

# Liberty Corner PTO

## October 2011

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

Welcome Back Everyone! Summer is a distant memory as we have jumped feet first into our educational and extracurricular activities. We started off the school year by attending a meet and greet session with our teachers. Back to School Night was well attended as parents listened to Dr. Pecoraro provide insight into the school year. The directories were disbursed and the Caring Community provided some light refreshments. We are off to a great start!

Although Pizza Night had to be postponed a week, it didn't dampen our spirits. This much anticipated event provided an opportunity for our incoming and returning LCS families to get together and reconnect after summer vacation. As usual, it was very successful as a result of the work of our wonderful chairs Andrea Chiafullo, Tina Del Giorno and Yvette Hober, and their committee.

We have a great spiritwear collection this year. If you haven't purchased your "tie dye" shirts or other LCS apparel, it's not too late. You can contact Melissa Breheny for all your LCS spiritwear needs. Our first LCS school spirit day is November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our pledge drive was a huge success thanks to your generosity. These funds will enable us to provide many enriching activities for our children such as Wizards of Words, and Scientists in the classrooms. Barbara Sileo and Linda Picardo did a great job organizing this event.

We have many other exciting activities planned for this year. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Halloween Spooktacular will be held on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>. It's sure to be a hauntingly good time. There will be a costume parade, DJ, pumpkin decorating, candy crawl and refreshments. You won't want to miss this event!

Does anyone know a good lawyer? After The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf, our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will have firsthand experience with the inner workings of a trial. They will play lawyers, judges, and witnesses. This is an amazing experience. There is still time to sign-up for the committee. Contact our chairs, Nes Montag or Sherri Orr for more information.

Our ever popular Battle of the Books program for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will 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.

Be sure to check our new and improved website, [www.LibertyCornerPTO.com](http://www.LibertyCornerPTO.com), for the latest news from teachers and PTO committees.

The PTO is grateful for all our volunteers. We couldn't have all these wonderful events without your participation. Thank you for all you do for the LCS community.

#### **PTO Board 2010-2011**

**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)**

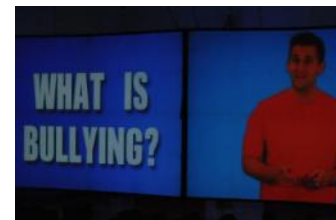
# From the Principal's Desk -- Dr. Pecoraro



Here's to another successful opening! If our opening is indicative of how well the school year will go, then we are in excellent shape. The 2011-2012 school year looks like it will be productive, busy, and infused with an abundant amount of challenging and exciting activities, which will enhance our curriculum. We have already experienced a number of exciting presentations. Thanks to you and our PTO for all these wonderful programs. Our first event was the Character Education Kick-off Assembly presented by Motivational Productions Inc. The large screen presentation included messages of character from celebrities along with fun popular music familiar to the children. The messages delivered contained themes of mutual respect, self re-



spect, how to treat one another, and doing the right thing. The presentation also emphasized anti-bullying and how to be an "upstander." Our Character Education Program is in full swing as the children are already having conversations about filling each other's buckets and being a person of good character who chooses to do the right thing, even if no one is watching.



Our Multi-Cultural Committee in conjunction with the PTO Enrichment Committee scheduled a presentation by a Mariachi Band to highlight the rhythmic music of the Latino culture. The children had a wonderful time as they interacted with the musicians and their music. This year, our committee is planning to explore Spanish traditions and culture.

Mrs. Beadle, our music teacher, worked with the nineteen children who were accepted to the NJ Youth Chorus to help us put a new feature on our phone system. When people call our building and are put on hold, they will hear our chorus students singing about LCS as well as the song, "Lean on Me." Look for this feature in the near future. In addition, you can click the new LCS School Song link on the LCS website to hear the children singing.

Our specialists are working together to plan a Cultural Arts evening event for some time in February. More information will be coming regarding our plans for this exciting event, which will highlight our art, music, and PE programs.

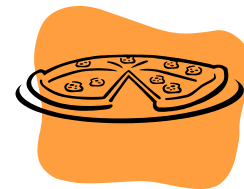
## The Parent Academy

The LCS staff is ready to share some very important information with our parents. We are reintroducing our Parent Academy by presenting a series of six workshops. All "courses" will be of interest to you as they will help you to more effectively work with your child at home. We are planning on having a babysitting service available for your convenience as well as some light refreshments. All PowerPoint presentations will be available on the LCS website for those who cannot attend. So, mark your calendars for the following workshops.

