



Liberty Corner PTO

December 2011

A Message from the PTO Co-Presidents -- Laurie Dobson and Bernie Taylor

It's hard to believe the holidays are upon us! This is such a busy time of year for us all; it's easy to forget to appreciate what we have and live in the moment. Speaking of appreciating what we have, it's been a very productive and enriching first marking period at LCS!

The PTO sponsored the Jay Mankita Eat Like a Rainbow All-School Assembly for Red Ribbon Week at the end of October. The children really enjoyed hearing about Mr. Mankita's eco-friendly touring van, which runs on recycled vegetable oil.

In November, PTO-funded enrichment included the Morris Museum American Indian cultures presentation for the 2nd grade, Thomas Edison for the 3rd grade, and Lenape Lifeways presentation for the 4th grade. December enrichment programs included a Scientist in the Classroom presentation in the 4th grade (Dig It) and the 5th grade (Silly Cells). We hope to continue offering programs such as these by raising the necessary funds through the Pledge Drive fundraiser going forward.

New this year, the PTO sponsored an exciting, educational and entertaining evening performance of Bubblemania: Science, Art & Comedy! on December 6th. The audience enjoyed learning the science behind bubbles over the backdrop of swing music. The educational aspects of the program were presented through comedy, wit, and pure entertainment. The turnout was fantastic and we hope everyone loved the show as much as the reaction from the crowd indicated they did! The LCS PTO appreciates the efforts of Larissa Milligan, as part of the Enrichment Committee, for organizing such a crowd-pleasing event.

We hope everyone has a relaxing, fun-filled winter vacation with family and friends. When school reopens in January 2012, we have lots of engaging enrichment programs lined up for all grade levels, from Jenkinson's Penguins for the Kindergarten to Kit's Interactive Theater Presentation on the Pioneers for the 5th grade. The PTO will be sponsoring another free evening performance for all LCS families on January 27th by the Math Magician; be sure to pencil it in on your calendars! Bridget Jaeger and the entire Enrichment Committee have done a great job introducing new, family-oriented entertainment to our community this year.

Hopefully everyone has visited the new LCS PTO website, www.LibertyCornerPTO.org. It is up and running and full of pertinent and timely information, forms, and pictures. This enhanced website would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our web designer (and former LCS grad) Ben Herila, VP of Communications Heather Whyte-Kattas, and our webmaster, Terri Laird.

PTO Board 2011-2012

Co-Presidents: Laurie Dobson (lbdobson@msn.com) and Bernie Taylor (bernetaylor20@gmail.com)

Co-1st Vice Presidents (Programming and Scheduling): Zaida Harrison (zaidaharrison@optonline.net) and Larissa Milligan (larissa_milligan@hotmail.com)

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

Treasurer: Maggie Gould (mjscala@hotmail.com)

Assistant Treasurer: Donna Wilson (Def2dew2@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Bridget Jaeger (bridgetj@jaegerlumber.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



I know that many of you truly suffered during the extended outages as a result of our premature October snowstorm. Hope all power and semblance of sanity and routine have been restored. I know many of you emailed us and tried to contact us during the power outage but, Liberty Corner was a victim as well. Staff members were not able to access their emails as our system was down. I realize this may have been frustrating for some of you but, there was little we could do without power. Since emails could not be accessed, many of your emails were not received until power was restored. Technology is a beautiful thing, when it works!

The third graders were treated to an excellent assembly presentation by "Thomas Edison". The impersonator did an excellent job of relaying important information about the very interesting Edison. Children asked very thoughtful questions and were a very enthusiastic audience.

Our fifth graders did a wonderful job of introducing the Character Education pillar of Compassion to all of their schoolmates. The children selected picture book titles from their Character Ed classroom libraries and read to each of our grade level sections. The younger students thoroughly enjoyed their interactions with the older students and the fifth graders worked very hard preparing for their presentations. They were expected to write a lesson plan, which included the goals and objectives for the lesson, as well as how to assess student understanding. Everyone had a great time sharing and interacting with one another. A true sense of community is established each time our students interact with each other.

