

# Liberty Corner PTO

## April 2012

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

Hopefully everyone has been enjoying the early arrival of spring! The warmer weather brings with it spring sports, activities and the inevitable feeling that we are in the home stretch of the school year.

We couldn't think of a better way to kick off spring than celebrating with our LCS friends at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Denim & Diamonds Social. It was fantastic to see so many of you there, enjoying the company of good friends, delicious food and cocktails, dancing, and Live Auction Entertainment brought to us by our very own Bob Milligan. We really appreciate all the work the co-Chairs, Lisa La-Tourette and Heather Watson-Kramer, along with their entire committee, put in to making this a very special evening.

There was a large turnout enjoying the artistic talents of our fourth and fifth grade students at LCS's first ever Cultural Arts Night. This partially PTO-funded event conceptualized by LCS Music teacher, Mrs. Beadle, and Art teacher, Ms. Bynoe, was beautifully organized by our teachers with the help of many parent volunteers.

Buddies and Books Café was again a crowd-pleasing evening for our younger students! The older Pride Club students did a terrific job serving the families that attended. Thanks to our co-Chairs Sherry Mandel and Davenie Pereira and their committee for putting on an educational and fun night for our families, and coordinating the collection of gently used "buddies" for the benefit of Joshua's Closet. Another sure-to-please LCS tradition, Mother/Son Bowling once again had an overwhelming turnout, lots of fun, and fantastic door prizes for the extra lucky bowlers. Susan Kelson, Yvette Hober, Tina DelGiorno and their committee always go above and beyond to make us keep coming back year after year.

March brought many PTO-funded enrichment programs to our students. The third graders were treated to a Rainforest Safari presentation in which they learned about all the layers of the rainforest and the animals that live in them. Our fourth grade students participated in our annual Poet Residency program in which they get to try their hand at expressing themselves through the art of poetry. 4<sup>th</sup> graders also enjoyed a Scientist in the classroom program called Global Fever. Once again, thanks to our Enrichment Committee for bringing these wonderful programs into our children's classrooms.

Our annual Wizards of Word team wowed us this year with three fantastic authors! Everyone got to hear from renowned author Dan Gutman and show support for his sports series by wearing their favorite team's shirt. K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade were treated to a presentation by Kate Feiffer and K, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders listened enthusiastically to Margie Palatini's engaging discussion. Our WOW committee Christine Feller, Mie Holmqvist, Elizabeth Michels and Kellie Schmolze, did a fantastic job coordinating the authors, creating contests to capture our students' interest and showing off our school spirit to our guest speakers.

Battle of the Books for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students was fierce the week of conferences. The Groups competed for the most right answers, team spirit and sportsmanship awards. The kids worked diligently within their groups in their designated roles and the silent applause were deafening! Thanks to co-Chairs Debbie Marcus and Yvette Hober for keeping the kids on track throughout the year and organizing this friendly competition for our readers.

As is tradition, the PTO Book Fair was held during spring Parent-Teacher Conferences while our Fifth Grade Celebration committee was on hand with some treats, a perfect way to reward a job well done! Hopefully the book fair inspires our children to immerse themselves in a good book over spring break. Enjoy your family time over Spring Break and be sure to relax, because when you return, the sprint toward summer will be upon us!

#### PTO Board 2011-2012

**Co-Presidents:** Laurie Dobson ([lbdobson@msn.com](mailto:lbdobson@msn.com)) and Bernie Taylor ([bernietyaylor20@gmail.com](mailto:bernietyaylor20@gmail.com))

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

**Co-2nd Vice Presidents (Fundraising):** Barbara Sileo ([sileo4@hotmail.net](mailto:sileo4@hotmail.net)) and Linda Picardo ([linnyp@optonline.net](mailto:linnyp@optonline.net))

**Treasurer:** Maggie Gould ([mjscala@hotmail.com](mailto:mjscala@hotmail.com))

**Assistant Treasurer:** Donna Wilson ([Def2dew2@yahoo.com](mailto:Def2dew2@yahoo.com))

**Secretary:** Bridget Jaeger ([bridgetj@jaegerlumber.com](mailto:bridgetj@jaegerlumber.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



I thought it might be helpful to share with you a summary of our Character Education goals, objectives and vision. Our Character Education program is infused and integrated into our daily delivery of instruction and permeates everything we do here at LCS. As a New Jersey School of Character for three years, it is apparent that the character development of our students, your children, is extremely important to us. The following is a brief description of what we do and why we do what we do.

