

El Nido del Águila

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

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTO

Dear Liberty Families,

Can you believe we are almost a month into a new virtual school year? Thanks to all of our teachers and staff for connecting with our families to make sure that our students can all get online and learn every school day. Our attendance has been amazing!

And thanks to all of YOU for troubleshooting all the connection challenges remotely and answering questions about 3rd grade math that you haven't thought about since ... well, 3rd grade.

Just as our students miss seeing each other in person, we miss seeing our Liberty families in person. Until we are able to do so again, stay connected:

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PghLibertyPTO/>

Our website: <https://pghleaf.org>

Life in the past 6 months has changed a lot, and we know there are probably some more changes in store before we reach "normal" again. Don't forget to check the PPS website for the latest updates on COVID and our schools:

<https://www.pghschools.org/coronavirus>

Not *everything* changes. We still have a newsletter with important dates for the year, a Spanish lesson so you can keep up with kids, information about *Día de los Muertos*, and ways to help out, just like last year! Helping out looks a little different this year, but we still need you—your voice, your thoughts, your hands, your energy—to support our students and teachers at Liberty. Join us online at the next PTO/PSCC meeting October 21st or email president@pghleaf.org for more info.

Lastly, just a reminder that now is the time to make your voting plan!

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/elections/frequently-asked-questions.aspx>

Stay safe!
Maria Guyette
president@pghleaf.org

VIRTUAL CELEBRATION: *DIA DE LOS MUERTOS*

Our annual community-wide event is moving online this year! Please save the date—FRIDAY 10/30, 6:00-8:00PM—for Liberty’s *Dia de los Muertos* celebration.

As a Spanish language magnet, Liberty cherishes the tradition of this delightful Mexican holiday, a lively and joyous celebration of beloved friends and family who are deceased. Celebrants build *ofrendas* (altars) with the loved one’s photos, momentos, and favorite foods, and gather together for food and fun.

Since this year we cannot throw our usual potluck supper, auction, and giant schoolwide *ofrenda*, instead we’ll meet online for games, prizes, and a slideshow of the students’ *ofrendas* and other artwork.

Stay tuned for *ofrenda*/craft how-to’s from your child’s Spanish teacher.

To submit photos of your child’s creations for inclusion in our video presentation, visit: bit.ly/2020libertyofrendas

And meantime, watch your mailbox for a special delivery from Liberty: *muertos*-themed coloring pages and BINGO cards for the event!



PSCC/LEAF MEETINGS

Monthly meetings for and PSCC meetings (The Parent School Community Council) and LEAF (our parent-teacher organization, aka Liberty Elementary Academic Fund) occur on the same evening, usually the third Wednesday of the month.

TIMES: 6:00-7:30 if school is operating remotely; 5:00-7:00 if school is in person that day.

DATES:

- Oct 21, 2020
- Nov 18, 2020
- Dec 16, 2020
- Jan 20, 2021
- Feb (Date TBD)
- Mar 17, 2021
- April 21, 2021
- May 19, 2021
- June 16, 2021

If you have a topic you would like to discuss/add to the agenda, email Maria Guyette at president@pghleaf.org.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Are you wondering if you're missing important announcements? For a rundown on the communication channels used by 1) the PPS school district, 2) the school, 3) the parent-teacher organization (that's us—LEAF), and 4) your child's teachers, visit: <https://pghleaf.org/school-communications>

LECCION DE ESPAÑOL

Since Liberty is a Spanish magnet, all the students learn Spanish from Kindergarten through the Fifth grade. For each newsletter, we try to introduce basic Spanish words, numbers, phrases, and some introduction to basic conversation.

CALENDAR WORDS

Months of the Year: *Meses del Año*

January: *Enero*

February: *Febrero*

March: *Marzo*

April: *Abril*
 May: *Mayo*
 June: *Junio*
 July: *Julio*
 August: *Agosto*
 September: *Septiembre*
 October: *Octubre*
 November: *Noviembre*
 December: *Diciembre*

FREQUENTLY USED WORDS

gracias (Thanks)
ser (to be)
a (to)
ir (to go)
estar (to be)
bueno (good)
de (of, from)
su (your, her, his, or their)
hacer (to o, to make)
amigo (friend)

COMMON PHRASES

Buenos dias. (Good morning.)
Buenas tardes. (Good afternoon.)
Buenas noches. (Good evening, greeting.)
Hola, me llamo Juan. (Hello, my name is John.)
¿Como se llama usted? (What is your name?)
¿Como esta usted? (How are you?)
Estoy bien. (I am fine.)
Mucho gusto. (Nice to meet you.)
Adios. (Goodbye.)
Hasta luego. (See you later.)
Con permiso/Perdoname. (Excuse me.)
Por favor. (Please.)
Gracias. (Thank you.)

RECIPE: COUNTRY APPLE DUMPLING

INGREDIENTS:

2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
 2 (10 ounce) cans refrigerated crescent roll dough

1 cup butter
 1 1/2 cups white sugar
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle Mountain Dew or other lemon lime soda

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9X13 inch baking dish.
- 2) Cut each apple into 8 wedges and set aside. Separate the crescent dough into triangles. roll each apple wedge in the crescent roll dough starting at the smallest end. Pich to seal and place in the baking dish.
- 3) Melt the butter in a small saucepan, and stir in the sugar and cinnmon. Pour over the apple dumplings. Pour the soda over the dumplings.
- 4) Bake for 35 to 45 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.

