



Liberty Corner PTO

February 2012

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

We returned from our holiday break well rested and ready to embark on the second half of our school year. Although there haven't been many flurries in the air, there certainly has been a flurry of activity at LCS.

In January there was magic in the air, Math Magic that is. The PTO sponsored an evening performance with Christian Augustine, math magician extraordinaire. The audience participated in various tricks including the human calculator. He left the audience wondering, how did he guess that number? The floating table was also a crowd pleaser. Clearly, there is more to math than meets the eye. This was an entertaining and enriching experience for all the families. Thanks to our enrichment committee for bringing us this fun filled event.

The activities continued as Scientists visited the 2nd grade classrooms to discuss "Matter." The children learned about the different forms of matter with Ms. Preeti from High Touch High Tech. Our 5th graders learned about the early pioneers from a presentation by Kits Interactive Theatre.

All the children were able to attend the Sweet Potato Pie performance presented by Queen Nur and her percussionist Dwight James. The stories, songs and dance routines made for an entertaining and educational experience for our students.

January is a busy month for our music aficionados. The Band and Chorus concert as well as the District String Festival took place this month. The children and their teachers did an outstanding job preparing for these very special events.

Let the games begin, the fun continued as our Kindergartners were introduced to Checkers. We are referring to Checkers the penguin from Jenkinson's Aquarium. The children were thrilled to have a live penguin at LCS. The trainer did an outstanding job explaining all about penguins from their habitat to their favorite food. This was truly a crowd pleaser.

Is the Big Bad Wolf guilty? We will soon find out after the jury deliberates on his innocence or guilt. The students have done an amazing job preparing for the trial. They have been hard at work learning their lines as well as how the judicial system works. The trial will be an experience the children will remember for a long time.

Our ever-popular Sweetheart Dance for LCS girls and their special dates was another huge success. A lot of volunteers were involved in bringing this highly anticipated event to fruition. Kudos go out to Heather Watson-Kramer, Jackie Blank and their entire committee for putting together such a lovely evening.

Lights, camera, action! Rehearsals are taking place for the LCS production of "Jungle Book." This is sure to be another wonderful performance. Please mark your calendars; it airs Wednesday April 4th at the Ridge High School Performing Arts Center at 7 PM.

There are many more fun filled events coming your way including the Mother Son Bowling, Cultural Arts Night, Buddies and Books, and Wizards of Words to name a few. Please take this opportunity to visit our new and improved website www.LibertyCornerPTO.org You can access our PTO calendar with the latest information on upcoming events, pictures, forms and other useful information.

PTO Board 2011-2012

Co-Presidents: Laurie Dobson (lbdobson@msn.com) and Bernie Taylor (bernietaaylor20@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 were thrilled to see so many of you at our two recent musical concerts, Chorus/Band and Orchestra. The children did an amazing job and we sincerely thank you for supporting our musical programs. Without your commitment, our programs would not be nearly as successful. Kudos to Mrs. Beadle, Mrs. Karle and Mr. Kirk for an outstanding effort. We look forward to our Spring concerts and progress of our students.

Thanks to the PTO Enrichment Committee for scheduling "Bubblemania" and "Math Magic." Both presentations were very entertaining and fun. Such events provide opportunities for us to come together as a school community.

Our Parent Academy continues to be well received. The January 11th Workshop, "Working With Your 2nd and 3rd Grader" was attended by 46 parents. Attendees have shared that the information presented is both useful and easy to implement at home. The February 9th presentation, "Working With Your 4th and 5th Grader" was also informative and well-attended.

Be sure to put our April 19th Parent Academy presentation on your calendar, "Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying." Dr. Brian Heineman, district Science & Technology Supervisor and our own Mr. Peluso will be presenting some very important information about how to safeguard your children when they use the internet and computer. This meeting will be in conjunction with the evening PTO meeting. The presentation will take place in the gym in anticipation of a large turnout. Free babysitting and light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

The Parent Academy

- **April 19, 2012:** "Internet Safety & Cyber Bullying" - presented by Mr. Peluso, our computer teacher and Mr. Heineman, our district technology and Science supervisor
- **May 22, 2012:** "Setting Limits For Your Strong-Willed Child" - based upon the work of Robert MacKenzie and presented by Ms. Cerra, second grade teacher

LCS Directory Updates

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

DATTOLO, CHRISTIAN (1)

973-901-0651

Dean Delserro/Daria Delserro

113 Woodward Lane

daria07871@yahoo.com

MILLER, EMMA (2)

