

Liberty Corner PTO

May 2011

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

A reason to celebrate, the school budget was passed! Thank you to all the parents who took the time to vote. Our school's curriculum and children's future will benefit from preserving the award-winning programs in the approved budget. Please continue to stay educated about our school system by attending the monthly Board of Education meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month. If you want your voices heard, you need to speak up and participate in the discussions. The BOE does listen, as evidenced by the various iterations the budget went through before the final proposed budget was approved on April 27th.



Congratulations to all participants who completed the first LCS Family Fun Walk on April 29th! The sprinkle of rain did not slow down the runners/walkers from having fun while exercising. Thank you to Mary Carpenter and Kim McCavera and their committee for organizing a fun-filled and heart healthy event.

We are quickly approaching the end of another school year. Only a few events remain on the PTO calendar. If you'd like to get a jumpstart on next year's school preparations, look out for the PTO's convenient way to order school supplies in the first half of May.

The following events are still in need of volunteers. If you have the time to volunteer, please sign up for one of the remaining committees. You will not be disappointed – you will meet some friends and have fun being part of your child's school memories. Please contact one of the chairs if you have time this spring to volunteer:

Kindergarten Screening.....	Thursday, May 18 & Friday, May 19.....	Beth Fain
Staff Appreciation Lunch.....	Tuesday, May 24.....	Lisa Miele, Jackie Blank
Field Day.....	Wednesday, May 25.....	Tracy Colantuono, Cathy Ingal or Sherry Orr
Ice Cream Social.....	Friday, June 3.....	Denise D'Aries or Nancy Policastro
Volunteer Appreciation Brunch....	Thursday, June 9.....	ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

We hope you take the time to enjoy the end-of-year school concerts, plays and upcoming celebrations!

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@lexisnexis.com)

For more information go to www.LibertyCornerPTO.org

From the Principal's Desk ~~ Dr. Pecoraro

It was wonderful to see so many of you there to “follow the yellow brick road” with us on April 26 at the Ridge High School PAC. Culminating a 7 week mini-unit, seventy children presented the LCS production of “The Wizard of Oz.” It was amazing to see such



commitment and dedication in action. During the 7 weeks of preparation, the children learned lines, practiced staging/acting, created amazing scenery and props and practiced stagehand responsibilities. All the children worked very hard and collaborated with each other to create a magnificent final product. Countless parents got involved to create the field of poppies, assemble costumes and provide props. It really was a “village” effort and we are thankful, as always, for the parental support and encouragement.

Special thanks go out to our wonderful directors. Mrs. Bubnowski and Mrs. Clark worked with the children to help with learning lines and acting methods, while Ms. Bynoe and Mrs. Finazzo did an amazing job creating sets, scenery and props. Of course, our wonderful music teacher, Mrs. Beadle, was our Musical Director Extraordinaire. These faculty members gave much additional time outside of the mini-unit time to get the children prepared and ready to perform for their families and friends at the PAC. We also appreciate the support of Mr. Fackelman, Supervisor of Fine Arts, for ensuring the availability of the PAC for our performance.

A great time was had by all as Dorothy clicked her heels three times and finally returned home to Kansas. Kudos to everyone involved!

Thank You from the Staff and Administration

The staff and administration want to sincerely thank the parents who supported the PTO Denim and Diamonds fund raiser. All the teacher wish lists have been fulfilled and the teachers are so very appreciative.



Thank You!

Family Fun Run — Runners take your mark, get set, GO. The 1st LCS Run/Walk Event was a great success. Many thanks to Kim McCavera and Mary Carpenter-Kupsch for putting together a fun filled event complete with an official time clock and snacks. All participants had a great time.

Your PTO at Work

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

Wizards of Words: We're thinking ahead and have been lucky enough to already secure a fabulous author for next year's program – Dan Gutman. You can check out his website at <http://www.dangutman.com/pages/books.html> for a listing of his books!

Teacher Wish List: The teachers had many of their wish list items funded by generous parents at the Spring Social. The PTO is hard at work ordering all the items that were funded and will purchase any unfunded items from their list so they can continue to help our children do their best.

Abe Lincoln / Civil War presentation: The PTO funded an interesting and educational visit from an Abe Lincoln impersonator as well as Civil War soldiers complete with cannon for the Fifth graders. This much anticipated annual visit is always a hit.

Chinese Acrobats: The entire school was 'wowed' by a wonderful visit from a group of Chinese Acrobats. The children learned some Chinese numbers while watching the performers fly through the air and do tricks with a Chinese yo-yo and hula hoops.

