

Liberty Corner PTO


April 2011

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

Spring is here, really! Despite the below average spring temperatures, spring sports are gearing up and everyone's schedules will become a bit more hectic. We hope everyone uses the upcoming April 11-15 Spring Break to rest up with family and friends in preparation for the final leg of the school year and sprint to summer!

Our "Kids in Bloom" fundraiser ended on March 31st, but if you missed it, please feel free to send in your 100% tax-deductible donation at any time. KIB donations from last year paid for this year's Wizards of Words' captivating authors, Tedd Arnold, Tony Abbott and Cynthia Lord. Our dedicated WOW chairs, Kim Giammarino and Nancy Dignan, have already lined up well-known author Dan Gutman for next year!



 We hope we can speak for all attendees when we say that the LCS Denim & Diamonds Spring Social was a fabulous event! Fiddler's Elbow and the donated flower arrangements were beautiful, the food was fantastic, and the DJ was dynamite! Most importantly, your generous donations made our Teachers' Wish Lists a huge success! Thanks to Lisa LaTourette and Heather Watson-Kramer and the entire social committee for an all-around great evening.

The fourth and fifth grade teams worked really well together in preparation for the Battle of the Books on March 31st and April 1st. Their hard work definitely paid off and the new 7:00 pm battles were a great way to invite family and friends to witness the excitement of the battle firsthand. Families and friends will also be able to participate in the upcoming Family Walk/Run event on April 29th! The registration flyer has been sent via email, and it is also available at [http://www.libertycornerpto.org/docs/flyers_forms/Family Fun Walk and Run.pdf](http://www.libertycornerpto.org/docs/flyers_forms/Family_Fun_Walk_and_Run.pdf).

April is a big month for the Bernards Township School District and it is important that everyone be as informed as possible going into the April 27th elections. We will be voting on the school budget and for three seats on the Board of Education (look for our very own LCS parent, Bev Darvin Cwerner, on the ballot for re-election to the BOE). Regardless of whether or not you agree completely with the proposed budget, please understand that if it is voted down - which could easily happen with poor voter turnout - more cuts WILL be made, in addition to those already in the proposed budget. Voting "no" will not change the allocation of the budget approved by the BOE. A defeated budget will simply require more cuts to our extremely lean programming. Please be sure to vote on April 27th!



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 (mjscale@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



As a school community, we declared the month of March as “Friendship Month” in honor of Mrs. Kathy Bubser, our Speech Therapist who recently passed away. To honor her memory, we



conducted a Character Education “Friendship Walk” on Wednesday, March 30. The entire school dressed in yellow (symbolic of friendship) and walked the perimeter of our playground reading friendship messages posted along the route. Prior to our walk, children from Mrs. Bubser’s caseload placed an engraved brick in our Centennial Garden to honor her memory as a Speech Therapist, but more importantly, as our friend.

To further recognize her contributions and dedication to our students and her LCS friends, teachers have created “Bubser Book Bags.” Mrs. Bubser was an avid reader and her colleagues wanted to honor her love of reading by collecting donated books to needy children for summer reading enjoyment. The teachers worked with Mrs. Bubser’s church to identify locations for our donations. Children will be given a “Bubser Book Bag” filled with leveled, age appropriate books to read during the summer. Children who typically do not have books of their own will now have a personal collection. The book bags will be delivered to these children in June. Thanks to the many of you who were so very generous by contributing books for this project during our Book Fair.

I hope you all have a wonderful Spring break and return refreshed and ready to make the remainder of the school year a wonderful and productive experience.

Thank You!

Mother Son Bowling — Susan Kvelson, Tina Del Giorno and Yvette Hober for planning a perfect Mother Son Bowling Event at Plaza Lanes in Madison. Two hours of fun filled bowling, pizza, donuts and basket raffle items. Thank you for the great memories.

Spring Social — Lisa La Tourette and Heather Watson- Kramer for delivering a wonderful Spring Social at Fiddler's Elbow. The night was filled with good food, good music and lots of fun. Thank you for working so hard to ensure a great night for all in attendance.

