



Liberty Corner PTO

April 2013

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

Spring is certainly in the air. After a long winter, we are finally getting some nice sunny weather. The warm weather brings our spring sports, activities, and the realization that there are only a few months of school left.

Our much anticipated Mother/Son Bowling event took place in March and thanks to the tremendous efforts of Juana Schwed and Tina Del Giorno it was flawless. Historically, this is a sellout event and this year was no exception. The boys enjoyed bowling, pizza, delicious donuts, and several lucky families went home with fantastic door prizes.

Once again Mother Nature "adjusted" our plans. The third time was the charm for our beloved Buddies and Books Café. Thanks to co-chairs Donna Sellitti and Kelly Winkler, the event was able to be rescheduled twice and it didn't miss a beat. The children had a great time reading with their buddies and family members while enjoying some refreshments served by our fourth and fifth grade students.

Our enrichment activities continued as the 3rd graders learned about the rainforest and the animals that live in them. Ms. Preeti taught the 4th graders about global warming and its impact on society. The first graders met Paleontologist Roberta Straka; they loved hearing about dinosaurs and fossils. Our second graders had an interactive forensic science session with Planet Preeti. We would like to thank our Enrichment Committee for all they do to bring these amazing programs to LCS.

"Battle of the Books" was a very successful event thanks to our chairs, Debbie Marcus and Sheri Pastor Orr. The children were able to read interesting books and test their knowledge against their peers in a fun filled atmosphere. They were judged for the most right answers, team spirit, and sportsmanship.

Wizards of Words was a crowd pleaser again this year thanks to the hard work of Kelli Schmolze, Christine Feller, Mie Holmqvist, and Elizabeth Michels. We had three outstanding authors Daniel Kirk, Trinkia Hakes Noble, and Lauren Tarshis who shared their stories and experiences with our children. The children really look forward to this program every year.

March wouldn't be complete without our annual Parents Spring Social which was held at Fiddlers Elbow Country Club. Our chairs Lisa LaTourette and Charline Corbett had a "70's" themed party and our parents looked great in their disco attire. There was good food, good music, and lots of dancing at this "groovy" event. Bob Milligan once again entertained the crowd with his auctioneering skills. Thanks Bob!! The auction proceeds are being used to purchase much needed educational items. Thanks Lisa and Charline for a fun night out.

Runners take your mark, get set, and go. Our families enjoyed our Annual Fun Run at Harry Dunham Park. They enjoyed good weather, light refreshments, and had a good time with their friends. Thanks to Elda Feldman and Chris Pietrantuono for all their work on this event.

Please take this opportunity to visit our new and improved website <http://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)

Co-1st Vice Presidents (Programming and Scheduling): Larissa Milligan (larissa_milligan@hotmail.com) and Davenie Pereira (daveniep@gmail.com)

Co-2nd Vice Presidents (Fundraising): Bridget Jaeger (bridgetj@jaegerlumber.com) and Deborah Nungester (dnungester@gmail.com)

Co-Treasurers: Karen Feringa (kmferinga@aol.com) and Pamela Haviland (pamchan@optonline.net)

Secretary: Sherry Mandel (sherrylnmandel@gmail.com)

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For more information go to www.LibertyCornerPTO.org

From the Principal's Desk -- Dr. Pecoraro



It's incredible to believe that we essentially have less than 9 weeks left to this school year. There is still much to do, NJASK and MAP testing, Spring Break, concerts, Field Day, Kindergarten Screening, 5th grade celebration, and the list could go on. All of this will make the remainder of the school year fly by.

We have truly enjoyed presenting our Parent Academy workshops for parents this year, but have, on some occasions, been disappointed with parent attendance. While trying to problem solve this dilemma, we have decided to present Parent Academy workshops during the day, but also provide video-taped versions on the LCS website for those who are interested, but not able to attend. The hope is that parents will access the information from home. Before the end of the school year, a survey will be sent to you to determine Parent Academy workshop topics that may be of interest to you for the coming 2013-2014 school year. When you receive the survey, please take the time to complete it letting us know how we can best provide information you would be interested in learning more about.

LCS PTO for 2013~2014

It's not too early to start thinking about next year and what committees you might be interested in contributing to for the 2013-2014 school year. Please contact Larissa Milligan, larissa_milligan@hotmail.com, or Davenie Pereira, daveniep@gmail.com if you would like to serve on the PTO Executive Board or a specific committee.

We would not be able to hold all our activities without the support of our wonderful parent volunteers!

Battle of the Books 2013 ~ Debbie Marcus and Sheri Orr, Co-Chairs

Avid Readers Unite!