- "Working With Your First Grader"  
Mrs. Bilenker, Mrs. Bierbower, presenters  
Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30 (Music Room)
- "Working With Your 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grader"  
Mrs. Alfieri, Mrs. Legvari presenters  
Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 (Music Room)
- "Working With Your Kindergartner"  
Mrs. Brouillard, Mrs. Alfieri, presenters  
Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30 (Music Room)
- "Setting Limits for Your Strong-Willed Child"  
Ms. Cerra, presenter, based upon the work of Robert MacKenzie  
Thursday, March 15 at 6:30 (Music Room)
- "Working With Your 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader"  
Mrs. Bilenker, Mrs. Bierbower, presenters  
Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 (Music Room)
- "Internet Safety & Cyber Bullying"  
Mr. Peluso, Mr. Heineman (district Supervisor of Science and Technology), presenters  
Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 (Music Room)

# Second Time's a Charm

By Pizza Night Co-Chairmen Andrea Chiafullo, Tina Del Giorno, and Yvette Hober



As Goldilocks would say about her porridge, "not too hot, not too cold." The same could be said for this year's Pizza Night weather! After having to reschedule the event for the first time ever due to major rainfall the week before, Pizza Night went off without a hitch on Friday, September 30th. The rain held off and the weather was perfect for a night of fun and food!

Besides pizza, the students and their siblings enjoyed popcorn courtesy of Cub Scout Pack 54, Munchkins, bubble blowing, and tattoos, in addition to the fun of running around the playground and fields. Parents enjoyed an easy pizza dinner with delicious pastries as a sweet treat for dessert.

We'd like to 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, 63 in all, 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:

Teri Weniger  
Victoria Weniger (RHS)  
Lisa Laurino  
Donna Sellitti  
Jennifer Macchiarola  
Leslie Phelps  
Bridget Jaeger  
Jennifer Marchitto  
Sreevalli Gadiyaram  
Jayanthi Venkataramani  
Jemi McCluskey  
Hillary Post  
Alexander Post (WAMS)  
Shriya Balaji  
Paige Anderson (RHS)  
Katie Smidt (RHS)

Jack Smidt (WAMS)  
Matias Bigatti (WAMS)  
Chris Marshall  
Luke Chiafullo (RHS)  
Marina Chiafullo (LCS)  
Giancarlo Carnevale (RHS)  
David Hamilton  
Anabelle Hamilton (LCS)  
Annabel DelGiorno (LCS)  
Mike Hober  
Matthew Hober (WAMS)  
Michael Perillo (WAMS)  
Mary Kate Melilli  
Katherine Melilli (WAMS)  
Sydney Carlin (WAMS)  
Katie Jones (WAMS)

Caitlin Jones (WAMS)  
Katie Boyle (WAMS)  
Susan Kevelson  
Bev Cwerner  
Cayla Cwerner (WAMS)  
Sydney Vollmar (WAMS)  
Devon McKeon (WAMS)  
Andrea Lanausse  
Rosa Lanausse (WAMS)  
John Egan  
Marion McGlynn  
Maeve Egan (WAMS)  
Isabel Perez  
Dan Perez (WAMS)  
Matthew Perez (WAMS)  
Renuka Sathe

Dyana Mark  
Allison Twohig  
Charles Uvino  
Carolyn Connell  
Chris Pedicone  
Jayashree Tyagi  
Kirti Shah  
Kelly Tancredi  
Alexis Pinto  
Megan Callanan  
Carolyn Martynowski  
Brock Martynowski (LCS)  
Ann Nemetz  
Jonathan Nemetz (LCS)  
Maggie Aloisio  
Steve Aloisio

We'd 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  
Pizza Brothers - Raritan  
PBG (Pepsi products)  
Shop Rite of Bernardsville

Shop Rite of Stirling  
Stop and Shop  
Dunkin Donuts at Lyons Mall  
Dunkin Donuts at Dewey  
Meadow

