



# Liberty Corner PTO

## December 2012

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

What an exciting time of year! The holidays are upon us and we are all extra busy getting ready to spend time with family and friends.

The school year is also flying by so it's a great time to look back at some of the PTO sponsored enrichment programs. The *Liberty Corner Fire Department* visited the Kindergarteners, giving them important fire safety information and tips and capping the visit with a tour of the cool fire truck. *Ant farms and ladybug kits* were ordered and delivered to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. Sure bet the children are just eager for the little buggers to grow and move. *High Touch/High Tech* was busy instructing the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders on the science of Insectology. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were entertained by the *Thomas Edison presenter, Patrick Garner*. *The Dirtmeister-Rock Around the Block* show demonstrated some cool rock facts to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Finally, *Kits Interactive Theatre* was busy portraying the American Revolution to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

The PTO also sponsored school wide *Character Educational* programs as well as two nighttime, family friendly shows. The story of *Sleepy Hollow* was portrayed in an entertaining and light hearted format and *School House Rock*, a spawn of the Saturday morning cartoons, encouraged learning grammar and math using song and rhyme. These nighttime shows were not only entertaining and educational but also well attended by our families.

Our PTO committees have been hard at work. The *Halloween Festivities* were a huge success, especially in light of Halloween being displaced due to Hurricane Sandy. Wearing great costumes, the children paraded around the school to their adoring parents and fans, later enjoying a DJ, a haunted house, crafts and some goodies. Thank you to the Co-Chairs and the committee for a fun filled afternoon.

*The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf* Committee is well on their way towards judgment day for the Big Bad Wolf. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and bailiffs have been selected and trial preparations are under-way.

The *Battle of the Books* has begun! The books and teams have been selected along with the battle questions. It will only be a couple of months before we know which team comes out on top. Good luck to the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teams!

We've accomplished quite a bit over the past few months, as a school as well as a community. Please enjoy the holiday season, be thankful for our generous community and for the wonderful families and friends we've made. We look forward to many more enriching activities and programs for our children in the New Year.

Please continue to visit our website: [www.LibertyCornerPTO.org](http://www.LibertyCornerPTO.org) for the most up to date information regarding your PTO.

#### 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 were so very grateful to return to “normalcy” after our two week hiatus compliments of Sandy. I know many of you suffered in so many ways. From minor power outages and inconveniences to major losses and destruction. We were all here for your children and hopefully getting back to the routines of daily life and school helped everyone get back on track.

Of course, not being in school for those two weeks set us back a bit on schedules necessitating substantial rescheduling of events. The 3-5 grade students will have completed their rescheduled MAP testing as of Dec. 20. That process has been extremely smooth and uneventful.

Personnel updates include two impending retirements and one maternity leave. Mrs. Semler and Mrs. Testa will be beginning this new chapter in their lives as of Jan. 1. We are working very hard to find suitable replacements to continue the fine work they have started in their respective classrooms. We wish them the very best retirement has to offer and sincerely thank them for their dedication to the children and families they have served over the years. Mrs. Karle, our strings instructor, began her maternity leave to prepare for the birth of her son. Ms. Lauren Brink will be her replacement and we extend a hearty LCS welcome to her. The fifth grade parents are invited to join us for the DARE graduation on Wed., Dec. 19 at 1:45 in the gym. All are welcome.

Please be sure to place our next Parent Academy workshop on your calendar. Mr. John Mullarkey, our librarian, will be discussing interesting and exciting ways to engage your reluctant readers. Take a breather from holiday preparations and join us for light refreshments while discussing a timely and interesting topic. **Free babysitting is available for school aged children.**

## **How to Engage Your Reluctant Reader**

**Presenter: Mr. John Mullarkey, Librarian**

**Date: Wednesday, Dec. 12**

**Time: 6:30-7:30 pm**

**Place: LCS Music Room-Room 18**

Mr. Oliver and I wish you happy and enjoyable holidays. More importantly...a happy and healthy New Year with no snow storms!

## 5th Grade Car Wash

5th Grade Student Council presenting Mr. John Ferrar of the Liberty Corner Rescue Squad with a check for **\$887.00**. This money was raised by our 5th graders who washed cars after school on Friday, October 12th as part of our annual 5th grade car wash fundraiser. Each year teachers and 5th graders select a local charity to raise money for by holding a car wash! This is the 10th year LCS 5th graders have held a car wash to raise money for a local charity/agency.



## Halloween Festivity -- Juana Schwed and Lisa Laurino, Co-Chairs

Liberty Corner's 3rd Annual Halloween Festival was held on Friday, October 26th at Liberty Corner School. It was a huge success, as we had over 250 children participating in a parade around the school, led by parent volunteers. Following the parade, the LCS families who attended enjoyed a haunted stage, pumpkin and ghost crafts, picture taking with a Frankenstein cutout and Great Pumpkin scene, music, refreshments, and goodie bags. The LCS stage was transformed into a Haunted Cafeteria by one of our committee members, Melissa Breheny, and as always was a crowd favorite. The 120lb. Pumpkin, won by the Portland Family, was supplied by Laurino Farms of Colts Neck. Great music was provided by DJ Chris of Warren.

