



# Liberty Corner PTO

## March 2014

### A Message from the PTO Co-Presidents Davenie Pereira and Zaida Harrison

The first couple months of 2014 brought unusual amounts of snow and cold, but the wintry weather didn't keep LCS from enjoying many wonderful and educational PTO-sponsored events.

The PTO has continued to use your donations to fund many exciting in-school workshops and assemblies that were both grade specific and school-wide. So far in 2014 students have enjoyed visits from High Touch/High Tech (our in-house science program), Kit's Interactive Theater assemblies on both pioneer travels and Cinderella, a Dinosaur writing workshop, a Celebrate your State workshop, an assembly featuring Rochel Garner Coleman to celebrate Black History month, and an Irish Dancing performance to kick off the study of Ireland for multicultural week. Quite a bit of learning and fun packed into the first two months of the year!

The PTO also funded a three-day, Language Arts teacher training program for all K-5 teachers which was conducted at LCS by non-district educator, Cyndi Bratteson.

The PTO is thrilled to be able to provide all of these wonderful enrichment programs for our school community, and it's all because of your generous financial support. Thank you!

We also want to thank our amazing committee chairs and volunteers for their tireless work on the following events: third grade's Trial of the Big Bad Wolf (Allison Elian, Bridget Turner, Cristina Marshall and Nes Montag), Kindergarten Registration (Heather Watson-Kramer and Becca Mousally), and of course, the much-loved parent/child events - the Sweetheart Dance (Heather Watson-Kramer and Becca Mousally) and Mother/Son Bowling (Juana Schwed and Tina DelGiorno). Thanks to the dedicated efforts, time, and talent of our parent volunteers, all of these events run beautifully, and our children are able to make lasting memories to treasure.

It's been a great school year so far, and there are many activities still to come such as Wizard of Words, the LCS Spring Social, and much more. The PTO is also in the process of creating a new logo and continuing our work on enhancements to the online directory. Please check our website, [www.libertycornerpto.org](http://www.libertycornerpto.org) for upcoming events and more information.

#### PTO Board 2013-2014:

Co-Presidents Zaida Harrison ([zaidaharrison@verizon.net](mailto:zaidaharrison@verizon.net)) and Davenie Pereira ([daveniep@gmail.com](mailto:daveniep@gmail.com))  
Co-1st Vice Presidents (Programming and Scheduling) Heather Watson-Kramer ([heatherwk@yahoo.com](mailto:heatherwk@yahoo.com)) and Prachi Jain ([prachijain22@yahoo.com](mailto:prachijain22@yahoo.com))

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



To say this has been an interesting winter is an understatement. The snow not only disrupted school, schedules and the spring break, but has also made our already challenging arrivals and dismissals even more challenging. We have had the township bulldoze some of the mounds of snow and cart away what snow they could. We also had a plow run a few rounds about the building to widen the roadway. Now we just need an early thaw and patience from everyone.

There have been a few questions about how the additional 30 minutes, which was added to our instructional day, are being utilized. Here at LCS, we run the extra 30 minutes in the morning and have specialists, Ms. Bynoe, Mrs. Beadle, Mr. Henthorn, Mr. Fico, Mr. Mullarkey and Mr. Peluso, work in the classrooms in conjunction with the classroom teachers. Together, the specialist and the teacher, plan activities such as Morning Meetings, cooperative learning structures, Character Education discussions, one-on-one support for struggling students, Health lessons etc. Using our specialists in this way provides our students with meaningful activities, which enhance their learning. Our specialists know all the students and this additional time provides us with another opportunity for adults to make additional connections with our students. The plan for next year might be to put the additional time on to the end of the day. However, we still need to work through that proposal.

Kindergarten: Mrs. Beadle works with Kindergartners who need additional support in reading and writing. She also infuses music into the lessons she shares with the children

Grade 1: Ms. Bynoe works on fine motor development with first graders.

Gr. 2: Mr. Mullarkey provides additional writing support for second graders.

Gr. 3: Mr. Peluso works on additional keyboarding skills to help prepare our third graders for computer generated state testing.

Gr. 4: Mr. Henthorn works on Cooperative Learning structures with our fourth graders.

