



Liberty Corner PTO

June 2012

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

Time certainly does go by quickly. It's hard to believe that another school year has come and gone! The children and faculty have certainly worked hard this year. As the year comes to a close, the children are enjoying some well deserved fun filled activities such as field day, Fifth Grade celebration, and year end classroom parties.

Spring is a very busy time of year at LCS and this year was no exception. "On your mark, get set, go"; walkers and runners alike enjoyed a beautiful day at Mountain Park for our Second Annual Walk Run Event. Our chairs, Elda Feldman and Lisa LaTourette, cared for all the details including stretching activities, a well marked course, snacks, and music.

The PTO Board once again participated in the kindergarten screening process where we introduced our incoming kindergarten parents to the various functions of the PTO. The sessions were informative and we encouraged them to get involved early and often!

Our enrichment activities continued as the classes were introduced to Scientists in the classroom, specifically Reaction Attraction for the 3rd Grade and Green Machine for 4th Grade. In addition, a Civil War Reenactment was held for the 5th Grade. Thanks to Bridget Jaeger and the enrichment committee for organizing all of these wonderful events.

Our kindergarteners, new students, and new teachers had the opportunity to leave their "mark" on LCS during our Hallway Handprint event. Susan Rascio and Katie Van Cleef organized this activity, and now we have newly painted handprints on the halls within LCS.

Music was certainly in the air as our Chorus, Strings, and Band members showcased their talents at the spring concerts. The students and teachers did a great job preparing for these events.

The Staff Spring Lunch was another successful event thanks to the hard work of our chairs, Joy Schmitt and Sandra Kaiser. The theme was "Year of the Dragon," and the teachers were treated to Chinese food from China Delight in Bernardsville and delicious desserts baked by LCS parents. The teachers had a wonderful time and took away some fun summertime reading donated by the PTO.

Although Field Day was rained out twice, the third time was a charm. This event, which the children look forward to every year, was chaired by Tracy Colantuono, Ana Keenan, and Sheri Orr.

The Fifth Grade students enjoyed music, games, food, and beverages at the Fifth Grade Celebration which was chaired by Corinne Fern and Katie Mohan. The celebration was paid for using the funds raised from the various bake sales conducted by the Fifth Grade Celebration Committee throughout the year. The children had a great time.

The PTO truly appreciates each and every volunteer's support throughout the year. Please consider signing up to be a Chair, Co-Chair, or Member of your favorite committees for the 2012-13 school year. The form can be found on our PTO website <http://www.libertycornerpto.org/> under flyers and forms.

Have a fantastic summer!

PTO Board 2011-2012

Co-Presidents: Laurie Dobson (lbdobson@msn.com) and Bernie Taylor (bernietaylor20@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 (miscala@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



We are honored to announce that LCS's "Luke's Buddies" Character Education initiative has been nationally recognized by the Character Education Partnership (CEP) as a 2012 Promising Practice. Kudos to the ten fifth grade boys who worked with one of our Special Education students by modeling appropriate behaviors on the playground and in the cafeteria. They are young men who have demonstrated the highest level of character this year by giving unselfishly of their time. Will Akin, Justus Smith, Jack Fiocco, Andy Clark, Thomas Tancredi, Malcolm Hayman, Michael Herlihy, Owen Van Cleef, Ryan Sweeney and Zach Dobson are to be commended for demonstrating "character in action." Special thanks to these boys for making this first year for "Luke's Buddies" such a huge success. It has been an amazing journey observing the beautiful interactions between Luke and his "buddies." I am very proud to have been associated with them and know they will take their experiences and commitment to others into WAMS and beyond. Not one of the boys ever thought they were doing something special. It is just who they are and how they think and behave.

This year's fifth grade class is an amazing group of young people. They care about each other and have demonstrated excellent character as they engaged in numerous cross-grade activities with younger schoolmates and participated in Character Education activities and initiatives. We wish them the very best at WAMS. We are confident they are ready to take on the challenges of middle school. Above all, we will sincerely miss them.

Mr. Oliver and I wish you all a very happy, safe summer. Enjoy the time with family and friends to rejuvenate, relax and get ready for the new school year. Thanks for your continued support as we endeavor to provide your children, our students, with the best possible education.

