



# Liberty Corner PTO

## November 2013

### A Message from the PTO Co-Presidents -- Zaida Harrison and Davenie Pereira

We are just a few days away from the start of the holidays and the end of another season. The school year started at full force and we've been moving fast ever since! We have definitely had a busy and productive few months. The PTO, namely co-Chairs Tina DelGiorno and Amanda Kucerka, organized a well attended and successful Pizza Night. Old and new families reconnected in a casual setting with pizza, ice cream and entertainment. Tommy Knucklehead made us laugh and think with his comedy and magic tricks.

We again were able to reach our goals with the annual Pledge drive, our main fundraiser. Your pledges are used to provide educational and social enrichment programs for all our children. So far this year, the PTO enrichment committee has been able to present grade targeted programs such as Ant Farms and Ladybugs, High Touch/High Tech (our in house science program), The Dirtmeister, and Kit's Interactive Theater's American Revolution and a nighttime production of Pocahontas. Thank you to Bridget Jaeger for researching and coordinating these programs!

We also released the online directory and the new and improved printed directory to rave reviews. You are now able to update your contact information immediately and can access the directory on a laptop, desktop or smartphone. Thank you to Debbie Marcus for all her hard work organizing the information.

In addition, the PTO was able to fund the Character Education Assembly, coordinate the fire truck visit and along with Co-Chairs Juana Schwed and Rebecca Moussally, arrange the Halloween Festivity. This event included a costume parade, a DJ, a haunted house and crafting rooms. A good time was had by all.

We've also kicked off the Battle of the Books and the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf. We will look forward to seeing what team wins the Battle and whether the Wolf is guilty or innocent of his crimes against the pigs.

Lastly, we have to acknowledge the Caring Community Committee and the hospitality work they have done so far this year. Co-Chairs Lisa LaTourette and Laurie Dobson have provided drinks and treats at parent attended events such as the First Day of School Coffee, Back to School Night and the most recent Parent Academy. Thank you for caring!

It's been a great year so far and there is so much more to come! Don't forget to check out our website at [www.libertycornerpto.org](http://www.libertycornerpto.org) for the latest information.

#### PTO Board 2013-2014:

Co-Presidents Zaida Harrison ([zaidaharrison@verizon.net](mailto:zaidaharrison@verizon.net)) and Davenie Pereira ([daveniep@gmail.com](mailto:daveniep@gmail.com))

Co-1st Vice Presidents (Programming and Scheduling) Heather Watson-Kramer ([heatherwk@yahoo.com](mailto:heatherwk@yahoo.com)) and Prachi Jain ([prachijain22@yahoo.com](mailto:prachijain22@yahoo.com))

Co-2nd Vice Presidents (Fundraising) Larissa Milligan ([larissa\\_milligan@hotmail.com](mailto:larissa_milligan@hotmail.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 ([pamelahaviland@gmail.com](mailto:pamelahaviland@gmail.com))

Secretary Susan Gibbons ([swgibbons@optimum.net](mailto:swgibbons@optimum.net))

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

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



Once again, it amazes me how quickly time passes once the school year gets underway. We are quickly approaching the holiday seasons and I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you, along with your children and families, memory-making holidays.

Many of you have already met our school nurse substitute, Mrs. Robin Youtkus. She is getting to know your children and is a wonderful resource for all of us. We certainly want to extend a warm and hearty welcome to her.

Band, strings and chorus parents, we apologize for the traffic delays on rehearsal mornings, but hope the new procedures have rectified the infamous Church Street traffic jam.

