

El Nido del Águila

"THE EAGLE'S NEST," THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF PITTSBURGH LIBERTY K-5

March 2020

Vol. 5, Issue 6

A night to remember



Amorcito Y Yo, Liberty's first annual sweetheart dance for students and their special adults, was a smashing success! There were photo ops, dance and "best-dressed" contests, raffles, eats, treats, games, a live DJ, a red carpet, and crafts. Many thanks to the Liberty teachers—especially Ms. Cox—for organizing this memorable night. Share memories on Facebook! Liberty: <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyPPS> LEAF: <https://www.facebook.com/PqhLibertyPTO>

March Events

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting, Thurs. Mar. 5, 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

Equity Committee & LEAF/PSCC Meeting: Wed., March 18, 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

Newsletter submissions due Mar. 20: Email to president@pghleaf.org

Principal's Corner

Welcome March! I am grateful for more daylight, more sun and the beginning of Spring!

Our Pittsburgh winters tend to be long, but we have been making the best of the grey days. Both our Girls' and Boys' Basketball teams are undefeated and we are in the middle of the season. We had a wonderful participation for our February Family Friday even though the date was changed due to a snow day. Our Black History month has been informative and interesting. We are all learning how Africa impacted our modern-day language, mathematics, science, and more. And, we had our first *Amorcito y Yo* dance that was a lot fun. Our students, parents and staff really knew how to party!

March is going to be filled with fun as well. We have more basketball games. We will be celebrating Read Across America from March 2 through March 6. Every day will have its own theme. We have our Liberty Ice Skating night sponsored by LEAF on Wednesday, March 11 from 7:00–9:00PM. Two half-days, Friday, March 13 and 27. Please see our monthly calendar for all our upcoming events.

Friendly reminder, when visiting Liberty, please be sure to enter through the front door and report directly to the main office. If you would like to visit a classroom, for any reason, you must be signed in and given a visitor's pass. Last month, a parent entered our school through an employee entrance, which caused me to announce that we had an authorized visitor in our school and had the

teachers lock their doors for safety. Once I found out it was a parent and her location, I was able to announce that we identified the visitor, and everyone was safe.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this month!

—LouAnn Zwieryznski, Principal

LEAF Updates

You may have noticed a change to our newsletter this month! We have updated our name to *El Nido del Aguila*—the Spanish translation of our name, “The Eagle’s Nest”. As the “nest” for our Liberty Eagles, our goal is to provide our families with news and information about our school community, connecting our homes and our school—both places providing essential nurturing for our children. PPS is a Spanish Language Magnet and our children are learning Spanish along with Reading, Writing and Arithmetic! Our updated name reflects the Spanish educational mission of the school. Don’t forget to check out our Spanish section of the newsletter monthly—learn Spanish right along with your children!

Equity Updates

At our PSCC/LEAF meeting on February 19th we worked on action items for the Equity Committee in the 4 categories we have discussed: Curriculum, Parents, Teachers and Students. If you see something on this list that sparks your interest, let us know! We need your voice at the table; you are always welcome to join us for PSCC/LEAF meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Even if you aren’t able to make it to the meetings, your voice is important – reach out to president@pghleaf.org to share your thoughts and ideas.

Curriculum

We reviewed evaluation tools to assess whether the curriculum we are using is serving our student population.

Assessment: The evaluation tool would be most useful for teachers while they are planning their lessons. Parent involvement would be more helpful at the time of purchasing the curriculum.

Next steps: Teachers can assess their classroom libraries and request more diverse authors and characters with funding from LEAF.

Parents

We reviewed methods to increase parent involvement in the school.

1. Recruit current 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade parents to be mentors for incoming families.
2. Draft document of suggested topics so that mentors can touch base 3x/year with mentee families.
3. Plan informal playground playgroup on Saturday/Sunday afternoon for incoming kindergarten families with parent ambassadors.
4. Support 5th grade families with magnet decisions and plans for next year.

Next steps:

1. Write recruitment letter for mentors.
2. Write FAQ for mentors.
3. Pick date of kindergarten playdate.

Teachers

Our goal is to help teachers with professional development that addresses equity concerns and provides ongoing guidance on the best way to serve all students.