Gr. 5: Mr. Fico works on additional Health lessons with our fifth graders.

A special thanks to the parents of our fifth grade chorus students who made the herculean effort to get their talented children to LCS by 4 a.m. on Wed. 2/25 for their performance on Good Morning America. The children were accompanied by a number of equally hearty LCS teacher and administrator. Sincere thanks to the following for their commitment to showcasing the wonderful work of Mrs. Beadle and our fifth grade chorus; Dr. Oliver, Ms. Len, Mrs. Obertlik, Mrs. Alfieri, Ms. Legvari and Mr. Rauschenberger. Additional thanks to Mrs. Jaeger for photographing and video-taping the performance for posterity. A great, if not exhausting, day was had by all.

# **Trial of the Big Bad Wolf ~**

**Allison Elian, Bridget Turner, Christina Marshall, and Nes Montag, Co-Chairs**

Court is Adjourned!

The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf took place on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> with 54 third graders participating in various roles. After months of preparation, the students did a wonderful job going through the entire trial process from opening statements to delivering a verdict by the jury. The attorneys put forth excellent cases on both sides and the witnesses did an amazing job under fire after being sworn in by the bailiffs. In the morning trial the wolf was found not guilty by the jury, but in the afternoon he was found guilty on two charges. It was a great learning experience for all involved, students worked on teamwork, organization, public speaking and persuasive writing.

This enormous challenge took a great amount of hard work by many teachers and parents. Co-Chairs Nes Montag, Chris Marshall, Brigitte Turner and Allison Elian would like to thank their dedicated committee members Jessica Flores, Becca Moussally, Alexis Pinto, Elaine Kusel, Pam Haviland, Prachi Jain, Scott and Allison Lee, Michele Izzo, Larissa Milligan, Renuka Sathe, Natanya Levitz, Liz Mannino, Susan Rascio, Chis and Rebecca Jones, Matt and Megan Fedor, Rachel Lin and Marilyn Indomenico. Al-

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

Surprisingly, snow did not affect this year's Sweetheart Dance! On Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> over 220 girls and their dates happily donned their party attire and had a blast dancing the night away in the beautifully decorated LCS Gymnasium. Each girl was greeted with a red corsage and her date was given a matching 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 \$290 from the sale of the Sweetheart messages and \$115 in 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 set up. The entire custodial staff was incredibly helpful during and after the event with cleanup, and we thank the specials teachers for use of their classrooms. 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 fantastic committee this year which even included some Moms of boys! Our sub – committee leads were Meghan Fedor, Nancy Gross, Melanie Hodges, Terri Laird, Liz Manino, Andrea McDermott, Juana Schwed and Flo Smith. Thank you to our committee members: Melissa Breheny, Cathy Cheo-Isaacs, Kimberly Coyle, Tina DelGiorno, Teresa Fernicola, Nancy Gallo, Lisa Janjua, Rebecca Jones, Lori Kennedy, Jeanine King, Natanya Levitz, Dyana Mark, Larissa Milligan, Kim Patchett, Davenie Pereria, Alexis Pinto, Susan Rascio, Jen Ranucci, Sharon Sigmund-Bloom, Karen Santonastaso, Bhavana Sateja, Katie VanCleaf, and Patty Vollmar. Thanks for all the planning, preparation, and execution!

# Mother Son Bowling

Juana Schwed, Tina Del Giorno~Co~Chairs

This year's 7<sup>th</sup> annual Mother Son Bowling was a tremendous success. There were over 230 LCS boys and their moms who bowled the afternoon away on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at Plaza Lanes in Madison. The boys and their companions enjoyed an afternoon of bowling followed by pizza, drinks, and donuts and anxiously awaited the basket raffle winner announcements. There were 18 baskets, most of them donated by the LCS community. Baskets included Bella Rouge gift certificates, Patriot's tickets, toys, LCS spirit wear, books, Mets DVDs, restaurant gift certificates, spa gift certificates, perfumes, cosmetics, and much more. Everyone left a winner with a fabulous museum piece CubeBot for the boys and delicious Cake Pops for their female companions.