Our new Language Arts program is rolling out beautifully. The children are being immersed in numerous new titles with a focus on informational text. Readers' Workshop is an integral component of this program where children "shop" for instructionally leveled books and engage in extended periods of reading time to apply learned reading strategies to help build reading stamina. Guided Reading is another important aspect of our program. Children are grouped by ability, work in appropriately leveled books and receive direct, small group instruction. Substantial time is allocated for children to practice strategies across a variety of genre tapping into the interests of our students. The program is terrific and really suits the needs of Bernards Township K-5 students. If you would like more information about our Language Arts program, please be sure to attend the **Parent Academy** presentation by our district **Language Arts Supervisor, Mr. David Hunscher, on Thursday, April 3 at 9 a.m. in the LCS cafeteria.**



## **REMINDERS:**

Parents, please be sure to get your children to school by 8:30-8:45, early drop off is at 8:15. Every day we have at least 5-10 children who are tardy. Starting the day that way is difficult for young learners. Please make an effort to adhere to the 8:30-8:45 arrival time. Be aware that actually dropping your child off at 8:45 renders him/her late to his/her respective classroom.

Your children will go out for recess every day, except on wet, snowy or extremely cold days. Please send your children appropriately dressed for outdoor play with hats, warm jackets and gloves/mittens. We believe it is important for our students to get fresh air and daily exercise during their recess.

## LCS Pizza Night– Tina Del Giorno and Amanda Yanuklis Kucerka Co-Chairs

It was a perfect Fall night for pizza as the LCS PTO kicked-off the first back-to-school event of the year on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. We had an amazing turnout with more than 170 LCS families attending! And, for the first time, Tommy Knucklehead, the “Magical Comedian” performed for nearly an hour, keeping kiddos and parents happily entertained on the basketball courts.

In addition to pizza and live entertainment, the students and their siblings enjoyed popcorn courtesy of Cub Scout Pack 54, cookies, bubble blowing, tattoos and running around the playground and fields. Another special treat was 5<sup>th</sup> grade ice cream truck fundraiser.

A huge thank you to our committee members who worked so hard behind the scenes: Jenny Trezza, Nicole Smith and Linda Valera!! We would also like to thank the PTO for their support and Debbie Tracy and Gerry Burns, the LCS 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:

Ailsa Ferguson O'Sullivan  
Alex Pedicone  
Alexis Pinto Tabacco  
Allison Lee  
Aly Giglio  
Ana Keenan  
Aneta Stapleton  
Becca Mousally  
Beckie Laubscher  
Brenda Kunzweiler  
Chris Stapleton  
Christine Feller  
Elda Feldman  
Emily Schlenker  
Gail Bechtold  
Isabella Garcia  
Jann Quinn  
Jenniffer Viggiano  
Jesse Mocchiato  
John Del Giorno  
Joseph D'Aries  
Katie Van Cleef  
Kelly Tancredi  
Kim Patchett  
Maggie Gould

Mary Norton  
Masami Douglas  
Matthew Hober  
Nancy Barth  
Raphael Giglio  
Ria Deval  
Robby Stapleton  
Sarah Chamberlain  
Sarah Cwerner  
Saunders Smith  
Savitha Mukundan  
Sofia Alburo  
Stephanie Poliseno  
Thomas Hober  
Tychawn Johnson  
Yvette Hober  
Zach Feldman



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  
Veneto Trattoria  
PBG (Pepsi products)  
Shop Rite of Bernardsville  
Stop and Shop  
A&P  
Starbucks at Riverwalk  
Select Vintage Wines  
Somerset Hills Hotel  
Cub Scout Pack 54 (for the use of their popcorn machine and supplies)

## Halloween Festivity~Becca Moussally and Juana Schwed, co-chairs



Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Celebration was held on Friday, October 25th and with no hurricane in sight, everyone was able to relax and have a good time. Over 250 students from Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade paraded around the school and then were treated to a candy crawl from the adoring crowd. Following the parade the LCS families moved into the gymnasium and enjoyed some music and dancing provided by DJ Chris of Warren and the Ridge High School Cheerleaders. Our talented committee turned the ordinary stage into a haunted alleyway, designed by Melissa Breheny, which was visited time and time again. Pumpkin, ghost or black cat necklaces were created by the kids and worn with pride. Refreshments were enjoyed outdoors alongside some “guess the amount” contests. Congratulations go out to the winners: Allie DeAsla (pumpkin candy), Elle Romanelli (cookies) and Jessie Wisotsky (loop bands).