Next Steps: Survey staff for areas of interest (with the lens of equity)

1. Create survey
2. Assign staff members who will be responsible for collecting results.
3. Review Professional Development suggestions and determine if funds are available.

Students

We reviewed the current social emotional learning survey (Panorama) which is designed to assess student competence, but doesn't identify needs. We proposed creating a Liberty Social Emotional Learning survey that is focused finding strengths, unmet needs and actionable items for our students. We also discussed creating student clubs during the school day to provide further enrichment.

Next Steps:

1. Continue creating Social Emotional Learning survey for Liberty.
2. Create an interest survey for Liberty students so we can create clubs that will be exciting and engaging.

Liberty Walks ~ *La Libertad Camina*

Running isn't your speed? Slow it down a little - 2 weeks before the Marathon, on Saturday April 18, join our PPS Liberty Team - La Libertad Camina (Liberty

Walks) - at the Walk for the Promise. We will raise money for the Pittsburgh Promise, walk 3.1 miles and get outside to enjoy the springtime sunshine! Another great opportunity to wear your Spirit Wear (order by March 31st to have your Spirit Wear by April 18) bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear

Join our team or donate today!!!! <https://www.classy.org/team/286153>

Are You an H2O Champion?

This spring LEAF is partnering with iTHINK Water - led by Liberty parent Billie Vaughn - and PWSA to expand access to drinking water at Liberty. We will have activities for the students highlighting the importance of drinking water, and each student will get a reusable water bottle.



Mark your calendars! We will have a Family Night Water Rally on April 15th 5pm-7pm!



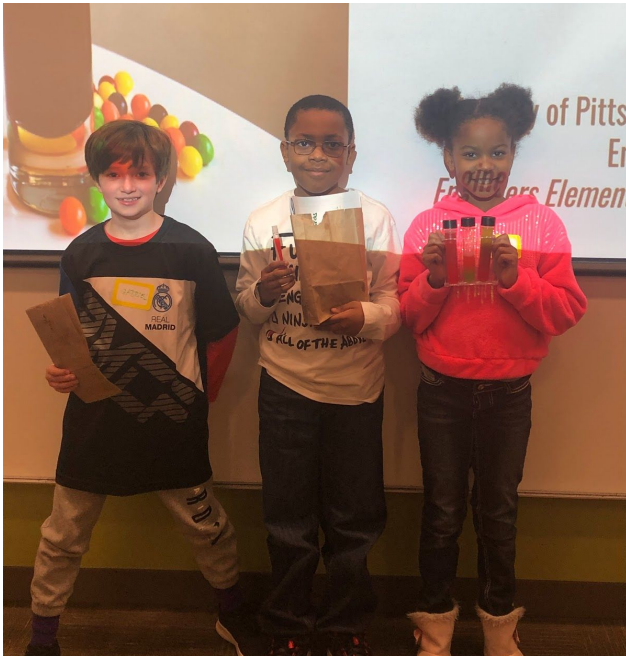
Liberty at the Pittsburgh Marathon Relay

Come join in the fun this year for Liberty's second annual Pittsburgh Marathon Relay. This event holds opportunities for ALL! Mrs. Colbert and Ms. Pullie are our first two volunteers!!!! You too can be one of the five runners to represent Liberty on the marathon course! We are also looking for Liberty Cheer Teams - nothing formal, just a group of awesome Liberty families that meet up on the course on Marathon Day. Wear your Liberty Spirit Wear (parents, you can get in on the fun, too!) bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear

Let us know where you will be and we'll work together on making posters to support our Liberty Relay Team! 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 to join the Liberty Marathon Team: ecolbert1@pghschools.org.

Liberty students at Pitt's Society of Women Engineers Elementary Engineering Extravaganza (E3)



I had the pleasure of attending an event that was as exciting for the parents as it was for the students. It was held on a Saturday from 9 am to 2:30 pm in Oakland. The focus was using candy to learn Engineering through different experiments. At the beginning of the event, there was registration where the students got assigned to a different color group. They were given a packet with different experiments, a schedule, and a Bingo type card. During the expo, there were many tables set up with examples of the different types of engineering. After they experienced each type, they got a stamp. After the Bingo card was full, they received a candy prize. Then,

there was a welcome presentation where the hosts were introduced. Then, the students went with their different color groups. The parents went together to another room upstairs.

