

El Nido del Águila

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

April 2021

Vol. 6, Issue 7

CALENDAR

Spring Break

Mar. 29–Apr. 5: No classes.

School Day FYI's

Wed. 4/7: AM synchronous/PM asynchronous (aka "Modified Learning Day")

Wed. 4/14: Half day

Hybrid Learning Start Dates (2 days/wk in-person instruction)

April 6: Category 4

April 26: Category 3

May 3: Categories 1 & 2

- Expect a call from Liberty confirming which category your child is in; whether they're coming back or staying remote-only; and which schedule they're on (AA schedule is in-person Mondays and Tuesdays; BB schedule is in-person Thursdays and Fridays).
- Schedules, student handbooks, and letters outlining Liberty's approach to hybrid will be emailed to families soon (if you prefer a hard copy handbook, contact Ms. Z, lzwieryznski1@pghschools.org).
- IMPORTANT NOTE RE LEARNING HUBS: These centers' policies vary, and some will NOT be saving spots for students who will be coming to school for hybrid learning. Please contact your learning hub to discuss.
- More info from the district: <https://www.pghschools.org/>
- District video on reopening our schools: <https://vimeo.com/528418103>

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting (Virtual)

Thurs. April 8, 6–9PM

PAC is the district's mechanism for ensuring that parents are informed and can help develop programming and policy. If you're interested in representing Liberty at this monthly meeting, contact Ms. Z: lzwieryznski1@pghschools.org

Parent-Teacher Organization/PSCC Meeting (Virtual)

Wed. April 21, 6–7:30PM

<https://tinyurl.com/LibertyPSCC>

Please join us online. For more info: president@pghleaf.org

PPS Public Hearing

Mon., April 26, 2021, 6PM

WATCH: <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/60#calendar66/20210424/event/20088>

TESTIFY (Write your comments in advance and they will read them aloud for you;

Deadline to submit is noon the day of): <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/4043>

NOTES FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

As we prepare for hybrid learning at Liberty it is extremely important to have forms up to date with current contact information. Additionally, our school nurse, Ms. Dobbs, needs to be aware of any medical conditions our children may have (asthma, a severe allergy, epilepsy or any other seizure disorder, diabetes, food intolerances or allergies, or ANY other health condition).

If you have not done so already please forward your child's forms to the nurses office A.S.A.P. If you need copies, email her (adobbs1@pghschools.org). The forms are:

- Emergency Care Form (can be filled out online at <https://bit.ly/3l8xeLb>; then please email it to Ms. Dobbs: adobbs1@pghschools.org)
- Child's Medical History
- Physical Exam
- Immunizations
- Lead testing
- Family Dentist Report

Ms. Dobbs has "virtual office" where students and families can meet with her to talk via Teams if you have any questions privately or publicly. For instructions—as well as helpful information, resource links, forms, and daily health announcements from the district—visit: <https://bit.ly/3l7hS9Q>

HYBRID KINDERGARTEN: WHAT TO EXPECT

KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK: Includes tips for getting ready, class schedule, student login info, attendance expectations, late work & absence policies, breakfast and arrival procedures, lunch and recess procedures, uniform policy, dismissal procedures, and more. <https://pghleaf.org/for-kindergarten-families>

KINDERGARTEN SUPPLY LIST: <https://pghleaf.org/for-kindergarten-families>

SCHEDULES: If you are not clear on which group your child is in (AA/yellow or BB/blue), contact your teacher. AA is in-person Monday and Tuesday. BB is in person Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays, everyone will be remote all day while the school is cleaned. Teachers will be teaching simultaneously to in-person and remote students every day, so students must bring their iPads and chargers to school every day (for grade-wide meetings, asynchronous time, Edmentum, iRead, etc.) See handbook for more details.

DROP OFF: After 8:45 AM at the door near the SMALL playground. Teachers will be outside waiting for children and will walk the kids inside to the classroom, where another teacher will be waiting to greet them. The children will always have an escort. See handbook for more details.

BREAKFAST: Once in classroom, the kids can enjoy breakfast at their desks—free and available to all students at Liberty. (Or they may bring their own breakfast, if they wish.)

MASKS: While eating, masks will be off, but as soon as they're done, they're back on. Kids will wear a mask all day. If a child doesn't have a mask, one will be provided.

CLASSROOM SETUP: Desks will be 6 feet apart, with windows opens, air circulating. Belongings will go in bins beneath each child's desk.

