

Liberty Corner PTO

October 2010



WELCOME BACK!

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



Laurie Dobson and Jeanne Starr

The long hot days of summer are sadly over. But fall is here and another school year is underway. And at Liberty Corner School, we are off to a great start! We have already had a lot of excitement: Mr. Ray was our first school-wide assembly. Our annual Pizza Night had a huge turnout and ran like clockwork. And we have already completed our first of five fundraisers.

As a trial this year, we offered the Entertainment Books. We successfully raised over 4000 dollars, which will be used towards this year's enrichment assemblies. Thank you to the committee chairs, Susan Kelson and Sandra Thier for their time and hard work organizing this fundraiser. Our

second fundraiser has already started with Genevieve gift-wrap. Please be sure to show the catalog to family members and friends to make this fundraiser a huge success. Our final 3 fundraisers will not be until after the New Year, with Kids in Bloom in March, Spring Book fair in April and a raffle at the end of the year. Please support our fundraisers. The monies are used to fund all enrichment programs, Wizards of Words, mini-grant requests, equipment and more each year with the budget cuts. We can only continue to offer these extra programs with your support of our fundraising efforts.



The PTO has been busy planning many new events this year. This month we will have Liberty Corner's first Halloween Parade followed by a Monster Mash Halloween Party on Friday, October 29. Mark your calendars now and get ready for a spooktacular event. Some other new events you can look forward to this year are: a Family Game Night, a Movie Night, a Family Walk/Run event, and an ice cream social. There is a lot of great fun planned throughout the year. So please be sure to attend these activities or better yet join a committee and get involved.

As a reminder, Board of Education meetings are every other Monday night. (See the BOE website meeting dates page at www.bernardsboe.com/BernardsBOE/Meeting_Dates.aspx or Friday folders for specific dates.) Stay informed on what's happening this year with the budget. We have a \$1.3 Million dollar shortfall that needs to be addressed. In order to ensure that the Board of Education is making informed decisions about what is important to the parents in our community, it is important to have your voices heard during the planning process.

Lastly, congratulations to the Liberty Corner Firehouse on its 100th Anniversary. Hopefully some of you were able to enjoy the parade and the festivities that followed. It was a fantastic time to get together and celebrate the service and accomplishments of those in our local community.

Introducing the LCS PTO Board for the 2010-2011 school year



Left to right: Larissa Milligan, Zaida Harrison, Linda Picardo, Laurie Dobson, Maggie Gould, Bridget Jaeger, Bernie Taylor, Jeanne Starr, Barbara Sileo, Heather Whyte-Kattas.

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 (mjscala@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

Thank You!



Juanita Tam for all her hard work over the summer putting together another fabulous LCS Directory.

Andrea Chiafullo, Tina Del Giorno and Yvette Hober for organizing another fun-filled Pizza Night. This was a great opportunity for new families to meet other members of our LCS community as well as our existing families reconnecting with one another.

Michele Rishty, Jill Bond and Elaine Kusel for coordinating all of the room parents for the school year.

From the Principal's Desk ~~ Dr. Pecoraro

We are off to a great start for the 2010-2011 school year. It's terrific having the children back here at LCS. Everyone has transitioned beautifully; even our Kindergartners are navigating the building like veterans. We welcome Ms. Liszewski, Ms. Menna, Ms. Davies, Ms. Vanek and Ms. Van Dusen to our LCS family.



Back-to-School Nights were very well attended and we hope you gained valuable information. Your next scheduled visitation with your child's teacher will be Oct. 19-22 for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Please be sure you have made an appointment for your conference.



Our "Bucket Fillers" character education theme has really taken off. I hear children and teachers talking about filling each others' buckets. Our goal this year is to have the children focus on how they make others feel. To achieve this goal the children have to act and think positively as they interact with each other. Although

bullying is not a big problem here at LCS, it nevertheless does exist. It is our intention to eradicate and eliminate all bullying by encouraging the children to develop a sense of mutual respect for each other. Our anti-bullying program is a component of the district-wide anti-bullying initiative.