SPECIAL THANK YOU! — A special thank you to Yvette Hober who proposed the successful 'Teacher Inspired Giving Boards' to the attention of the PTO. The Spring Social co-chairs artfully compiled and organized the giving boards which resulted in teachers and classrooms receiving wish list items directly from parent donations. Thank you Yvette for the great idea!

Battle of the Books — Dorit Kransdorf and Nancy Policastro for putting together a great Battle of the Books event. The spirit of competition was alive and well at LCS as our 4th and 5th grade children prepared for “battle.” All the participants had a great time and we would also like to thank them for their dedication to this activity.

Buddies and Books Café — Sherry Mandel for making Buddies and Books such a successful event. Our beautifully decorated café was full of very enthusiastic readers and their buddies. The drinks and desserts capped off a great reading experience. All the children and their families had a wonderful time as they had an opportunity to read in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Wizards of Words — Kim Giammarino and Nancy Dignan for organizing another fun filled Wizards Of Words event. Tedd Arnold, Tony Abbott and Cynthia Lord certainly captured the imagination of our children. Thank you for all your hard work in organizing WOW this year.

Spring Book Fair — Jackie Mandel and Alexa DeCandia for Co-Chairing the Spring Book Fair. Jackie and Alexa gave our annual book fair a fresh twist, transforming the LCS library into a festive Carnival. Thank you so much for the long hours, new ideas and for making this event such a success.

Your PTO at Work

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

Wizards of Words: A trio of outstanding, award winning authors visited LCS and spent time with the children explaining the thought process of being an author and how they do what they do! They children were captivated. This year's authors included Tedd Arnold (Parts, Green Wilma, Fly Guy series), Cynthia Lord (Rules, Touch Blue) and Tony Abbott (Secrets of Droon).



Spring Social: A fun and successful social was held at Fiddlers Elbow Country Club for close to 140 parents, teachers and friends of LCS. The teachers supplied their 'Wish List' Giving Board items and thanks to everyone's generosity many of the items they 'wished' for were granted! A fun live auction and dinner and dancing rounded out the evening.



Mother Son Bowling: The always anticipated event was held for moms (or significant female) and their boys at Madison Lanes. The afternoon scored a 'strike' with bowling and pizza and fun for all.

High Touch High Tech – Global Fever assembly: The PTO funded another fun interactive assembly for the fourth grade featuring the traveling Franklin Institute museum.

Alpacas: The first grade will have their annual visit from the alpacas.

Poets in Residence: The Fourth Grade classes had a visit from a real poet for a day to understand the process of writing poetry and try their hand at it.



Book Fair: The PTO sponsored book fair was held during the Parent Teacher Conferences in the library. Parents and children purchased books for themselves, their teachers (from their wish list) or for the Bubsers' Bags donation program.

Battle of the Books: The PTO organized and prepared the Fourth Grade for their annual Battle of the Books where teams read preselected books and competed in a 'jeopardy-like' tournament.

Four Square / Hopscotch: Members of the PTO Board painted ten four-square courts and six hopscotch boards around the outside of the school for children to use when the playground is too muddy but it is warm enough to get some fresh air at recess.

Fifth Grade Bake Sale: A bake sale to help fund the Fifth Grade celebration was held during the Parent Teacher Conferences.

LCS PTO Board 2011~2012

Do you want to be more involved in school activities? Would you like to work with a great group of people and help make a difference at LCS? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, then please contact Bernie Taylor (bernietaylor20@gmail.com) or Zaida Harrison (zaidaharrison@optonline.net) to discuss a position on the LCS PTO Executive Board for the upcoming school year. We look forward to hearing from you.

Wizards of Words – WOW indeed! ~~ Co-chairs Kim Giammarino and Nancy Dignan

On March 14, 15 and 17, Liberty Corner School students were treated to visits from three wonderful authors; **Tedd Arnold, Tony Abbott and Cynthia Lord**. The whole school participated in various presentations from these three talented 'wizards'; learning how authors go all the way from the idea for a story to the finished product. In addition, a few lucky contest winners had dessert and a chance to chat with each of the authors!

Our first visit was from **Tedd Arnold**, a noted illustrator as well as author of the popular "Fly Guy" series, "Parts", "Green Wilma", and "No More Jumping On The Bed"; just to name a few of his over 50 published books! Children in grades K-3 enjoyed hearing how his own children inspired some of his characters, as did a fly trapped in his car!