LCS Directory Updates

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

AMALFITANO, ISABELLA (5)
AMALFITANO, GIOVANNI (4)
766-1522
Roy/Jeanine
116 Wexford Way
jeanineamalfi@yahoo.com

ZUNIN, MARINA (3)
973-886-3630
Karen
440 Penns Way
karenkjz@yahoo.com



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

Your PTO at Work

Your PTO at Work: April through June 2012

Family Walk/Run: The PTO held it's second annual family fun run - a successful, physical challenge that was fun for all who participated. This event was held on a lovely April morning at Mountain Park for LCS students and their families to spend some quality time together exercising and getting fit!

Staff Appreciation Lunch: The PTO sponsored a delightful lunch for the teachers and staff. The theme was inspired by the Year of the Dragon – honoring and respecting all that the teacher's provide for our children – with Asian infused cuisine and décor.

Hallway Handprints: The annual decorating of the hallway with the kindergarteners' handprints took place. This tradition has graced the hallways of LCS for many years and lets the children see how much they've grown from year to year as they compare their current hand to the one they put in the hall when they were just starting their journey at LCS!

School Supplies: This service which allows parents to order their children's school supplies to be delivered to their classroom in September took place.

Scientist in the Class Rooms: Ms. Preeti Planet finished out the year in April with 3 In-Classroom programs: Global Fever, Green Machine and Reaction Attraction. As always, the kids loved the 75 minutes of high quality science experimentation and learning!

AAA Map Program: The PTO brought in Shani Jarvis of AAA to each of the 5th grade classrooms where they learned the valuable skill of deciphering road maps and geographical facts of the US and NJ.

Kindergarten Registration: The PTO volunteers helped register incoming Kindergarteners and welcomed their families on May 18th by introducing them to the school and PTO. Be on the lookout in September for all the new faces!

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 annual visit is always a hit.

Field Day: Mother Nature was not kind this year causing the first two dates to be rained out! The third time was the charm and June 8th brought beautiful weather and a great deal of fun. The children all enjoyed a variety of sports and water fun activities.

5th Grade Celebration: The 5th Grade team raised money throughout the year to fund their end of year celebration. It was held at Harry Dunham Park and there was music, food and lots of activities for the students to enjoy. Good luck at WAMS!

Some Friendly Reminders....

- 5th Grade Student Clap Out and Parents Coffee- June 22nd
- Report Cards are available on June 22nd
- Early Dismissal Days – June 21st and 22nd
- The PTO Pledge Letters will be sent in early August via mail. Please be on the look out and send your support before school begins in order to avoid the long lines at Back To School Night. Remember, we can't provide all the enrichment to the classrooms without your support!
- School Supplies – If you ordered them, will be in your child's classroom at the Meet and Greet!

We wish you and your family a happy, healthy, fun, and safe summer!

PTO Spring Luau Book Fair ~~ Alexa DeCandia & Jackie Mandel, Co-Chairs

Thank you for supporting our PTO Spring Luau Book Fair. The LCS community participated in an exciting atmosphere of great books, thrilling stories, and fun. Readers of all ages walked away from the Book Fair with the best prize of all: a lifelong love of reading!

This year we held a daily trivia question revolving around the Hawaiian theme. The winners of the daily trivia question received a lei and an item from the popular pen area. In addition, LCS students and teachers also participated in a Guess How Many Leis and Guess How Many Candy Runts that were in the jars. The winners took home the Scholastic World Almanac and their respective teachers received the jar of candies and the leis.

A big thank you goes to Mr. Mullarkey, who gave us his library to use. As usual, he did a wonderful job promoting the books that were being sold at the book fair to each class and creating excitement among the students. There were quite a few books that could not stay stocked on the shelves!

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped us with the Book Fair: Keith for bringing all the boxes to the library, Gail Bechtold, Sandra Bierstein, Allegra DeCandia, Amy DeMaira, Cathy Ferraro, Anita Keller, Lauren Mandel, Debbie Marcus, Jemi McCluskey, and Susan Lipton Rascio.

LCS Family Fun Walk and Run 2012 ~~ Lisa LaTourette & Elda Feldman, Co-Chairs

LCS held its 2nd Annual LCS Family Fun Walk and Run on Sunday, April 29th in Mountain Park. LCS students and their families, along with LCS teachers, ran or walked a mile or two or 3.2 miles (a 5K race) in perfect weather conditions. Miguel from the Somerset Hills YMCA led stretching exercises to get everyone warmed up until the run/walk began. Many runners had inspiring large signs and posters all over the course supporting them, thanks to a fund raiser to support the LCS Scholarship Fund.