Each group moved to a different classroom to do the different experiments. One experiment was dissolving peeps using the Scientific Method. The students were asked What did they already know, and what did they plan to learn after the experiment? Then, they made a hypothesis as to what they thought would happen. The actual experiment was performed, and an analysis was made as to what happened. Finally, the conclusion was made based on their hypothesis or what they thought would happen. Another experiment was using skittles mixed with water to explore density. Another experiment was gingerbread house construction. There were 4 total experiments. Then, they heard closing remarks. There was a survey of what they thought about the expo, and if they would attend again was given. Finally, there was a show and tell of the last experiment for each

group was shown to the parents. At the end, a candy table was set up for the parents and the students to take the candies of their choice.

When the parents separated, we went to an information session. We learned about the different types of engineering, and how many other subjects and hobbies tie into some form of engineering. They discussed the different ways for parents to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). There is a shortage of Engineers, and especially women and minorities. The five major branches of engineering are: Mechanical, Electrical, Industrial, Chemical, and Civil. There are many others that have developed over the years: Environmental, Aerospace, Computer Hardware, Biomedical, Petroleum, Materials, Health and Safety, Mining and Geological, Agricultural, Nuclear, and Marine.

This event is held yearly, and open for elementary students in third, fourth, and fifth. The SWE does a lot of outreach to the community, and has events for girls, Girl Scouts, Middle and High school students.

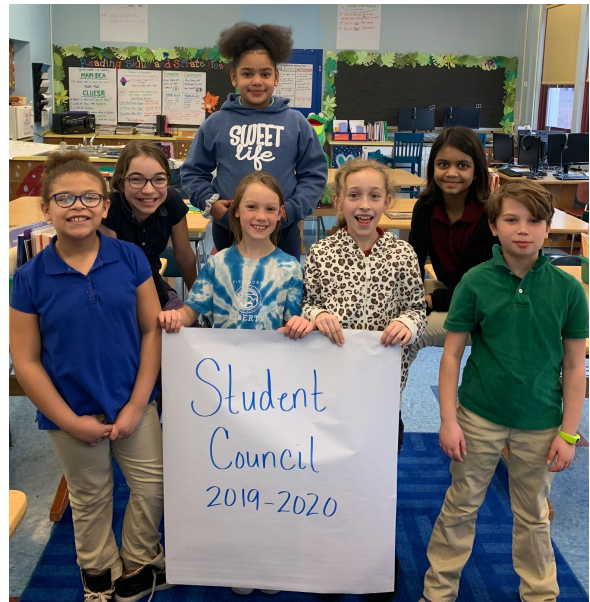
—Jennifer Blair Edwards, Liberty parent

Student Council Updates

This month we had our first fundraiser. Selling Valentine's Candy Grams, we raised almost \$100. We will be donating this money to the Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home.

Next month we will be selling Cookie Grams for \$1 each. This fundraiser will be for the hard-working Liberty staff. We hope to raise enough to buy them a nice lunch.

We have also had several meetings and helped with decorating for *Amorcito Y Yo*.



Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss was born Theodor Geisel in Springfield, Massachusetts on March 2, 1904. His first children's book, *And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*, hit the market in 1937. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 and 3 Academy Awards. He is the author and illustrator of 44 children's books, some of which have been

made into audiocassettes, animated television specials, and videos for children of all ages. In addition to Dr. Seuss, Theodor Geisel also used the pen name Theo Lesieg (Geisel spelled backwards) for books that were written by him, but illustrated by others. Even after his death in 1991, Dr. Seuss continues to be the best selling author of children's books in the world. Here are a few of his most popular books and the years that they were published: The Cat In The Hat 1957, Cat in the Hat Comes Back 1958, The Foot Book 1968, Fox in Socks 1965, Green Eggs and Ham 1960, Hop on Pop 1963, Horton Hears A Who 1954, How The Grinch Stole Christmas 1957, The Lorax 1971, and Oh, The Places You'll Go 1990.

