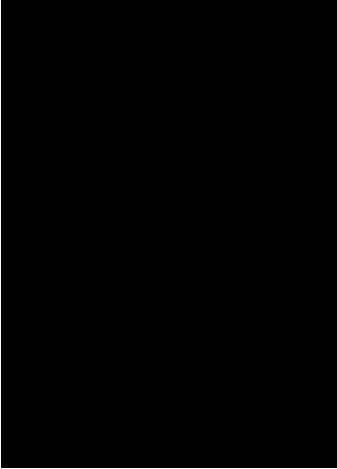
Thanks to the committee chairs, Sheri Pastor and Nes Montag, and committee members, Lou Chiafullo, Rick Beran, Brernadette Wroblak, Heather Whyte-Kattas, Suzanne Cerra, Alyson Hoffman, Maggie Gould, Elda Feldman, Elizabeth Michels, Lisa Laurino, Jill Betz, Jayanthi Venkataramani, Tony McEnroe, Maura McEnroe, Mark Phelps, Leslie Phelps, Heidi Hilgendorff, Kevin Orr, Brian Montag, Carolyn Connell, and Isabel Perez for all their help and time in training the student participants. Thanks also to the participants' parents, their third grade teachers, Dr. Pecoraro and all the LCS staff and administration for their patience, support, and logistical help with the trials.



Trial of the Big Bad Wolf ~ continued



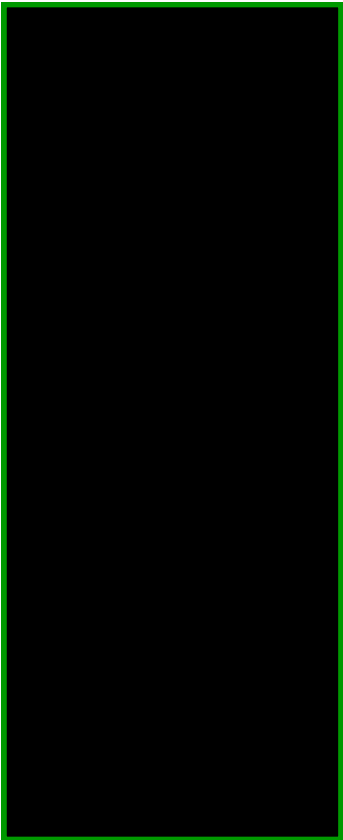
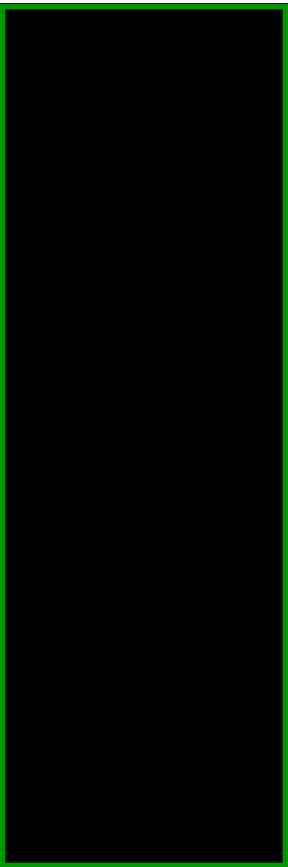
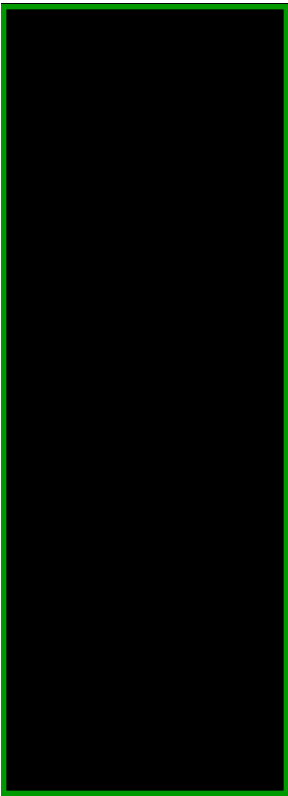
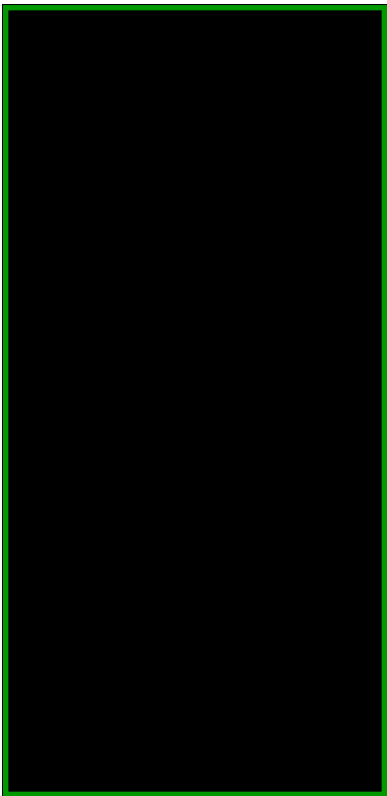
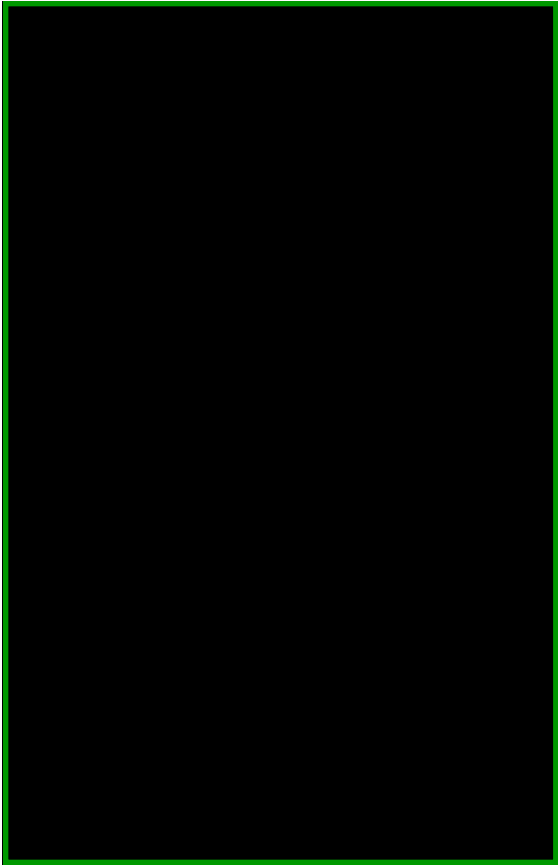
Rochel Coleman Assemblies



