

# Liberty Corner PTO

## January/February 2011

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

After a fun and hectic holiday season, the children seem to have settled back into a more regular school day nicely. As sure as our PTO activities gave way to holiday preparations and celebrations in December, they have geared up again with the beginning of the new year.

Our second annual Pancakes for Supper event in December was a crowd pleaser once again. The introduction of the cupcake decorating, the ability to grab a quick meal in between busy schedules, and the delicious food make it appealing to kids and parents alike. We thank the entire committee for their hard work.



January was a big month for music in our school district. The band, chorus and orchestra performed beautifully for their family and friends at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Ridge High School. Thanks to our fantastic music department including Carol Beadle, Rebecca Karle and Bob Van Wageninge.

Two programs taken over by the PTO last year, Battle of the Books for 4th and 5th grades and Trial of the Big Bad Wolf for the 3rd grade, have both kicked off this month as well. In Battle of the Books, the team members started reading their assigned books. The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf committee sent out sign up sheets for the children and welcomed additional volunteers to help prepare the children for the trial on February 17th. Both of these events wouldn't be possible without our extraordinarily committed volunteers who refuse to watch passively as curriculum enhancing programs fall to the wayside due to budget constraints.



Upcoming PTO events in February include the ever-popular Father/Daughter Dance and Movie Night for the whole family. Our fourth annual Mother/Son Bowling is coming up on March 5th. And finally, keep an eye out for the invitation to the Denim and Diamonds-themed Parent Spring Social on March 12th, a good time will be had by all, guaranteed!



Finally, the response from the community to the Bernards Township Public School Initiative's drive to save full day kindergarten has been overwhelming. It is truly amazing what a "small village" can do. We, as a community, need to have our collective voice heard, especially down in Trenton. We urge you to join a letter-writing campaign to our representatives in congress and Governor Christie (sample letter was blasted out last week) so that the unfair and irrational treatment of our school district by the state of NJ is put to an end. We will be collecting hard copy letters sent through your children's backpacks to forward en masse to Governor Christie's office at the end of February. Please get your letters in at your earliest convenience.



#### **PTO Board 2010-2011**

**Co-Presidents:** Laurie Dobson ([lbobson@msn.com](mailto:lbobson@msn.com)) and Jeanne Starr ([eagerstarr@aol.com](mailto:eagerstarr@aol.com))

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

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

**Treasurer:** Bridget Jaeger ([BridgetJ@JaegerLumber.com](mailto:BridgetJ@JaegerLumber.com))

**Assistant Treasurer:** Maggie Gould ([miscala@hotmail.com](mailto:miscala@hotmail.com))

**Secretary:** Larissa Milligan ([larissa\\_milligan@hotmail.com](mailto:larissa_milligan@hotmail.com))

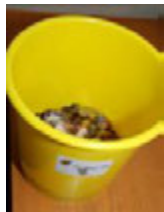
**Communications Officer:** Heather Whyte-Kattas ([heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexis.com](mailto:heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexis.com))

For more information go to [www.LibertyCornerPTO.org](http://www.LibertyCornerPTO.org)

## From the Principal's Desk ~~ Dr. Pecoraro



Although February is a short month, it is nonetheless a very busy one. Teachers have been busy assessing student progress as Marking Period II draws to a close. Report cards are available for parent access on Thursday, February 3 at 3 p.m. Please be sure to review your child's report card and discuss his/her progress celebrating effort and achievement, but emphasizing continued effort and hard work for Marking Period III.



The second graders and their teachers introduced us to their "Coins for Clean-Up" service learning initiative at our last Character Education assembly. The children also highlighted the Character Education pillar of Responsibility as well as sharing the need to help the wildlife affected by the BP oil spill. The collected coins will be given to the Audubon Society for the express purpose of cleaning pelicans harmed by the oil spill. It is a tedious process, one bird at a time, but can be successful with help from us. As always, your support and generosity are appreciated.

