

Your PTO at Work

Look at How Much We Accomplished in 2008-2009, Thanks to Our Hardworking Volunteers and Generous Donations!

Special School Events:

Wizards of Words – Two acclaimed authors, Grace Lin and Sarah Weeks, met with our children to offer insights into literature, writing and illustration. **\$5344**

Field Day – Entire school participates in a variety of fun, athletic events, including relay races, parachute games, and giant inflatable slides. The PTO purchased items that will be used in subsequent years as well. **\$421**

Fourth Grade “Writers in the School” Poet Residency Program – Fourth graders received a week of direct instruction from Elizabeth Rollins, a published poet from Playwright’s Theater of New Jersey, followed by original poetry-writing by the students. **\$1500**

Buddies and Books Café – A fun night in which the cafeteria was set up as a book café to encourage reading among K-3 students and their families, using 4th and 5th grade students as servers. **\$300**

Books for our Buddies – Tying in with Buddies and Books Café, this program collected 2000 books donated by LCS families for the Madison Elementary School in Newark.

Hallway Handprinting – PTO volunteers helped each kindergartener, new student and new teacher put his or her very own mark on the school!

Fifth Grade Yearbook – A full-color keepsake for the 5th graders, put together by PTO volunteers and distributed at the end of the year.

PTO Sponsored Assemblies and Enrichment Programs:

Dancing With Honeybees – school-wide interactive assemblies adapted to grade level. Students learned about honeybees, beekeeping, and the importance of bees to our ecosystem. **\$2020**

Grand Falloons – school-wide character education assembly on Respect entitled *Earth, It’s a Gas!* Students learned about global warming and what they can do to reduce it’s affects – such as reducing , reusing, and recycling. Students learned respect for the planet. **\$725**

Seussical the Musical - school-wide performance by Ridge H.S. students included interactive theatrical learning experiences. **\$155**

Kindergarten Environmental Presentations by the Environmental Center of the Somerset County Parks Commission – “Basically Bug”’s used live creatures to teach about insects; “Recipe for a Reptile” – students met and learned about live reptiles: **\$250**

Kindergarten and Second Grade Star Labs – students had an opportunity to enter the star dome and learn about the stars and constellations. **\$850**

First Grade Hands-On Alpaca Presentation – Supporting their unit on clothing, first graders had the exciting

opportunity to see live alpacas and learn about products made of alpaca fleece: **\$200 donation to Heifer International**

Second Grade “American Indian Cultures” program – Aligned with the second grade curriculum; the children were able to touch real and reproduced artifacts. **\$150**

Second and Fourth Grade Geology Programs – Geologist Steve Tomacek, “The Dirtmeister,” originator and star of an Emmy Award-winning PBS series, presented “Rock Around the Clock,” introducing students to the rock-formation process. Students had opportunities to handle mineral specimens and watched igneous rock form in a homemade magma chamber. **\$900**

Third Grade Museum of Early Trades & Crafts program, “A Child’s Life in Early America” – Fitting the curriculum of communities, the children learned what life was like in early America. **\$800**

Third Grade Morris Museum program, “Wildlife Survival” – Coordinated with the unit on endangered species and gave the children the opportunity to handle animal shells, horns and skins. **\$150**

Third Grade Assembly – Thomas Edison: Inventor, Lecturer and Prankster – In this audience-participation presentation for the entire third grade, Patrick Garner impersonated the inventor and taught the students the life lessons Edison acquired as an inventor. **\$700**

Third Grade Historic Basking Ridge Presentation – June Kennedy, town historian, taught the history of Basking Ridge. **\$25 donation to the Historical Society of Somerset Hills**

Third Grade High Touch/High Tech: The Reaction Attraction – Third graders learned about chemical reactions and discover mixtures and made their very own rubber super balls! **\$765**

Third Grade Sky Quest Presentation – students viewed the night sky in a mobile planetarium. **\$400**

Fourth Grade Lenape Presentation – Tying in with the Native American curriculum, the fourth graders hosted a presenter who arrived dressed in authentic Native American clothing, and brought Native American artifacts: **\$500**

Fifth Grade Abe Lincoln impersonator - The entire grade got to “meet” Abe Lincoln, who presented his values of honesty, love of family, thirst for education, and a sense of justice and perseverance. **\$925**

Fifth Grade Civil War Re-enactment – Tying in with the Civil War curriculum. Students interacted with costumed re-enactors, crawled inside an army tent, sampled the dry biscuits the troops ate, examined a wide variety of period artifacts including tools, clothing and children’s toys, and – most exciting – witnessed the firing of a full-sized reproduction Civil War cannon. **\$1,000**

Fifth Grade Holocaust Survivor Presentation – As part of the fifth grade WWII curriculum, the fifth graders hosted two surviving “Hidden Children” sponsored by the Jewish Community Services of the Holocaust Council of Metrowest, NJ. **\$300**

Social Events for Families and Parents:

First Day of School Coffee – A chance for parents to catch up with old friends, meet new friends, and sign up for events in the coming year.

Back-to-School Night Hospitality – PTO offers homemade refreshments and an opportunity for parents to mingle

at Back-to-School Night.

Pizza Night – This fun-filled fall evening gave parents and children an opportunity to meet and socialize at the beginning of the year.

Bingo Nights – Easy-going nights to hang out with family and friends and maybe win some great prizes.

