



Liberty Corner PTO

March 2013

A Message from the PTO Co-Presidents -- Bernie Taylor and Zaida Harrison

Welcome back. We hope you had a relaxing winter break!

There are many activities taking place at LCS to keep the children engaged and entertained. The enrichment activities continued as our favorite High Touch High Tech scientists visited LCS. The 2nd grade learned about the different forms of matter, the 3rd graders learned about chemical reactions, and our 5th graders learned about silly cells.

We were pleased to have KITS Interactive Theatre perform "Mother Nature" for our 1st grade students and "Pioneer Travel" for our 5th graders. These events help to enhance our children's educational experience.

Our music enthusiasts were very busy preparing for the Band/Chorus concert as well as the District String Festival that took place in January. The children and their teachers did an outstanding job preparing for these very special events.

Our Kindergartners were thrilled to meet the penguins from Jenkinson's Aquarium. The trainer educated the children on the habitat and favorite food of penguins. This was a real crowd pleaser.

Mother Nature has also been busy this school year and as a result our Sweetheart Dance had to be postponed a few days. Nothing could dampen the spirits of our "sweethearts"; it was a magical night for the girls and their dates.

Once again our third grade students deliberated the guilt or innocence of the Big Bad Wolf. They were able to learn about our judicial system while acting out the various roles. Thank you to all the attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and bailiffs for an outstanding job.

Our 4th and 5th grade students are busy preparing for "Battle of the Books" which will take place in March. They are reading their assigned books and creating posters for the event. They will compete against their peers to see who can answer the most questions correctly. The students enjoy this fun-filled event every year.

We have many more events planned such as Buddies & Books Café, Parents Spring Social, and Wizards of Words to name a few. Please take this opportunity to visit our new and improved website www.LibertyCornerPTO.org. You can access our PTO calendar with the latest information on upcoming events, pictures, forms, and other useful information.

Thank you to all our parent volunteers. Without your support, we would not be able to provide our children with all these amazing activities.

PTO Board 2012-2013

Co-Presidents: Bernie Taylor (bernietaylor20@gmail.com) and Zaida Harrison (zaidaharrison@verizon.net)

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For more information go to www.LibertyCornerPTO.org

From the Principal's Desk -- Dr. Pecoraro



In response to the recent events in Newtown, CT, we have tightened security at LCS by limiting the access to our building. The only entrances children, teachers and visitors can enter are the Church Street entrance and the main office entrance. Before 8 a.m., the morning care personnel can let people in at the Church Street entrance by having staff and/or visitors knock on the door. We hope to replace this process by requesting a buzzer system. The main office entrance is accessible at 8 a.m. when office personnel are present to screen visitors. The ramp entrance by the Music room is opened and supervised by 8:30 a.m. The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Bernards Township police, is researching additional ways to safeguard our students across the district.

We have purchased magnetic strips to cover the door lock, which enables us to keep the doors locked at all times. In the event of a lockdown, the teachers simply remove the magnetic strip and the doors will lock automatically. This eliminates the need for a teacher to physically retrieve a key and lock the door when he or she may be nervous and ultimately fumbling with a key.

All student MAP scores have been sent home for your information. Please understand that the main purpose of MAP scores is to determine how teachers need to direct instruction to ensure student progress. This was the first time such a test was administered using computers, a format and method that most students are not familiar. The test also aligns with the national common core standards and our district is in the process of revamping our curriculum to align with those standards. The children will be taking another MAP test in the spring to determine academic growth. There is a very valuable parent workshop being presented by our Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Sean Siet, on **Thursday, March 14 at 7p.m. in the William Annin auditorium**. You are invited to bring your child's individual results for personal review.

Mr. Oliver is planning a very informative Parent Academy for parents on **Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 in Room 18**. He will be sharing, along with Mr. Peluso, information about Internet Safety and Technology in Education. This topic is timely as we are all concerned about keeping our children safe as they navigate web sites and the Internet. Light refreshments will be served and babysitting provided for school aged children.

FYI

Many of you may have seen the news story regarding the use of metal water bottles by young children. The bottles in question are the ones with the very narrow opening at the top. It has been noted that some children push their tongues into the bottle opening thus causing suction. Once this happens, the tongue swells and the child is not able to remove his/her tongue from the bottle, which ultimately requires surgery to remove the bottle from the child's tongue. It is not a common occurrence but parents should be aware of this potential hazard. It is my understanding that such bottles have been removed from store shelves but, many have been sold across the country.