We have instituted a new pilot volunteer program to support our Literacy Support students. It has been noted that many of our learners need additional time to practice skills taught in the classroom. Five parent volunteers have been selected and trained by our Reading Specialist, Mrs. Bilenker, Language Arts Literacy Support teachers, Mrs. Alfieri and Mrs. Spero, and Math Specialist, Ms. Clark. These volunteers comprise our Literacy United Volunteers or LUV program

and will begin working in October in grade one. If successful, we will examine the possibility of expanding the program to include Kindergarten and First Grade. The service provided will constitute one-on-one time to practice reading skills, math/computational games and will eventually include the writing process. Volunteers will not be working with their own children or in classrooms. A special instructional area has been created to house the program. Volunteers will periodically be trained in our Everyday Math program and reading prompts and writing strategies to ensure the effectiveness of this practice time. Initially, volunteers will be engaged in the re-reading of Guided Reading materials and shadowing our Literacy Support personnel for the purpose of modeling appropriate strategies.



Assistant Principal Mr. James Oliver and Principal Dr. Kathy Pecoraro

"Mr. Ray" engaged the children in character-themed songs and dances, which emphasized anti-bullying and good character attributes. Thanks to the PTO for funding this high energy fun assembly. The year will be filled with many opportunities for the children and staff to engage in activities, which highlight our Character Education program.

We look forward to another wonderful and productive year and we thank you for all your support as we provide your children with the best possible education in a fun and exciting learning environment.

A Hot Time at Pizza Night ~ Co-Chairs Andrea Chiafullo, Tina Del Giorno & Yvette Hober

Last year it was the clouds that threatened Pizza night, this year – the heat! At 90 degrees it was a sizzling good time at this year's Pizza Night held on Friday, September 24. Good thing the weatherman warned us in advance. Besides the pizza there were cold drinks and ice pops to cool everyone off.

The students and their siblings enjoyed popcorn and Munchkins in addition to running around the playground and fields. And, the parents cooled off with iced coffee while catching up with old friends and meeting some new ones.

Although not designated as a fundraiser for the school, we were able to raise around \$636.00 for the PTO. This was largely due to the generous donations made by local merchants.

We'd like to thank the PTO for their support and the office secretaries for ensuring all the Pizza Night orders found their way to us. Also on our thank you list are members of the custodial staff who assisted in the set up and break down of tables and garbage and recycle collection.



Pizza Night Chairs:

left to right: Yvette Hober, Andrea Chiafullo, Tina Del Giorno



Ms. Legvari and Ms. Kalfus



Kathy Ingal, Donna Marie El Hassan, Jeanne Starr



Robin McKeon, Elaine Kusel, Bev Cwerner , crossing guard Ann Smith

We'd also like to thank the organizations that donated items for the event. These local merchants were happy to help in making our Pizza Night a huge success. Please join us in thanking:

Pizza Brothers - Bedminster
Pizza Brothers - Martinsville
PBG (Pepsi products)
Shop Rite of Bernardsville
Shop Rite of Stirling
Stop and Shop
A&P
Starbucks at Riverwalk

Dunkin Donuts at Lyons Mall
Dunkin Donuts at Dewey Meadow
Dunkin Donuts on Allen Road
Select Vintage Wines
Somerset Hills Hotel
Hotel Indigo
Courtyard by Marriott
Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church (use of their freezer)

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A Hot Time at Pizza Night ~~ *continued*

Finally, we'd like to thank the many volunteers (over 60 strong!) who helped make the event run as smoothly as it did. Their enthusiasm went a long way in making the evening more enjoyable for everyone. When you see them, please say thank you to the following individuals for their assistance the night of the event:

Preeti Singh

Debra Witt

Christine Feller

Ting Ting Huang

Mark Phelps

Leslie Phelps

Pam Haviland

Jennifer Marchitto

Elda Feldman

Surekha Latha Arekatla

Jemi McCluskey

Hillary Post

Sarah Post (Ridge High)

Lois Schmidt

Nick Schmidt (Ridge High)

Chloe DeMaira (WAMS)

Katie Smidt (Ridge High)

Brianna Gaskill (Stilwell Middle School)

Jack Smidt (WAMS)

Pierce Bond (WAMS)

Carla Abbate

Nico Abbate (WAMS)

Joi Akin

Jayanthi Chakrapani

Marie Mahon

Adrienne Mastro

Jay Mastro

Luke Chiafullo (WAMS)

Giancarlo Carnevale (Ridge High)

John DelGiorno

Mike Hober



Matthew Hober (WAMS)

Connie Napolitano

James Napolitano (WAMS)

Michael Napolitano (WAMS)

Mary Kate Melilli

Katherine Melilli (WAMS)

Lori Caruso

Nicole Caruso (WAMS)

Katie Jones (WAMS)

Sofia Fiorini (WAMS)

Susan Kevelson

Cathy Ferraro

Nick Ferraro (WAMS)