“Watch your thoughts; they become your words. Watch your words; they become your actions. Watch your actions; they become your habits. Watch your habits; they become your character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.” This anonymously written quote sums up our approaches to the character development of our students. Teachers work daily and tirelessly to help the children internalize the tenets of good character encouraging them to do the right thing and make good choices and decisions.

Our Character Education program was created in 1999 and has been reviewed and improved yearly since its inception. A representative Character Education committee meets periodically to reflect upon our practices and initiatives to ensure that all activities and projects comply and align with our mission statement. As a school community and as individuals, we reflect upon our own moral motivation examining personal behaviors and attitudes. We do this by engaging in reflective writing, pondering messages written on the “Principal’s Journal”, reading and examining the moral motivation of characters met in daily reading assignments and sharing personal experiences and opinions during Class Meetings.

LCS has been recognized as a New Jersey School of Character on three separate occasions along with several program initiatives honored as Best Practices or Promising Practices. Such recognition has earned us a reputation as an exemplary model for Character Education programs. We are additionally proud that our program was a grassroots, staff-created program. All Character Education activities were and are designed by a staff that is committed to the nurturing of character development in their students. We often hear parents comment about the Bucket Filling conversations at home. It is encouraging that our messages of character are being internalized by our students and they are actively thinking about their moral responsibilities and obligations as a citizen at Liberty Corner School and a family member at home.

Our Character Education committee creates a yearly calendar, which maps out our program activities, service learning projects and relevant assemblies. Our program is based foundationally on eight pillars of character; Responsibility, Respect, Caring, Fairness (Sportsmanship), Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Compassion and Honesty. Character Education visuals abound in our building in the form of banners, street signs, character quotes and student handprints. However, these visuals are supported by many conversations about good character throughout the school day.

It is imperative that students feel empowered by their participation in the decision-making process. Therefore, many opportunities have been created for children to assume leadership roles. Peace Patrol is an outreach initiative of our Peer Mediator program to ensure that safe, respectful and responsible behaviors are in place during recess periods. Hallway Helpers, Corner Store Managers, Morning Greeters and Boosters all work hard to establish a positive and supportive LCS climate, and one which welcomes all.

Although many of our children are very young, we believe they can begin to understand the important role they can play as a contributing citizen in society who can positively impact the lives of others.

# 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. The presentation will take place in the gym in anticipation of a large turnout.
- **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.

*Free babysitting and light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!*

## LCS PTO for 2012~2013

It's not too early to start thinking about next year and what committees you might be interested in contributing to for the 2012-2013 school year. If you are interested in taking part on the PTO Executive Board or specific committees for next year please contact Larissa Milligan, [larissa\\_milligan@hotmail.com](mailto:larissa_milligan@hotmail.com), or Zaida Harrison, [zaidaharrison@verizon.net](mailto:zaidaharrison@verizon.net).

## Sweetheart Dance -- Heather Watson-Kramer & Jackie Blank, Co-Chairs

On Friday, February 10th, the Fifth Annual Liberty Corner School Sweetheart Dance was held at LCS. Over 220 girls and their dates had a blast as they danced the night away in the beautifully decorated LCS Gymnasium. Each girl was greeted with a corsage and her date was given a boutonniere. The couples were then photographed before they ventured to the gym to join the party. There were special prizes handed out to the girls that were dancing with their dads, crafts to be made, and delicious food, desserts, and beverages for the "Sweethearts" to enjoy. The girls received goodie bags and delicious homemade Heart Cookies as they left the dance.

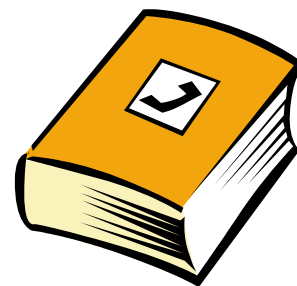
Along with having a great time, the "Sweethearts" also helped out our community. Each girl was asked to bring a donation for the Somerset County Food Bank. We collected over 15 boxes of food donations as well as \$440 from the sale of the Sweetheart messages and cash donations. All of these items were delivered to the food bank the following week.