Refreshments were donated by ShopRite in Bernardsville, Dunkin Donuts, and Stop & Shop at Lyons Mall. Linda Gamba, owner of Paperazzi of Bernardsville, was kind enough to donate dozens of balloons to help decorate the gym. We would like to thank everyone involved in this event. This year's Halloween Event could not have been the success it was without the help of all our committee members: Jeanine Amalfitano, Nicole Aulicino, Melissa Breheny, Tina DelGiorno, Ashu Gupta, and Rebecca Mousally. We also had numerous volunteers that assisted with set-up and clean-up: Robby Stapleton, Owen Haiback, Kevin Walker, Kelly McCreesh, Scott Policastro, Dr. Joe Murphy, Gould Family, Malaya Roychowdhury, Christine Marshall, Brigitte Turner, Allison Elia, Sampath Putumbaka, Karen Feringa, Susan Rascio, Mary Norton, Amy Anderson, Nancy Gross, Ailsa Ferguson, and Jackie Bazylewicz.

Special thanks also goes out to all of the parents that marched in the parade with the kids, Bridget Jaeger, Mr. Keith, Dr. Pecoraro, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Saalfeld, Debbie Tracy, and Gerry Burns.

Thanks to all,

Juana Schwed and Lisa Laurino

## Trial of the Big Bad Wolf

Where are the pigs? What happened to them? Is the Big Bad Wolf guilty or innocent?!

The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf program is off to a great start! The entire third grade participated in an introductory assembly in October where they got a general overview of the workings of our legal system and learned about trials -- what they are, who participates in them, and why we have them.

Third graders are on their way to learning their parts for our very own trial!

Students have been assigned their roles and have started their training and practice sessions after school and during recess, with the help of the dedicated parent volunteers on our Trial Committee. Both students and parent volunteers are hard at work learning all about opening statements, closing arguments, witness testimony through direct and cross examination, and the important duties of jurors and bailiffs.

The Committee will continue working with third graders up until the trial in mid-February. We know they'll do a great job and we're really looking forward to seeing them all in action!

# Your PTO at Work

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

**Spiritwear Sale:** Volunteers helped distribute on-line orders and sell additional LCS spiritwear items during October teacher conferences.

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

**Scientist in the Classroom:** The 4<sup>th</sup> graders got down and dirty with the High Touch/High Tech “Dig It!” presentation from Ms. Preeti.

**AAA Map Program:** Shani Jarvis of 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.

**Celebrate Your State:** The 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes enjoyed learning about New Jersey during this presentation by local author and photographer Walter Choroszewski.

**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.

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

- Mismatch/Pajama Day, December 14th
- Sensitivity Training 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
- Sweetheart Dance, February 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm
- Trial of the Big Bad Wolf, February 13<sup>th</sup>

# Thank You!

**Halloween Festivity:** We’d like to send a huge thank you to Lisa Laurino and Juana Schwed for Chairing our annual PTO Halloween Festivity again this year. Over 200 students and family members attended the event where students, decked out in their costumes, paraded around the school in a loop before enjoying the crafts, treats, and haunted stage inside. Thank you, Lisa and Juana, for all of your dedication and effort before and during the event to ensure it was a big success and a “spook-tacular” afternoon of fun for all!

**Sleepy Hollow Halloween:** The LCS community was fortunate to have this timely Kit’s Interactive Theatre show brought into our school by our fabulous Enrichment Committee. Many thanks in particular to Bridget Jaeger for planning this event.

**School House Rock:** The LCS gym certainly was “rockin” to the beat of Interplanet Janet, Conjunction Junction What’s your Function and many other crowd favorites. You could see many parents singing along and a good time was had by all. Thanks once again to our Enrichment Committee for organizing all these wonderful events.

**PTO Newsletter:** A big thank you to Amanda Yanuklis Kucerka and Sharon Bloom Sigmund for all of their hard work editing and assembling the PTO Newsletter.

# 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** — All LCS students will be learning their holiday music which will be performed at the Holiday Sing-Along in school on Friday, December 21st. Students will learn five different Christmas, Hanukkah, and winter songs that they will perform memorized and with instruments.

In addition, the Music of the Month is an American composer named Aaron Copland who wrote such famous orchestral music as "Appalachian Spring", "Rodeo", and "Fanfare for the Common Man". Students will be learning about his life and music throughout all of December.

In addition to general music class, students are welcome to sign up for the Drama Club, which is the new version of the mini-unit musical. Registration will be open the first week of December.

**P.E.** — December brings joy, mayhem, fun, learning, and exhaustion to the LCS gymnasium; same thing, different month right? Beach week and Fantasy week will highlight the weeks before December break. Sign up for the Winter Intramural season before it is full. Go to Mr. Henthorn's on-course site, [http://www.oncoursesystems.com/school/view\\_webpage.asp?id=324694](http://www.oncoursesystems.com/school/view_webpage.asp?id=324694), for an intramural registration packet and much more. Have a nice break and happy holidays to all.

January brings rhythm & dance to the LCS gymnasium. All grade levels will learn a variety of dances through many fun activities and games. In addition to learning contemporary and folk dances, all grade levels experience activities that assist them in creating their own dances. Kindergarten and first grade students play several games that guide them into creating a short dance, which they will present to their class. Second and third grade students, with some assistance from preceding lessons, endeavor to create dances in a small group dynamic to be presented on to their respective classes. Fourth and fifth grade students form dance groups and cooperatively select appropriate music in order to create a dance unique to their group. All students work very hard on their dances. Most groups will probably be seen working on their dances at recess. Groups will be encouraged to even hold practices outside of school.

The fourth grades will present their dances on stage to their class and will be assessed on a rubric that your children will bring home. The fifth graders present their dances to the school, and the dances will also be presented at night to an excited group of fifth grade parents in February. Look on Mr. Henthorn's On-Course site for 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance night information.

Dance is an excellent fitness based activity. It is a difficult task in fact, to satisfy all of NASPE's (National Association for Sport and Physical Education) seven standards of physical education in just one type of activity. Dance is such an activity. We hope your children enjoy it.

## 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*

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)