Around 70 LCS students competed in the PTO sponsored "Battle of the Books" program, an activity that encourages 4th and 5th graders to read and show off their knowledge of books. The "Battle of the Books" is designed to expand students' reading choices and to foster a lifelong love of reading. This year's competition was held during conference week this past March.

The competition was held among teams of 5-7 students, who between them read all the titles on a pre-selected, grade appropriate master list. During the battle, students were asked knowledge-based questions about the books and earned team points for correct answers.

In addition to reading books, the students were encouraged to promote team spirit. Many groups accomplished this through creating team posters, team T-shirts, and even carrying props. In addition, students were expected and encouraged to show good sportsmanship towards all participants.

After exciting rounds of competition, the results were very close:

For 4th Grade -

In 3rd place, the **Neon Gummy Bears**, featuring team members Ella Blank, Helen Liu, Sofia McMahon, Elizabeth Pelito, Alexandra Pereira, and Stephanie Perillo

In 2nd place, the **Leaping Lizards**, featuring team members Allison Blanchard, Lauren Feldman, Maggie Hannis, Elizabeth Maloney, Nicole Miranda, Juliet Nolt, and Grace Shanosky

And, in 1st place, the **Razzle Dazzle Diamonds**, featuring team members Katherine Liu, Madelyn McDonald, Megan Pruskowski, Elena Rezac, Julia Roos, and Katrina Vollmar

For 5th Grade -

In 3rd place, the **Tie-Dye Mustaches**, featuring team members Fiona Egan, Olivia Hennessy, Katelyn King, Kaitlyn Orr, Lauren Polito, and Julia Weniger

In 2nd place, the **Library Ninjas**, featuring team members Josua Bijukovio, Jack Maloney, Liam Michels, Jonathan Nemetz, Ben Shanosky, and Adith Sundram

And, in 1st place, the **Rambunctious Pandas**, featuring team members Marina Chiafullo, Toni Lanausse, Michelle Li, Monica Louka, Sarah Quinn, and Kathy Wei

We'd like to thank the following parents who volunteered to assist with putting the battle teams together, attending kickoff meetings in October and at follow up lunchtime check-ins with battle participants. These parents also read books, reviewed battle questions, and assisted during the actual Battle: Jackie Blank, Lou Chiafullo, Laurie Dobson, Tina DelGiorno, Elda Feldman, Pam Haviland, Heidi Hilgendorff, Subramani Kumar, Prachi Jain, Mary Khine, Heather Kramer, Patricia Maloney, Mary Norton, Jayanthi Venkataramani, and Patty Vollmar.

We also want to thank Dr. Pecoraro for allowing us to continue this terrific program; the LCS PTO for their guidance and financial support; the office secretaries, Debbie Tracy and Gerry Burns, for all their scheduling assistance; custodian Keith Hutchings for setting up all the tables, chairs, and audio-visual equipment; and to all the parents who encouraged their children to participate in the competition and made sure they kept up with their reading.

Lastly, we want to thank LCS librarian, Mr. Mullarkey, for his support in making all our battle books available to the students and for the fantastic prizes he provided the winners. The students were thrilled to pick new books from amongst over two dozen choices to take home, in addition to colorful pencils, funky erasers, and interesting bookmarks. Thank you, Mr. Mullarkey!

The Battle of the Books is a wonderful program that fosters reading, teamwork, and friendly competition. The event continues to be a popular program here at LCS. We look forward to seeing many current 3rd and 4th graders participate next year. Have a great Spring Break and Happy Reading!

Buddies and Books ~ Donna Selitti and Kelly Winkler, Co-Chairs

They say the third time is the charm, and it certainly was for the Buddies and Books Cafe, which due to winter weather was postponed twice in March. Fortunately, the early April weather proved mild, and Kindergarten through 3rd graders, along with their parents, came to LCS for an evening of reading fun. Families chose from a menu of books, which 4th and 5th grade volunteers served up along with milk and cookies in the LCS cafeteria, which was transformed into a colorful, cozy cafe. A huge thank you to the event's co-chairs, Donna Selitti and Kelly Winkler, and to Barbara Alfieri, for putting together an outstanding evening and for all of their amazing patience dealing with Mother Nature. We appreciate all of your dedication and efforts!

Mother/Son Bowling ~ Juana Schwed and Tina DelGiorno, Co-Chairs

The 6th annual LCS PTO Mother Son Bowling event was held on Saturday, March 2nd at Plaza Lanes in Madison. 220 moms and sons spent the afternoon bowling with their fellow LCS friends.