The Sweetheart Dance Committee would like to thank the Ridge High School Life Skills Program for the wonderful Vegetable Platters, the Ridge High School Athletic Department for the use of their drink containers and the Starbucks at Riverwalk for the ice. We would also like to send a big thank you to all of the volunteer bakers who sent in yummy desserts for the girls and their dates to enjoy!

We had a really great committee this year - a mixture of working Moms who fit things in where they could, Moms who knew they couldn't attend the dance but did all they could in preparation, and others that were meeting every other week getting all the details down. The committee members were Jill Bond, Tracey Byrne, Cathy Cheo-Isaacs, Alexa DeCandia, Tina DelGiorno, Megan Fedor, Felice Fullem, Nancy Gallo, Nancy Gross, Melanie Hodges, Michelle Ivarone, Lisa Janjua, Terri Laird, Anne Lanphear, Michelle Martucci, Larissa Milligan, Rebecca Moussally, Mary Norton, Penny Novick, Debbie Nungester, Sheri Pastor-Orr, Alexis Pinto, Susan Rascio, Roe Schottenfeld, Emma Schwed, Juana Schwed, Sharon Bloom-Sigmund, Sandra Thier, Kate Townsend, Katie VanCleeef, Patty Vollmar, Donna Wilson, and Dominique Wolfe. Thanks for all the planning, preparation and execution!

# LCS Directory Updates

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

**LI, KAREN (2)**

201-526-380

Moyang/Shu Sun

55 Arbor Circle

kl2011school@gmail.com

**McKEON, JAMES (K)**

204-9799

Jeff/Robin

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robin@mckeon6.com

**MISHRA, AKASH (4)**

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Prabhu/Anjana

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If you have corrections, please fill out a directory correction form at [www.LibertyCornerPTO.org](http://www.LibertyCornerPTO.org)

## Thank You!

The children took part in another successful Battle of the Books thanks to the hard work of Co-Chairs Deb Marcus and Yvette Hober and their committee. Fourth and fifth grade teams took part in a friendly competition where they read books and answered questions in a quiz show format. Thanks to Yvette and Deb for keeping the teams on track and putting together another successful event.

Congratulations and thank you to our Mother Son Bowling Chairs: Susan Kevelson, Yvette Hober, and Tina DelGiorno, who provided a wonderful afternoon of activities and enjoyment for moms and their sons. All who attended enjoyed the bowling, the food, the baskets, and most importantly, each other's company.

Is the Wolf guilty? That's what the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf tries to prove or disprove. The chairs: Nes Montag, Sherri Orr and Debra Witt worked tirelessly to introduce our children to the court system and how the role of the lawyers, the client, the evidence, the witnesses, and jury work together in determining the best verdict. Thank you!

Kudos to Lisa LaTourette and Heather Watson-Kramer for another successful Spring Social. The evening at Fiddler's Elbow was filled with great food, drink, and dancing. Our generous LCS community also raised funds using live auction entertainment. Great job!

Thank you to the Buddies and Books Committee Co-Chairs, Sherry Mandel and Daveine Pereira, for coordinating a wonderful evening for our youngest LCSers and their stuffed animal friends. The Pride Club did a wonderful job keeping the books and cookies flowing throughout the evening. A very nice evening for all!

Thanks to our Wizards of Words Chairs, Christine Feller, Mie Holmqvist, Elizabeth Michels, and Kellie Schmolze. They did a fantastic job coordinating the authors, creating contests to capture our students' interest, and showing off our school spirit to our guest speakers.

Thank you to Melissa Castner and Sandra Thier for serving up a scrumptious Staff Winter Breakfast to our well deserving LCS staff. They planned a great menu of breakfast foods and desserts with an assortment of beverages. Something to satisfy everyone. Thank you!

## **Trial of the Big Bad Wolf** -- Nes Montag & Sheri Pastor-Orr, Co-Chairs

Court is in session! Third grade students recently put on quite a show at the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf! Participants staged a mock trial loosely based on the story of The Three Little Pigs, with a few twists. They acted in the roles of attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs and jurors, displaying some outstanding speaking and acting skills and demonstrating their mastery of our judicial system in the process. Coached by a dedicated committee of parent volunteers, the children worked very hard preparing their roles and the results showed it! The bailiffs maintained order in the court and officially swore in all the witnesses, who then recounted their version of events through explosive direct and blistering cross-examination by the attorneys! The jury deliberated after hearing all of the evidence and closing arguments, and ultimately returned mixed verdicts in both cases, finding the Wolf guilty on some counts and not guilty on others. All of the participating students did a wonderful job and should be commended for their efforts and for setting such a fine example of our judicial system in the works! Court is adjourned!