The following day, **Tony Abbott** gave the children in grades 2-5 a humorous and insightful look into the creative process behind writing such well-known books as the "Secrets of Droon" and "Time Surfers" series, the mysterious "The Postcard", and poignant "Firegirl". A prolific author, Tony Abbott has written over 90 books! His advice for aspiring authors; when you get an idea – write it down!

Our final visit was from **Cynthia Lord**, who showed the children in grades 4 and 5 how she took real life experiences (being the mother of an autistic child, and hearing the story of how an island in Maine saved their school in the 1960's) and used them as the seeds for fictional stories. She also amused the Kindergarten and First Graders with how a pet hamster's antics lead to the story of "Hot Rod Hamster". Watch for her latest book, "Happy Birthday Hamster", to be released in the coming months!

Thanks to Mr. Mullarkey for all his help preparing the children and the library for the authors' visits! Also thanks to Ms. Bynoe for coordinating the artwork that decorated our halls and made our authors feel so welcome! And many thanks to our amazing committee; Christine Feller, Kelli Scmolze, Mie Holmquist, Elizabeth Michels, Tara Hughes and Heather Watson-Kramer; and our artist, Christine MacLaughlin, who created the 'Wizard' and other large scale illustrations for our hallways. And, of course, thanks to Mr. Keith for helping us with logistics!

Special thanks to **The Old Mill Inn** for graciously hosting our authors during their visits and to **Panera Bread** for donating scrumptious desserts for our authors and student contest winners to enjoy!





Wizards of Words – WOW indeed! ~~ Continued...

Please see the newsletter picture addendum for three pages of pictures on Wizards of Words!

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If you belong to the LCS community, please see the addendum emailed to you for some great pictures of your children!

Denim and Diamonds Spring Social ~~ Co-chairs Lisa LaTourette and Heather Watson-Kramer

The Liberty Corner School PTO held its Denim and Diamonds Spring Social on Saturday, March 12th, at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ. Over 135 LCS parents, faculty and friends came dressed to impress in their most elegant denim and diamonds and danced the night away in the beautifully decorated ballroom. Along with socializing with fellow LCS parents, participants donated some much needed funds for our school and teachers.

Premiering at this year's social were the Teachers' Wish Lists. The fabulous teachers of LCS were asked what items would make teaching our children more enriching and they came up with some great things. These items were then listed on Denim and Diamond boards. Attendees were invited to select a diamond and sponsor the items during the social. We are pleased to announce that between the Wish List Items and the Live Auction, the LCS PTO raised \$30,000!



The Live Auction was a blast thanks to our Auctioneer, Bob Milligan. Bob did a fantastic job working the crowd and, in addition to entertaining everyone, helped the LCS PTO raise a great deal of money. The items auctioned included; a gift certificate to Atelier (Donated by Atelier), NikkiB Knit Bags (Donated by NikkiB), Dinner and Wine Package (Items Donated by the Stein and Silva Families, Café Rustica and Water & Wine Restaurant), Two Anti-Aging Face Packs (Donated By Dr. and Mrs. Janjua), Nets vs. Heat Basketball Tickets (Donated By IDT Corporation, Newark NJ), Two Natirar Cooking School Gift Cards (Sponsored by LCS PTO), and a week at a Long Beach Island Beach House (Donated By The Dobson Family). Thank you very much to all of those who donated the auction items and those who bid on them!

All of the centerpieces for this year's Spring Social were donated by local florists; Addalia's Flowers of Bernardsville, Bernadette Mitchell Floral Designs of Bedminster, Blooms at the Hills, The Flower Patch Florist, Flowers on the Ridge, Gray's Florist, Jardiniere, Somerset Hills Florist, Lyons Mall Stop and Shop and Shoprite of Bernardsville. We would like to express our gratitude to them for their support, and ask that you consider using them for your future floral needs!