Summer Dreamers Academy

The Summer Dreamers Academy is a no-cost, premier summer learning camp that offers high-quality academic lessons in English-Language Arts and Mathematics and exciting and engaging enrichment activities to current Pittsburgh Public Schools students who have completed grades K-8. The 2020 Summer Dreamers Academy will run from June 29-August 6, 8:30am-4pm. Camp will be in session Monday - Friday. *Applications open March 8, 2020.* Visit: <https://www.pghschools.org/summerdreamers>

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is a day for Irish people to celebrate their country. The holiday is named after St. Patrick or Patrick, who was a Christian. He lived more than 1500 years ago, and was born in Great Britain. When he was 16 years old, outlaws kidnapped him . They sold him as a slave in Ireland. There, he tended sheep for his master. While a slave, his faith grew stronger. One day, he escaped. He later told others that God commanded him to run away. He decided to stay in Ireland, and become a Christian missionary. He traveled through much of Ireland spreading his faith wherever he went to others. He finally became a priest, and is the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patrick's Day is March 17th, because that's believed to be the date of his death. They wear green, because of the color of Ireland. Symbols of St. Patrick's Day are: corned beef and cabbage, the Irish flag, the color green, shamrocks, leprechauns, and harps. Ireland is an island that has beautiful green grass that covers the hillsides. That's why Ireland is called the Emerald Isle. An Irish saying is Erin go bragh (EHR-in go BRAH), which means Ireland Forever

Crafts

March is National Craft Month, so there are plenty of wonderful crafts for this month. Dr. Seuss' birthday was celebrated on March 2nd, which is also annual Read Across America Day. St. Patrick's Day is March 17 which always inspires rainbows, pots of gold, and leprechaun crafts. Finally, March 20th is the first day of Spring. Many colorful Spring pictures with flowers or rain and umbrellas too.

The first craft is a St. Patrick's Day craft, but can also be a Spring craft. It is a paper plate cloud with a rainbow. You will need a paper plate, cotton balls, rainbow colored paper, streamers, or tissue paper, and glue or a glue stick. Take the paper plate and cut it in half. Put glue on the paper plate half, and glue on the cotton balls. They can be put on whole or spread out thin. Turn the plate over, and glue on the rainbow colored paper, streamers, or tissue paper. If using paper or tissue paper, fold them accordian style to give them the wavy effect.

The second craft is truffula trees from *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. You will need white construction or computer paper, crayons or markers, pipe cleaners, straws or any bright colored stem like object, bright colored tissue paper and glue or a glue stick. Take the white paper and using crayons or markers, color the sky blue and make green grass. Glue on the pipe cleaners or whatever you chose to use. Take the tissue paper and slightly ball it up, but don't make the ball too tight. Glue that on top of the pipe cleaner tree. You can draw *The Lorax* near the trees using a crayon or marker.

Many crafts and recipes are inspired by Dr. Seuss. His stories are used across America to teach children the importance of literacy and gives them plenty of opportunities to do various crafts, classroom activities, and make different recipes based on his books. One easy recipe is easy enough for kids to use. There is no cooking involved, and is a great snack. You will need any flavor Teddy Grahams, but chocolate is preferred due to the story. It is the Barbaloot snack mix. The Barbaloot are bear like creatures that live in the forest filled with truffula trees. This is also from *The Lorax*. In the movie, the Barbaloot bear bites the bag of marshmallows and causes them to rain down on all the other bears. They are happy, because they get to eat them. You will also need marshmallows. Mix together and enjoy.

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: bit.ly/2G8sbsa

Spirit wear

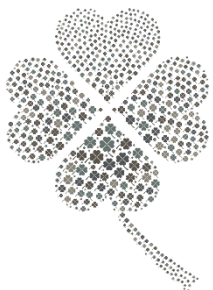
Liberty spirit wear can be worn as part of the school uniform! Order your child- or adult-sized shirts, hoodies, sweatpants, sweatshirts, ***polos (new!), and hats (also new!)*** online any time at bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear.



*This newsletter is produced by Liberty Elementary Academic Fund (LEAF), a nonprofit organization. Our 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*

Name: _____

St Patricks Day Word Search



SHAMROCK
ST PATRICK
LEPRECHAUN
SPRING
TREASURE

LUCKY
CLOVER
GREEN
RAINBOW
GOLD

IRELAND
JIG
BLARNEY
TRADITION
PARADE