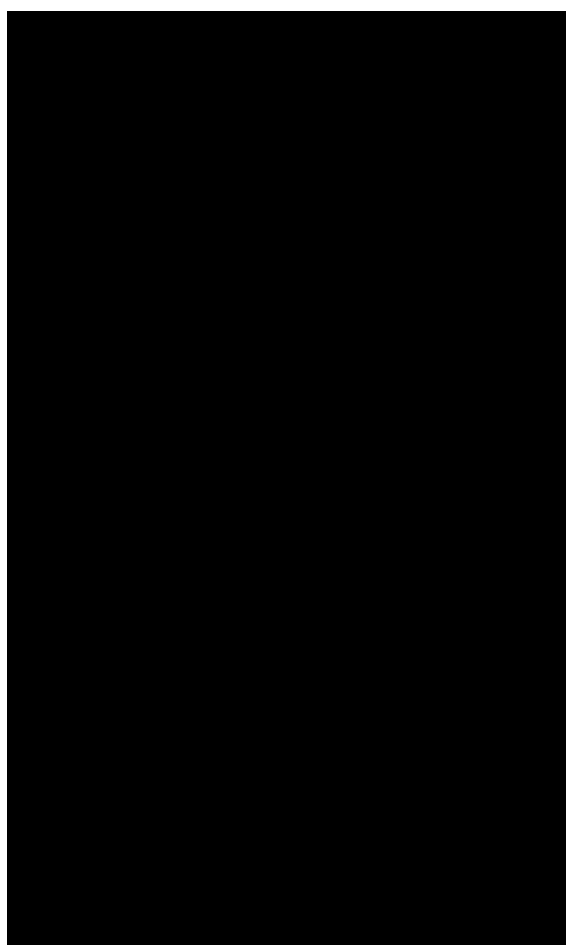
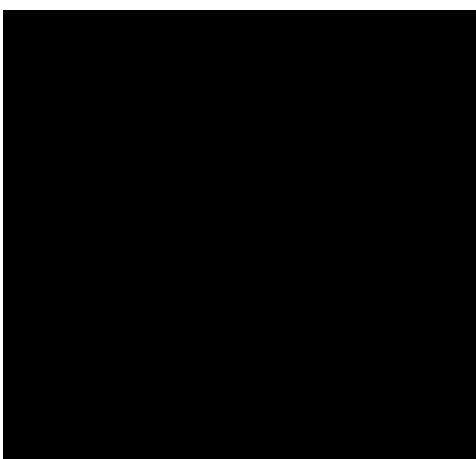
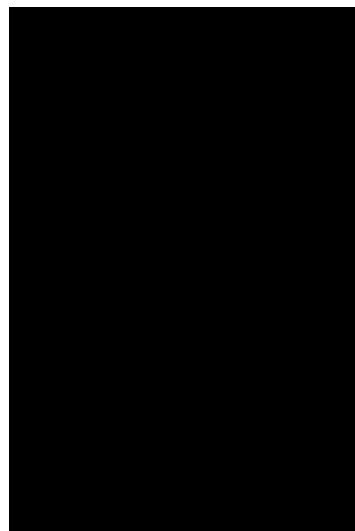
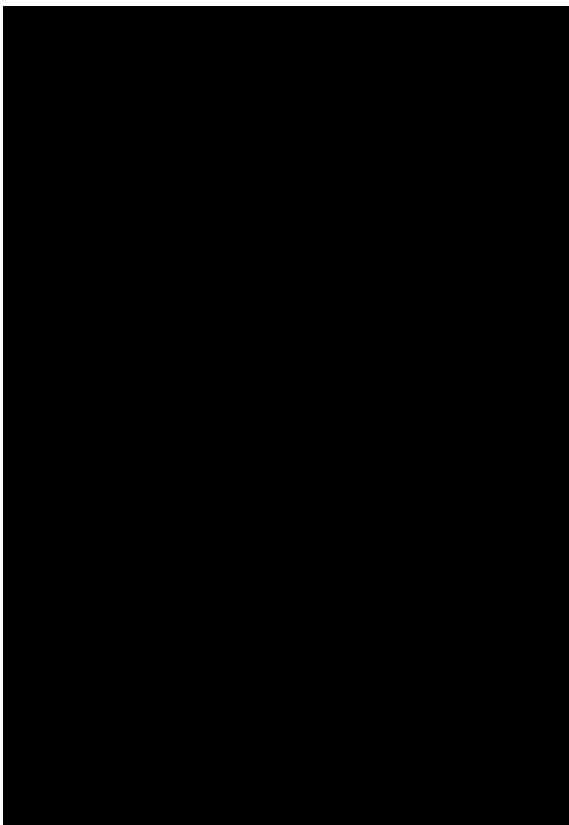
Staff Winter Breakfast