The Parent Academy

Our first Parent Academy presentation was a big success. We had 35 first grade parents attend the evening workshop, "Working With Your First Grader." The purpose of the Parent Academy is to share information, which is of interest to you. Much of what will be shared at upcoming workshops will help you work more effectively with your children. We will share some of the instructional strategies we use to deliver instruction and curriculum content to your children. This will not only help you understand what we do here at LCS but, it will also enable us to demystify what we do from 9-3. The following is a list of the planned workshops:

- **January 11, 2012:** "Working With Your 2nd and 3rd Grader" - presented by Mrs. Bierbower and Mrs. Bilenker, Reading Specialists
- **February 9, 2012:** "Working With Your 4th and 5th Grader" - presented by Ms. Legvari, fourth grade teacher and Mrs. Alfieri, Language Arts specialist
- **March 15, 2012:** "Setting Limits For Your Strong-Willed Child" - based upon the work of Robert MacKenzie and presented by Ms. Cerra, second grader teacher
- **April 19, 2012:** "Internet Safety & Cyber Bullying" - presented by Mr. Peluso, our computer teacher and Mr. Heineman, our district technology and Science supervisor

All workshops will be held at 6:30 in room 18. Snacks will be provided as well as babysitting for school-aged children.

Trial of the Big Bad Wolf

Order in the Court! The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf program is off to a great start! The entire third grade recently participated in an introductory assembly where they got a general overview of the workings of our legal system and learned all about trials -- what they are, who participates in them, and why we have them. They also learned the importance of putting their best case forward, using their most solid evidence, having reliable witnesses, and powerful persuasive speaking and writing skills. Third graders have had a wonderful response and are now quite eager to start learning their parts for our very own trial! Students have been assigned their roles and have already started their training and practice sessions after school and during recess, with the help of the dedicated parent volunteers on our Trial Committee. Both students and parent volunteers are hard at work learning all about opening statements, closing arguments, witness testimony through direct and cross examination, and the important duties of jurors and bailiffs. The Committee will continue working with third graders up until the trial in mid-February. We know they'll do a great job and we're really looking forward to seeing them all in action!



Halloween Festivity

Liberty Corner's 2nd Annual Halloween Festival was held on Friday, October 28th at Liberty Corner School. It was a huge success as we had over 276 children participating in the parade, candy crawl, and all the other activities. These activities included a haunted stage, Frankenstein cut out for picture taking, decorate your own pumpkin, guess the weight of a huge pumpkin, and a dance party. The LCS stage was transformed into an enchanted forest by one of our committee members, Melissa Breheny, with props donated to LCS by Brad and Irma Hill. It was a crowd favorite. The Frankenstein Cutout was created by Sloane Castleman. The 104 lb. Pumpkin, won by the Maloney Family, was donated by Laurino Farms of Colts Neck. The Tiny Tim's, used for the pumpkin decorating, were purchased at Laurino Farms. Great music was provided by DJ Chris of Warren. Some of the refreshments were donated by ShopRite in Bernardsville, Dunkin Donuts, and Stop & Shop at Lyons Mall. Linda Gamba, owner of Paperazzi of Bernardsville, was kind enough to donate dozens of balloons to help decorate the gym.



We would like to thank everyone involved in this event. It could not have been the success it was without the help of all our committee members: Nicole Aulicino, Melissa Breheny, Rebecca Mousally, Sean Novick, Davenie Pereira, and Donna Sellitti. We also had numerous volunteers - Laurie Dobson, Larissa Garanue, Jillian Colantuono, Samantha Whittaker, The Perez Family, Dr. Joe Murphy, Larissa Milligan, and Dhruv Sathe. Special thanks also goes out to all of the room parents, Bridget Jaeger, Mr. Keith, Dr. Pecoraro, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Saalfeld, Debbie Tracy, and Gerry Burns.

Battle of the Books ~~ Debbie Marcus and Yvette Hober, Co-Chairs

Battle of the Books is a fun and exciting team reading incentive program. Student teams read books from a pre-determined list and earn points in a Spring Battle by answering questions about the books. The program jumped into action as 35 fourth graders and 40 fifth graders met afterschool during the October conference week to organize their teams.

Groups of students worked hard to choose team names, positions, and assign books to read. The Green Slime Puffs, The Bachelors, Pink Elephants, Invisible Green Balls, Drama Llamas, and the Jersey Girlz will be competing against each other for the fifth grade. The Flaming Stripes, Funky Blue Zebraz, Fire Breathing Bookworms, Neon Socks, and Da Things will face each other for the fourth grade. Teams also chose captains, speakers, spirit, and recorder positions.