Congratulations to all of the boys and girls who participated and earned medals! They all had great smiles on their faces as they came through the finish line. Our fastest 5K runners for the boys were Zach Feldman, Zach Dobson, Iain Jaeger, Logan Jaeger, Gage Dobson. Our fastest 5K runners for the girls were Kelly King, Katelyn King, Allie De Asla, Brenna Milligan, and Ella Blank. Our fastest teachers were Ms. Len and Mrs. Lillia! Congratulations to all of our participants!

We greatly appreciate the Somerset Hills YMCA for volunteering their instructor, the Liberty Corner Ambulance Squad for sending an ambulance and volunteers, the Sneaker Factory for donating running bibs, and Mr. Henthorn and Mr. Fico for letting us use the awesome sound equipment for tunes.

We also wanted to thank our wonderful committee for their fantastic work and enthusiasm: Laurie Dobson, Joseph Doherty, Susan Gibbons, Heidi Hilgendorff Hannis, Eileen McDonald, Mary Norton, Gina Rossomondo, Sara Garvey Wallach. We also had two high school students who volunteered their time at the race and did an outstanding job: Lauren Doyle and Jimmy Martinson.

Staff Lunch~~ Sandra Kaiser & Joy Schmitt, Co-Chairs

Our LCS staff were the deserving recipients of a delicious lunch on May 22nd. Thanks to the efforts of co-chairs, Sandra Kaiser and Joy Schmitt and committee members Yvette Hober, Mie Holmqvist, Lisa La-Tourette, Kelli Schmolze, and Heather Watson-Kramer, our teachers enjoyed an Asian-inspired menu of Japanese and Chinese food, and a vast book selection from which they could choose for their summer reading. The 'Year of the Dragon' theme was fitting to honor and respect our staff who provide exemplary teaching and guidance to our children throughout the year.

(Leftover food was shared with Market St. Mission of Morristown, and extra books were donated to Bernards Township Library).

Battle of the Books: Avid Readers Unite! -- Debbie Marcus & Yvette Hober, Co-Chairs

About 75 students at Liberty Corner School completed the PTO sponsored "Battle of the Books" competition, a program that encourages fourth and fifth graders to read and show off their knowledge of books' contents. 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 amongst teams of six to seven students, who between them read all the titles on a pre-selected, grade appropriate master list. During the battle, the students were asked knowledge-based questions about the books and earned points for their team for correct answers.

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

Nearly half the students in the 5th grade and a third of the 4th grade students participated in this year's battles. After an exciting three rounds of competition, the following awards were handed out at the 4th grade Battle of the Books:

For Best Team Sportsmanship, the "Funky Blue Zebraz", in 3rd place, "Da Things", for both the Team Spirit award and in 2nd place, "The Fire Breathing Bookworms". And, in 1st place, the "Flaming Stripes" with team members Marina Chiafullo, John Ivarone, Anesh Kadali, Toni Lanausse, Jonathan Nemetz, and Anthony Rose.

The 5th grade battle was a tight competition and even needed to go into a tie-breaker round to determine who would be in the finals. For the 5th grade battle the results were as follows:

For Best Team Sportsmanship AND Best Team Spirit, the "Green Slime Puffs". In 3rd place, the "Pink Elephants", in 2nd place, the "Jersey Girlz", and, in 1st place, "The Invisible Green Balls" with team members Jack Fiocco, Michael Herlihy, Zach Marcus, Jack McDonald, Eric Tung, and Jason Zhang.

We'd like to thank the following moms who volunteered to assist with putting the battle teams together and being there at the kickoff meeting in October and at follow up meetings with the battle participants. These moms also read books and wrote practice battle questions, procured and labeled the team awards, and assisted during the actual battles: Sheri Pastor, Michele Ivarone, MaryKate Melilli, Nancy Herlihy, Elda Feldman, Tina DelGiorno, Marion McGlynn, Mary Norton, and Corinne Fern. A special thank you goes out to Sheri Pastor for entering all the questions into PowerPoint so, we could display them to the students during the competition. She will be co-chairing the event with Debbie Marcus next year.