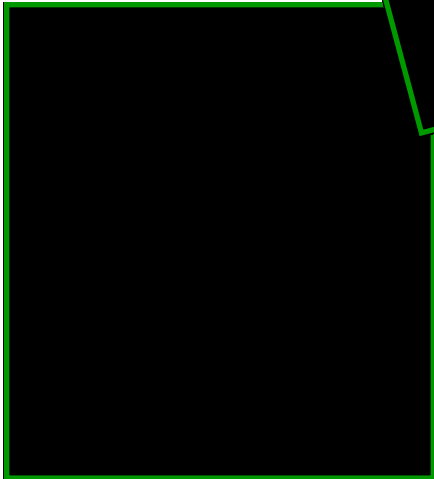
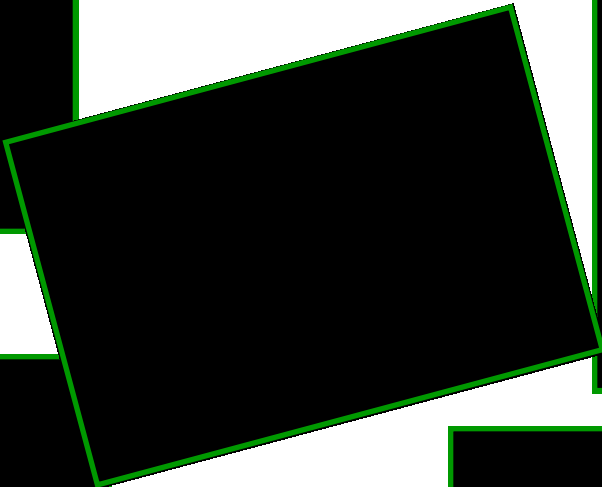
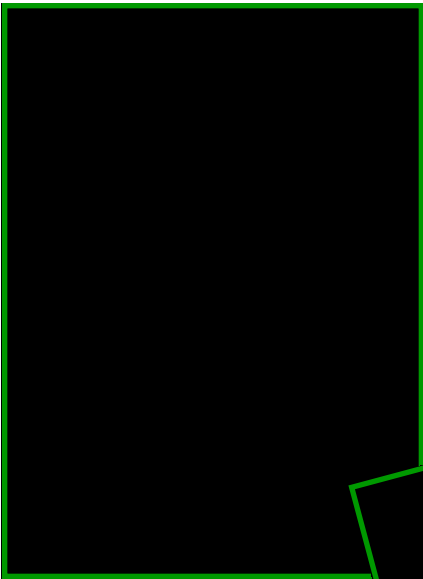
Mismatch Day