350-3209

Brett/Jeanne

7 Arbor Circle

littleowl1sock@gmail.com

SATHE, DHRUV (1)

847-466-9134

renuka.sathe@gmail.com

VOLLMAR, KATRINA (3)

pattyvollmar1@gmail.com

YURKOVIC, BRIANNA (K)

973-543-6231

Bob/Jessica

1 Edward Court

Jessica.yurkovic@asurian.com

ZUBIATE, ZACHARY (2)

350-7153

Ricardo/Julie

2001 Rose Court

zubiategfamily@gmail.com



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

Trial of the Big Bad Wolf



All rise! The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf is about to begin. Many of our third graders have been hard at work for their very own trial at LCS! Student prosecutors are preparing to argue that the Big Bad Wolf murdered two defenseless pigs and destroyed their homes. Our defense attorneys stand ready to show that Mr. Wolf did no such thing. After being sworn in by our bailiffs at the mid-February trial, witnesses will testify and then the jury will decide the wolf's fate. What will happen? We do not know yet, but, we do know that all our student participants will do a great job and we're really looking forward to seeing them in action!

Specials Report

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

PE — How about those 5th grade dancers? Thanks to all who were able to attend and lend their time and support to the groups. I think the kids learned something and had fun in the process.

In the months of February and March, all grade levels will participate in an educational gymnastic program that will afford opportunities to all students to challenge themselves at their appropriate level of ability. In plain English, there is something for everybody. Olympic Gymnastics, by nature is a very demanding sport. Adding, subtracting, and emphasizing the correct elements makes it safe and educational. Educational gymnastics is inclusive in nature, and still offers a variety of opportunities for the advanced gymnast to challenge their mental and physical capacities. It is very important for your child's safety and ability to participate, that they come to PE with the proper attire for gymnastics. Leotards or gymnastic uniforms are not necessary; comfortable clothing that is not too loose or too tight works well. Taking appropriate risks, whether successful or not, is extremely important to the development of our children. Please take the time to talk to your children to encourage them to challenge themselves to endeavor in taking reasonable risks. This helps them to feel a true sense of accomplishment and self worth. These are great lessons of fortitude for the future. In the future, no one will remember if your child performed an advanced stunt in gymnastics but, they will remember the courage it took to try.

The winter intramural session will be wrapping up at the end of the month. The spring session will begin at the week before conferences in March. A registration packet is available on the school web-site and my on-course site.

Have a safe and happy winter break.

The PE Guys

Music — There are so many wonderful things happening in the music world for Liberty Corner. All strings, band, and chorus students performed in their winter concert this January. They did a fantastic job and represented our school with great pride.

Fourth Grade students have been preparing for the first ever Cultural Arts Night which will be on Wednesday, February 15th. Come enjoy food, drinks, art, music, and dances by the fifth grade students!

Students are also starting with the mini-unit musical again for the second year. This year over 100 students will be involved with the production of The Jungle Book. The evening performance will be at the Ridge Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, April 4th. Mark your calendars now!

In general music class, students had the opportunity to learn about the use of music in cartoons in the month of January. In the month of February, students will be learning about the Motown style and record label in addition to their ongoing music literacy skills. We are a music-filled school!

Your PTO at Work

Your PTO at Work: Mid December 2011 through January 2012:

Fifth Grade Celebration Bake Sale: Held during the book sale at Parent-Teacher conferences, this on-going event raises the money which funds the Fifth grade celebration at year end.

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

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

Scientist in the Class Rooms: Each 2nd grade class enjoyed 75 minutes of science fun with Ms. Preeti from High Touch High Tech as they learned about the different forms of matter.

Kit's Interactive Theater made its 2nd visit to the 5th grade on January 13th and taught them about the life in a day of an early Pioneer as they traveled on the Oregon Trail.

Sweet Potato Pie: In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the incomparable Queen Nur and her percussionist partner, Dwight James, dished up a tasty treat of multicultural stories, songs and dance featuring the influence of African Diaspora. This highly energetic and interactive performance delighted and entertained the LCS students and teachers.

Local author/photographer **Walter Choroszewski** visited the 4th grade classrooms on January 18th. In addition to being a renowned NJ photographer, Mr. Choroszewski promotes a positive image for New Jersey through his creativity and public speaking and school presentations and he is a leading advocate of NJ State pride. Mr. Choroszewski kindly donated one copy of his newest book to the LCS Library!