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; Elizabeth Michels and Bridget Jaeger for taking photographs; 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 one to three 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, competition, and fun and continues to be a popular program here at LCS. Have a great summer and happy reading!

Field Day ~~ Tracy Colantuono, Ana Keenan, and Sheri Pastor-Orr , Co-Chairs

What a blast! After a few rain dates, LCS recently enjoyed Field Day. For over an hour, each grade played indoors and outside with classmates. The children slid down a giant inflatable slide, rode scooters on the basketball court, and enjoyed water sports, including duck races at an inflatable pond. They cooled each other off at the very popular pitching machine by hitting a target to burst water balloons over classmates' heads. The children enjoyed dress-up games, relay races, hands-free Jell-O-eating contests, and dancing and playing volley ball in the gym. Supervised by a dedicated group of parent volunteers, the LCS children had a fantastic Field Day! Special thanks to the LCS administration and staff, and all the parent volunteers, who made Field Day a success.



Luke's Buddies

Liberty Corner School's "Luke's Buddies" has been recognized by the Character Education Partnership (CEP) as a Promising Practice. "Luke's Buddies" is character in action giving fifth grade boys the opportunity to give unselfishly of themselves to help a schoolmate with special needs.



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 — In music class, students are reviewing all of the Music of the Month units from the past year - Bluegrass, The Music of Mexico, Elvis, Johann Sebastian Bach, Cartoon Music, Motown, Mallet Madness, The Music of New Orleans, and Patriotic Music. They've learned so much about different styles and are playing review games to see what they remember.

In addition, students are preparing for the End-of-the-Year Sing-Along which takes place on the last day of school. Each grade will sing two songs on their own as well as two songs with the whole school. Students will vote on their favorite songs from the year and will perform those for the school community. It has been another great year of music at LCS!

Thanks,
~Carol Beadle~

2012~2013 Library Volunteers!

Please consider volunteering in the LCS Library in 2012-13!

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 (K-5)*
- *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, send Mr. Mullarkey an e-mail: jmullar-key@bernardsboe.com

Thank You!

Spring Book Fair: Thank you to Co-Chairs, Jackie Mandel and Alexa DeCandia, for another successful Spring Book Fair. Their hard work putting together this popular event is greatly appreciated. Great job!

Spiritwear: A huge thanks to Spiritwear Chair Melissa Breheny for single-handedly designing, ordering, and selling LCS gear throughout the school year. Thank you, Melissa!

Boxtops: The PTO would like to thank Rai Delmo and Ema Schwed for collecting, cutting, and sorting the Boxtops for Liberty Corner School. Also, much appreciation for tallying each grade and coordinating the winning pizza party! Great Job!

School Supplies: Many thanks to Lynn Stein for chairing the School Supplies Program for 2012-2013! Lynn did an outstanding job coordinating the supply lists with the teachers and implementing the online orders with Staples. Thanks to Lynn for making back-to-school supply shopping so easy for all LCS parents!

Family Fun Walk / Run: A big thank you to Elda Feldman and Lisa LaTourette, for chairing our annual Family Fun Walk Run, this year at Mountain Park. The weather cooperated and our runners were inspired to give it their all as they made their way around the course. The tee shirts were a fun memento of the accomplishment. Thanks ladies, for keeping us healthy and moving!

Kindergarten Screening: Thank you to Dominique Wolfe and Nancy Gross for chairing the Kindergarten Registration and Screening. It takes a lot of hands to keep the soon to be kindergarteners busy during the screening process and Dominique and Nancy made sure they were all ready to go! Thanks Dominique and Nancy, for a job well done!

Staff Luncheon: A wonderful Asian inspired luncheon was coordinated by Joy Schmitt and Sandra Kaiser for our hard working teachers and staff. The 'Year of the Dragon' was a hit with everyone. The staff not only enjoyed a scrumptious themed luncheon, they left with some great summer reading with books the committee collected from LCS families for their enjoyment. Xie xie, Joy and Sandra!

Hallway Handprints: The annual tradition of gracing the hallways with our kindergarteners handprints continued this year thanks to Susan Rascio and Katie Van Cleef. This rite of passage allows the children to see how much they have grown every time they pass their print while they walk the halls of LCS. The ladies made sure it was a fun and enjoyable time for the students. Thanks, Susan and Katie!