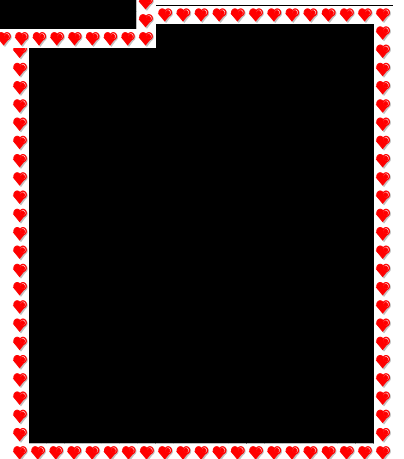
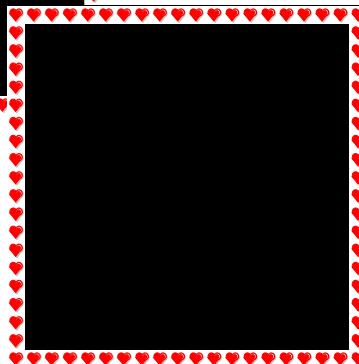
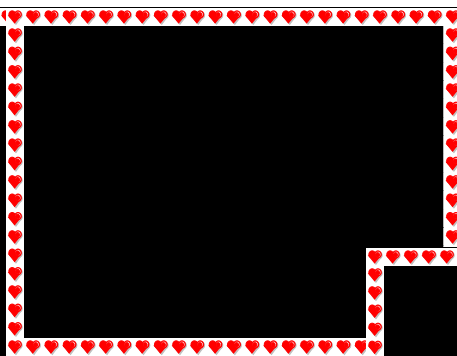
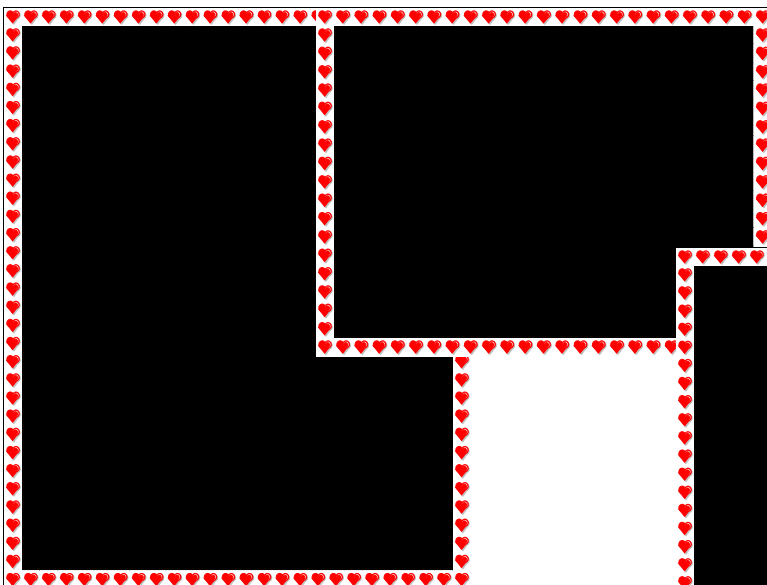
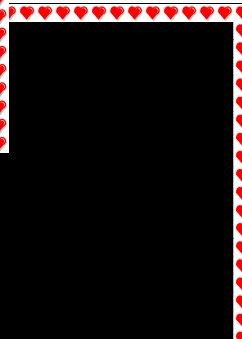
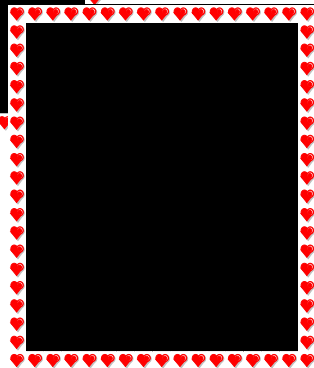
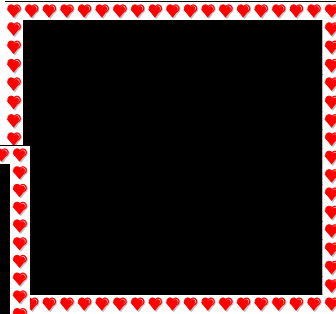
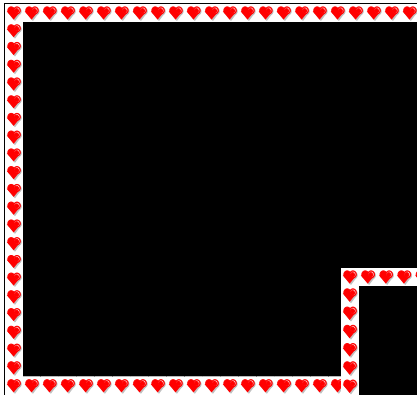
100th Day