The teachers are also conducting a "Souper Bowl" project to help support the Somerset Food Bank. During difficult economic times, food bank inventories run very low. Please help us make this soup collection a success by sending in canned soup. The children can add their donations to bins labeled "Packers" or "Steelers" to demonstrate support for their favorite Super Bowl team.



Our Multi-Cultural Committee has been busy planning special events and experiences for our students to help them understand cultural diversity and acceptance. Rochel Coleman, actor, poet and storyteller, will use music, drama and storytelling to highlight the plight of Black Americans, the Underground Railroad and slavery. This special assembly will take place on Tuesday, February 15. Thanks to you and the generosity of the PTO for this special event. The Chinese Acrobats will share their special cultural background with our students at an assembly on April 18.

Fifth grade parents were emailed information about the Weller reproductive system presentation. As part of our Health curriculum, the children study the various systems in our bodies, circulatory, respiratory and reproductive. This informative Powerpoint will help parents understand the content of the Weller presentation, which will be presented to the children on Tuesday, February 8. A question and answer section has also been provided to help answer commonly asked questions.



## ★ LCS: NJ State School of Character for 2011! ★

★ Congratulations once again to Liberty Corner School for being recognized as a NJ State School of Character for 2011 by the NJ Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD). Our program will be forwarded to the national chapter, Character Education Partnership (CEP), for consideration on the national level. This is the third time Liberty Corner School has been recognized by the state!! ★



## Thank You!

*Family Game Night* — Fiona Guinta and Sreevalli Chivukula for making our Family Game Night such a success. The LCS competitive spirit was alive and well at this event. All the parents and their children had a wonderful time.

*Kindergarten Registration* — Beth Fain for doing a great job organizing our kindergarten registration again this year.



# Your PTO at Work

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



**Pancakes for Supper** : Our popular Pancakes for Supper event was a delicious success!



**Spring Social** : The Committee continued planning our fun filled March 'grown ups only' social event.

**Family Game Night** : The family fun evening for all in January had near 150 participants.

**Teachers Lounge** : A big thank you to the Caring Community Committee for providing holiday cheer to the teachers in December in the Teachers' Lounge. The teachers really appreciated the beautiful decorations and delicious goodies. Thanks to the Brownie Troop for making the festive holiday wreaths and providing the highly coveted Girl Scout cookies to eat.

**New Family Packets** : These were created by the Caring Community Committee filled with great tips about where to eat, play sports, and all the ins and outs of living in community with elementary school-aged children. Thanks to everyone on the committee for all your hard work on gathering the information and creating such a handy go-to guide for our families.

**BrainPop** : In January, the PTO renewed the school library's subscription to BrainPop.

**Trial of the Big Bad Wolf** : The PTO paid for supplies for 3rd Grade Trial of the Big Bad Wolf – we are anxiously awaiting the verdict!

**Every Picture Tells a Story** : The PTO funded a 3rd grade assembly on 1/24.

**Committees** : Various committees, such as the Mother Son Bowling, Sweetheart and Spring Social, continued to plan more exciting events for parents and kids.

**Write your Legislature** : The PTO distributed a sample letter urging parents to contact our representatives in Trenton regarding school funding distribution to ensure the continuation of our district's award winning education system.



## Trial of the Big Bad Wolf



The Third Grade recently enjoyed learning about the law and our legal system when the Trial Committee launched the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf program with an introductory assembly on January 13th. We are pleased to have many enthusiastic students participating in this exciting program. They have been hard at work learning about how trials work and practicing their parts, be they attorneys, jurors, witnesses or bailiffs. Will the Big Bad Wolf be found guilty of the crimes of malicious destruction of two houses and the murder of two pigs? That is for the jury to decide! We look forward to watching everyone in action at the trial on February 17th!