Caring Community Committee: Thanks to Sandra Spina-Bierstein, Sonia Jay, and their committee for providing refreshments for our incoming (and existing) Kindergarten parents during Kindergarten screening. The food and drink was a welcome treat during breaks between informational presentations by LCS administration and the PTO Executive Board. The committee also provided beautiful bouquets of flowers to our fabulous Music Teachers, Mrs. Beadle, Mrs. Karle, and Mr. Kirk, for creating such magical music with our children in the Chorus, Band, and Orchestra concerts in May.

Communications Committee: The entire PTO community truly appreciates the work Heather Whyte-Kattas and her committee, Sharon Bloom-Sigmund and Amanda Yanuklis Kucerka, do throughout the year to keep us informed of school and PTO events alike. Many deadlines would be missed without them!

Curriculum Committee: Our sincere gratitude to Maura McEnroe and Anita Keller for volunteering to be the LCS representatives at the monthly district curriculum meetings. They keep our community informed of any forthcoming changes in curriculum and provide feedback to administrators from an LCS PTO point of view.

Fifth Grade Celebration: A big thank you goes out to Corinne Fern and Katie Mohan for coordinating our Fifth Grade Celebration this year. It is a right of passage that all the outgoing students look forward to before they head off to WAMS. Thanks ladies!

Field Day: A huge thank you to Sheri Orr, Tracy Colantuono, and Ana Keenan for chairing our Field Day this year. Even though Mother Nature did not want to cooperate, these moms made sure the kids did not miss out! They put together an awesome day of fun filled activities for the kids. Thank you, Sheri, Tracy, and Ana!

Fifth Grade Yearbook: A big thank you to Chris Bedrosian and Sandra Their for chairing the Fifth Grade Yearbook. Their hard work coordinating this wonderful keepsake for the fifth graders with their committee was much appreciated. Thanks, Chris and Sandra!

Photography: Thank you to Bridget Jaeger and her committee for the many hours they donated throughout the year taking pictures of our children so we could share in their activities.

PHOTOS



PTO Volunteer Breakfast



PTO Volunteer Breakfast



PTO Volunteer Breakfast



Staff Lunch



Staff Lunch

5th Grade Civil War Re-enactment





Battle of the Books



Battle of the Books



Camp Bernie



Camp Bernie



Camp Bernie

LCS PTO Board for 2012~2013

A special thank you to our retiring board members Laurie Dobson, Maggie Gould, Linda Picardo and Barbara Sileo, for their dedication to making LCS a better place for our children. Thank you Donna Wilson for helping with our Directory and board activities.



Incoming PTO Board (left to right) Karen Feringa, Bernie Taylor, Zaida Harrison, Heather Whyte-Kattas, Larissa Milligan, Bridget Jaeger, Pam Haviland, Davenie Pereira, Deb de Asla, Sherry Mandel.

Biographies:

Co-Presidents

Bernadette Taylor

Bernadette Taylor and her husband Kevin moved to Basking Ridge in December 1997. They have two sons; Vince is entering fourth grade and Kevin will be starting first grade in September. Bernie grew up in Stanhope, New Jersey, and graduated from Seton Hall University with a Bachelors Degree in Accounting and a Masters Degree in Taxation. She is a Certified Public Accountant and has spent the last twenty-two years working for AT&T. Bernie is currently a Director of Accounting in the Controllers Organization. She has worked in various finance positions throughout her career at AT&T.

Bernie makes sure that she is equally involved in school activities. She has taken an active role at Liberty Corner School by serving as a room mom and being a member of the Pancakes for Supper, Hallway Handprints, Field Day, Sweetheart Dance, and Ice Cream Social Committees. Bernie has thoroughly enjoyed serving on the PTO Board for the last three years. She is looking forward to another great year.

Zaida Harrison

Zaida Harrison, and her husband Tim, have lived in Basking Ridge since 2004. They have three children in the Liberty Corner School--Liam will be in 4th grade, Zach in 3rd, and Tate in 1st.

This will be Zaida's third year on the PTO Board. She has a BA and an MBA from Rutgers University and worked at Prudential Financial for 17 years in their mutual fund as well as their risk management areas. Zaida enjoys being a class mom and working on various social committees. She is also on the Board of the Jr. Women's Club of Somerset Hills.