Rain Forest Safari



Valentine's Day at LCS



Specials Report

Don't forget to check out the teachers' websites for more information. Just go to www.bernardsboe.com and select **Liberty Corner School ORD** in the left hand column. Then scroll down to the teacher's name and click on their Oncourse icon.

PE — All grade levels are now participating in an educational gymnastic program that will afford opportunities to all students to challenge themselves at their appropriate level of ability. Balance beams, parallel bars, vaulting trapezoids and floor area mats fill the gymnasium. Educational gymnastics is inclusive in nature and still offers a variety of opportunities for the advanced gymnast to challenge their mental and physical capacities. Gymnastics has something for everybody. It is very important for your child's safety and ability to participate and that they come to PE with the proper attire for gymnastics. Leotards or gymnastic uniforms are not necessary, comfortable clothing that is not too loose or too tight works well. Taking appropriate risks, whether successful or not, is extremely important to the development of our children. Please take the time to talk to your children to encourage them to challenge themselves to endeavor in taking reasonable risks. This helps them to feel a true sense of accomplishment and self worth.

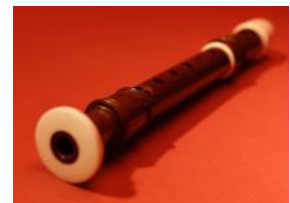


All grades are now working on a fitness segment with Mr. Bogart, our student teacher; the students get fifteen minutes with each class participating in various exercises.

Try some of these exercises with your kids at home. A family that exercises together sweats together. We cannot assume children know how to stay fit. We must work hard with them in this area in order to ensure the health and future of our children.