Trial of the Big Bad Wolf ~

Charline Corbett, Laura Hubert, Nes Montag, Co-Chairs

Hear ye, hear ye...Court is in session! Third grade students recently performed a successful mock trial of the Big Bad Wolf. The children prepared for their roles as attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs, and jurors with the help of our dedicated Committee of parent volunteers. The attorneys were very convincing with their opening/closing statements and thought provoking questions. The witnesses knew their roles and responded with ease to the questions. The bailiffs performed their duties with confidence. The jurors paid close attention to the riveting details so they could render a verdict. For Kalfus/Comerford: Big Bad Wolf was found not guilty of destroying Bob and Ann's houses as well as murdering Ann. He was found guilty of killing Bob. For Len/Benson: Big Bad Wolf was found guilty of destroying Bob and Ann's houses and not guilty of murdering Bob and Ann. Court is adjourned!

Many thanks to the following Committee members who helped the students prepare for trial after school and during their recesses: Lisa Janjua, Lou Chiafullo, Kelli Schmolze, Zaida Harrison, Karen Santonastaso, Jayanthi Venkataramani, Debbie Marcus, Carolyn Connell, Ana Keenan, Christine Pietranotuono, Kimberly Portland.

Sweetheart Dance ~ Heather Watson-Kramer and Becca Moussally, Co-Chairs

Mother Nature and "Nemo" tried their best to mess up this year's Sweetheart Dance, but thankfully we were able to rearrange everything for Sunday, February 10th. Over 235 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, picture frames to be decorated, and delicious food, desserts, and beverages for the "Sweethearts" to enjoy. The girls received goodie bags and delicious homemade 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 14 boxes of food donations as well as \$470 from the sale of the Sweetheart messages and cash donations. All of these items were delivered to the food bank the following week.

The Sweetheart Dance Committee would like to thank the Ridge High School Life Skills Program for the wonderful Vegetable Platters. Thank you to the LCS Administration and Janitor Keith for being so helpful with all of the planning and re-planning. We would also like to send a big thank you to all of the volunteer bakers who sent in yummy desserts for the girls and their dates to enjoy!

We had a really great committee this year- So many of these wonderful women dropped everything and rearranged their own schedules to make this year's rescheduled dance a success. The committee members were Nicole Aucolino, Sarah Belote, Gail Blanchford, Jill Bond, Cathy Cheo-Isaacs, Tina DelGiorno, Allison Elian, Meghan Fedor, Nancy Gallo, Sara Garvey, Nancy Gross, Tracey Hennessy, Melanie Hodges, Michelle Ivarone, Lisa Janjua, Jeanine King, Terri Laird, Anne Lanphear, Natanya Levitz, Susan Lipton, Michelle Martucci, Andrea McDermott, Larissa Milligan, Maria Murphy, Mary Norton, Penny Novick, Debbie Nungster, Sheri Pastor-Orr, Alexis Pinto, Katie Rafanello, Susan Rascio, Karen Rosenthal, Becky Scheper, Joy Schmitt, Juana Schwed, Sharon Sigmund-Bloom, Karen Santonastaso, Nicole Smith, Kate Townsend, Brigitte Turner, Katie VanCleeef, Patty Vollmar, Linda Watson, Donna Wilson, and Dominique Wolfe. Thanks for all the planning, preparation, re-planning and execution!

Your PTO at Work

Here is what your PTO Volunteers and Donations have accomplished:

- January 8 and 9th - High Touch High Tech Scientist visited each of the 2nd grade classrooms and performed experiments on Matter.
 - January 11th - Linda Humes performed "A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr" at this all school assembly celebrating the life of Martin Luther King.
 - January 22 - 25th - the 4th graders were treated to a 4 day in-class writer residency program where they explored and produced poetry.
 - January 22nd - Kit's Theater performance entitled "Mother Nature", enthralled the 1st graders as they learned about conservation and saving mother earth.
 - January 24 and 25th - High Touch High Tech Scientist visited each of the 3rd grade classrooms and learned through experimentation about various chemicals and their reactions.
 - January 25th - Jenkinson's Penguins visited the Kindergarten class where all children got up close with these adorable creatures.
 - February 1st - the 4th graders enjoyed learning about the Lenape Indians through their seminar and exploration of many artifacts that Lenape Lifeways brought.
 - February 10th Sweetheart Dance - despite the delay, the Father's and Daughters enjoyed a fun filled and beautiful night together.
 - February 12th Cultural Arts Night - 4th graders auditioned for and performed magnificently at this second annual cultural arts night.
 - February 13th Trial of the Big Bad Wolf Day at school - 3rd graders performed a mock trial of the Big Bad Wolf and learned the basics of our legal system.
 - February 14th - Kit's Theater performed Pioneer Travel which used interactive theater to take the 5th graders on the Oregon Trail.
- Exciting Happenings coming your way from the PTO...**
- Mother/Son Bowling, Saturday, March 2nd
 - Buddies and Books Café, Thursday, March 7th, 6:30pm
 - Ramya Ramnarayan - Traditions of India (Dance) Date TBD
 - High Touch High Tech - Forensic Fun for 2nd Grade, Date TBD
 - Wizards of Words, March 18 - March 21
 - High Touch High Tech Rainforest Safari - 3rd Gr. March 21
 - Spring Social, March 23
 - Battle of the Books - 4th Gr., March 28
 - Battle of the Books - 5th Gr., March 28
 - Thomas Edison visits 3rd Gr., April 1
 - High Touch High Tech - Global Fever and Green Machine will visit the 4th grade for both programs in April.
- Some friendly reminders:**
- Early Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences March 25 - March 28th
 - School is Closed Friday, March 29th Religious Holiday
 - April 6th Family Walk/Run Event
 - Report Cards Online, April 19th
 - School is closed April 22-25th for Spring Break
 - School Open April 26th Makeup Day for Sandy

Thank You!

Sweetheart Dance: Even though she tried, Mother Nature could not dampen the good time the girls of LCS had thanks to Heather Watson-Kramer, Becca Moussally and their team! A big thank you to Heather and Becca for all their hard work planning and preparing for our annual Sweetheart Dance. Tubs full of food were collected for a local food pantry during the event where the girls danced, had their picture taken with their special someone and enjoyed an evening of crafts, food and fun. Thanks Heather and Becca!

Trial of the Big Bad Wolf: Innocent or Guilty? This year may have produced a mixed verdict for the Wolf, but it was a big win for Committee Chairs Nes Montag, Laura Hubert and Charline Corbett for putting together a wonderful program. Thank you, ladies, for the hard work you and your committee put in helping the children learn their parts as lawyers, jurors and witnesses as well as gain an understanding of our judicial system. It is always interesting to see the children get into 'character' and go through the process of a trial, with all of it's twists and turns. Thanks Nes, Laura and Charline!

The LCS PTO Newsletter: Once again, a heartfelt thank you to Sharon Bloom-Sigmund and Amanda Yanuklis for all of their hard work assembling and editing the LCS PTO Newsletter!

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.

Music — In the month of February, students did not have a specific Music of the Month, however, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students began playing recorders while K, 1st, and 2nd, grade started to learn about the Instruments of the Orchestra.

Cultural Arts Night on February 12th was a huge hit. Both the 4th and 5th grade students did a fantastic job in making it a special night.

In the month of March, all students will be learning about the culture and music of India. They will learn about traditional instruments, Bollywood music, traditional dances, and songs in native Indian languages. The highlight of the month will be on Friday, March 15th, when there will be an assembly with professional Indian dancers and musicians.

Lastly, students will continue preparing for the musical production of Peter Pan for their performance on Wednesday, April 10th.

P.E. — In the month of March, all grade levels will participate in an educational gymnastic program that will afford opportunities to all students to challenge themselves at their appropriate level of ability. In plain English, there is something for everybody. Olympic Gymnastics, by nature is a very demanding sport. Adding, subtracting, and emphasizing the correct elements, makes it safe and educational. Educational gymnastics is inclusive in nature, and still offers a variety of opportunities for the advanced gymnast to challenge their mental and physical capacities. It is very important for your child's safety and ability to participate, 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. These are great lessons of fortitude for the future. In the future, no one will remember if your child performed an advanced stunt in gymnastics but, they will remember the courage it took to try.

Photos



MLK Jr Performance



2nd Grade High Tech High Touch



Lenape Indians



Mother Nature



Jenkinson's Penguins



Trial of the Big Bad Wolf



Cultural Arts