## Extra Directories For Sale!

Did you ever wish you had an extra copy of the school directory? Maybe one for the house and one for your car? Well, now's your chance! Extra copies of the directory are available for purchase by all PTO members. To purchase one, please send \$10 (cash or check made out to "LCS PTO") in an envelope addressed to "PTO DIRECTORY CHAIR". The directory will be distributed to you via your child's backpack.

If you haven't yet joined the PTO, it's not too late! Just send in your \$20 dues (cash or check made out to "LCS PTO") in an envelope addressed to "PTO DIRECTORY CHAIR" and you'll receive a complimentary copy of the school directory via your child's backpack. This is a great way to support the many wonderful programs and events the PTO funds for LCS children and their families.



## Directory Corrections

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

ALVAREZ PAJES, JAMES (1 – Bubnowski)  
327-3422  
Angel/Angela  
25 South Finley Avenue  
angelapajes@hotmail.com

BALAJI, RAMESH (1 – Testa)  
903-9392  
Balaji/Shriya  
253 Crabtree Court  
shriyabalaji@gmail.com

DEVAL, RIA (4 – Quinn-Foy)  
DEVAL, AAVNI (1 – Testa)  
3287 Valley Road

MAPHOSA, TINASHE (1 – Testa)  
405-3215  
Tinashe/Jocely  
289 English Place  
nashmaphosa@yahoo.com

SHAJI, SIDHARTH (1 – Bubnowski)  
286-0302  
Shaji/Asha  
307 Penns Way  
sshaji@gmail.com

YOON, BRIAN (4 – Quinn-Foy)  
513-807-0619  
Seonghun/Youngan  
469 Penns Way  
hiboncho@dreamwiz.com



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**If you have corrections, please fill out a directory correction form at [www.libertycornerpto.org](http://www.libertycornerpto.org)**



# Family Game Night

On Friday, January 21st, Family Game Night was held in the LCS gymnasium. Over 110 people from 34 families attended this fun filled night. Teams participated in challenging games and everyone showed good competitive spirit while enjoying some laughs with members of different families! Prizes were awarded to each family at the end of the night. Combined with the successful 5th Grade bake sale, this event turned out to be a very enjoyable time on a cold winter's night. Thank you to the committee members Zaida Harrison, Mary Kate Melilli, Beth Hurley, Carolyn Martynowski, Lisa Laurino, Kelli Schmolze, Sreevalli Chivukula and Fiona Guinta for planning this event.





# Family Game Night



# What's New With LCS Pride Club?

LCS Pride Club members have been busy this year! During our December meeting, students decorated and painted rocks to create "pet rocks." Rocks were sold for one dollar each. In total, we raised almost seventy dollars for the LCS Centennial Scholarship! For our January meeting, members had fun participating in centers during our annual "Feelings Fair." Children had fun tracing feelings faces, learning yoga from Mrs. Abbaticola, matching up feelings faces, and writing down what we are grateful for on our "Gratitude Graffiti" poster. These activities focused on promoting healthy minds and healthy bodies. Children who feel good about themselves on the inside and outside are more likely to want to help others!

This year members will be receiving their own Pride Club t-shirt! Shirts will be distributed at our February meeting. LCS Pride club was formed in October of 2005. Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month in the cafeteria and run from 8:00 am until 8:45 am. Meetings are run by LCS teacher volunteers. Any child in grades 2 through 5 is welcome to attend!

If you are interested in having your child join, please e-mail Mr. Rauschenberger at [Erauschenberger@bernardsboe.com](mailto:Erauschenberger@bernardsboe.com).