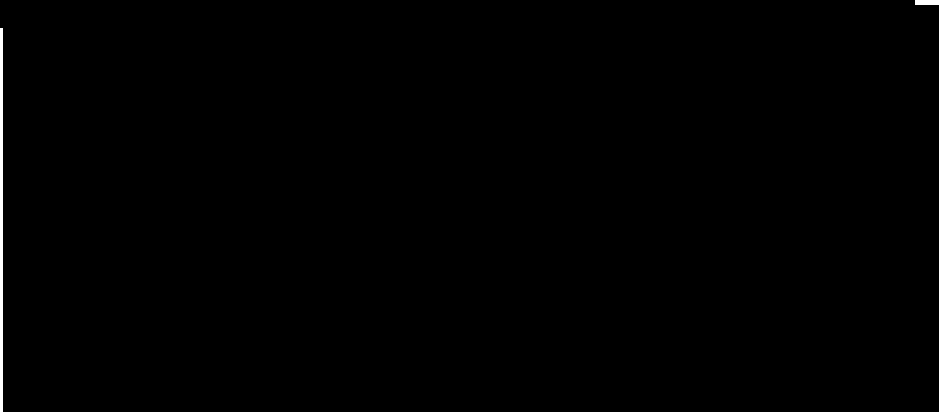
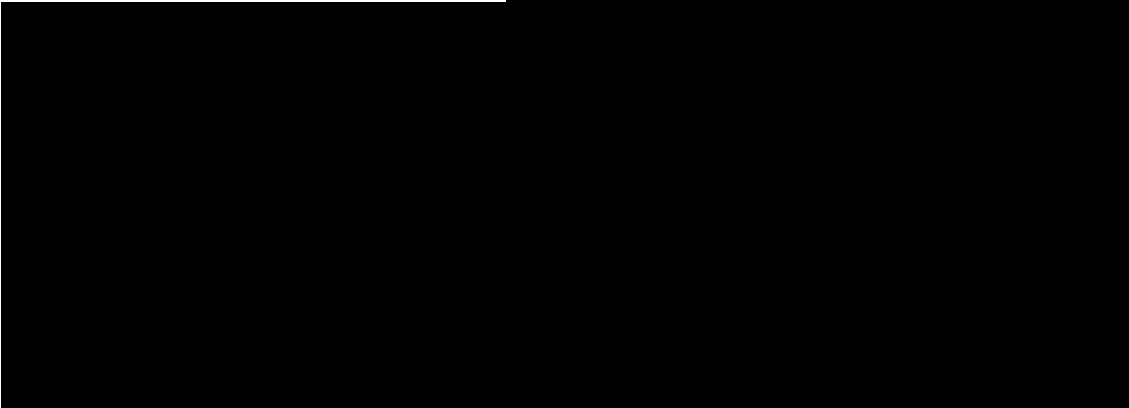
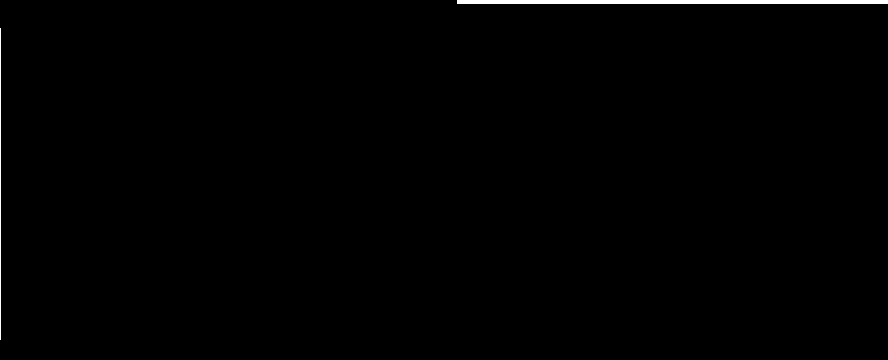
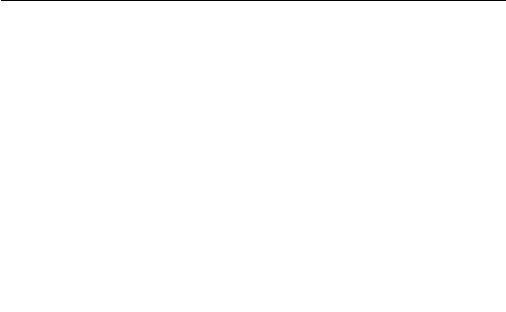
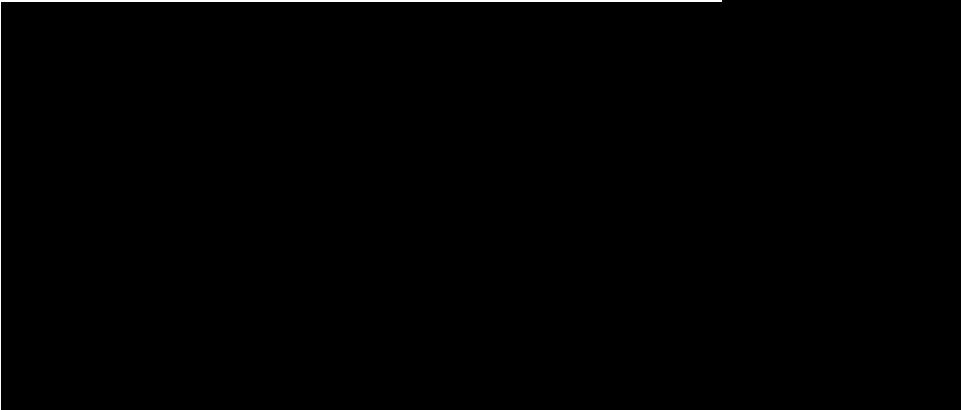
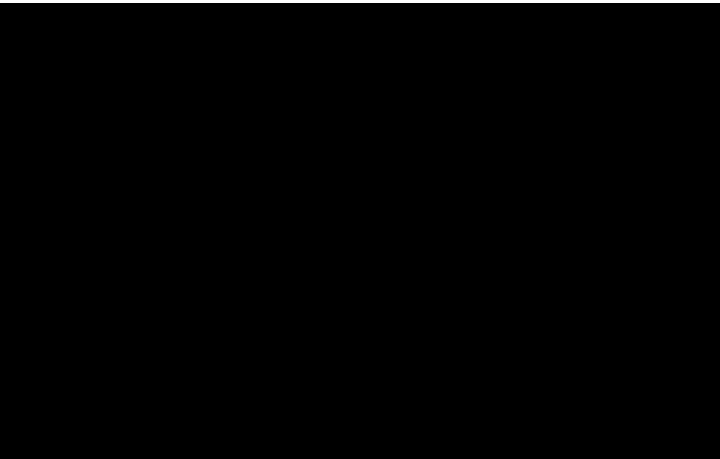
The PE Guys

Music — Liberty Corner students will be learning about The Beach Boys for their "Music of the Month". We will discuss their influence on surf rock as well as their close vocal harmonies, catchy tunes and fun lyrics. Students in grades 3 through 5 will be beginning their recorder unit. We will review how the recorder is made, what professional recorder players sound like and the parts of the instrument. They will review old notes and learn new ones that will expand the range of their songs.