Many thanks to the Committee members who helped the students prepare for trial after school and during their recesses: Debra Witt, Elda Feldman, Heidi Hilgendorff Hannis, Melanie Hodges, Jane Crociata, Davenie Pereira, Heather Watson-Kramer, Sherry Mandel, Cristina Bowen, Karen Feringa, Pam Chan Haviland, Bridget Jaeger, Zaida Harrison, Larissa Milligan, Alaina Nemes, Jayanthi Venkataramani and Linda Picardo.

## **Mother and Son Bowling: Memories Made** -- Susan Kevelson, Tina Del Giorno, and Yvette Hober, Co-Chairs

Beautiful spring like weather afforded everyone an easy ride to the Plaza Lanes in Madison on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual LCS PTO Mother Son Bowling event. 225 moms and their sons enjoyed teaming up with their friends and bowling the afternoon away.

The boys and their moms, and even some grandmas, enjoyed pizza, drinks, and donuts while aiming for strikes and spares during the afternoon filled with some friendly competition. Another much anticipated part of the event was the Basket raffles. Tickets were given to each boy and their mom to place in the baskets of their choice. 19 baskets were available to the lucky winners who had their number picked. This year's baskets had items for both the boys and their moms including gift cards, toys, books, baseball items, movie and baseball tickets, restaurant, hair salon and workout class gift certificates, food and home goods items, LCS Spiritwear, a scooter, and the much sought after Kindle Fire and iPod Touch.

All the boys left with something to remember the day by including a light up bowling pin keychain, LCS tattoos and delicious bowling ball and bowling pin shaped cookies hand made by LCS mom Cathy Cheo-Isaacs.

We'd like to thank the PTO for their support, especially Zaida Harrison, for her assistance with planning, lane assignments, and for working at the event. We'd also like to thank the teachers and office secretaries for ensuring all the bowling registration forms found their way to us. Thanks also to Bridget Jaeger and Elizabeth Michels for taking pictures of the participants. And, a special thank you to committee member Juana Schwed for her assistance in planning and working the event, and for beautifully putting all the baskets together. They looked fantastic!

Another special thank you to committee co-chair Tina Del Giorno who was able to procure donations for many of the basket items. These donors were happy to help in making our Mother Son Bowling event a huge success. Please join us in thanking:

Harvest Group  
Dunkin Donuts  
Clearview Cinemas  
Somerset Patriots

O<sub>2</sub> Sports  
Learning Express in Stirling  
Ling Ling  
Profiles Hair Studio

SuperCuts of Riverwalk  
LCS Spiritwear  
Carol's Boot Camp in  
Bernardsville

Willow House from Lynn Stein  
Focacceria  
Reckitt Benckiser (Frank's Hot  
Sauce/French's Mustard basket)

## **Buddies and Books Café: An Evening of Sharing and Caring -- Sherry Mandel and Daveine Pereira, Co-Chairs**

On March 8th, 2012, over 160 LCS parents and students read books and enjoyed cookies and milk together at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual LCS PTO Buddies and Books Café. LCS families loved the opportunity to share quality time together and appreciated the chance to donate their gently used stuffed animals to Joshua's Closet, an organization to help the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Donations for the Somerset County Food Bank were also collected during the event.

This community-building event continues to be popular every year. The LCS cafeteria was transformed into a café where LCS families were hosted and served by 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Families selected books that they wanted to read together from menus created by Barbara Alfieri, LCS Literacy Support Specialist. The menus included dozens of new and favorite children's books, including many titles focusing on character education traits. Families were provided with reading comprehension questions to assist with book discussions during the café and to use at home, all while being expertly served cookies, milk, and water by student volunteers. Many attendees brought along a stuffed "buddy" to further enjoy the evening.