The Halloween Committee would like to thank ShopRite in Bernardsville for the refreshments, and all the student volunteers from WAMS and RHS for their help in dancing and scaring the night away. We are also very appreciative of the parents who marched in the parade with their grades. Thank you to Bridget Jaeger and the photography committee for taking pictures of the event and the Liberty Corner Fire Department and Presbyterian Church for allowing us to park in their lots.

Special thanks also go out to Dr. Pecoraro, Dr. Oliver, Ms. Saalfeld, Ms. Gavarny, Debbie Tracy, Gerry Burns, Mrs. Somers and the Aftercare staff, and everyone’s favorite janitor, Mr. Keith.

This year’s Halloween Event had the largest number of volunteers to date! We would like to recognize Melissa Breheny, Kimberly Coyle, Ailsa Ferguson, Ana Keenan, Lori Kennedy, Joy Lee, Kim Patchett, Kate Rafanello, Karen Santonastaso, Bhavana Sateoja, Emily Schlenker, Susan Ward and Dominique Wolf. We also had numerous volunteers that assisted with set-up and clean-up: Michael Braun, JoAnne Liu, Dyana Mark, Dr. Joe Murphy, and Malaya Roychowdhury. Thanks for all the planning, preparation, unpacking, packing and execution!

## Battle of the Books ~Debbie Marcus and Heidi Hannis, co-chairs



Battle of the Books is a fun and exciting team-reading, incentive program. Teams of students read books from a pre-selected list and earn points at the Spring Battle by correctly answering questions about those books. The program jumped into action as a record-breaking 55 fourth graders and 40 fifth graders met after school during the October conference week to organize their teams.

Groups of students worked hard to choose team names, select team positions such as captains, speakers and recorders, and assign the books to be read by each team member. Eight fourth grade teams with names ranging from Majestic Butter Warriors to Polka-Dotted Puppies will compete against each other, while seven fifth grade teams will battle for the most correct answers.

Students were excited to start reading their assigned books - some children will even put them on their holiday gift wish lists! During the Kick-Off, we emphasized that the Battle is truly a team effort with every child contributing information based on his or her own reading. The Battle winners will be determined not only on the most correctly answered questions, but also by a strong showing of spirit and sportsmanship. Points for spirit can be earned by making a team poster to display at the Spring Battle, wearing team t-shirts to the Battle, or doing a team name-based cheer at the Battle.

At this stage, the participants should stay committed to reading their assigned books and be thinking about ideas for a poster, cheer or other showing of spirit. The Committee (and each team's Manager) will follow up in the coming months to make sure everyone is on track for the big Battle during the March parent-teacher conference week.

Special thanks to the Committee volunteers who assisted at the Kick-Off meetings and extra thanks to Mr. Mullarkey and all the 4th and 5th grade teachers for their enthusiastic advertising of the Battle.

Happy reading!

# Your PTO at Work

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

**School Supplies:** Volunteers sorted and distributed to the classrooms the school supply kits that parents ordered at the end of last year, so they were ready and waiting for the first day of school.

**Directory:** Volunteers compiled a list of LCS faculty and families for both an online and print version of our directory and sold advertising to local businesses to defray the costs of production.

**Character Education Assembly:** The PTO funded “Get a Grip”, kicking off the LCS Character Education theme for the year.

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

**Ant Farms and Ladybug Kits:** The PTO provided ant farms and ladybug kits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes as part of their insectology studies.

**High Touch/High Tech “Insectology”:** 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 “American Revolution”:** The 5<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed this performance about the American Revolution that got them ready and excited to study American history this year.

**AAA Map Program:** A representative from AAA taught each of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes the valuable skill of deciphering road maps of the United States and New Jersey.

**Kit’s Interactive Theater “Pocahontas”:** The LCS community was fortunate to have this timely show, which was enjoyed by parents and students alike, brought into our school by our fabulous Enrichment Committee.