MORNING MEETING AT 9:10: (This will be 30 min earlier than students are used to!) Though staying in separate classrooms, students will still be coming together for morning meeting virtually.

CLASS LINKS: New links will be created.

CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES: Daily schedules during hybrid learning will look different from what we're accustomed to; now the class times will be different, and math will be in afternoon and reading will be in the morning, for example. See handbook for more details.

LUNCH: 20 minutes in the cafeteria, where students will sit 6 feet apart with masks off, then put their masks back on as soon as they're finished, and head to recess. Lunch is provided free for all students; if you have a picky eater, however, packing a lunch is strongly encouraged. FYI, many new kindergarteners get caught up in the excitement and forget to eat—prepare your child for this!

RECESS: Right after eating, students will go directly outdoors to play, or to the gym if it is raining. Balls etc will be put away for cleaning after each child is done with it. A new, clean batch will be brought out for each group of children. The children WILL be able to use the playground, thanks to the diligent cleaning of our custodian [pause for applause!].

ASYNCRONOUS TIME: Will look like independent time we're used to.

RELATED ARTS: The teacher will come to the kids in their classroom for all of these classes except for PE, in the gym. Kids at home will not need a new link for these classes.

PICKUP: 3:40 at the steps near the BIG playground. See handbook for more info.

Again, that handbook is available at: <https://pghleaf.org/for-kindergarten-families>

EXTENDED DAY CARE UPDATES

LEDP—Liberty's on-site extended day program—will resume next school year. For more information, email Ms. Ashley Sisk at libertyextendeddayprogram@gmail.com.

FUN ON THE RUN WITH KIDS OF STEEL

Online Running Club

Liberty's Kids of Steel online running Club has moved to WEDNESDAYS at NOON on TEAMS. The goal is to run the length of a marathon during the eight-week training program. Prizes will be given to student who finish the program by participating and turning in their mileage log. Please email Ms. Horne at jhorne1@pghschools.org or Ms. Fuerst at jfuerst1@pghschools.org if your child is interested.

Marathon (Virtual, in Highland Park) April 24th

To participate in the optional Pittsburgh Marathon Kids of Steel Virtual Race, first visit thepittsburghmarathon.com. Click "register" and then choose the Chick-Fil-A Kids Virtual Kids Marathon.

There is a \$20 registration fee for the virtual marathon—HOWEVER, if you are interested in a scholarship, let Ms. Horne or Ms. Fuerst know!

Virtual racers will meet at Highland Park on April 24th at 11am and run one mile around the reservoir together. Please email Ms. Horne or Ms. Fuerst to RSVP if you are attending.

As part of the Kids of Steel event, there will be vendors and free food. They will also bring us our T-shirts and medals so we don't have to wait to receive them in the mail. Yes, the kids will have their medal as soon as they cross the finish line!

READ ALL ABOUT IT: BATTLE OF THE BOOKS COMPETITION

This year Pittsburgh Liberty's Fifth Grade Students entered the Battle of the Books Contest along with other schools throughout the area. The task for the students was to read a variety of books and quiz each other on them. These four students: Emmett Cleath, Evelyn Guyette, Jordan Neely, and Brooklyn Potter worked tirelessly for the past four months reading and quizzing each other! They all did an excellent job in the event, which was held virtually on Tuesday March 24, 2021 from 6-8 P.M.

Here's a little Q & A from the our amazing participants:

What is Battle of the Books? (Jordan N.): Battle of the Books is a reading competition when teachers and students get together to read books and talk about them in order to answer questions at the tournament.

Were you nervous and why? (Brooklyn P.): Of course I was nervous because I didn't want to let my team down! I also cared a lot about the competition and I wanted my team to do well. I am really glad that I could participate in the event. In addition, I was nervous because I cared and that is a good thing

How do you think your team did? (Emmett C.): We did okay but the important thing is that we tried our best!

What did you enjoy the most (Evelyn G.): Talking about books with my friends and Learning about books I had never heard of.

LECCION DE ESPAÑOL

busqueda de huevos de Pascua- Easter egg hunt
la cesta- basket
el conejito- bunny
la cruz- cross
la Cuaresma- Lent
el Domingo de Ramos- Palm Sunday
el Domingo de Resurreccion- Easter Sunday
el dulce and el caramelo- candy
Feliz Pascua or Felices Pascuas- Happy Easter
la primavera- spring
el viernes Santo- Good Friday
el pollito- chick
la iglesia- church
el huevo de Pascua- Easter egg
el cordero- lamb
el cerdo- pork

CRAFTS AND RECIPES

Paper Plate Easter Chick

You will need a paper plate, crayons or markers, orange construction paper, glue, and stick on eyes (optional).