The Denim and Diamond Social would not have been a success without our tiny but mighty Spring Social committee. We would like to thank them all for their brilliant ideas and endless energy. The committee members were Laurie Dobson, Zaida Harrison, Pamela Haviland, Davenie Pereira, Terri Laird, Carolyn Martynowski, Joanna Silva, and Lynne Stein.

Thank you so much to all of you who attended! We look forward to seeing you again next year! For those of you who were unable to attend this year, we invite you to join us at next year's Spring Social!





Denim and Diamonds Spring Social ~~ Continued

Please see the newsletter picture addendum for a full page of pictures on the Denim and Diamonds Spring Social!

The addendum with pictures is mostly comprised of pictures of children (except for this parent event) and because of the children's pictures, it is not available on the Web. The children's pictures are only available to the immediate LCS community (Parents/Faculty/Staff).

If you belong to the LCS community, please see the addendum emailed to you for some great pictures of your children (and of this parent event)!

PTO Spring Carnival Book Fair ~~ Alexa DeCandia and Jackie Mandel

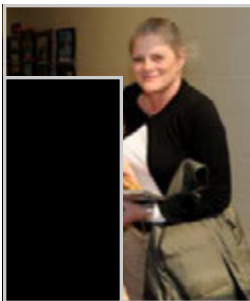
Thank you for stepping right up to support our PTO Spring Carnival Book Fair. The LCS school community participated in an exciting atmosphere of great books, thrilling stories and fun. Selling over \$14,000 in products, readers of all ages have walked away from the Book Fair with the best prize of all: a lifelong love of reading!

Thank you for your support of our "One for Books" program which raised \$187 for Mrs. Bubser's book bag. The "One for Books" money we collected, also helps readers beyond our school and community. Scholastic matched our monetary donations with a donation of 187 books. The books go to national non-profit organizations dedicated to helping families in need. Thank you to all students and parents who helped add books to our classrooms. At the end of the Book Fair, the PTO purchased the remaining teacher wish list books.

This year there were two new events held at the book fair. A carnival game was held each day during the fair where students had the opportunity to win a lollipop and a bookmark or book. LCS students and teachers also participated in a Guess How Many Books Will Be Sold Contest. The correct amount was 3500 books. Congratulations to Matthew Velasco who guessed the exact amount! He took home the National Geographic Kids Almanac 2011. Joe D'Aries, Caroline Bedrosian, Allie Byrne, Christian Marchitto and Giulia Tobacco guessed in the 3000 range. They all received bookmarks. Our winning teacher was Mrs. Mastroianni with a guess of 2728. She took home a I Love Books! teacher lunch tote.

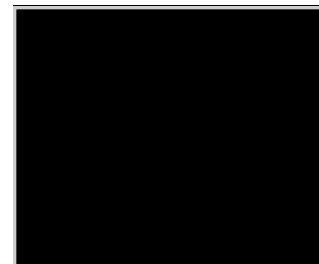
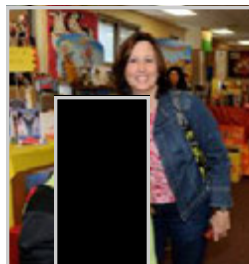
A big thank you goes to Mr. Mullarkey who gave us his library to use at the last minute. He did a wonderful job promoting the books that were being sold at the book fair to each class, creating excitement among the students. There were quite a few books that could not stay stocked on the shelves!

The following volunteers helped put on a prize-winning Book Fair: Keith for bringing all the boxes to the library, Jan Blakeman, Jackie Blank, Jill Bond, Jennifer Crewe, Jackie Crowley, Nancy Dignan, Laurie Dobson, Zaida Harrison, Melanie Hodges, Alyson Hoffman, Mie Holmqvist, Sonia Jay, Anita Keller, Julia Kilmeyer, Anne Lamphear, Debbie Marcus, Kim McCavera, Emily McCavera (LCS alumnae of 2009), Jemi McCluskey, Mary Lynn McKiernan, Nes Montag, Rebecca Moussally, Anne Nemetz, Debbie Nugester, Kelli Schmolze, Barbara Sileo, Nancy Somelofske, Manasi Sovani, Jeanne Starr, Brooke Starr, Barb Szabo, Brigitte Turner, Katie Van Cleef, and Lori Velasco.



