

# The Eagle's Nest

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF PITTSBURGH LIBERTY K-5

February 2020

Vol. 5, Issue

## February Calendar

### **Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting, Feb. 6, 6–8PM, Pittsburgh SciTech:**

PAC is the District's central mechanism for ensuring that parents are well informed and can help develop programming and policy. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm, and the meeting is 6:00–8:00 pm. Childcare is also available for potty-trained children age 3 and above. Liberty is currently in need of a representative at PAC. If you're interested in filling this role, contact LouAnn "Ms. Z" Zwieryznski, principal:

[lzwieryznski1@pghschools.org](mailto:lzwieryznski1@pghschools.org)

### **Family Friday: Fri. Feb. 7, 9:30-10:30am**

Join your child or children in the classroom - our Liberty families are invited to spend an hour with the students and learn alongside them for the morning.

**Equity Committee & LEAF/PSCC Meeting: Wed., February 19, 5pm–7pm, School Library:** We'll have a brief break for a light dinner at 6pm. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP Maria: [president@pghleaf.org](mailto:president@pghleaf.org)

**Newsletter submissions due Feb. 20:** Email to [president@pghleaf.org](mailto:president@pghleaf.org)

## Going Way Back: Black history didn't begin or end with slavery!

### *Principal's Corner*

As most of you already know, black history didn't begin or end with slavery, but for many students, they are only introduced to Black History at the beginning of slavery. This became very clear to me several years ago when I had an African-American and white student get into a fight. The white student could not understand why the African-American student was upset about studying slavery. The African-American student said, "We were more than slaves, but we never learn about how we used to be kings and queens, too." This is really hit home to me, because he was correct.

For Black History Month this year, we are Going Way Back. We are going back to the African empires that gave the world unique art, mathematical and technological innovation, appreciation for academic scholarship, and more. As you may know, Family Friday is February 7 from 9:30AM to 10:15AM and we look forward to sharing our learning with you.

—LouAnn Zwieryznski, Principal

## Equity Updates

This year our LEAF (Liberty Elementary Academic Fund) and PSCC (Parent School Community Council) monthly meetings have been focused on how to build equity and create opportunity for all of our students. With our newly formed Equity Committee, we spent the November and December meetings exploring ways that students, parents, and teachers can participate, in addition to discussing how we can update and supplement the curriculum to better serve our diverse student population.

At our January meeting Ms. Connor introduced a unit in the 5th grade ELA curriculum and several different ways of evaluating it. After a long dialogue about the pros and cons of each individual method for evaluation, the group agreed that the best approach moving forward may be to look closely at the books in the curriculum for -

1. Gaps in content where essential information is missing,
2. Inaccurate portrayal of the subject matter, and
3. A diversity of characters, thoughts, and ideas.

At the February meeting we will look more at the 5th grade ELA curriculum as we critically review the content. We will also start on the Plans for Future Work below. Please join us! February 19th, 5pm-7pm. Dinner and Childcare provided.

### ***The Plans for Future Work include:***

#### Parents

Improving awareness of an access to the curriculum, use of communication tools (like Class Dojo and Remind) to increase parent communication and participation

#### Teachers

Identifying needs and opportunities for professional development to support equity efforts at Liberty, selecting and evaluating the professional development resources before and after implementation

## Students

Reviewing student feedback, possibly creating a new survey to help evaluate needs and introducing more clubs for enrichment

## Instrumentals

At Pittsburgh Liberty K-5, we provide the opportunity for all students in grades 4 and 5 to experience instrumental music. Students are taught the basics of band or string instruments with concerts planned in the winter (returning instrumentalists) and in the spring for everyone who participates in the program. Students are pulled out of class once per cycle for small group instruction to learn the instrument they chose with others on the same instrument type. The level of teamwork and patience that instrumental infuses into the students can be taken and applied in their other classes. Instrumental also allows students an opportunity to learn how to read music as well as reinforce some mathematical concepts. Students who are and have been part of the program always try their best and walk away proud of their performance. Enrollment for the program begins later in the second semester with the goal of starting instrumental music early in September that fall. I hope that your child chooses to play an instrument!

—Mr. Adam Katz, Instrumental Music Specialist, Pittsburgh Public Schools

## Liberty at the Pittsburgh Marathon Relay

Come join in the fun this year for Liberty's second annual Pittsburgh Marathon Relay. This event holds opportunities for ALL! You can be one of the five runners to represent Liberty on the marathon course, or if running is not your thing, you can participate in other ways. Please consider cheering for the runners in your city neighborhood with a Liberty cheer group. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Liberty community and represent our school in one of the largest events in the City of Pittsburgh. Please contact Erin Colbert with any questions: [ecolbert1@pghschools.org](mailto:ecolbert1@pghschools.org).

