



# Liberty Corner PTO

## October 2012

### A Message from the PTO Co-Presidents -- Bernie Taylor and Zaida Harrison

Welcome Back Everyone! It seems like only yesterday we were enjoying our summer vacation but, it didn't take long to get back into our school routines and extracurricular activities.

September is a busy month at LCS. We started off with Back to School Night, which was held on one evening instead of two this year; we believe parents appreciate this format. The directories were distributed and light refreshments were provided by our Caring Community Committee.

Pizza Night, an event the children look forward to, was well attended again this year. This much anticipated event provided an opportunity for our incoming and returning LCS families to get together and reconnect after summer vacation. The event was made possible through the hard work of our chairs: Tina DelGiorno, Debra Witt, Nicole Smith and their committee.

LCS's spiritwear was made available on-line this year as a convenience to our parents. You can pick up your order during parent/teacher conferences at the end of October. Our first LCS school spirit day is November 16th.

Thank you for making our pledge drive a success again this year! We will use these funds to enrich our children's educational experience. There will be activities such as Scientists in the classroom and Wizards of Words. Bridget Jaeger and Debbie Nungester do a great job researching and coordinating our enrichment programs.

We are all looking forward to our annual Halloween Spooktacular, which will be held on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a costume parade, DJ, and refreshments. Mark your calendars for this event; you won't want to miss it!

Is there a lawyer in the house? There soon will be after the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will gain firsthand experience of our legal system. They will play lawyers, judges, and witnesses. The Trial kicks off this month so be sure to sign-up.

The Battle of the Books program for our 4th and 5th grade students will also kick off later this month. This is a great opportunity for our children to read books and test their knowledge against their peers in a fun filled atmosphere.

Lights, camera, action! It's that time of year again; school pictures will be taken on October 18<sup>th</sup>!

Be sure to check our new and improved website often for the most up to date information:

[www.LibertyCornerPTO.org](http://www.LibertyCornerPTO.org).

#### **PTO Board 2012-2013**

**Co-Presidents:** Bernie Taylor ([bernietaylor20@gmail.com](mailto:bernietaylor20@gmail.com)) and Zaida Harrison ([zaidaharrison@verizon.net](mailto:zaidaharrison@verizon.net))

**Co-1st Vice Presidents (Programming and Scheduling):** Larissa Milligan ([larissa\\_milligan@hotmail.com](mailto:larissa_milligan@hotmail.com)) and Davenie Pereira ([davpereira@optonline.net](mailto:davpereira@optonline.net))

**Co-2nd Vice Presidents (Fundraising):** Bridget Jaeger ([bridgetj@jaegerlumber.com](mailto:bridgetj@jaegerlumber.com)) and Deborah Nungester ([dnungester@gmail.com](mailto:dnungester@gmail.com))

**Co-Treasurers:** Karen Feringa ([kmferinga@aol.com](mailto:kmferinga@aol.com)) and Pamela Haviland ([pamchan@optonline.net](mailto:pamchan@optonline.net))

**Secretary:** Sherry Mandel ([sherrylnmandel@gmail.com](mailto:sherrylnmandel@gmail.com))

**Communications Officer:** Heather Whyte-Kattas ([heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexis.com](mailto:heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexis.com))

For more information go to [www.LibertyCornerPTO.org](http://www.LibertyCornerPTO.org)

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



We had a great start to the 2012-2013 school year! We welcomed to our school community a new cohort of Kindergartners and 43 new students as well as 36 new families. Everyone has settled in beautifully, so much so, that it is difficult to know who is a new and who is not. After a few days of acclimation, our car lines are moving efficiently around our campus. Just a few reminders when in the car line; **no cell phone usage, follow the directives of the teachers who are monitoring traffic and please be sure your child can fasten his/her seat belt.** Practicing seat belt use at home would be greatly appreciated and will help to improve the efficiency of our car lines at dismissal.

There are many curriculum changes being introduced this year and we are excited to implement them to improve daily instruction and the education of your children. The "Go Math" program was introduced to grades K-2 last year, and grades 3-5 this year. New literature and new teaching strategies in the Language Arts domain are exciting as are the new informational texts that were purchased along with leveled books for classroom libraries.

## ***Parent Academy***

We are excited about our Parent Academy offerings this year and anticipate parent interest in attending. Our first presentation will take place on **Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 in room 18.** Mrs. Hostetter and Mrs. Malkin, our Speech Therapists, have planned an informative workshop for you. **Remember, light refreshments and free babysitting** are available for your convenience.