The boys and their bowling partners enjoyed pizza, drinks, and donuts while aiming for strikes and spares. As always this year's basket door prizes were a hit with mothers and sons who anxiously waited for their number to be called at the end of the event. 18 baskets were made with donations from the LCS community as well as big ticket items that were purchased. The baskets included food items, toys, books, baseball items, baseball tickets, jewelry, scooter, LCS spirit wear, decorative gardening items, movie tickets, and restaurant, nail salon, and workout class gift certificates and the much sought iPod touch and gaming chair.

Everyone left the event a winner; all of the boys were given a light twirler and moms were given a box of chocolate as a special "Thank You" for participating.

We'd like to thank the PTO for their support, especially Zaida Harrison, for her assistance with planning, lane assignments, and for working the event and to Liz Mannino for collecting, compiling, and confirming registration for the event. Thanks also to Bridget Jaeger for taking pictures of the participants. We'd also like to thank the teachers and office secretaries for ensuring all the bowling registration forms found their way to us. And a special thanks to the ladies who volunteered to wrap the favors and baskets, assist with lane assignments, and work the event, Sonja Legge, Aneta Stapleton, Carolyn Martynowski, Brenda Kunzweiler and Rosalie Kuper.

Lastly, a huge thanks to Tina DelGiorno who was able to procure donations for many of the basket items. These donors were happy to help in making our Mother Son Bowling event a success. Please remember these establishments when making your shopping decisions. We thank: Dunkin Donuts, BeBe Too, Clear-view Cinemas, Focacceria.

Gina Rossomondo "Stella & Dot," KHORE, Learning Express, O2 Sports, Somerset Patriot's, The Flower Patch, Reckitt Benckiser (French's Products).

Spring Social ~ Lisa LaTourette and Charline Corbett, Co-Chairs

The Liberty Corner School PTO held its "70's Disco" Spring Social on Saturday, March 23rd, at Fiddlers Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ. LCS parents, faculty and friends came dressed in their fabulous 70's inspired duds and danced the night away in the really groovy ball room.

Returning to this year's social were the Teacher's Wish Lists. Budget cuts deeply affect our LCS classrooms. Everyday items, and some not so everyday items, that we take for granted are becoming harder to fit into the budget. The 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 Giving Boards. Attendees were invited to select a disco ball and sponsor the items during the social. We thank all of the individuals who donated to our boards.

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, help the LCS PTO raise some money. The auction items were Justin Baiter Photography Session (Donated by Charline & Michael Corbett), The Devils vs. Montreal Canadians Hockey Tickets (Donated by Megan and Matthew Fedor), A Columbus Day Celebration Experience (Donated by Nicole and Marino Polisenio), Fiddlers Elbow Golf Club Foursome (Donated by Fiddler's Elbow Country Club), Private Dinner Party for 10 with Chef John Boden (Donated by Nicole and Marino Polisenio). Thank you very much to all of those who donated the auction items and those who bid on them!

The 70's Disco Social would not have been a success without out our mighty Spring Social committee. We would like to thank them all for their brilliant ideas and endless energy. The committee members were Joanna Silva, Heather Watson-Kramer, Nicole Polisenio, Ellen Polito, Joy Schmitt, Megan Fedor, Amanda Glanz, Karen Rosenthal, Tracy Olson, Carolyn Martynowski and Natanya Levitz.

Thank you so much to all of you who attended! Please join us next year!

Wizards of Words ~ Christine Feller, Mie Holmqvist, Elizabeth Michels and Kelli Schmolze, Co-Chairs

WOW....What a Week! On March 19, 20, and 21, Liberty Corner School students were treated to a visit from three wonderful authors: Daniel Kirk, Lauren Tarshis, and Trinka Hakes Noble. The entire school saw presentations from these "Wizards of Words." In addition, a few lucky activities winners had dessert and a chance to chat with one of the authors.

On Tuesday, March 19, Daniel Kirk visited our school and met with the Kindergarten classes and students in grades 1 and 2. Mr. Kirk entertained the children by playing the guitar and conducting a sing-along with a song he had written about Sam, the library mouse. He read his book Ten Things I Love About You and let the children in on a behind the scenes look at how Sam came to look the way he does, and had the students vote on which cover they liked best for the new Library Mouse book coming out soon.

Lauren Tarshis met with students in grades 3, 4 and 5 on Wednesday, March 20. Our lucky students were among the first to hear a couple chapters for the next "I Survived" book to be published about the Japanese tsunami. She captivated the students with a dramatic reenactment of her meeting with author J.K. Rowling that she claims changed her life. She also stressed to the students how growing up everyone in her school would have voted her "Most Likely to Not Become an Author," and that writing is not a talent that you are born with, but rather a skill requiring lots of practice.