Jenkinson's Penguins visited the Kindergarteners on January 20th. A fun time was held by all!

Math Magic: Another free evening of fun hosted by the PTO on January 27th saw over 200 people in the gym as they were enthralled by magician Christian

Augustine who showed that there is much more to math than we think. There were plenty of opportunities for the audience to take part in the fun!

Look what is coming from your PTO in February and March

- 2/15: Cultural Arts Night and 5th Grade Dance Off
- 2/16: Trial of the Big Bad Wolf (3rd Grade only)
- 3/2: Mother-Son Bowling
- 3/5: High Touch High Tech Visits the 3rd Grade
- 3/5-9: Poet Writer Residency
- 3/8: Buddies and Books
- 3/20-23: Wizards of Words
- 3/23: High Touch High Tech Visits the 4th Grade
- 3/24: Spring Social
- 3/27-30: Parent Teacher Conferences (half days) and Book Fair
- 3/28-29: Battle of the Books (4th and 5th Grades)

Some Friendly Reminders....

- Mid-Winter Recess (No School) from February 20-24th.
- COGATS – Grade 2 from March 27-29.

Thank You!

Thank you to Terri Laird, our webmaster of the new LCS PTO website, for her tireless work making sure that the LCS community stays updated!

Thank you to Bridget Jaeger, Elizabeth Michels, Tracy Olsen and Tara Hughes. As the LCS PTO Photography Committee, they are singlehandedly responsible for all of the wonderful photographs of our children at school events.

Thank you to Sharon Bloom-Sigmund and Amanda Yanuklis for their tireless work in editing and assembling the LCS PTO Newsletters.

Thank you to the Kindergarten Registration Committee co-chairs, Dominique Wolfe and Nancy Gross for managing the screening appointment table and organizing the committee to help register the new incoming class. Congratulations on a job well done.

Thank you to the Caring Community Committee for providing flowers to our fantastic music teachers, Mrs. Beadle, Mrs. Karle and Mr. Kirk, at the Band/Chorus and Strings Concerts. This gesture was greatly appreciated by all who attended the concerts.

Thank you to the Caring Community for providing our teachers with some delicious holiday breakfast treats in December.

Thank You to the Sweetheart Dance Committee for putting on another memorable night for our LCS girls and their dates. The food was delicious, the picture frames were perfect and the DJ was dynamite!

Here's What's Coming Up....

Feb 16: The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf is well under way!!! We'll soon find out if the Wolf is found guilty or innocent of eating the little piggies. Thank you to Nes Montag, Sherri Orr and Debra Witt for coordinating such an enriching production while teaching the kids our legal system.

March 3: Mother/Son Bowling is a fun filled afternoon of bowling and pizza with sons and friends. It is sure to be another sold out event as LCS takes over Plaza Lanes in Madison. Thank you to Susan Kevelson, Yvette Hober and Tina DelGiorno for organizing. Registration form must be in before our winter break. Go to www.libertycornerpto.org for the form.

March 8: Thank you to Sherry Mandel and Davenie Pereira for coordinating a cozy night with books, milk, and cookies and some stuffed animals in a cafe style environment. Children from the Pride Club will be the servers of the evening. Event targeted to children K-G3. Go to www.libertycornerpto.org for the registration form.

March 20-23: Christine Feller, Elizabeth Michels, Mie Holmqvist and Kelli Schmolze have done a great job scheduling wonderful authors to come visit LCS. Book order forms and activities are available at www.libertycornerpto.org.

March 24: Come out and enjoy a night with fellow LCS parents at the Fiddler's Elbow in Bedminster. Lisa La-Tourette and Heather Watson-Kramer are busy planning another enjoyable event. Look for more details soon.

2011-2012 Library Volunteers!

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
- Inventory and organize library materials

Parents can volunteer for an hour a week or biweekly during their child's library time -- or any other time during the school day. This is a great opportunity for anyone who loves books and literature, or who wants to volunteer in a fun and creative environment. If you are interested, please send Mr. Mullarkey an e-mail at jmullarkey@bernardsboe.com.

PHOTOS



Morris Museum



5th Grade Silly Cells



2nd Grade High Tech High Touch



2nd Grade Insect Museum



Sweet Potato Pie



All School Mexico Beyond Mariachi



Thomas Alva Edison Impersonator



**5th Grade: Kits Interactive Theater
Revolutionary War**



**5th Grade: Kits Interactive Theater
Pioneer Travel**