Mother-Son Bowling Night – A great opportunity for boys and the special women in their lives to hang out with each other and friends, while enjoying bowling and pizza.

Sweetheart Dance – A special night out in February for girls and their Dads or special man, filled with dancing, food and a take-home keepsake.

Fifth Grade Celebration – A party for the fifth graders, put together by PTO volunteers. Students celebrated their years at LCS as they enjoyed pizza, cupcakes, and a DJ in the LCS cafeteria.

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch – The PTO thanks all of its hard-working volunteers with a delicious catered brunch. **\$450**

School Equipment and Technology:

Playground equipment for use during recess (balls, jump ropes, etc.), and **PE equipment**, including a new parachute to replace the torn one. **\$715**

BrainPop – An educational Internet Subscription service to Brainpop.com and Brainpopjr.com, used extensively by students and teachers, popular with teachers for use with the SmartBoard. **\$1425**

Clothing for Nurses Office - The PTO supplied new sweatpants, t-shirts, and other garments for the school nurse to loan children needing a change of clothes. **\$125**

Support for Teachers and Staff:

BER workshop on Strengthening Instruction for Gifted Students – Ms. Erik: **\$100**

Holiday and Year End Gifts for Specials Teachers and Staff – The PTO collects funds from parents during Back to School night and distributes them in the form of holiday and year-end gifts to all our wonderful specials teachers (Music, PE, etc.) and staff.

Staff Valentine Breakfast – showing our appreciation for all the teachers and staff who make our school so special.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon – honoring our wonderful LCS staff with a delicious lunch and special gifts. A donation was made by the PTO for costs not covered by parent donations. **\$111**

Floral Arrangements - presented at concerts to the Band, Orchestra and Chorus teachers **\$250**

Faculty Lounge Renovation – The PTO conducted an “extreme makeover” to the faculty lounge, transforming it from an unattractive, uninviting ad hoc “storage room” into a warm and homey space in which to eat lunch, prepare for class, recharge, etc. The room was gutted, painted, fully furnished with tables, chairs and a comfy sofa,

accessorized, and equipped with a new coffee machine. **\$2411**

Faculty Lounge Maintenance: the PTO supplies bulk purified water for the teacher's lounge. **\$45/month**

Memorial Donations: given in the name of the LCS PTO in memory of a teacher or staff loved one who has died: **\$236**

Services to Parents:

New Family Orientation – Held in August. Volunteers assisted with tours of the school to welcome new students and families.

Directories – PTO volunteers put together and print comprehensive directories of the entire school – students and staff -- available to all PTO members. Paid for by PTO dues.

Message Boards – Message boards in front of the school are updated by volunteers, keeping families aware of important dates and events. Cost of new message boards to replace the old damaged ones: **\$315**

PTO Meetings – an opportunity for all parents to learn what's going on at LCS and our district and to get involved, and also to speak with Dr. Pecoraro and the PTO Board. Donation to Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church for use of their facilities: **\$250**

September – Welcome meeting

November – guest speaker Jennifer Brown, an LCS parent and registered dietician presented *Healthy Eating for Kids: It is Possible*.

January – Lori Jones, Assistant Principal, gave a presentation on Bullying Prevention and the results of a Bullying Prevention survey given to all LCS students.

March – guest speakers from the BT BOE, Bev Cwerner, Susan Carlsson and Lisa Winter spoke on the 2009-2010 district budget and answered questions from parents.

April – School District Budget Presentation given by Superintendent of Schools Valerie Goger, including time for questions and answers

May – Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

DNA Testing – The PTO organized volunteers to assist the Bernards Township Police Department to prepare DNA kits for LCS students.

Kindergarten Registration and Screening – PTO volunteers helped with the registration and screening of next year's kindergarteners.

Weekly Eminders, Monthly Newsletters, Website and Photography – Throughout the school year, the PTO disseminated important notices and reminders for the school and district, and maintained a website where parents can easily access information and download flyers and forms. Through newsletters and photos, the PTO also provided a window for parents into school events, allowing parents to see all of the exciting things their children are doing at LCS.

Caring Community Committee – A new committee which offers support in the form of meals, transportation, childcare, etc. to families facing adversity due to illness, accident, death, or other crisis. This committee also provides information and assistance to families who are new to the district.

School Supply Sale – This service enabled parents to order school supplies online (by grade, from teacher-assembled lists) and have them home delivered before the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

Fundraisers:

Innisbrook Gift Wrap Sale – One of our biggest annual fundraisers; The sale of gift wrap, candy and gift items. Total raised: **\$7944**

School Spiritwear – A variety of clothing offered with the LCS logo. Total raised: **\$1171**

Family Photo Day – An opportunity for LCS families to have a portrait taken. Total raised: **\$2410**

Spring Book Fair – Gave parents an opportunity to purchase quality books and other items. Total raised: **\$3038**

Box Tops – Volunteers trim and collate box tops coupons clipped by LCS families, and organize contest and grade-level prizes. Total raised: **\$511**

Target Card Program – LCS receives a percentage of every Target purchase by parents who have signed up for the program and pay with their Target Card. Total raised: **\$1093**

Kids in Bloom – This PTO spring fundraiser raised money to pay for enrichment programs and equipment, such as those listed above. Total raised: **\$11,540**