## Black STEM trailblazers

In honor of black History Month, we highlight 19 African American scientists and engineers who made contributions to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). There are many more that could be included, but here is a small list.

- 1) **Alice Ball:** A chemist who developed an injectable treatment for leprosy.

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- 2) Patricia Bath:** An ophthalmologist who developed laser technology used in treating cataracts.
- 3) Herman Branson:** A physicist who co-discovered the alpha helix protein structure and conducted research on sickle cell anemia.
- 4) George Carruthers:** An astrophysicist who developed the ultraviolet camera/spectrograph used during the Apollo 16 mission in 1972.
- 5) Emmett Chappelle:** A biochemist who used bioluminescence as a way to quantify the presence of bacteria in water and showed how fluorescence can be used to help monitor plant health.
- 6-7) Margaret Collins and Charles Turner:** Entomologists and zoologists. Collins is known as the Termite Lady for her extensive research on termites. She co-discovered the *Neotermes luykxi* species of termites. Turner's research on insects proved that insects can hear and led to the phrase Turner's circling to describe the way ants return to the nest.
- 8) Marie Daly:** A chemist who studied the relationship between cholesterol and heart health.
- 9) Mark Dean:** A computer engineer who co-developed the first personal computer. Additional contributions at IBM led to color monitors, the Industry Standard Architecture Bus (which allows you to connect devices like printers to computers), and the first gigahertz chip.
- 10) Charles Richard Drew:** A physician who developed ways to use and preserve blood plasma that saved lives during WWII.
- 11-12) Mae Jemison and Guion Bluford:** Astronaut and aero-space engineer. Bluford was the first African American in space on the Challenger's eighth (STS-8) space shuttle mission (1983). Jemison (also a physician) was the first African American woman in space on the Endeavour space shuttle (1992).
- 13) Lonnie G. Johnson:** A nuclear engineer and inventor who developed the popular Super Soaker water gun. He worked on stealth technology for the U.S. Air Force and was the senior systems engineer on NASA's Galileo project.
- 14) Percy Julian:** A chemist known as the Soybean chemist, because he synthesized steroids and hormones from soybeans.
- 15, 16, and 17) Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson, and Mary Jackson:** mathematicians and engineers whose work at NASA (first as human computers) was depicted in the movie Hidden Figures. As a mathematician, Johnson calculated the flight plan for Alan Shepard (the first American in space),

and later checked critical flight path calculations for Apollo 13. Vaughan taught herself the computer programming FORTRAN and became part of NASA's Analysis and Computation Division (ACD). Jackson was NASA's first black female engineer.

**18) Gladys West:** A mathematician who worked on the processing and analysis of satellite data that helped lead with the development of the Global Positioning System (GPS).

**19) J. Ernest Wilkins Jr:** A mathematician and nuclear scientist who was involved in the Manhattan project. His work on nuclear reactor physics led to the discovery or co-discovery of phenomena like the Wilkins effect and the Wigner-Wilkins spectrum.

## Spanish: *La Familia* (The Family)

great grandmother: *bisabuela*

great grandfather: *bisabuelo*

grandmother: *abuela*

grandfather: *abuelo*

mother: *madre*

father: *padre*

aunt: *tia*

uncle: *tio*

Daughter: *hija*

sister: *hermana*

son: *hijo*

brother: *hermano*

cousin (female): *prima*

cousin (male): *primo*

## Black History Book List for Kids

Wilma Unlimited, by Kathleen Krull

I am Rosa Parks, by Brad Meltzer

Back of the Bus, by Aaron Reynolds

If a Bus Could Talk, by Faith Ringgold

Teammates, by Peter Golenbock

Freedom's School, by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Ellen's Broom, by Kelly Starling Lyons

Ben and the Emancipation Proclamation, by Pat Sherman

Bad News for Outlaw, by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Henry's Freedom Box, by Ellen Levine

Child of the Civil Rights Movement, by Paula Young Shelton and Raul Colon

The Case for Loving, by Selina Alko

New Shoes, by Susan Lynn Meyer

Seeds of Freedom, by Hester Bass

We March, by Shane W. Evans

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More Than Anything Else, by Marie Bradby

Freedom Summer, by Deborah Wiles

Harlem's Little Blackbird, by Renee Watson

## Box Tops!!!

The Box Tops fundraising campaign is going electronic! We will still collect the clipped Box Tops for now...and you can also get credit for Box Tops (get credit twice!) by scanning your receipt to the Box Tops App. Find out how: <http://bit.ly/2G8sbsa>

## Spirit wear

Liberty spirit wear can be worn as part of the school uniform! Order your child- or adult-sized shirts, hoodies, sweatpants, sweatshirts, ***polos (new!), and hats (also new!)*** online any time at [bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear](http://bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear), or via the hard copy order form in this month's orange folder.