## Character Education Assembly





# Pancakes For Supper

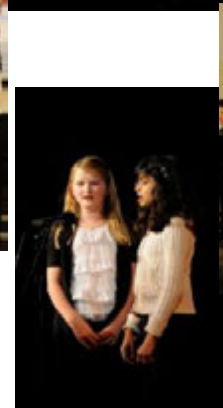
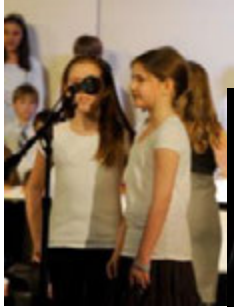




## Grade 3 Strings

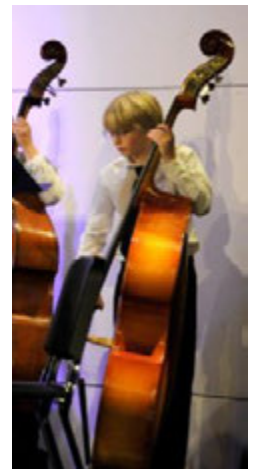
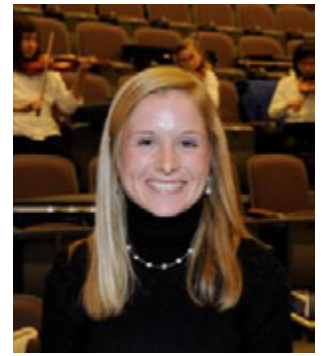


# Band and Chorus at RHS





# Orchestra at RHS





# Singalong





# Singalong (cont'd)



# Every Picture Tells a Story





# Beach Week



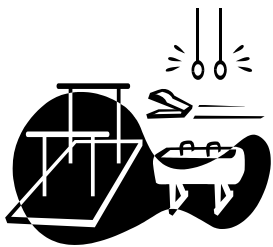
# Specials Report

**Don't forget to check out the teachers' websites for more information.** Just go to [www.bernardsboe.com](http://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** —How about those 5th grade dancers? Thanks to all who were able to attend and lend their time and support to the groups. I think the kids learned something and had fun in the process.

In the months of February and March all grade levels will participate in an educational gymnastic program that will provide 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 for their 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.



The PE Guys

**Music** — Students in music class will be learning about folk music of the 1800s. An assembly in February will focus on African American history and therefore we will be learning songs such as "Harriet Tubman", "Swing Low", "This Train", etc. Due to the fact that the slaves used music for communication, there will be plenty for us to discuss! In grades 3-5, students will be receiving their recorders and will start learning to read music and play it on their new instruments. In addition, students in chorus are starting to learn their songs for the spring concert. Also, students who signed up for the "Wizard of Oz" mini-unit will begin rehearsals.







## Shop online and earn eBoxTops for our school!



1. Sign up to support our school at [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com)
2. Start EVERY online shopping trip at the Box Tops Marketplace



3. Watch our earnings GROW!!!

Find retailers who will donate eBox Tops to our school with every qualifying \$10 purchase at [www.btfe.com/marketplace](http://www.btfe.com/marketplace)





THE LCS PTO PRESENTS THE SPRING SOCIAL

*Parents Night Out*

AN EVENING OF



# DENIM & *Diamonds*

SATURDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2011  
7PM TO MIDNIGHT

*at*

FIDDLER'S ELBOW COUNTRY CLUB  
811 RATTLESNAKE BRIDGE ROAD, BEDMINSTER, NEW JERSEY



*Our Evening Features*

OPEN BAR FROM 7 TO 11PM  
HORS D'OEUVRES, DINNER & DESSERT  
DANCING, DANCING & MORE DANCING  
BAR SPORTS GAMES  
TEACHER WISH LISTS & LIVE AUCTION

\$55 PER PERSON

*Attire*

COME DRESSED TO IMPRESS IN YOUR  
MOST ELEGANT DENIM, NO SNEAKERS



NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO LCS BY FRIDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 IN AN ENVELOPE  
MARKED "SPRING SOCIAL".

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "LCS PTO"

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:  
LISA LATOURETTE [INTERIORSBYLISA@VERIZON.NET](mailto:INTERIORSBYLISA@VERIZON.NET)  
HEATHER KRAMER [HEATHERWK@YAHOO.COM](mailto:HEATHERWK@YAHOO.COM)