Students were excited to start reading their assigned books—with some children even putting them on their holiday gift wish list. We emphasized that the Battle is truly a team event with every child contributing through their own reading efforts. The Battle will include questions about the books they read and also spirit/sportsmanship awards.

At this point, the participants just need to stay committed to reading their assigned books. There will be follow-up later in the school year to make sure everyone is on track. The actual Battles will take place afterschool during spring conferences (not in the evening as previously advertised.)

Happy reading, everyone!



LCS Directory Updates

Please make the following changes to your 2011-2012 Liberty Corner School Directory:

MARTYNOWSKI, BROCK (4)
3447 Valley Road

GREEN, KAYLEE (1)
Daniel/Adrienne
157 Annin Road

PATOCZKA, ALEKSANDER (2)
647-2729

VIJAYMURUGAN, SIDDARTH (K)
350-7100
Vijay/Pratheeba
52 Baldwin Court
pratheeba.panchatcharam@gmail.com

SATHE, DHRUV (1)
847-466-9134
Nikhil/Renuka
nikhil.sathe@gmail.com



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

Your PTO at Work

Look what PTO volunteers and donations have accomplished October through Mid-December:

LCS Volunteer Orientation: Classroom parents attended training to be able to volunteer in the classroom during center times.

Gift Wrap Sale: Due to popular demand, the PTO made available the quality gift wrap through our vendor to the LCS community for purchase. This was an optional service for parents and not an official PTO Sponsored fundraiser.

Fifth Grade Celebration Bake Sale: Held during the book sale during Parent Teacher Conference times, this raises the money that will fund the annual Fifth Grade Celebration held at year end.

Battle of the Books kickoff meeting: For fourth and fifth graders, this kickoff meeting set the teams and framework for the ever-popular Battle of the Books held in April. This program encourages children to read and work together and culminates in a team competition quiz-style 'show'.

Trial of the Big Bad Wolf kickoff meeting: For third graders, this program provides an educational and interactive program for teaching our kids about the US legal system. Look out for the Trial to see if that Big Bad Wolf is really guilty in this mock trial with judge, witnesses, and attorneys!

Jay Mankita – Eat Like a Rainbow: This all school assembly was held in October and encouraged children to make healthy choices.

Halloween Party: Our second annual parade and party was a huge success, featuring fun games, treats, and a haunted house.

Bubblemania: This fun filled evening marked the first of what will hopefully become a series of educational and entertaining programs provided by the PTO as evening events.

Fire Truck Visit: The kindergarteners enjoyed a day with members from the Liberty Corner Fire Company who taught them about fire safety and let them enjoy climbing on the fire truck.

Scientist in the Class Rooms: The 3rd, 4th and 5th graders all enjoyed 75 minutes per classroom of science fun with Ms. Preeti from High Touch High Tech. The 3rd graders learned about Edison's Workshop; the 4th graders enjoyed a new program called Dig It; and our 5th graders studied cells.

Thomas Edison: Patrick Garner made his annual visit as a Thomas Edison impersonator and enthralled our 3rd graders with his inventions and what it is to be an inventor!

Lenape Lifeways: This 4th grade enrichment program provided hands-on learning to our students about the Lenape Indians through the study of numerous artifacts.

Indian Cultures: The Morris Museum enlightened our 3rd graders on the major American Indian cultures, their habitats, tools, clothing and traditions.

Ant and Lady Bug Kits: The 2nd grade hosted its parents with their annual Insect Museums with the PTO provided Ant and Lady Bug Kits.

Look what is coming from your PTO in January and early February:

- High Touch High Tech visits the 2nd Grade on January 5th and 6th.
- Kit's Interactive Theater makes its 2nd visit to the 5th grade on January 13th to perform on the early Pioneers.
- Sweet Potato Pie – All School Assembly on January 17th.
- The 4th graders get a visit from local author/photographer Walter Choroszewski and learn about the Garden State on January 18th.
- Jenkinson's penguins will visit the kindergarteners on January 20th.
- Franklin Institute – All School Assembly on Hot and Cold on February 8th.
- Staff Winter Breakfast on February 8th.
- Get ready, the Math Magician will come to LCS for an evening of mathematical fun on January 27th at 7 pm. This is the 2nd PTO funded evening event for the year and promises to engage all ages!