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*This newsletter is produced by the parent-teacher organization known as LEAF (Liberty Elementary Academic Fund), a nonprofit organization. LEAF's mission is to support the students, teachers and families at Pittsburgh Liberty K-5 through fundraising, volunteering, and community events. Visit our site for more info: [www.pghleaf.org](http://www.pghleaf.org)*

# Black History Month Word Search

F T C P U L R S K N A M B U T A V L G F  
 S U D E P W H L W O Z P T R T K W I P P  
 N U O H F C U A G S S U B K H H W V X O  
 E D K S R L Z V D N F W K I N G A I P A  
 W T J A R I G E N I O Z K S U P R C Y B  
 O C M F M V W R O B Y R J J T Q A E O V  
 B L U E S I M Y I O J N T V L H W R A Z  
 M R O O I C A D T R A O M S U W G C K N  
 C O M F C U N W A O Z I F Z M Q I I C S  
 A G D Q A H K O P E Z T E Z K R M U R M  
 R R G E R G M R I A E A E D F O A I R H  
 V E E T E P K C C T O G J A L B R N J P  
 E E Q Q H R L K N G A E E Y N I L O L R  
 R N F K U J F P A L E R F K G W B I L U  
 N F A T Y A B D M H N G G H S O X T Y P  
 D I K R E V L O E K Q E T E Y U Y I Z L  
 X E Q U V O T I N G V S C C T P T L Y J  
 G L X T B K L S T D U B O I S N C O H M  
 L D N H L A L H Q Y O T P R P V I B X S  
 W P S O U L H I J I T U V D A K O A G Z

ABOLITION  
 ARMSTRONG  
 BOYCOTT  
 CIVIL  
 WAR  
 EQUALITY  
 INTEGRATION  
 CROW  
 OWENS  
 RIGHTS  
 SLAVERY  
 TUBMAN

AFRICA  
 ASHE  
 BUS  
 RIGHTS  
 DUBOIS  
 FREEDOM  
 JAZZ  
 MARCH  
 PARKS  
 ROBINSON  
 SOUL  
 TUSKEGEE

ALI  
 BLUES  
 CARVER  
 CIVIL  
 EMANCIPATION  
 GREENFIELD  
 JIM  
 KING  
 RACISM  
 SEGREGATION  
 TRUTH  
 VOTING

JinxyKids.com





## SEND IN YOUR BOX TOPS CLIPS NOW!

Send any traditional Box Tops clips to school by \_\_\_\_\_

so they can be included in your school's spring check.



### CLIPPING TIPS:

- Make sure your clips aren't expired.
- Remember, you can "double dip" during this packaging transition by clipping traditional Box Tops AND scanning your receipt!
- Send your clips to school on the attached collection sheet or in bundles of 50.

## I ♥ MY SCHOOL. SWEEPSTAKES

5 schools will each win 5,000 Bonus Box Tops  
ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AT [BTFE.COM/LOVE](http://BTFE.COM/LOVE)

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Sweepstakes begins on 02/03/20 at 12:00 am CST and ends 03/02/20 at 11:59 pm CST. Open only to legal residents of the US who are 18 years or older and who are members of the BTFE program at time of entry. To join, download the Box Tops App and support an eligible, enrolled school. To enter, scan a receipt within the App containing at least one eligible Box Tops product within 14 days of purchase by 3/02/20 at 11:59 pm. Standard data rates may apply. For official rules and alternate method of entry, visit [www.btfec.com/entr/sweepstakes/2020/i-love-my-school/official-rules](http://www.btfec.com/entr/sweepstakes/2020/i-love-my-school/official-rules). Sponsor: General Mills Sales, Inc. One General Mills Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

If your package has a traditional Box Tops clip, cut it off and attach it below. Each clip is worth 10¢ for our school. Please be sure each clip has a valid expiration date.