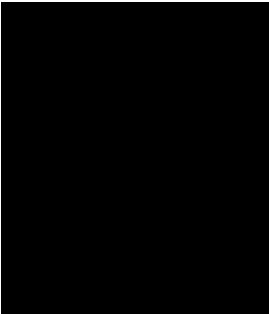
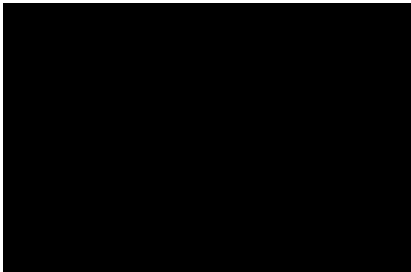
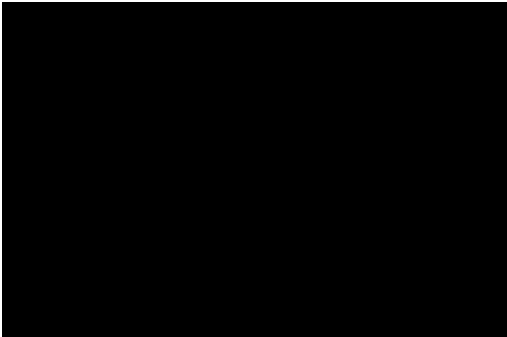
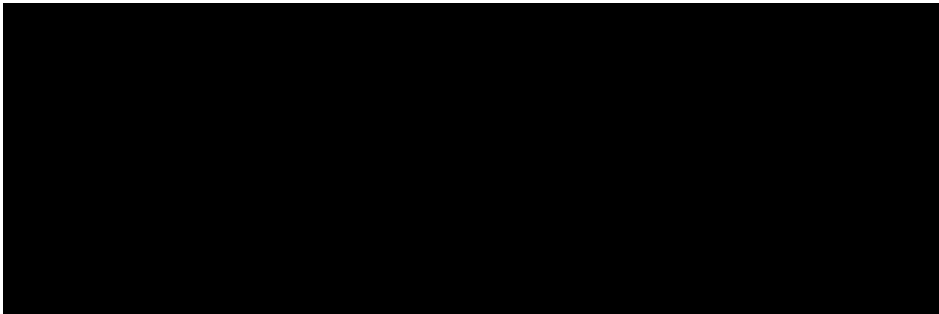
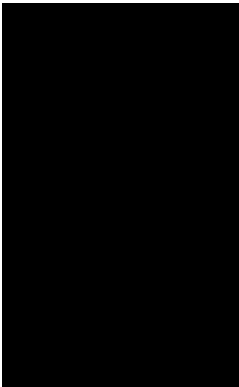
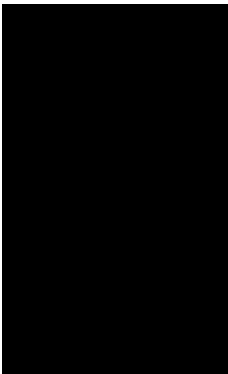
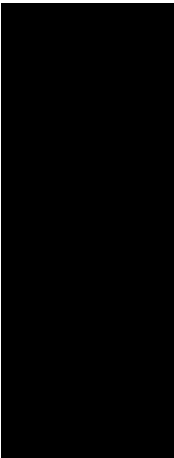
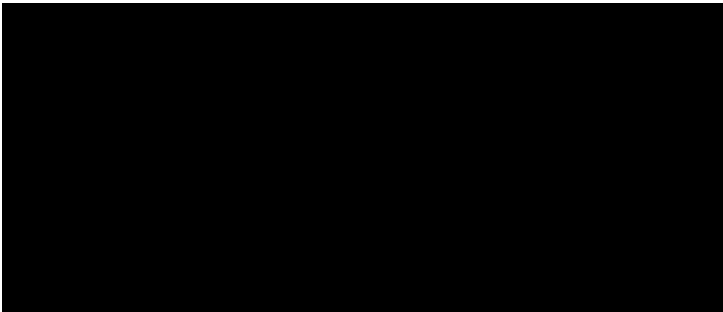
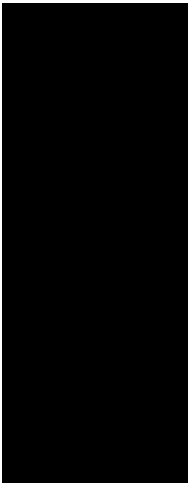
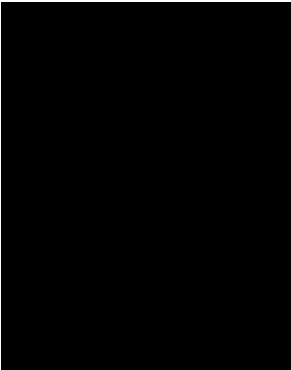
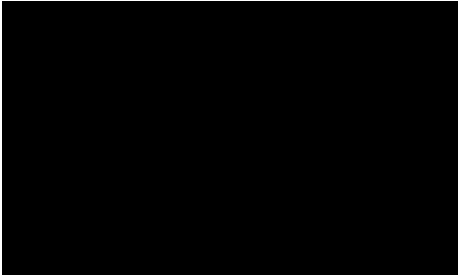
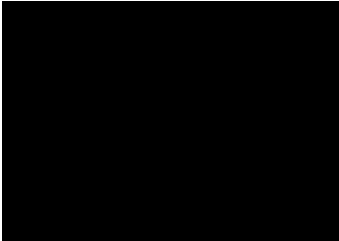
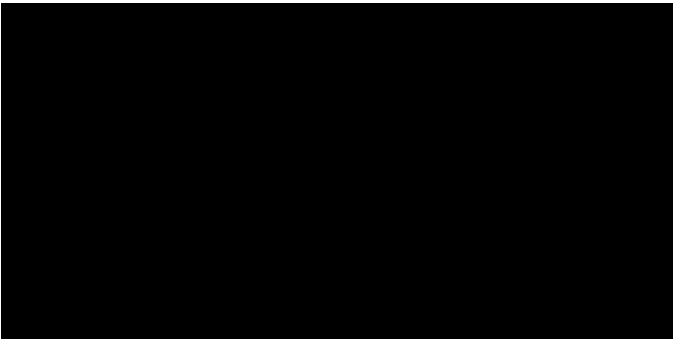
Grade 5 Dance Show