Some friendly reminders:

- Winter Break starts with a 1 pm dismissal on December 23rd. Happy New Year! School starts up again on January 3, 2012!
- Band and Chorus Concerts at Ridge High School PAC on January 17th at 7pm.
- District String Concert at Ridge High School PAC on January 24th at 7 pm.
- Marking Period 2 ends on January 30th.
- Kindergarten Registration is February 2nd.
- 5th Graders attend the Weller Institute on February 8th.
- Report Cards are available on February 7th.
- Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, or uncles: Mark your calendar and get ready to take your special girl to the Sweetheart Dance on February 10th!

Thank You!

Bubblemania: The LCS community was fortunate to have this fantastic show brought into our school by our very busy enrichment committee, with Larissa Milligan and Bridget Jaeger taking the lead on this event. We truly appreciate all of your efforts in planning this event.

Website: Our new and improved PTO website is up and running thanks to the tireless efforts of Heather Whyte-Kattas, Ben Herila, Terri Laird and Bridget Jaeger. Check out www.LibertyCornerPTO.org today!

Halloween Festivity: Thank you to Juana Schwed and Lisa Laurino for chairing the Halloween festivities. They did a great job as can be seen in the pictures of the children in their costumes, from their faces (even under the masks!), and from having seen them running around having a good time. Our kids marched in a parade, collected pounds of candy in the Candy Crawl, enjoyed the haunted stage and BOO-geyed with the DJ. Lots of energy (and sugar) inspired the afternoon. Even scarier than the costumes was the snow, fallen trees, and loss of electricity that affected many and prevented some from celebrating Halloween a few days later. Juana and Lisa's Halloween committee put together our true Halloween celebration this year thanks to the Snowtober storm. Thank you for all the planning, parent communication, and effort that went into this successful event.

5th Grade Car Wash: A big thank you to Mr. Rauchenberger for organizing another successful car wash benefiting the Liberty Corner Firehouse.

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 — December brings joy, mayhem, fun, learning, and exhaustion to the LCS gymnasium; same thing, different month right? Beach week and Fantasy week will highlight the weeks before December break. Sign up for the Winter Intramural season before it is full. Go to Mr. Henthorn's on-course site, http://www.oncoursesystems.com/school/view_webpage.asp?id=324694, for an intramural registration packet and much more. Have a nice break and happy holidays to all.

Music — In the month of November, students learned about Elvis Presley and his influence in Rock and Roll music. During the month of December, students will be learning about the famous classical baroque composer, Johann Sebastian Bach. Students will learn about instruments like the organ and the harpsichord, as well as instruments in the orchestra. They will have the opportunity to listen to various compositions by this famous composer. In addition, students will be preparing for the holiday sing-along which will take place on December 23rd. Students will sing, play instruments, and use movements during their holiday performance. Happy Holidays!

2011-2012 Library Volunteers!

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

- Check-in and shelf 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.

Car Wash

On Friday, October 21, Liberty Corner School Fifth graders held a car wash to raise money for the Liberty Corner Fire Department. The car wash has been an annual event for fifth graders since 2003, raising money for local agencies and charities.

This year's car wash raised \$954 for the fire department!

Pictured in the photo are: Dr. Kathleen Pecoraro (Principal), Mr. James Oliver (Assistant Principal), Mr. Eric Rauschenberger (School Counselor), Liberty Corner Fire Chief Pete Apprahamian.

Grade 5 Student Council members pictured are: Thomas Tancredi, Jasmine Yi, Andrew Clark, Kate Vingies



PHOTOS



Liberty Corner Fire Trucks Visit Kindergarten



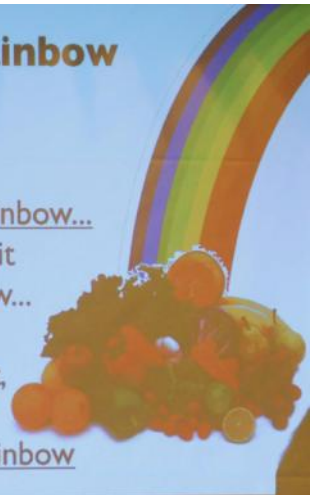


Fifth Grade Bake Sale

Eat Like A Rainbow

I like to eat like a rainbow...
Builds my body, and it
makes my brain grow...

Helps my heart beat,
and my blood flow
I like to eat like a rainbow



**Eat Like a Rainbow Presentation During
Red Ribbon Week**



**High Touch, High Tech
A third grade enrichment program**



Bubblemania