TIP: I tried this recipe before using it for the newsletter. I didn't use all of the liquid that the recipe calls for. You could cut the liquids in half, or disgard the rest like I did. It was a simple and delicious recipe. My kids enjoyed it with a small scoop of vanilla ice cream. It is great warm.

RED APPLE CIDER PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

I decided to use a playdough recipe for the Craft part of this article. It is a recipe that is used as a craft. Kids love to play with playdough, and will love making it even more.

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup unsweetened apple sauce
 1/2 cup of apple cider
 4 tablespoons of vegetable oil
 red food coloring
 1/2 cup of salt
 4 tablespoons of cream of tartar
 1 tablespoon of cinnamon

DIRECTIONS: Have your child help measure the dry ingredients (flour, salt, cream of tartar, and cinnamon), and dump each into a medium sized bowl. Next, measure and mix the wet ingredients (apple sauce, cider, oil, and food coloring) in a medium sized pot. Then, heat the wet ingredients on medium heat, stirring often until it is bubbling. Once it starts to boil, remove the pot from the heat. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients. Stir until the playdough begins to form, then dump the

mixture onto a counter or other surface to cool. Continue to roll and knead until the stickiness disappears. This dough can store for weeks in an airtight container or bag.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Some cars run on gas, some cars run on electricity—we run on parents, grandparents, and guardians. All the adults who love and care for our Liberty students are welcome to participate in LEAF. You do not need to commit to every week or every month. Any time you can give is appreciated! Unless otherwise noted, contact us at: president@pghleaf.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM: Help with LEAF's newsletter, Facebook page, and flyers. Create and distribute event specific communications to Liberty families, staff, neighbors, local businesses, and local government. Contact Elaine Vitone: [elaine\[AT\]elainevitone.com](mailto:elaine@elainevitone.com) 1 hour/week

***DIA DE LOS MUERTOS* TEAM:** Help us plan our first-ever REMOTE celebration of this delightful Mexican holiday that celebrates the lives of deceased friends and family.

FUNDRAISING COORDINATORS: This team seeks out, recruits volunteers for and coordinates fundraising opportunities. Some options from prior years: Election day bake sale, Farmer's market bake sale, Schoolwide chocolate sale, Restaurant nights, Facebook campaign.

LEAF SECRETARY: Take notes at our monthly meeting. 1 hour/month

LEAF TREASURER: Responsible for collecting and tracking income from fundraisers, events, and donations. Pays out all receipts and invoices that are approved at the monthly LEAF meetings. Manages spirit wear sales. Manages documentation from the accounts (bank and PayPal) and ensures that taxes are filed annually.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the year, LEAF (a 501c3/nonprofit organization) raises funds for things like community events, extracurriculars, teacher appreciation, and parents' welcome. And there are lots of easy ways to give:

SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS: Wear your school pride on your sleeve, and raise funds for our kids all at the same time! bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear

FACEBOOK: This platform makes it easy to give. You can:

- make a one-time donation, or
- post a fundraiser in your feed

<https://www.facebook.com/fund/PghLibertyPTO/>

AUTOPAY: Interested in monthly/recurring gifts? To set it and forget it, click the “Donate” button at: <https://www.facebook.com/264461346922840>

AMAZON SMILE: If you do any of your shopping on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), there’s an easy and automatic way to support Liberty students at the same time. Amazon’s nonprofit arm supports a site called AmazonSmile--which is virtually identical to Amazon in terms of pricing, selection, and convenience. When you check out, 0.05% of your purchase price will be donated directly to the charity of your choice. Simply use your usual login credentials, but via the AmazonSmile address instead ([smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)). Then, when the site prompts you to select your charity, type “Liberty Elementary Academic Fund” in the search bar.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Don’t forget to check your packages for Box Tops for Education! They’re now on hundreds of products throughout the grocery store and online. No more clipping! Just register and scan your receipt. Learn more at <https://www.boxtops4education.com>. Just a few examples of unexpected places you can find box tops:

- Paper towels (Scott brand)
- Apparel (HANES)
- Food storage containers & baggies (Ziploc)
- Canned soup & vegetables (Green Giant, Progresso)
- Tissues (Kleenex), Garbage bags (Hefty)
- Cleaning products (Lysol)
- Frozen foods (various brands--pizza, toaster strudel, vegetables, etc.)
- Taco kits (Old El Paso)
- Hamburger Helper
- Butter (Land-o-Lakes)
- Office supplies (Boise® POLARIS® papers)
- Snacks (Nature Valley)
- Disposable plates & cups (Hefty).

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

On LEAF's website, www.pghleaf.org, you'll find all the info above, and much more!
Log on for:

- COVID-19 pandemic resources/information: meals, assistance, at-home exercise and fun, and how to talk to kids about the pandemic: bit.ly/liberty-covid
- Info on Gifted Services at Liberty: bit.ly/3l86Wct
- Extracurriculars at Liberty: bit.ly/liberty-extra
- Archived issues of this newsletter: bit.ly/liberty-newsletter
- 5th grade families' section (middle school magnet application processes): bit.ly/liberty-5th

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Submissions are due on the 20th of each month of the school year. Send them to president@pghleaf.org

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

Visit our facebook page: www.facebook.com/PghLibertyPTO/

Email us: president@pghleaf.org