Dunkin Donuts on Allen Road  
Select Vintage Wines  
Somerset Hills Hotel  
Courtyard by Marriott

Cub Scout Pack 54 (for the use  
of their popcorn machine and  
supplies)  
A&P  
Starbucks at Riverwalk



# LCS Directory Updates

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

JACOBS, ANNA (3)  
19 Royal Oak Drive  
647-8008

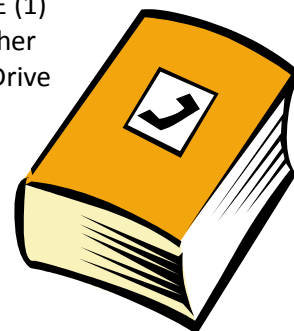
SCHEPER, SOPHIA (K)  
Denis/Becky  
59 Goltra Drive  
350-3665  
becky.scheper@gmail.com

SATHE, DHRUV (1- Bubnowski)  
506 Lyons Road

FRIEDMAN, CHANCE (5)  
martinbeth@verizon.net

SMITH, REBECCA (1)  
Max/Floride  
17 Long Road

WENZEL, LUKE (1)  
Michael/Heather  
16 Fieldview Drive  
766-3555



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

## Thank You!

**Caring Community Committee:** Thanks to Sandra Bierstein and Sonia Jay for providing refreshments at both Back to School nights in the cafeteria while parents made PTO pledges, picked up directories and perused the Spiritwear offerings.

**Pledge Drive:** We couldn't be more indebted to Linda Picardo and Barbara Sileo, our 2nd Vice Presidents of Fundraising, for the tremendous amount of work they put into planning and coordinating our first-ever fundraising pledge drive. Their tireless energy and the deep commitment of our LCS families resulted in a streamlined, successful fundraising campaign.

**Teacher Scholastic Gifts:** A big thank you to Barbara Sileo for working with the teachers to order books for our children's classrooms with the Scholastic dollars the PTO earns through rewards and bonuses from the annual Spring PTO Book Fair. Our students will love having new, exciting material to read right at their fingertips.

**Enrichment Committee:** Thanks to Bridget Jaeger, Larissa Milligan and Deb DeAsla for putting together a robust enrichment program for our students. They added several new activities this year including evening performances of Bubblemania and the Math Magician for the students and their families to enjoy.

**Pizza Night Committee:** Thanks to Yvette Hober, Tina DelGiorno and Andrea Chiafullo for another fun Pizza night for the students and families to enjoy.

**School Supplies:** Thanks to Kate Townsend and Gina Guiditta 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.

**Spiritwear Committee:** Thanks to Melissa Breheny who single-handedly designed, ordered and sold the 2011-2012 LCS spiritwear line. The newly-designed items were flying off the table at the Teacher Meet and Greet, Back-to-School Night, and Pizza night!

The PTO executive board would like to sincerely thank all our families for making our pledge drive so successful! We were able to raise over \$35,000 due to your generosity and commitment to our children's education. These funds will be used to enrich our children's learning experience through various events such as Wizards of Words, Writers in the School, Science demonstrations (Hi Touch/Hi Tech), visits from Abe Lincoln and Thomas Edison Impersonators, Civil War demonstrations, Field Day, Trial of the Big Bad Wolf and many more. We look forward to a year filled with Cultural Arts Assemblies and Curriculum Enhancements that our children will look forward to and never forget!

# Your PTO at Work

Look what PTO volunteers and donations have accomplished in the past month:

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

**School Directory:** compiled a directory of the LCS families and faculty

**Spiritwear Sale:** sold LCS clothing and accessories. Spiritwear has already sold out of some items and has re-ordered to keep up with demand.

**Pizza Night:** Despite the need to utilize the rain date this year and grey clouds in the sky, the committee ran yet another fantastic event with fun had by all!

**Teacher In-Service:** provided light breakfast refreshments to welcome back the LCS teachers

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

**Character Education Assembly:** funded this all-school assembly on September 22nd. Motivational Productions brought in a multi-media presentation about the effects of bullying, what you can do if you are bullied and how to help if you see someone being bullied. This production contained plenty of student-familiar actors, movies and music! The LCS students really enjoyed this entertaining and impressive production.