New this year to our event was the option to donate to the WINK foundation which provides travel size toiletries to parents of sick children who arrive to the Ronald McDonald House unexpectedly. Thank you Kyla Reicin for introducing this organization to the committee. Donations of travel size toiletries were collected to donate on behalf of the Mother Son Bowling committee, this was a great addition to our event and we could not have come up with a more worthy cause.

We'd like to thank the PTO for their support, especially Zaida Harrison, for her assistance with planning, and lane assignments. Liz Mannino did a great job collecting, compiling and confirming registrations. Thanks should also go to Bridget Jaeger for taking pictures of the participants. The teachers and office staff also did a great job ensuring the bowling registration forms found their way to the committee. Special thanks should go to the ladies who volunteered to wrap favors and baskets, assist with lane assignments, and work the event: Sarah Chamberlain, Andrea Chiafullo, Kim Patchett, Stephanie Polisenio, Nicole Polisenio, Linda Valera, and Kyla Reicin.

Last but not least, we need to thank Tina DelGiorno who works tirelessly on the committee soliciting gift donations. She has been a member for six years and will be truly missed as her youngest is graduating out of LCS.

Please remember our donors whose generosity year after year makes the popular basket door prizes possible:

Melissa Castner, Bella Rouge  
Lou Chiafullo  
Couch Braunsdorf Insurance Group  
Dean's Natural Food Market  
Dunkin Donuts  
Focacceria  
French's  
Learning Express, Stirling  
Liberty Cycle  
Linda Gamba, Papperazzi  
Lorie Roti  
O2 Sports  
Profiles  
Somerset Patriot's  
Tons of Toys, Bernardsville

# Your PTO at Work

**Irish Dance:** This spirited look at Irish dance and music presented the LCS students with the history, traditions, and costumes of this lively, indigenous art form. Soft show and hard show dance styles are demonstrated, along with improvised music making using spoons. This infectious energy of the performers was quickly picked up by the students, a few of which were lucky enough to join on the stage and learn a basic jig. The LCS students were treated to one final surprise, when 5th grader, Julia Roos, joined on stage and showed her talent as an Irish dancer. Bravo Julia!

**I, Nat Love:** On January 31st, Grades K-2 enjoyed the fantastically talented Rochel Garner Coleman playing the Black Cowboy, Nat Love (a.k.a. Deadwood Dick). Rochel treated the audience to the life and times of this ex-slave who joined thousands of others like him to explore and settle the west. From Love's birth into slavery to his walk to freedom and how he won his name, this performance recreated that special period in American history that has captivated generations.

**Shadow Ball:** Grades 3-5 participated with Rochel Garner Coleman in "Shadow Ball" which paid homage to the men who played in the Negro League baseball and also painted a picture of America during the Great Depression. Rochel played Cool Papa Bell, one of the League's most famous players. A sterling fielder and an outstanding batter, Bell was legendary for his uncanny speed - "Bell was so fast that he could turn out the light and be in bed before the room got dark!" Off the field though, an entirely different story emerged as black players encountered second-class status and mass economic hardship.

**Jenkinson's Penguins Visit:** Jenkinson's Penguins visited the Kindergarten classes where all children were able to get up close with these adorable creatures.

**Dinosaur Writing Program:** Paleontologist Roberta Straka got our 1<sup>st</sup> 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!

**Kit's Interactive Theatre "Mother Nature":** The 1<sup>st</sup> graders were enthralled with a presentation by Kit's Interactive Theatre about preservation, emphasizing our impact and our responsibility for the world around us.

**High Touch/High Tech "What's the Matter":** The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders explored atoms, various states of matter and differences between chemical and physical changes with this presentation by Ms. Preeti.

**High Touch/High Tech "Chemystery":** Ms. Preeti helped take the mystery out of chemistry and chemical reactions with this presentation to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

**High Touch/High Tech "Rainforest Safari":** The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders learned about why rainforests are important to all living things. Each child created their own take-home version to remember their day.

**High Touch/High Tech "Dig It":** The 4<sup>th</sup> graders got down and dirty with this presentation from Ms. Preeti about gems, rocks and minerals.