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If you belong to the LCS community, please see the copy emailed to you for some great pictures of your children!





PTO Spring Carnival Book Fair ~~ continued

Please see the newsletter picture addendum for a full page of pictures on the PTO Spring Carnival Book Fair!

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Strike it up for another fun Mother Son Bowling day!

~~ Co-chairs Susan Kevelson, Tina Del Giorno, and Yvette Hober

No snow this year as the weather cooperated and everyone got to the Plaza Lanes in Madison for the 4th Annual LCS PTO Mother Son Bowling event. It was held on Saturday afternoon, March 5th and proved to be a great time had by all. Over 235 moms and their sons enjoyed teaming up with their friends and bowling the afternoon away.



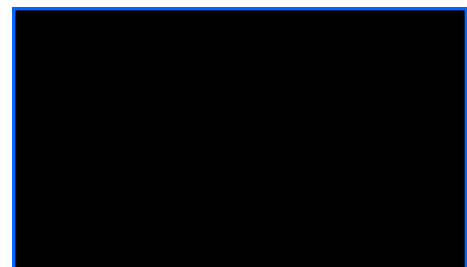
The boys and their moms, and even some grandmas, enjoyed pizza, drinks, and donuts while aiming for strikes and spares during the afternoon filled with some friendly competition. Other much anticipated parts of the event were the Basket raffles and 50/50 drawing. Tickets were given to each boy to place in the baskets of their choice and then a winner was pulled from each at the end of the day. This year's baskets had items for both the boys and their moms including video games and gift cards, toys, books, baseball items, movie and baseball tickets, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, LCS Spiritwear, a Razor Electric Scooter, and much more.

The 50/50 raffle raised just over \$166 for the LCS PTO Kids in Bloom initiative. This program funds enrichment events and materials through mini-grants that benefit all the students of LCS.

We'd like to thank the PTO for their support, especially Zaida Harrison, for her guidance and notes from previous years, and the teachers and office secretaries for ensuring all the bowling registration forms found their way to us. An LCS event would not be complete without Betsy Aigner taking pictures for everyone – thank you Betsy, they came out great! We'd also like to thank our committee volunteers who helped put this event together: Karen Zubulake, Eileen McDonald, and Juana Schwed. A special thanks to Juana for putting all 10 baskets together. They looked terrific! And thank you to Annabel DelGiorno for helping man the baskets, distribute tickets, and help with just about every other task that day.

Another special thank you to committee co-chairman Tina DelGiorno who was able to get many of the basket items donated. These donors were happy to help make our Mother Son Bowling event a huge success. Please join us in thanking:

Harvest Group
Dunkin Donuts
Clearview Cinemas
Somerset Patriots
O₂ Sports
Learning Express
Ling Ling
Profiles Hair Studio
Denise D'Aries and the LCS Spiritwear Committee



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Strike it up for another fun Mother Son Bowling day!

~~ Continued...

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Buddies and Books Café is an Evening of Sharing and Caring

On March 10, 2011, over 150 LCS parents and students read books and enjoyed cookies and milk together at the 6th annual LCS PTO Buddies and Books Café. LCS families loved the opportunity to share quality time together and appreciated the chance to donate their gently used books to a summer program in Newark. Donations for the Somerset County Food Bank were also collected during the event.



This community-building event continues to be popular every year. The LCS cafeteria was transformed into a café where LCS families were hosted and served by 4th and 5th grade Pride Club members.

Families selected books that they wanted to read together from menus created by Barbara Alfieri, LCS Literacy Support Specialist. The menus included dozens of new and favorite children's books, including many titles focusing on character education traits. Families were provided with reading comprehension questions to assist with book discussions during the café and to use at home, all while being expertly served cookies and milk by Pride Club members. Many students brought along a stuffed "buddy" to further enjoy the evening.

This event could not happen without the tireless work of many volunteers. The LCS PTO would like to offer our gratitude to Barbara Alfieri for planning the event and training our 4th and 5th grade Pride Club members. In addition, many thanks to Karen Finazzo, Heather Kalfus, Amy Legvari, Melissa Skiba, Connie Semler, Carol Dory, Lanie Bilenker and Beth Fain. A special thanks to returning LCS students Paul Nemetz and Anna Fain. Also to our custodial staff, Keith & Carmen, and Aramark's Sue Fagan, thank you!