**Mexico Beyond Mariachi** – on October 7<sup>th</sup>, the PTO, in conjunction with the LCS Multi-cultural Arts Committee, kicked off the exploration of Mexico with this fantastic musical and dance group. A cultural arts study of Mexico will be carried through many disciplines throughout the year!

**Kits Interactive Theater** – the 5<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed this performance about the American Revolution that got them ready and excited for social studies this year!

**New Books for the Classroom** – the PTO used its Scholastic dollars from its spring book fair to purchase Teacher Wish List books!

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

- Halloween Parade and Festivity on October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Jay Mankita – Eat Like a Rainbow assembly during Red Ribbon Week
- Kindergarteners will get to explore the Liberty Corner Fire Truck
- Trial of the Big Bad Wolf Kick off meetings for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Battle of the Books Kick Off Meetings for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades
- School Spirit Day on November 8<sup>th</sup>
- Scientist in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms
- Indian cultural assemblies for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades
- Ant and Lady Bug Kits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Insect Museums
- *New for the school year – the Franklin Institute's Bubblemania – a PTO Sponsored Evening Event on December 6<sup>th</sup>.*

**Some friendly reminders:**

- School Picture Day is October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Conferences on October 25-28<sup>th</sup> – early dismissal days
- School is closed for the NJEA conferences on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>
- Reports cards are posted online on November 18th
- Happy Thanksgiving begins with early dismissal on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and closure on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

# 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** — 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. Make sure you don't take your child's fitness for granted. We need to encourage our children to get moving as much as we can. One to two hours a day, four to six times a week of moderate to heavy activity are a must to ensure your child's fitness. Why not join them ☺. Grades 2-5 will finish their Fall Fitness Assessment around the first week of October. We will use this information as a baseline to monitor their fitness level and improvement throughout the year. A report containing this information will be coming home upon completion.

Character Education is also a large part of your child's day at Liberty Corner School. We must be doing a good job; we certainly have a few "characters" here. But seriously, it is your child's personality that makes them unique. In PE, we strive to help our students develop positive character traits and add them to their repertoire of behaviors. Manners and empathy for their classmates are always reinforced and modeled. We accentuate inclusion, not exclusion. All children should feel they are a part of the lesson. When we ask our students to form groups or find partners, the rule is not to say "NO". Everyone is included and feels sought after or chosen.

When the fitness assessment is completed, Grades K - 2 will be working on coordination activities with an emphasis on movement education and spatial awareness. Ask your child about the "Manners" game (I Got Your Tail game) or "Squidward Tag". Grades 3 & 4 will kick it up a notch by adding the concepts of "invasion" and "defense" to coordination activities. "Pirates, Islanders, Seagulls, and Sharks" was a lot of fun and exhausting. "Star Wars" is always a fan favorite that allows the children to practice trust, honesty, and fair-play. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders will also explore the Track and Field events that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are working on. The fifth graders are starting a Track and Field Sport Education Unit. Social skills are highlighted in order to teach the students how to compete in a healthy way. Ask your fifth grader to tell you all about it.

The goals 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 and excruciatingly fun and safe environment. WE LOVE PE!!!!!!

The PE Guys

Building Healthy Bodies, Relationships, and Minds.

**Music** — Music at Liberty Corner is off to a great start. In the month of September students were introduced to Bluegrass music. They learned about the style of singing, the instruments used, the history of the genre, and much more. In October students will be learning about our multicultural theme for the year – Mexico. We are going to have a kick-off assembly of a Mariachi Band on October 7. During music class students, will learn songs in Spanish, learn the Mexican Hat Dance, and learn about traditional Mexican instruments.

In grades 3, 4, and 5, students have begun chorus. It looks and sounds like it's going to be a great group of ensembles this year. They are being introduced to the music that they will sing at the January concert at the Ridge High School Performing Arts Center. We're off and singing.

# 2011~2012 Library Volunteers!

Please consider volunteering in the LCS Library in 2011-2012!

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).

## In Recognition of Outstanding Service...

Recently Carolyn Masaitis, the Canterbury crossing guard, was honored by Bernards Township for her 20 years of outstanding service to the district. Carolyn has served the LCS community for the last 10 years and is a familiar fixture many associate with the close knit community we are all part of.

**Thank you Carolyn!**