Chris Bedrosian

David Dobkin

Kourtney Dobkin (WAMS)

Andrea Lanausse

Rosa Lanausse (WAMS)

Marion McGlynn

Maeve Egan (WAMS)

Kelly Tancredi

Marie Barnett

Elizabeth Gene

John Gene

Carolyn Wightman

Ann Nemetz

Jonathan Nemetz (LCS)

Paul Nemetz (WAMS)

Bev Cwerner

Steve Aloisio

Nicole Smith



Sports Day



Mrs. Semler



Mrs. Brouillard

Directory Corrections

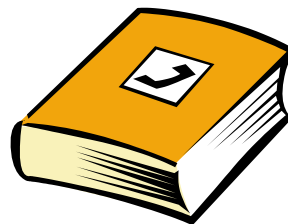
Please make the following changes to your 2010-2011 Liberty Corner School Directory:

ARETIEV, ALAN (4)
718-610-9495
Elena
318 English Place
avea@optonline.net

CARAMICO, CHRISTIAN (5 - Mauro)
tiffanyc@unitedbankcard.com

CHOI, YEONWOO (K - Mastrian)
838-8817

SCHMITT, CAROLINE (4 - Legvari)
SCHMITT, ELIZABETH "LIBBY" (K - Somers)
604-0560



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 in the last month:

Water Filter — During the summer a water filter was purchased and installed for the teacher's room. This resulted in a substantial cost savings from the bottled water deliveries and cooler that was previously supplied.

New Family Orientation — This annual event in August is held to orient and welcome new families and lead them on tours of the building.

School Supply Sale Distribution — Sorted and distributed the school supply kits, that parents purchased at the end of last year, to the children's rooms so that they were ready and waiting for the first day of school.

Room Parents — Assigned and coordinated room parents to assist each classroom teacher.

Welcome Back Coffee — This social gathering on the first day of school allowed parents to meet and 'catch up' with each other after a fun-filled summer.



Back-To-School Night Refreshments — The PTO supplied coffee and light refreshments for parents to enjoy after the presentations as well as arranged for a 'sneak preview' of items from the gift-wrap sale.

School Directory — Compiled a directory of the LCS families and faculty.

Spiritwear Sale — Sold LCS clothing and accessories to raise school spirit as well as PTO funds — this will be ongoing throughout the year.

Entertainment Book Sale — This new fundraiser sold coupon books for discounts to area merchants.

Mr. Ray's Character Education Program — This school wide assembly was held on 9/15.



Pizza Night — Always a fun filled evening for our families, we had perfect weather to gather on the field to have fun and eat pizza together.

Photographs

Where are the photographs of the children? There are no photographs of children in this Newsletter because Dr. Goger is currently working on establishing a procedure on any usage of photos taken of children during school or in school-related activities. Until that procedure is established, we will refrain from using photos of children in the LCS PTO Newsletter.



Spiritwear

Got spirit?
We want to see it!



Liberty Corner is gearing up for another exciting school year, so be sure to get ready with the newest spiritwear! This season we are featuring long and short sleeve t-shirts, lounge pants and hoodies, all emblazoned with the bold new lime green and navy LCS logo. Whether you are out and about in town, on the playground or walking the halls, supporting Liberty Corner School is always in style! Check out the Spiritwear flyer in the October 8th Friday Folder and place your order by October 20th. You will be all set for School Spirit Day on November 11th.



Michele Rishty, Heather Whyte-Kattas, Nancy Policastro, Denise D'Aries

Calling all Library Volunteers!

The Liberty Corner Library NEEDS YOU!

Please consider volunteering in the library this year. Your assistance is greatly needed – and appreciated. Your time will benefit both the staff and especially the students. This year volunteer help is more important than ever due to district staffing cuts. The library promotes a lifelong love of reading and learning at every level of the curriculum. This program can truly succeed with your help.

Library volunteers can come in on a weekly, or bi-weekly schedule. The job involves checking in books, and shelving books in precise locations based on call numbers. We also welcome your creative talents to aid and support the library!!

If you are interested (and I hope that you are!) contact John Mullarkey, Media Specialist, at jmullarkey@bernardsboe.com or call the library : 204-2550 x116.



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.



Mr. Henthorn, Mr. Fico

Fall Fitness Assessment the first week of October. We will use this information as a baseline to monitor their fitness level and improvement throughout the year. A report containing this information will be coming home shortly.