**Lenape Lifeways:** Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed learning about the Lenape Indians through a presentation by Lenape Lifeways that included the exploration of many Lenape artifacts.

**Celebrate Your State:** The 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes enjoyed

## Thank You!

**Kindergarten Registration:** Thank you to Becca Moussally and Heather Watson-Kramer for doing a fabulous job organizing the volunteers to help with the LCS Kindergarten Registration on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Caring Community:** Many thanks to Lisa LaTourette, Laurie Dobson, and the rest of the Caring Community Committee for providing the food and refreshments for the LCS Staff Winter Breakfast. It was all so beautifully presented and full of yummy treats. We are so grateful to you both for all of your hard work! We would also like to thank you for providing the flowers for the LCS Winter Choir, Band, and String's Concerts.

**LCS Message Boards:** Once again, a huge thank you to Nicole Smith for digging our Message Boards out of the snow mounds and keeping our LCS Message Boards up to date. We are all grateful for the reminders!

# 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.

**Music** — Our Music of the Month had a wonderful kick tart with the Irish Dancing assembly. In the month of March we will be learning about Celtic music from Ireland and Scotland. They will be learning about traditional instruments, will be singing traditional songs, and will be dancing traditional Irish steps. There will be celebrations for St. Patrick's day the week of March 10-14 during music class thank you to the help of the Multicultural Committee and the PTO.

**P.E.** — Hopefully by the time this newsletter comes out we will be done with snow and moving into warmer temperatures and sunshine. In spring, 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 the spring fitness test (grade 3-5) will come home with your child at the end of May or early June.

**Library-** The SPRING Scholastic Book Fair will take place at Liberty Corner School starting on March 25<sup>th</sup> and concluding on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

The book fair will take place in the library. It will be open *during school hours* (for students) and in the afternoon during parent/teacher conferences. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the book fair will be open during evening conferences.

March 24th\*, 25th, 26th, 28th : 1:00pm – 3:30pm

March 27th : 5:30pm – 8:30pm

\* Preview **only** for classes during *school hours*.

## Shop for LCS

Did you know that the Liberty Corner School participates in two shopping programs where our school earns cash when supporters shop at two popular store chains?

The first is the Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards program. Shoppers earn points for LCS with each purchase made at Stop & Shop when presenting their Stop & Shop card. At the end of the program year, these points translate into cash for our school. You can help by visiting [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) and registering your card to designate LCS (ID# 07548).

The second program is Target's Take Charge of Education for Target REDcard holders. When you designate LCS (ID# 72339), Target will donate 1% of your REDcard purchases made at Target and Target.com. To learn more and register your card, you can visit [Target.com/TCOE](http://Target.com/TCOE).

For either program, please note that LCS is located in Liberty Corner, NJ (not Basking Ridge) if you are searching for our school by location. Please also encourage your family and friends to register for these programs - taking just a few minutes of your time can make a huge difference to our school!



## SAVE THE DATE

### The Fifth Grade Car Wash, Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:45-5:45 PM

An integral part of Liberty Corner School's Character Education program is its service-learning component. This year we will be raising money through the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Car Wash to donate to The Seeing Eye organization in Morristown.

Mr. Rauschenberger has been kind enough to spearhead this important annual event for our students. A permission slip and parent volunteer sign ups will be sent out closer to the event date.

Fifth graders and parents will be asked to volunteer their time on:

#### **FRIDAY, June 6th @ LCS (Front Parking Lot)**

**Mastroianni/Russo 3:45pm-4:45pm**

**House/Stianchi 4:45pm-5:45pm**

#### **DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE CAR WASH**

1) **New or gently used clean towels for drying cars** (We will need **many, many, many towels!!**)

2) **Buckets**

3) **Large oversized Sponges**

4) **Car wash liquid soap**

5) **Scrub brushes**

**Milk crates**

**Chamois cloths for drying cars** (We will need **many** of these!)

**Hoses and nozzles**

**Bottles of water for all volunteers**

If you are able to donate any of these supplies, you may drop them off at the main office to the attention of Laurie Dobson. Thank you in advance for your support!



# Photos