On Thursday, March 21, we welcomed Trinka Hakes Noble to our school. Ms. Noble met with all Liberty Corner students. Ms. Noble read one of her "Jimmy's Boa" books to the Kindergarten students. She read Apple Tree Christmas to grades 1 and 2. She read The Orange Shoes to third grade. Fourth and fifth graders heard The Scarlet Stockings Spy. All the students got a sneak peek at the cover of her latest book due out soon: The Legend of the Jersey Devil.

It was a very successful week that could not have happened without the help of the following individuals: Mr. Mullarkey for all his help preparing the children and the library for the authors' visits. Thanks to Mr. Peluso for his assistance with the technology. Thank you to Ms. Bynoe and her students and Helen Liu and Meera MacMullen, for the beautiful artwork that graced the halls and welcomed the authors to our school. Thanks to Keith Hutchins for helping with all the logistics.

Special thanks also to the Olde Mill Inn for housing Lauren Tarshis and the Gourmet Touch bakery for donating lots of yummy breakfast treats for all the authors.

These amazing authors left a memorable impression on all our students and may have even inspired a budding author or two.

Your PTO at Work

Here is what your PTO Volunteers and Donations have accomplished:

Dinosaur Writing Program: Paleontologist Roberta Straka got our 1st graders excited about writing by sharing her experiences with dinosaurs and fossils and describing how she came to write a book based on those experiences. The kids were thrilled she brought along a real Triceratops skull!

Forensic Fun: Planet Preeti led the 2nd graders through several hands-on activities, such as dusting for finger prints, examining fibers, and working with chromatography, to help them better understand forensic science.

Rainforest Safari: A High Touch/High Tech scientist taught the 3rd graders about why rainforests are important to all living things. Each child created their own take-home version to remember their day.

Thomas Edison: Patrick Garner made his annual visit as Thomas Edison and fascinated our 3rd graders with tales of being an inventor.

Global Fever: The 4th graders learned about the effects of global warming and explored the potential of clean renewable energy with this High Touch/High Tech presentation from Ms. Preeti.

Wizards of Words: Another outstanding trio of authors visited LCS for this very popular annual event. This year's authors were Daniel Kirk, Lauren Tarshis and Trinka Hakes Noble. Each author engaged the children explaining what it's like being an author and how they go about writing their books.

Fifth Grade Celebration Bake Sale: Held during the Book Fair and parent-teacher conferences; the 5th graders raise money for their end-of elementary school celebration by selling delicious homemade treats.

Family Walk/Run Event: Held in Harry Dunham Park; 1 to 3 mile run or walk attended by students and their families.

Exciting Happenings coming your way from the PTO...

- **Camp Bernie-Grade 5,** May 1, 2013
- **Thomas Edison Museum Field Trip – Grade 3,** May 6, 2013
- **Staff Appreciation Spring Lunch,** May 7, 2013
- **Hallway Handprints,** May 10, 2013
- **Field Day,** May 29, 2013 (Make-up day May 30)
- **Kits Interactive Theatre, Civil War– Grade 5,** May 30, 2013

Some friendly reminders:

- Report Cards Online, April 19th
- School is closed April 22-25th for Spring Break
- School OPEN April 26th Makeup Day for Sandy
- Spring Band and Chorus Concert – RHS April 29th
- Kindergarten Screening— May 16/17th
- School OPEN May 24th—Make up Day for Sandy
- School is closed May 27th – Memorial Day Weekend
- String Concert, RHS May 28th

Thank You!

It was a busy and fun-filled March for LCS students and their families who enjoyed several much-loved PTO-sponsored events during the month.

Mother/Son Bowling: Early March brought the always popular Mother/Son Bowling event held at Plaza Lanes in Madison on March 2. The afternoon was filled with bowling, pizza, donuts, and a raffle of desirable gifts for mother and son. The bowling alley was abuzz with laughter and chatter as moms and sons enjoyed one another's company along with friends. And as a special treat each bowler went home with a favor (moms too!). A huge thank you to Juana Schwed and Tina Del Giorno, the event co-chairs, and their committee for all of their planning and tireless work toward making the afternoon awesome!

Wizards of Words: Both student and teachers alike enjoyed the Wizard of Words (WOW) event as they listened to the captivating stories and engaging presentations of Daniel Kirk, Trina Hakes Noble, and Lauren Tarshis, three amazing authors who visited the LCS community during the 3rd week in March. The authors also signed copies of their books for students and teachers. What an exciting experience for all! Thank you so much to the incredible WOW committee - Kelli Schmolze, Christine Feller, Mie Holmqvist, and Elizabeth Michels - for all of their months of dedication and effort putting this event together, and for being such gracious hosts to the visiting authors. They also did a wonderful job creating clever pre-event contests to get students excited for the visits.