Air Conditioning: The long awaited installation of the air conditioners in the second floor is almost all complete, just in time for the warm weather to begin!



2011~2012 Library Volunteers!

Please consider volunteering in the LCS Library in 2011-2012!

Mr. Mullarkey is seeking parent volunteers to do any – *or all* – of the following:

- Check-in and shelve books
- Process new materials
- Assist students with book selection and check-out
- Inventory and organize library materials

Parents can volunteer for an hour a week or biweekly during their child's library time -- or any other time during the school day. This is a great opportunity for anyone who loves books and literature, or who wants to volunteer in a fun and creative environment. If you are interested, please send Mr. Mullarkey an e-mail at jmullarkey@bernardsboe.com.

Thank You from Kids in Bloom

Dear Friends of “Kids in Bloom”,

March was bursting out all over for “Kids in Bloom”! Thanks to the generosity of all our donors, the “Kids in Bloom” Mini Grant Program realized more than ten thousand dollars in contributions! As a result, the Liberty Corner School Parent Teacher Organization will continue to fund the enrichment events and materials which enhance our students’ learning experiences through creative, innovative hands-on activities. These gifts also provide our LCS Teachers with opportunities to enhance the delivery instruction and make learning more relevant, motivating and FUN!

Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts – your support makes a big impact in LCS education.

The “Kids in Bloom” Committee

Air~Conditioning

The entire top floor of our building is now air-conditioned. Special thanks to Stella Perna and her Air-Conditioning committee. Their perseverance really paid off.



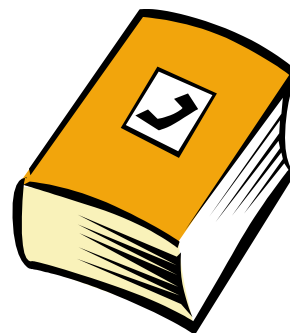
Directory Corrections

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

SELLITTI, NICHOLAS (K – ___)
542-1569
Anthony/Donna
387 Martinsville Road
donnamarie_23@hotmail.com

TAYLOR, VINCE (2 – Finazzo)
20 Stockmar Drive
bernietaylor20@gmail.com

UVINO, AMANDA (1 – Clark)
626-5424
Charles/Suzanne
83 Woodward Lane
suzanneuvino@yahoo.com



If you have corrections, please fill out a directory correction form at www.libertycornerpto.org

LCS Family Fun Run/Walk ~~ Mary Carpenter & Kim McCavera

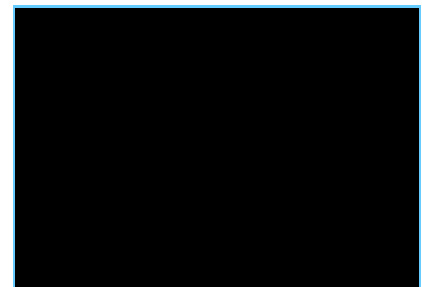
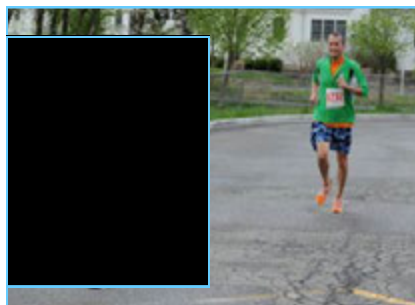
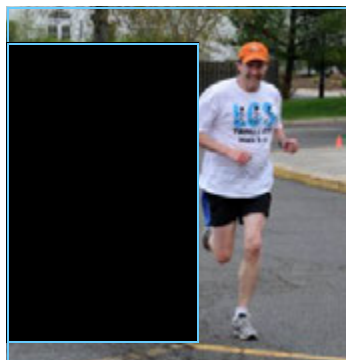
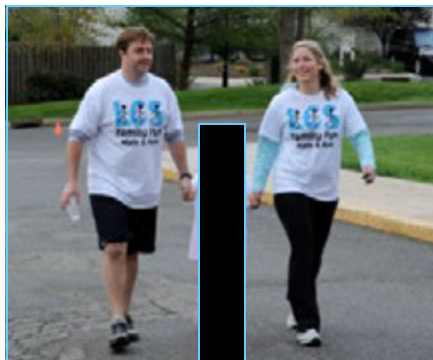
Despite a few rain drops, 95 runners participated in the 1st LCS Family Fun Run/Walk on April 29th. For many, it was the first time that they had participated in a race. All of the participants completed either a 1 mile or 3 mile loop. There was a lot of effort put into the event, and several personal best records were set.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped along the course route: LCS alum Cayla Cwerner & Caroline Blanchard, Boy Scout Troop #555 (Evan Kupsch, Sanil Torani, & Zach Zubalake), Lisa Laurino, Jennifer Blanchard, Lisa LaTourette, Elda Feldman, Alex DeCandia & Christine Pietrantuono. A special thanks to Donna Dourney from the YMCA for providing the race numbers and clock, and thank you to the Bernards Township Police Department..