Character Education is also a large part of your child's day at Liberty Corner School. We must be doing a good job; we certainly have a few "characters" here. But seriously, it is your child's personality that makes them unique. In PE we strive to help our students develop positive character traits and add them to their repertoire of behaviors. Manners and empathy for their classmates are always reinforced and modeled. We accentuate inclusion, not exclusion. All children should feel they are a part of the lesson. When we ask our students to form groups or find partners, the rule is not to say "NO". Everyone is included and feels sought after or chosen.

What are the kids doing in the GYMNASIUM during PHYSICAL EDUCATION class (please don't call it GYM) you ask? Well, Grades K - 2 are working on coordination activities with an emphasis on movement education and spatial awareness. Ask your child about the "Manners" game (I got your tail game) or "Squidward Tag". Grades 3 & 4 will kick it up a notch by adding the concepts of "invasion" and "defense" to coordination activities. "Pirates, Islanders, Seagulls and Sharks" was a lot of fun and exhausting. "Star Wars" is always a fan favorite that allows the children to practice trust, honesty, and fair-play. The 3rd & 4th graders will also explore the Track and Field events that the 5th graders are working on. The fifth graders are starting a Track and Field Sport Education Unit. Social skills are highlighted in order to teach the students how to compete in a healthy way. Ask your fifth grader to tell you all about it.

Simply put, the Goals are: To teach children to be emotionally healthy and fit individuals; all while learning how to treat each other in an active and extremely fun and safe environment. WE LOVE PE!!!!!!



Ms. Dory

Music — In music class students spent the month of September learning about Rogers and Hammerstein and their musicals, *Sound of Music*, *King and I*, *Oklahoma*, and *Cinderella*. Students learned songs like "Oklahoma!" and "Do-Re-Mi" which incorporated into their learning of solfege and the notes used in sight reading. In the month of October students will be learning about rock star Billy Joel. They will learn about piano basics, such as notes, how it works and coordination. They will also learn a few of his famous hits. In grades three through five, chorus members have begun rehearsals for their January concert. With 207 students signed up, it's bound to be a great year!



2010 Parent Notifications ~ Dr. Valeri Goger, Superintendent of Schools

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2010 PARENT NOTIFICATIONS

No Child Left Behind

In accordance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, we are required to advise you of certain parental rights. We are also required to provide additional statements mandated by state and/or federal law. You may review all of this information on the main page of our website (www.bernardsboe.com). If you would like to respond to any of the NCLB notifications, simply download, sign, and return them to your child's school. With our new electronic communication initiative, we are saving time, money, and the environment by not mailing you the statutory annual notifications, concerning asbestos, experiments involving animals, harassment, and bullying, etc. Instead, we are sending them to you with this memo, as well as posting all of this information on the website for your review.

Nutrition Statement

The Board of Education recognizes that child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in the United States and that poor diet combined with the lack of physical activity negatively impacts on students' health and their ability and motivation to learn. The Board is committed to:

- Providing students with healthy and nutritious foods
- Encouraging the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, low fat milk and whole grains
- Supporting healthy eating through nutrition education
- Encouraging students to select and consume all components of the school meal, and
- Providing students with the opportunity to engage in daily physical activity.

State law mandates that all schools participating in the Federal School Lunch Program must meet nutritional guidelines as defined by the New Jersey Bureau of Child Nutrition. Our elementary and middle schools participate in this program, so we are implementing new procedures in those schools. Beginning in September, the following items may not be served, sold, or given out as free promotion anywhere on elementary or middle school property at any time before the end of the school day:

- Foods of minimal nutritional value
- All food and beverage items listing sugar, in any form, as the first ingredient, and
- All forms of candy.

Food sent in for school parties and special celebrations is exempt from the requirements, as are student lunch items brought from home. However, fundraisers such as Valentine's Day candy-grams will be discontinued.

While we are not required to implement changes at the high school, we will be reviewing that program for modification as well, later in the school year.

Experiments Involving Animals

Legislation now permits public school students to choose not to participate in certain experiments involving animals. Public school pupils from kindergarten through grade 12 may refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of a course of instruction. The law requires schools to provide alternative education projects for those students who choose to "opt out" of these activities. Schools are required to notify pupils and their parents or guardians of a pupil's right to decline to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of a course of instruction.

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2010 Parent Notifications ~~ *continued*

If you wish to have your son or daughter “opt out” of these experiences you must notify the principal of your child/children’s school, in writing, within two weeks from the date of this notification. Please be aware that no exceptions can be made to this date, due to issues with the coordination and purchasing of materials for alternate lessons on a district wide level.