This event could not happen without the tireless work of many volunteers. The LCS PTO would like to offer our gratitude to Barbara Alfieri for planning the event and training our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. In addition, many thanks to Heather Kal-fus, Melissa Skiba, Connie Semler, Carol Dory, Lanie Bilenker, and John Mullarky. Also a special mention to our custodial staff, Keith & Carmen, and Aramark's Sue Fagen. Thank you!

Many thanks to The Buddies & Books Committee members: Sherry Mandel, Davenie Pereira, Pamela Haviland, Gina Ros-somondo, Susan Kevelson, Kelly Winkler, Jennifer Marchitto, Renuka Hedge, Alison Wessels, Manasi Sovani, and Jayanthi Chakrapani for their contributions to making the event so successful! Thanks also to Larissa Milligan for photographing the event and capturing the enthusiasm of our attendees and workers! A special thank you goes to Linda Gamba from Paperazzi in Bernardsville for blowing up all of the balloons for this event.

Finally, the LCS PTO & Committee would like to thank our hard-working 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students who acted as our hosts and servers at the café: Malcolm Hayman, Jonathan Nemetz, Fiona Egan, Molly Livingston, Marcus Phelps, Jasmine Yi, Ellie Martinson, Elizabeth Pema, Sophie Their, Annabel Del Giomo, Sebastian Gould, Elijah Phelps, Emily Pema, Hannah Their, Isabela Garcia, Julia Korn, Max Kevelson, and William Akin.

## **Wizards of Words ~~ Christine Feller, Mie Holmqvist, Elizabeth Michels & Kelli Schmolze, Co-Chairs**

On March 20, 22, and 23, Liberty Corner School students were treated to a visit from three wonderful authors: Kate Feiffer, Margie Palatini, and Dan Gutman. The entire school saw presentations from these "Wizards of Words." In addition, each day a few lucky students were given the opportunity to share dessert and conversations with the authors.

On Tuesday, March 20, Kate Feiffer visited our school and met with the Kindergarten classes and students in grades 1, 2, and 3. For the kindergarten classes, she read from her book, No Go Sleep! Students in first grade listened as she spoke about the process of writing and illustrating, using examples from her book, Henry the Dog with no Tail, while students in the older grades learned all about her brand new book, Signed by Zelda, set to be released on April 2, 2012.

Margie Palatini met with Kindergarten students and students in grades 4 and 5 on Thursday, March 22. She captivated the students with readings from her books, Lousy Rotten Stinkin' Grapes, Sweet Tooth, and The Cheese, especially with all of the different voices she used for each character.

On Friday, March 23, we welcomed Dan Gutman to our school. Mr. Gutman met with all Liberty Corner students. He read his picture book Casey Back at Bat to the Kindergarten classes. He discussed his My Weird School series with the students in grades 1 and 2, and talked about his Baseball Card Adventure books and the Genius Files books with the students in grades 3, 4, and 5. One lesson we all learned from seeing Mr. Gutman's stack of rejection letters is: Never Give Up! We now understand why he is considered such a "rock star" among the students.

It was a very successful week that could not have happened without the help of the following individuals: Mr. Mullarkey for all his help preparing the children and the library for the authors' visits. Thanks to Mr. Peluso for his assistance with the technology. Thank you to Ms. Bynoe and her students for the beautiful artwork that graced the halls and welcomed the authors to our school. Thanks to Mr. Keith for helping with all the logistics, and an extra special thank you to the Guzzi family and Quik-Pix in Warren, NJ for donating the beautiful new banner welcoming our Wizards of Words that hung outside the front office. Special thanks also to the Olde Mill Inn located in Basking Ridge for graciously hosting Kate Feiffer during her visit.

These amazing authors left a memorable impression on all the students and without a doubt, inspired all of our children.



# Your PTO at Work

## Your PTO at Work: February through March 2012

**Franklin Institute "Hot and Cold" Assembly:** The PTO brought in the Franklin Institute in February and learned about the three states of matter. The scientist made balloons shrink, bubbles freeze, corks pop, and a rubber ball shatter by using liquid nitrogen.

**Staff Winter Breakfast:** A big thank you event for our teachers included a wonderful breakfast before they started on their busy day.

**Buddies and Books:** Families enjoyed an evening of refreshments and reading in LCS.

**Sweetheart Dance:** A wonderful night was held for dads (or other significant men) and their daughters. We had close to 80% of all LCS girls attend the event for a magical night of dancing, crafts, dinner, and dessert, along with portraits.