Subsequent presentations include the following:

Dec. 12: How to Engage Your Reluctant Reader - Mr. Mullarkey, Librarian

Feb. 13: How to Deal With Your Child's Friendship Issues - Mr. Rauschenberger, Guidance Counselor

Mar. 13: Technology and Education-A Fit or Misfit? - Mr. Oliver, Assistant Principal

Apr. 17: All You Wanted to Know About "Go Math" - Dr. Marian Palumbo, District Math Supervisor

Thanks to you and the PTO funding, the children enjoyed our kick off Character Education assembly, "Attitude with Gratitude." Our children have a great deal to be grateful for and it is suggested that a periodic conversation with you about gratitude would support us as we work to enable your children to become individuals with good character who choose to do the right thing.

## **Thank You!**

**Enrichment Committee:** Many thanks to Angela Reynolds, Bonnie Diehl, Sandra Kaiser, Kate Townsend, and Heather Watson-Kramer for putting together a robust enrichment program for our students for this upcoming year. Look for new evening performances for the whole family, including the upcoming "Sleepy Hollow Halloween".

**Pledge Drive:** The PTO Executive Board would like to sincerely thank all our families for making this year's pledge drive so successful! We were able to meet our pledge goal due to your generosity and commitment to our children's education. These funds will be used to enrich our children's learning experience with various events throughout the year.

**Pizza Night:** A big thank you to Debra Witt, Tina Del Giorno and Nicole Smith for chairing our PTO fall social kickoff of the season - Pizza Night. Mother Nature cooperated this year with picture perfect weather for the hundreds of participants to sit and enjoy each others company - along with delicious pizza! These moms worked tirelessly over the summer and jumped in full force once school began to ensure the evening was a success coordinating vendors, volunteers and activities for all. Thank you Debra, Tina and Nicole - your leadership is truly appreciated!

**School Directory:** A huge thank you to Donna Wilson for putting together the ever-popular LCS School Directory. Thank you also to Tina DelGiorno for obtaining advertising from many local businesses.

# Your PTO at Work

## Here is what your PTO Volunteers and Donations have accomplished:

**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:** Volunteers sorted and distributed the school supply kits that parents purchased at the end of last year to the children's rooms so 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. During this PTO meeting, the PTO presented its budget for the school year which was unanimously approved by the attendees.

**Back-To-School Night:** Our one Back to School Night for the upper and lower grades was full of excitement over new Spiritwear designs and the new pledge program. Refreshments were graciously provided by the Caring Community Committee.

**School Directory:** Volunteers compiled a list of LCS faculty and families and sold advertising to local business to defray the costs of production.

**Spiritwear Sale:** This year an on-line store, open for the month of September, was available for families to order various LCS clothing items. Prior orders will be available for pick-up during October teacher conferences.

**Pizza Night:** The committee ran yet another fantastic event with fun had by parents and kids alike! Mother Nature cooperated this year with picture perfect weather and hundreds of participants.

**LCS Volunteer Orientation:** Sessions held 9:30am and 7:00pm.

**Character Education Assembly:** The PTO funded Motivational Productions, "The Attitude of Gratitude", kicking off the Character Education theme for the year.

**Fire Truck Visit:** The kindergartens spent a morning with members from the Liberty Corner Fire Truck Company, who taught them about fire safety and then let them enjoy climbing on the fire truck.

**High Touch/High Tech:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders got their insectology studies off to a great start with a presentation from Ms. Preeti.

**Dirtmeister:** The 4<sup>th</sup> grade had a rocking good time with this presentation from local geologist, the Dirtmeister.

**Kit's Interactive Theater:** The 5<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed this performance about the American Revolution that got them ready and excited to study history this year.

**BrainPop:** The PTO renewed the software license for BrainPop, software that creates animated, curriculum-based content that engages students, supports educators and bolsters achievement. BrainPop is used in all classrooms throughout LCS, so ask your kids about all the fun they have with it!

### **Exciting Happenings coming your way from the PTO...**

Kits Interactive Theater, Sleepy Hollow, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> two showings: 5:30 & 7:00pm

Trial of the Big Bad Wolf Kick off meetings for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Oct. 18

Battle of the Books Kick Off Meetings for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, Oct. 23 & Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>

Halloween Parade and Festivity on October 26<sup>th</sup>  
Dig It, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, October 30<sup>th</sup>

School Spirit Day on November 16<sup>th</sup>

Thomas Edison Presentation, Third Grade Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>

### **Some friendly reminders:**

- School Picture Day is October 18<sup>th</sup>
- Conferences on October 23-26<sup>th</sup> – early dismissal days
- Library Book Fair October 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>
- School is closed for the NJEA conferences on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>
- Reports cards are posted online on November 20<sup>th</sup>
- Happy Thanksgiving begins with early dismissal on November 21<sup>st</sup> and closure on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