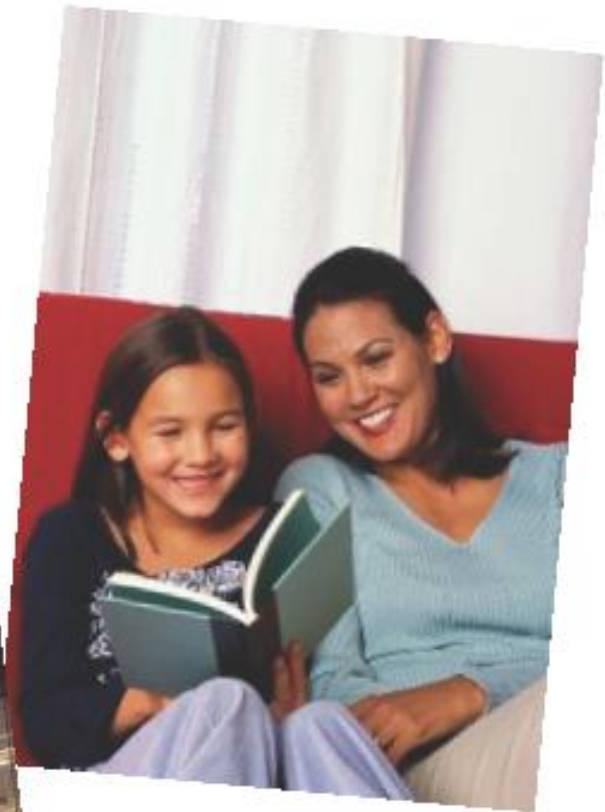
Grade 5 Dance Show ~ continued



Grade 5 Dance Show ~ continued

Grade 5 Dance Show ~ continued





Reading Defined

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Wed. March 23rd 10-11:30am

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**Learn the core components of reading and
take home tools to enhance your child's ability to read**

Presented by

Lisa Vitale-Stanzione - supervisor of special education k-8

BOE Building Conference Room

RSVP by Monday 3/21
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| Space is limited

THE HARLEM WIZARDS

ARE COMING

TO TOWN!



vs Ridge Devils

presented by:

Bernards PEC & Hope Autism Foundation

venue:

Ridge High School Gym

date & time: **Sunday April 3, 2011**

2:00 - 4:00 PM

advance tickets

STUDENTS/SENIORS

\$ 10.00

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$ 10.00

tickets at the show

STUDENTS/SENIORS

\$ 15.00

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$ 15.00

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