**Cultural Arts Night and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance Off:** The PTO worked with the LCS Cultural committee to host a sophisticated café style evening with performances by various LCS students and teachers. Immediately following, was the ever entertaining 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance Performances.

**Trial of the Big Bad Wolf:** For third graders, this program provided an educational and interactive program for teaching our kids about the US legal system. The third grade attorneys rested their cases as the juries deliberated the fate of the Big Bad Wolf!

**Mother Son Bowling:** The always anticipated event was held for moms (or significant female) and their boys at Madison Lanes. The afternoon scored a 'strike' with bowling and pizza and fun for all.

**Scientist in the Class Rooms:** Mrs. Preeti visited the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and taught them about rainforests and assisted each child in creating their own "take-home" version to remember their day.

**Poets in Residence:** The Fourth Grade classes spent 4 days with a real poet to understand the process of writing poetry and try their hand at it.

**Wizards of Words:** A trio of outstanding, award winning authors visited LCS and spent time with the children explaining the thought process of being an author and how they do what they do! The children were captivated. This year's authors included Dan Gutman (My Weird School series, Casey at Bat, the Genius Files series), Kate Feiffer (Puddles with Problems, Which Puppy, Double Pink, No Go Sleep) and Margie Palatini (Bed Head, Hogg, Hogg and Hog, Piggy Pie, Sweet Tooth, Geek Chic).

**Spring Social:** A fun and successful social was held at Fiddlers Elbow Country Club for close to 130 parents, teachers and friends of LCS. A fun live auction and dinner and dancing rounded out the evening. Special thanks to all the LCS parents for their generosity and especially Bob Milligan for entertaining us by running the Live Auction.

**Book Fair:** The PTO sponsored book fair was held during the Parent Teacher Conferences upstairs in the library. Parents and children purchased books for themselves, their teachers (from their wish list) or for the Bubsers' Bags donation program.

**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:** The PTO organized and prepared the Fourth and Fifth Grade teams for their annual Battle of the Books where teams read preselected books and competed in a 'jeopardy-like' tournament.

**Purchased IPADS, Bubser's Book Bags and Musical Rug:** The PTO purchased 5 IPADS and the Bernards BOE added 5 more in support of a new program being trialed by our LCS Literacy Support team. Also, the PTO funded purchase of the Bubser's Book Bags in support of the teacher's outreach program as well as a new carpet for the Music room. Please log on to the [www.LibertyCornerPTO.org](http://www.LibertyCornerPTO.org) website to view all the photos of all these events.

## Look what is coming from your PTO in April, May and June

High Touch High Tech – scientist in the classroom Global Fever April 4<sup>th</sup>

High Touch High Tech – scientist in the classroom Green Machine April 17<sup>th</sup>

High Touch High Tech – scientist in the classroom Reaction Attraction April 26<sup>th</sup>

AAA Map Reading – April 20<sup>th</sup>

Family Walk/Run – April 29<sup>th</sup>

Kindergarten Screening – May 17-18<sup>th</sup>

Ridge Chorus to visit LCS – May 18<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Civil War Re-enactment – May 21<sup>st</sup>

Staff Appreciation Year End Luncheon – May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Field Day – May 23<sup>rd</sup>

LCS PTO Volunteer Brunch – June 12<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration – June 14<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Coffee – June 21<sup>st</sup>

## Some Friendly Reminders....

Jungle Book – April 4<sup>th</sup>

Spring Recess (No School) from April 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

Report Cards are available on April 20<sup>th</sup> and again on June 22<sup>nd</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> Graders go to Camp Bernie – April 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

NJASK testing May 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

Strings Concert – May 14<sup>th</sup>

Band and Choral Concerts – May 16<sup>th</sup>

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

## Band News

Six students at LCS were accepted into the Central Jersey Music Educators Association Elementary Honors Band. This is a nice achievement for our intermediate band students. Acceptance into this program gives students the opportunity to perform with hundreds of students from nearby school districts in a large concert this April. The students accepted were:

Emily Perna - Trumpet

Elizabeth Perna - French Horn

Zachary Marcus - Percussion

Eric Tung - Flute

Anneliese Silverman - Bassoon

Brynn McKeon - Oboe

Each of these students were recommended by me for the program and all of them were accepted, a rare feat for any school considering the high volume of applicants.