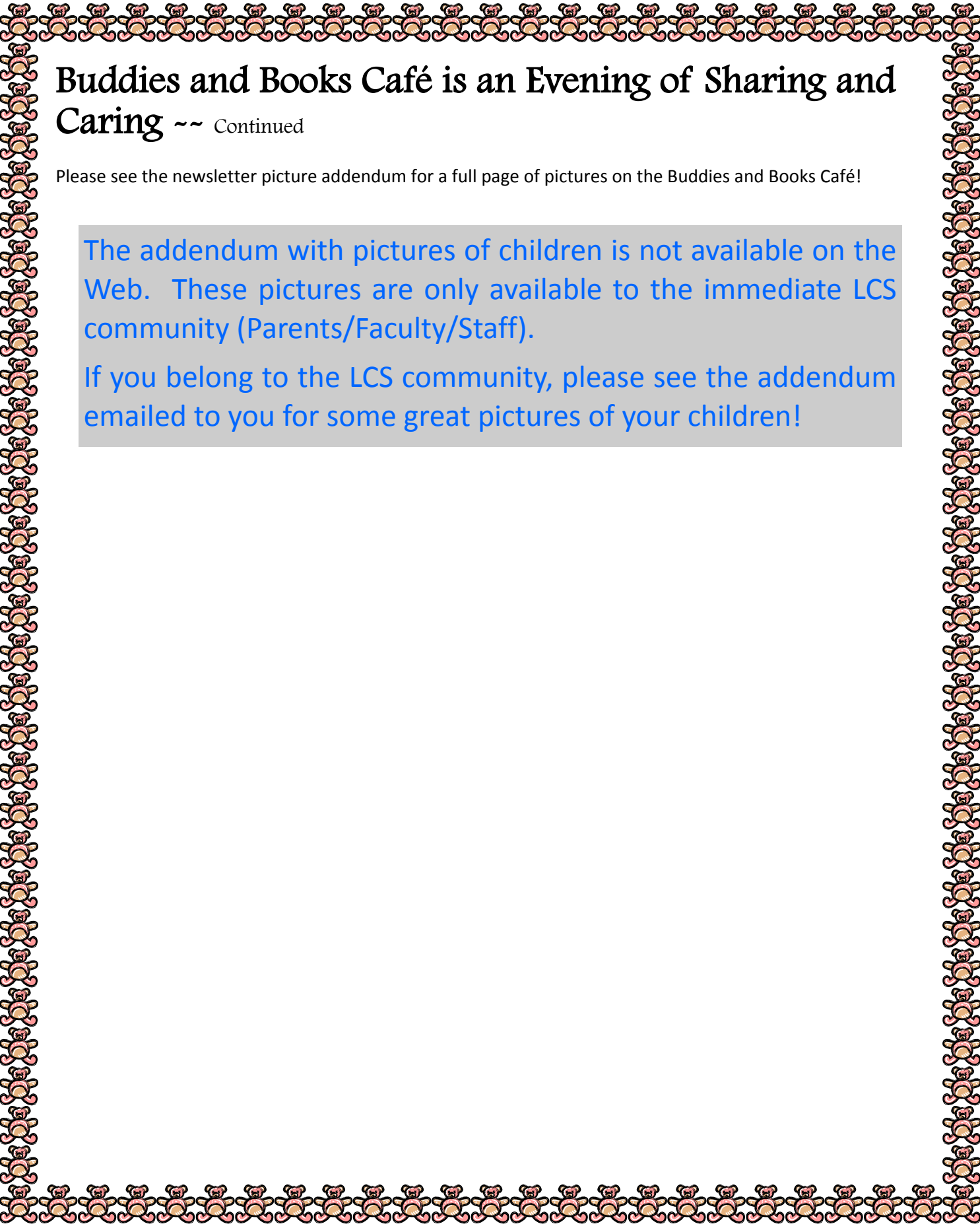
Many thanks to The Buddies & Books Committee members: Sherry Mandel, Jennifer Marchitto, Karen Feringa, Pamila Haviland, Davenie Pereira, Renuka Hegde, Alison Wessels, Anita Keller and Jayanthi Chakrapani for their contributions to making the event so successful! Thanks also to Betsy Aigner for photographing the event and capturing the enthusiasm of our attendees and workers! A special thank you goes to Linde for donating the helium for the balloons for this event.