### **Some friendly reminders:**

- **Spirit Day-Pajama Day** December 13th
- **School Closed** December 23rd-January 1st
- **Spirit Day-What I Want to be When I Grow Up** January 10th
- **Band and Chorus Concert** January 16th 6:30 RHS
- **LCS and Cedar Hill Strings Concert** January 23rd 6:30 p.m. RHS

# Thank You!

**School Supplies:** Thank you to Barb Sileo for doing a fabulous job ordering, organizing and distributing our Staples School Supplies to everyone's classrooms. Once again, this service provides a convenient and simplified back-to-school supplies shopping experience!

**School Directory:** Thank you to Debbie Marcus for putting together the ever-popular LCS School Directory and managing our new on-line directory. Thank you also to Tina DelGiorno for obtaining advertising from many local businesses.

**Enrichment Committee:** Many thanks to Bridget Jaeger and Kate Townsend for putting together a robust enrichment program for our students for this upcoming year, including the recent evening family performance of "Pocahontas".

**Pledge Drive:** The PTO Executive Board would like to sincerely thank all our families and teachers for making this year's pledge drive so successful! We have been able to raise over \$33,000 as a result of 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 Tina DelGiorno and Amanda Kucerka Yanuklis for chairing our first social event of the season - Pizza Night! Thanks to the perfect weather, hundreds of participants were able to sit outside and enjoy each other's company and the delicious pizza! These ladies worked tirelessly over the summer and jumped in full force once school began to ensure this evening was a huge success. Thank you, Tina and Amanda— your leadership is truly appreciated.

**Halloween Festivities:** We'd like to send a huge thank you to Juana Schwed and Becca Moussally for chairing our Annual PTO Halloween Festivities. Over 200 students and their family members attended this fun filled event. Students came dressed in their costumes and paraded around the school loop before enjoying crafts, treats, and the haunted stage. Thank you, Juana and Becca for this "Spook-tacular" event.

**Caring Community:** Many thanks to Lisa LaTourette, Laurie Dobson, and the rest of the Caring Community Committee for providing the refreshments for the PTO Welcome Back Coffee, Back to School Night, and our October Cyber-Bullying Presentation/PTO Meeting. It was all so beautifully presented and full of yummy treats. We are so grateful to you both for all of your hard work!

**LCS Message Boards:** A huge thank you to Nicole Smith for keeping our LCS Message Boards up to date. We are all grateful for the reminders!

**PTO Photography:** Did you know that the PTO website has all of the photos that are being taken at LCS? Log on to the PTO website, which is password protected, to view and download any of the photos of your children that you want for their elementary school memories. ***For the safety of our children, please do not forward the login or password information for these photos to anyone.*** Special thanks to the PTO Photography committee: Bridget Jaeger, Elizabeth Michels, Tara Hughes, Tracy Olsen, Jen Mecca and Susan Ward.

**5th Grade Yearbook:** The 5th grade yearbook committee, chaired by Nancy Gallo and Bridget Jaeger, are hard at work documenting the 5th grader's 6 years at LCS. Work will continue throughout the year to photograph and finalize formatting the graduating 5th grade class in a spectacular 80 page book which will be presented to the 5th graders at their yearbook signing in late June. Keep smiling and enjoy this last incredible year at LCS. Special thanks to the yearbook committee members: Heather Watston-Kramer, Nancy Barth, Rachna Garg, and Iliana Parisen.

# 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** — We are off to a great start in music class. With the help of our student teacher, Miss Kalis, in the month of October students learned about Country music. They sang songs, danced country line dances, learned about the various instruments, and the over-all culture. In the month of November, students learned about hand bells and hand chimes and had the opportunity to play together. In the month of December, students will be learning about classical music while also preparing for the Holiday Sing-Along.

Outside of the general music class, students in chorus are doing a fantastic job. Our numbers are up despite the early start time! Students are on their way to putting on a fantastic concert on Thursday, January 16th.

Lastly, registration forms and information will be sent out to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students the first week of December about Drama Club. Rehearsals will be on Mondays and Thursdays after school from 3:15-5:00pm from January 20th until the performance on Wednesday, April 2nd.

Thanks,

~Carol Beadle~







Halloween Festivity



Crazy Hat Day

Pizza Night





## Kit's Interactive Theater