LCS PTO Board for 2012~2013 (cont'd)

Co- First Vice Presidents

Davenie Pereira

Davenie first lived in Basking Ridge when her parents moved to town in 1989. She returned in 2003 with her husband, Bill. They have two children - Alexandra, who will enter 4th grade, and Drew, who will enter 1st.

Since her children have attended LCS, she has served the school community by volunteering on several committees including the Spring Social, the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf, Hallway Handprints, the Halloween Festivity, and the Buddies and Books Café, the latter two of which she served as co-chair. She has also participated in the classroom acting as a room parent for two years and as a Kindergarten centers and 1st grade writing workshop volunteer.

Davenie graduated from Wellesley College, in Wellesley, MA with a B.A. in Economics. Upon leaving Wellesley, she started her 10 year career at Prudential where she worked in the Securities Lending & Trading Group in both the Insurance company in Newark, NJ and Prudential Securities in New York City. She left Prudential as a V.P. in 2003 following the birth of her daughter.

Davenie is excited to take on the role of co-1st VP of Programming. She feels that one of the best ways to “give back” to the community is by working to enhance the overall educational experience of its children and is happy to have the opportunity to be a part of that process.

Larissa Milligan

Larissa and her husband, Bob, moved to Basking Ridge in 1998 from Princeton, New Jersey, after living in a number of towns throughout the state. They have three children – a sixth grade son at WAMS and third and first grade girls at LCS. Larissa grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey. She received her BS in Business Administration from The College of New Jersey and her MBA in Marketing from Seton Hall University.

Larissa held a variety of positions at Merrill Lynch over a ten-year career in both Princeton and New York. This included launching the Firm’s retail client website along with the first online trading site for a full service brokerage firm. She left as a Vice President in 2000 when her first child was born.

Larissa has been involved in Liberty Corner School for a number of years, serving as class mom numerous times as well as on various committees, including Kids In Bloom, Book Fair, Kindergarten Screening, Hallway Handprints, Mother Son Bowling, Enrichment, Sweetheart Dance, Fifth Grade Celebration, as well as chairing the DNA Testing Committee. She joined the Executive Board in 2010 and has held both the Secretary and Co First-VP of Programming positions. Larissa feels it is important for parents to be involved to help enrich our children’s collective educational experiences, and she is trying to do her part.

Co-Second Vice Presidents

Bridget Jaeger

Bridget and her husband, Bryan, moved to Basking Ridge in 2003 from Tewksbury. They have 2 sons, Iain will be entering WAMS next year and Logan will be in 4th grade. Bridget grew up in Bridgewater and graduated from Rutgers University with a BA in Mathematics and an MS in Industrial and Systems Engineering. After college, she worked for Bell Labs, AT&T, and Telcordia Technologies. Once her children were born, she left the corporate world and turned her attention to her community through various volunteerism efforts.

Bridget is a Sustainer for the Junior League of Morristown after 10 years of active service and Executive Board positions. She has worked on many community outreach organizations including the Summit Speech School, the ARC of Somerset County, the USET, SharingVillage Cancer Survivor Groups, and Bonnie Brae to name a few. She has chaired many fundraising events and social events over the past 20 years in support of these organizations.

At Liberty Corner, Bridget has served as class mom, school photographer, and 5th grade yearbook committee person. She has chaired the Staff Winter Breakfast, Photography and Co-Chaired the Enrichment committees. She will be serving her 4th year as a PTO Board member as Co-VP of Fundraising. Her prior Board positions include: Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary.

LCS PTO Board for 2012~2013 (cont'd)

Co-Second Vice Presidents

Deb de Asla

Debbie Nungester and her husband, Mike de Asla, moved to Basking Ridge in 2003. They have two children: Alexandra, who will be entering the third grade in the fall, and Aiden, who will be entering the first grade. Debbie graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Economics and from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania with an M.B.A. Debbie's work experience includes seven years of arranging financing for professional sports facilities with Public Financial Management in Philadelphia and eight years trading mortgage-backed securities for Morgan Stanley in New York. At the Liberty Corner School, Debbie has been a first and second grade room parent and a co-chair of the Enrichment Committee. She has also served as a co-president of the parent association at the nearby Albrook School.