Spring Social: Parents and teachers enjoyed a night out without the kids at the LCS Spring Social held on March 23 at beautiful Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. Guests enjoyed a full bar and buffet dinner as they danced the night away to the disco beat, some dressed in their 70's best. Giving boards, where teacher wish list items were named, gave parents the opportunity to buy something much needed for their child's grade, and a live auction of cool items added to the groovy fun. A giant thank you to Lisa LaTourette and Charline Corbett, the event co-chairs, and their committee for all the hours and hours of work and effort leading up to the big night - it was a wonderful evening!

Battle of the Books: March ended with a battle - the Battle of the Books that is! Fourth and Fifth graders gathered on the afternoon of March 28 to test their knowledge of selected books. Students formed teams earlier in the year, chose the books they wanted to read, and then met back on game day to answer questions as a team. Many, many thanks to the event co chairs, Debbie Marcus and Sheri Orr, and their committee, for not only running the event but also for all of their tremendous efforts leading up to the big day, which included several meetings with the students. What a terrific opportunity for students to have fun reading outside of their class work!

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 — April has been a wonderfully filled month of music. The students in the LCS Drama Club did a wonderful job on their production of Peter Pan. Thank you to all of the parents for all of their support in making it such a great show.

On April 18th we had the Ridge High School A Cappella Choir come to LCS and do an assembly for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. It was a wonderful morning filled with singing.

The LCS Chorus is preparing for their upcoming concert on Monday, April 29th. They're on their way to sounding fantastic.

In music class, students learned about A Cappella Music and Disco Music. In the month of May students will be learning about the music and traditions of India. They will learn about various instruments, dances, and performers. This unit will hopefully encourage all families to join us for our India celebration in May!

P.E.— It's going to be May already? We call May, "may I use your gymnasium to practice for our play?" So, we are geared up and prepared for some great outdoor fitness and coordination activities that the kids should be talking about at dinnertime. For K-3, games like Rock, Paper, Scissors; Squidward tag; and parachute games leave the children exhausted, sweating, and wanting more. All of these games are great for improving the students' health and skill-related fitness levels. 2nd & 3rd grade will also explore some track and field events.

The 4th Graders have embarked on their first sport education unit. They will be doing an invasion sport unit, which emphasizes teamwork, cooperation, and really hits on all affective areas of sport. The children will finish this unit with a great understanding of what it means to be on a team. Social Responsibility is tantamount as each child will have an important role to play and all should feel like a big part of their team. Children design their own uniforms and posters, referee their own games, keep their own score, and are responsible for everything that goes on in this unit. After a couple of weeks, the children can compete at a high level but, more importantly they are incredibly responsible and treat each other with the utmost of respect. It is a great thing to watch unfold.

The Fifth graders will be in their 3rd unit of this nature. Basketball is literally the talk of the school in May and June. The unit is similar to that of the 4th graders, only it is a different sport, and the 5th graders are already old pros at treating each other impeccably, while competing at an incredible level. Their accountability to each other is a veritable sight to see, and it is competition the way it's supposed to be. Some adults could take some lessons from these 5th graders! This unit of course culminates in front of the entire school where the 2 championship teams get to display not only how well they play but, also the standard to which they hold themselves and each other in terms of their competitive characters. It's not always the product but, the process which is most important. These are not only sport lessons; they are life lessons too!!

Fun day is also coming soon, May 29th. Look for an e-mail from the committee and please volunteer if you can.

Building Healthy Bodies, Relationships and Minds



Photos ~ Spring Social





Mother/Son Bowling



Battle of the Books



Wizards of Words



KITS Pioneer Program



Save the Date

Run to Read 5K Run/Walk

Sunday June 9, 2013, 9:30 a.m.

Harry Dunham Park

- *USATF certified course #NJ 09030LMB*
- *USATF-NJ points awarded*
- *Trophies for top overall male and female finishers; Medals for top male and female in 5 year age groups (10 & under, up to 80+)*
- *Scoring by Best Racing Systems*
- *Water stations on the course*
- *Post-race refreshments*
- *T-shirts guaranteed for all pre-registered participants*
- *Door prize giveaways (must be present to win)*
- *Enter raffle to win an iPad mini (need not be present to win)*
- *Kids Activities*

**For more information, to register for the race, or to make a donation,
please visit www.bernardspec.com.**