Statement of Harassment, Bullying & Hazing

The Board of Education believes that harassing, bullying and hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and the board prohibits all such harassing, bullying and/or hazing behavior at any time on school premises, at any school-sponsored function, or on any school bus.

Any person who believes that he or she has been the victim of harassment, bullying or hazing, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment, bullying or hazing, shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of harassment, bullying or hazing at the building level. Any person may report harassment, bullying or hazing directly to the Affirmative Action Officer or the Superintendent.

To review the complete policy and procedures of the Board of Education, please visit the district website at www.bernardsboe.com.

Asbestos Information

In accordance with 40CFR Part 763, the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule (commonly referred to as “AHERA” regulations), the Bernards Township Board of Education periodically inspects all buildings throughout the district to re-evaluate the condition and change of asbestos-containing materials. Any required work is conducted when the buildings are unoccupied. Additionally, a written Respiratory Protection Program has been established for all employees, as required by the New Jersey Public Employee Occupational Safety and Health regulations.

The Asbestos Management Plans for each school building are available for inspection by employees, parents, and the public at no charge during the regular school hours. A copy of the Plan is maintained at each school site as well as at the Board Office. If you wish to review the plan or have any other questions, please call the Board Office at 908-204-2600 x 106.

Bias Incidents

Students and staff members in Bernards Township Public Schools are expected to treat one another with respect regardless of gender, color, race, religion, national origin or sexual orientation. Inappropriate behaviors such as: touching of a sexual nature, gender based or sexual comments, jokes or name calling of any kind by students or staff are not permitted. For students, this also includes traveling on the way to or from school or on school property.

Liaisons

The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby appoint **Jean O’Connell** as Appointment of Liaison for the Education of Homeless Children, Public Law 504 Coordinator, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and Substance Awareness Officer; appoint **Regina Rudolph** as Affirmative Action Officer and Title IX Coordinator; and appoint **Nick Markarian** as New Jersey State Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Attendance Officer, Public Agency Compliance Officer, Open Public Records Act Officer, Public Employees Occupational Safety, Health Act Coordinator and Purchasing Agent; **Brian Heineman** as Asbestos Management Officer.

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2010 Parent Notifications ~~ *continued*

Child Find Ages 3-21

The Bernards Township Public Schools annually seek to identify children, residing in Bernards Township, from the ages of 3 through 21 who may be at risk for learning disabilities.

Children in this age group who exhibit developmental delays in language, cognition, physical and/or emotional development, may be eligible for services from the public schools as a preschool disabled youngster. If your child is determined to be potentially eligible for services, the local public school district will evaluate your child. Should the evaluation show that he/she has a potentially disabling condition, services will be provided to your child by the public schools of Bernards Township. For those children who are determined to be eligible, services begin on their third birthday. Parents should contact the district, if they have concerns, when their child is 2 years six months of age.

If you suspect that your child has a disabling condition or you would like further information, please call the Office of Special Services at (908) 204-2600 extension 121. All public school districts in the state of New Jersey are required to provide these services.

Homework During Religious Holidays

The Bernards Township Board of Education is aware that during the school year, religious holidays may fall on school days. The Board wishes to work with our students and their families in accordance with applicable law to allow students to participate in observance of these holidays. It is therefore the policy of the Board to permit students an excused absence for observance of a religious holiday. In order for an absence to be considered excused, parents or guardians must provide the student's school with a written excuse explaining that the absence is due to the observance of a religious holiday. The absence may be excused only if it is taken on the actual date of the holiday in question.

The Board is also aware that tests, academic competitions and deadlines may be scheduled on religious holidays. In these situations, the Board has a policy of providing the student a reasonable accommodation, so that the academic activity will not interfere with their religious observance. This means that the teacher or the school will reschedule the test date for any student who is out on the actual exam day, due to a religious holiday. For academic competitions, where students are eligible for awards, alternative arrangements will be made to allow the student to take part in the competition. Similarly, when assignment due dates correspond with a religious holiday, teachers will provide an accommodation regarding such deadlines.

Please take special note that when an accommodation is needed, it is the student's and their parent's responsibility to inform the school that they will be observing a religious holiday. A written note, signed by a parent or guardian, requesting an accommodation, must be provided to the school or teacher prior to the religious holiday, in order for the school to make the requested accommodation. Under such circumstances, new test dates, dates of competitions and other deadlines will be set by the staff member having responsibility for the activity in question.