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Battle of the Books 2011 ~~ Dorit Kransdorf and Nancy Policastro

This year's Battle of the Books was a huge success! For the first time, family and friends were invited to watch as the teams battled for the First Place medals on the Gymnasium stage. Armed with colorful team posters, spirited team pennants and spectacular team t-shirts and costumes, LCS Fourth and Fifth grade students arrived at LCS ready to answer questions posed to them about the books that they had been reading since January.

On the evening of March 31st, 48 Fourth Grade students, divided into 11 teams, met to answer questions about the six books that they had all read over the past few months. Mr. Oliver gave a warm welcome to the students, family and friends who attended. Mr. Mullarkey was an excellent MC, directing and reading questions to the teams.

Each team performed beautifully! The students exhibited outstanding sportsmanship, infectious spirit and worked hard answering questions. In the end, The Perfect Peace Signs (Caroline Bedrosian, Sophia Ferraro, Ilse Fleischer, and Samantha Scerbo) took home the First Place medals, while the Da Purple Portuguese Popsicles received Second Place ribbons, and The Brainiacs earned the Third Place ribbons.

Then, on April 1st, it was time for the Fifth Graders to take their positions on stage. 45 Fifth Grade students, divided into 9 teams, each took turns answering questions about the six books that they had been reading over the past few months. For the Fifth Grader's evening, Dr. Pecoraro gave an enthusiastic welcome to everyone who attended and participated in the 2011 Battle. Once again, Mr. Mullarkey was in top form as he worked his way through the Battle questions.

The Fifth Graders proved themselves to be excellent readers, while also exhibiting outstanding sportsmanship and dazzling spirit. Two of the teams even entertained the audience with original cheers! At the conclusion of the Battle, The Super Spazzes (Claire Keller, Sophia Ko, Lindsey Lakos, Anmol Singh, and Francesca Smith) took home the First Place medals. The Magical Money and the Tie-Dye Twins received the Second Place ribbons, while the Fluffy Mustaches earned the Third Place ribbons.

A special "Thank you" goes to Mr. Peluso for his technical expertise and guidance, and to Mrs. Fain for her reading support. "Thank you" to Mr. Mullarkey for his outstanding work as the MC on both evenings, and to Mr. Oliver and Dr. Pecoraro for their support during this process.



In addition, a huge "Thank you" goes to the fabulous Battle committee. Without the work of Jan Blakeman, Vita Caravias, Bev Cwerner, Laurie Dobson, Elda Feldman, Yvette Hober, Debbie Marcus, Maura McEnroe, Patti Pierson, Jeanne Starr, and Carolyn Wightman, these two Battle evenings would not have been such a tremendous success.

Keep on reading!



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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 — It's May already? For the PE Guys, May is "May I use your gymnasium month to practice for our play" month. 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; all while having a ton of fun. 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, referee their own games, keep their own score, design posters 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 the 4th graders, only it is a different sport, and the 5th graders are old pros at treating each other impeccably, all 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 the 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 25th. Look for an e-mail from the committee and please volunteer if you can.

The PE Guys

Building Healthy Bodies, Relationships, and Minds.



Music — Students at LCS have had a music-filled spring! After working hard for months, students in chorus had their chorus concert on Monday, May 2nd at the Ridge PAC. Then, on May 6th the Ridge High School A Capella Chorus and NYU Madrigal Singers came to give a performance for the whole school. Lastly, the 5th grade chorus will be going to the Ridge Oak Senior Citizens Center on Friday, May 13th to share their talents and stories.



In the general music class, the Music of the Month is the style "Reggae". Students will be learning about the history, culture, and musical elements that go into this genre of music. Students will also continue with playing classroom instruments and singing various songs to prepare them for the End-of-the-Year Sing-Along.

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

Please see the newsletter picture addendum for full pages of pictures on the following events:

The addendum with pictures of children is not available on the Web. These 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!

LCS Family Fun Run/Walk



Battle of the Books 2011



Chinese Acrobats



Follow the Yellow Brick Road



Grade 5 Civil War Presentation



Healing Hearts



PTO Meeting with Sean Siet, Director
of Curriculum & Instruction