## LCS PTO Website

Check out the new and improved LCS PTO website at [www.libertycornerpto.org](http://www.libertycornerpto.org)! The website provides you with access to a yearly calendar of school events, PTO news and newsletters, flyers, forms and other helpful information. The website also contains photographs of the children at various school events. The ID and password to access the photos is lcsptoparent. As always, if you do not want your child photographed at school events, please submit your child(ren)'s names, grade, and teacher to Heather Whyte-Kattas, PTO Communications Officer, at [heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexis.com](mailto:heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexis.com)

## A Gorgeous Night for Pizza -- Tina Del Giorno, Debra Witt and Nicole Smith, Co-Chairs

We couldn't have asked for a better way to spend the last night of summer than at LCS's annual Family Pizza Night on Friday, September 21, 2012. The weather was beyond beautiful!! The clear, calm, blue summer sky welcomed us all as we enjoyed pizza, popcorn, (courtesy of Cub Scout Pack 54), munchkins, hot cocoa (courtesy of Starbucks), bubble blowing, and as an added bonus, an ice cream truck, organized by our own fifth grade class. Who could ask for more!

We would like to thank all those who attended, as well as, 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 of tables and garbage and recycle collection. Finally, we'd like to thank the many volunteers, who helped make the event run as smoothly as it did. Their enthusiasm went a long way to making the evening more enjoyable for everyone. When you see them, please say thank you to the following individuals for their assistance the day of the event:

Jackie Bazylewicz  
Suzanne Schwartz  
Krissie Williams  
Mark Phelps  
Emily Sellitti  
Donna Sellitti  
Mary Norton  
Alex Post  
Hillary Post  
Aneta Stapleton  
Robby Stapleton  
Johnny Stapleton  
Michael Stapleton

Marlo Smith  
Carolyn Connell  
Gillian Colantuano  
Xiaoguang Huang  
Molly McEnroe  
Megan Horn  
Melani Hodges  
Ahmed Sheikh  
Prachi Jain  
Marion Egan  
Jeanmarie Genirs  
Sonia Jay  
Jackie Mandel

Jacque Arnold  
Steve Arnold  
Ria Deval  
Jessica Caruso  
Savith Mukandan  
Carolyn Martynowski  
Nicole Polisenio

We would 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)  
UPS Store – Lyons mall  
Shop Rite  
Stop and Shop

A&P  
Starbucks at Riverwalk  
Dunkin Donuts at Lyons Mall  
Dunkin Donuts at Dewey Meadow  
Somerset Hills Hotel

Cub Scout Pack 54 (for the use of their popcorn machine and supplies)

# Specials Report

**Don't forget to check out the teachers' websites for more information.** Just go to [www.bernardsboe.com](http://www.bernardsboe.com) and select **Liberty Corner School ORD** in the left hand column. Then scroll down to the teacher's name and click on their Oncourse icon.

**Music** — 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~

**P.E.** — Welcome Back!!!!

Physical Education is one of the most important parts of your child's day. A primary goal of our Physical Education program is to give the children an appreciation for how much fun getting fit can be. Every lesson we teach emphasizes health and skill-related fitness concepts, which are implemented in a way that all children can be successful and enjoy it.

We assess 2nd -5th grade students' fitness level twice a year. The Fall Fitness Assessment will conclude around the first week of October. We will use this information as a baseline to monitor the students' fitness level and improvement throughout the year. A report containing this information will be coming home upon completion of the each assessment period.

In PE, we strive to help our students develop positive character traits and add them to their repertoire of behaviors. Manners, empathy, and respect for everyone are always reinforced and modeled. We accentuate inclusion, not exclusion. All children should feel they are a part of the lesson and be an active participant.

The goals in LCPE simply put are: To teach children to be emotionally, healthy fit individuals; all while learning how to treat each other and doing so in an active, extremely fun and safe environment.

Remember to check Mr. Henthorn's &/or Mr. Fico's On-Course site for important PE news. Also, check Mr. Henthorn's for Intramural program forms and other PE information. If you need to contact us about anything, e-mail is the best way to insure we will receive your message. [ahenthorn@bernardsboe.com](mailto:ahenthorn@bernardsboe.com) [jfico@bernardsboe.com](mailto:jfico@bernardsboe.com)

## 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-2)*
- *Inventory and organize library materials*
- *October Book Fair – 10/23-10/26*

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:

[jmullarkey@bernardsboe.com](mailto:jmullarkey@bernardsboe.com)



# PHOTOS



Pizza Night



Pizza Night



Pizza Night



Pizza Night



5th Grade American Revolution



5th Grade American Revolution

## 4th Grade Dirtmeister Enrichment