Finally, the LCS PTO & Committee would like to thank our hard-working 4th and 5th Grade LCS Pride Club members who acted as our hosts and servers at the café: Aileen Pradham, Elizabeth Perna, Ellie Martinson, Emily Perna, Ethan Fain, Malcom Hayman, Max Kevelson, Mia Olijslager, Michael Ballaro, Michael Giammarino, Savitha Mukumdan, Anmol Singh, Christopher Feringa, Joey D'Aries, Kijuana Freemna, Matthew Chase, Meshell Ianni, Rebecca Smith, Sahiba Madan and Thomas Blanchard.



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Buddies and Books Café is an Evening of Sharing and Caring ~~ Continued

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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 — Gymnastics has come to an end and weather permitting, we will be moving outside and into a unit on Physical Fitness/Wellness. All of our lessons have an emphasis on complete wellness. The lessons we teach in a fifty-minute Physical Education class almost always have three common goals: 1. The students will be active (achieving an exercise heart rate/target heart rate) for 30 – 40 minutes while working on specific health-related concepts of fitness/wellness. 2. The students will have fun and enjoy being active in a safe environment. 3. The students will learn life skills and sport skills that will help improve their wellness. Wellness is a multi-faceted holistic concept. Among those concepts are feelings of accomplishment and personal growth, ability to express a positive and creative lifestyle and feelings of contentment and happiness. Physical fitness is clearly a major factor in achieving overall wellness. We see our students as a whole person; therefore, we teach to reach the whole person in the physical, social, affective, and cognitive domains.

The days are long gone when kids were set to compete against each other during the fitness test. We can probably remember when we were in school being or seeing someone humiliated or made fun of for their effort on a fitness test. We work very hard with the kids so they understand why that should not happen. The goal of the fitness test is for the students to compete with themselves. Effort and improvement on their individual scores are emphasized. Children are not singled out to test in front of the class. When needed partners and groups are used to help the students who are testing through encouragement and assistance. The kids really learn an appreciation for the effort they and their classmates put forth.

The results of fitness test will come home with your child at the end of May or early June. Please take time to go over your child's fitness report with them.

April also brings the annual 5th grade CAMP BERNIE experience, 4/27, 4/28, & 4/29. I look forward to this trip every year. It is a great day for our kids to meet and work with other 5th graders who they will be in school with next year at Annin. It is a very fun and exciting day for all. I will speak with the 5th graders on 4/18 to inform them of the details they need to hear. I will also post information on my on-course site about the trip. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

The PE Guys

Building Healthy Bodies, Relationships, and Minds.

Music — This is one of the busiest months for music here at LCS! First of all, all students will be learning about **Chinese Music** during the month of April. Students will learn about traditional instruments, history and learn songs in various languages spoken in China. On **Monday, April 18th**, there will an **assembly of Chinese Acrobats** for the entire school to go along with the unit.

In addition, students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade **chorus** are preparing for their concert, which is **Monday, May 2nd at 7pm** at the Ridge Performing Arts Center. Our concert will include instrumentalists, soloists, student accompanists, choreography, costumes and much more!

Lastly, students involved with the **Follow the Yellow Brick Road** mini-unit will be giving their one and only performance on **Tuesday, April 26th** at the Ridge Performing Arts Center. Although LCS students will be able to see a sneak preview in an assembly, we encourage all LCS families to come see the real thing that night. It's FREE!

Pictures!!!!!! Pictures!!!!!! Pictures!!!!!!

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St. Patrick's Day

Friendship Walk

Spirit Day ~ Twins

Mrs. Bubser ~ Memorial Brick Ceremony

Mrs. Bubser ~ Bubser's Book Bag

Lost & Found

A piece of jewelry was found mixed with the coins collected during the second grade fund raiser for the Audubon Society. Please contact the school office to claim it.