Co-Treasurers

Karen Feringa

Karen Feringa grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut. She attended Boston University where she received a dual degree in psychology and elementary education. She taught in Virginia for the Fairfax County Public Schools. After marrying her husband, Dave, she moved to Colorado where she earned a Masters Degree in Education at the University of Colorado. She taught for two more years for the Jefferson County School District before having her first child. Karen and Dave have five children: Jeff is a junior at Ridge High School, Kaitlyn is a freshman at Gill St. Bernards School, Christopher is in the 6th grade at WAMS, James and Bradley are at Liberty Corner Elementary School in the 3rd and 1st grade. Karen and her family moved to Basking Ridge in 2001. They moved to Seattle, Washington for one year but were happy to return to the east coast.

Karen has been involved at Liberty Corner School over the past two and a half years. She has volunteered in the classroom and has been a room parent. On the "Kids in Bloom" Committee, Karen served as the co-chairman. She has also helped with Kindergarten Screening and many other school activities. As a former educator, Karen knows how important it is to have a strong relationship between teachers, administrators, and parents. The parent involvement at Liberty Corner School greatly contributes to the excellence of the education that children receive there. Karen is excited to be involved by serving on the school board.

Pam Haviland

Pamela Haviland and her husband, Jason, moved to Basking Ridge in 2007 from Bridgewater. They have three children – Jake in 3rd grade, Alex in 1st grade, and Kate, who is still in pre-school. Pamela grew up in Glastonbury, CT and after graduating from Syracuse University with a B.S. in Broadcast Journalism, she worked as a television news reporter at various news organizations in the metro area, including New Jersey Network and News 12 New Jersey. Pamela left as a general assignment reporter for WPIX-Channel 11 news in 2004.

At Liberty Corner School, Pamela serves and has served as classroom parent and volunteers on a number of PTO committees, including: Buddies and Books, Hallway Handprints, the Spring Social, the Halloween Parade, the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf and Field Day. Pamela enjoys being an active part of the school and community and is hoping to enrich the educational experiences of all the children at Liberty Corner School. She and her family are very grateful to be part of such a supportive and caring community and hope to give back.

LCS PTO Board for 2012~2013 (cont'd)

Secretary

Sherry Mandel

Sherry Mandel and her husband, David, moved to Basking Ridge in the summer of 2004, relocating to the area after living in London for six years. They have two children, Matthew and Jordan, who are twin nine year olds entering the fourth grade at LCS.

Sherry is originally from the New York area. She is a graduate from the College of New Rochelle in NY with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and received her Masters Degree in Health Education and Health Promotion from the Institute of Education in London. In London, Sherry worked for Barclays Bank where she ran health promotion programs. Most recently, she worked at Novartis Pharmaceuticals in the corporate health center as a project manager. She is currently working to open massage therapy studios in the area.

From her sons' kindergarten year, Sherry has been involved in the PTO's many wonderful programs and LCS events. Her volunteer experience includes two years as room parent as well as chairing the Buddies and Books Café. Sherry has assisted in Pizza Night, Trial of the Big Bad Wolf, worked as a library volunteer, as well as numerous class room activities such as writing workshop, centers, and holiday presentations.

Sherry is looking forward to her role on the executive board as secretary in the upcoming school year. Being more involved in the valuable programs and opportunities for the students will be a very worthwhile experience for her and her family.

Communications Director

Heather Whyte-Kattas

Heather and her husband, Paul, moved to Basking Ridge in 1999. They have two daughters, Alexandra, who will be entering fifth grade in the fall, and Victoria, who will be entering third grade. Heather graduated from Wellesley College with a B.A. in English and History and from Columbia Law School with a J.D. After passing the bars in New York and New Jersey, Heather worked as an associate at Holland & Knight for four years. In 1999, Heather left the practice of law and became a Sales Executive for LexisNexis. She now teaches online legal research to students and faculty at Seton Hall and Rutgers Newark law schools.

At Liberty Corner School, this will be Heather's third year as Communications Director. She has also been a kindergarten and a third grade room parent, a classroom volunteer, a Spiritwear Committee Chair, and has worked on the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf, Field Day, and the Book Fair. She is looking forward to continuing to inform and engage the Liberty Corner School community as Communications Director.