Joe Kirk, Band Director



# 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.

**PE** — Gymnastics has come to an end. The students showed lots of courage and determination. In April, weather permitting, we will be moving outside and into a unit on Physical Fitness/Wellness. All of our lessons have an emphasis on complete wellness. The lessons we teach in a fifty-minute Physical Education class almost always have three common goals: 1. The students will be active (achieving an exercise heart rate/target heart rate) for 30 – 40 minutes while working on specific health-related concepts of fitness/wellness. 2. The students will have fun and enjoy being active in a safe environment. 3. The students will learn life skills and sport skills that will help improve their wellness. Wellness is a multi-faceted holistic concept. Among those concepts are feelings of accomplishment and personal growth, ability to express a positive and creative lifestyle and feelings of contentment and happiness. Physical fitness is clearly a major factor in achieving overall wellness. We see our students as a whole person; therefore, we teach to reach the whole person in the physical, social, affective, and cognitive domains.

The days are long gone when kids were set to compete against each other during the fitness test. We can probably remember when we were in school being or seeing someone humiliated or made fun of for their effort on a fitness test. We work very hard with the kids so they understand why that should not happen. The goal of the fitness test is for the students to compete with themselves. Effort and improvement on their individual scores are emphasized. Children are not singled out to test in front of the class. When needed partners and groups are used to help the students who are testing through encouragement and assistance. The kids really learn an appreciation for the effort they and their classmates put forth.

The results of fitness test will come home with your child at the end of May or early June. Please take time to go over your child's fitness report with them.

April also brings the annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade CAMP BERNIE experience, 4/25, 4/26, & 4/27. I look forward to this trip every year. It is a great day for our kids to meet and work with other 5<sup>th</sup> graders who they will be in school with next year at Annin. It is a very fun and exciting day for all. I will speak with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders and show them a brief power point presentation to inform them of the details they need to know. I will also post information on my on-course site about the trip. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

PE GUYS

Building Healthy Bodies, Relationships, and Minds.

**Music** — March was "Mallet Madness" at LCS. With a set of over 20 instruments, students were able to rotate and play various xylophones and metallophones in different styles, songs, and patterns. They also saw clips of mallet instruments used in Jazz, Classical, Marching Bands, and countries throughout the world. We hope to make "Mallet Madness" a tradition!

In the month of April, the student teacher from Rutgers, Miss Molly Hampsey, will be teaching the students about the music of New Orleans. She will go into both the cultural and historical aspects of the music tradition. Students will learn about the different traditions, songs, dances, and stories.

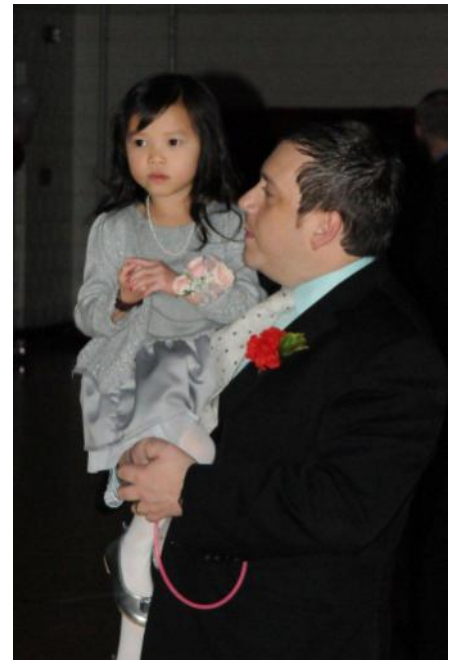
Lastly, a big congratulations to the cast, crew, and back-stage pass for all of their wonderful work in the production of "The Jungle Book". Bravo!

Thanks,  
~Carol Beadle~

# PHOTOS



**Sweetheart Dance**



**Sweetheart Dance**



**Fifth Grade Dance Off—School Performance**



**Trial of the Big Bad Wolf**



**Staff Brunch**



**Buddies and Books**





**Wizards of Words—Dan Gutman**



**Cultural Arts Night**



**Wizards of Words—Kate Feifer**



**Mother Son Bowling**



**Wizards of Words—Margie Palatini**



**Third Grade Rainforests**