Color the paper plate yellow. Using the orange paper, cut out two long strips of paper (for the legs), and a small triangle (for the beak). Fold the long strips of paper accordion style and glue them to the back of the paper plate. Add the eyes using stick on eyes, or draw them on with a marker or crayon. Glue the triangle shape under the eyes like a beak.

Plastic Spoon Bunny-

You will need a white plastic spoon, white construction paper, a black permanent marker, a pink crayon or marker, and glue.

Take your spoon, and draw the eyes, nose and mouth on with the permanent black marker. Draw on the back side of the spoon. Cut ears out of the white paper. You can make them rounded or pointy at the top. Using a crayon or marker, color the middle of

the ears pink. Glue them on to the inside of the spoon. Have fun by making clothes for your bunny using construction paper and tissue paper.

Rice Krispie Nests

You will need: 5 cups of Rice Krispie cereal, 4 cups of marshmallows, 1/4 cup butter or coconut oil, 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract, small treats to fill the nests (egg shaped works the best), large microwavable safe bowl, spatula, measuring cups and spoons, and a 12 cup muffin pan.

Grease the muffin pan and set aside. Place marshmallows in a microwave safe bowl and heat for 25 to 30 seconds. Stir well and repeat heating as needed. Add the melted butter or coconut oil and vanilla extract to the marshmallows and stir well to incorporate. Add the rice cereal one cup at a time, gently folding into the marshmallow mixture until all is well incorporated. Scoop heaping 1/4 cup portions of the mixture into the prepared muffin pan. Wet your hands and press into a cup shape. Place in the fridge for 2 hours or overnight to set. When the nests have hardened, pop them out using a butter knife. Fill with treats. You can use mini eggs, jellybeans, or some fresh berries.

EASTER IN SPANISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

In Spain, Easter is called Pascua and honors Jesus' death and resurrection. Easter is preceded by 40 days of fasting called La Cuaresma, or Lent. At the end of Lent, La Semana Santa, or the Holy Week begins. Holy Week (Semana Santa) is the biggest religious celebration of the year in Spain, and includes a good deal of eating, drinking, and lots of processions. Easter is a time for Spaniards to take to the streets and watch elaborate reenactments of the Passion, as well as enjoy some time off work in the company of their families and friends. Elaborate processions take place throughout Holy Week. Semana Santa processions, are also known as penance processions, and involve members of the brotherhood (nazarenos) parading from their church to the city's cathedral. To spot the start of the procession, look out for the giant cross that is always carried at the front. Live marching bands play religious music.

While the traditions and celebrations may differ from one region to the next, the Holy Week is generally a time of festivals, gripping processions, and poignant rituals. The first day of Holy Week is called Domingo de palma or el domingo de ramos, Palm Sunday. A common tradition is to carry a palm or olive branch in a procession that leads to the church where it will be blessed by a priest. A boy's branch will be plain, while a girl's branch will be decorated with ribbons and little treats. On Holy Thursday, or Jueves Santo, all church bells are silenced and they cannot ring again until Easter Day.

While chocolate Easter eggs are becoming more and more popular, they are not traditionally a big part of Easter celebrations in Spain. Torrijas are a traditional Semana Santa sweet snack of bread soaked in milk and egg before being fried and served with sugar or honey. They are available all over the country during Holy Week. Many countries have adopted commercial traditions such as holding Easter egg hunts and giving gifts from the Easter bunny (el conejo de Pascua).

TEN DELICIOUS DISHES FOR EASTER

Torrijas- This treat is very traditional for Easter, with recipes dating back to the 1600's. Thick pieces of bread are soaked in a mixture of milk and egg, then fried in olive oil and served with honey and sugar.

Pestinos-Also popular for Christmas time, pestinos are commonly made in Southern Spain. A piece of dough is deep fried, often flavored with sesame, in olive oil and then glazed with honey or sugar.

Hornazo- This meat pie that hails from Salamanca and Arila is often filled with pork loin, chorizo, and hard boiled eggs. There is also a sweet version that has almonds, sugar, and eggs.

Mona de Pascua- Especially popular in Catalonia and Valencia, this cake is traditionally given to children as a gift. Cakes are topped with either boiled eggs, or chocolate ones, as well as colorful decorations.

Flores de Semana Santa- Also known as flores manchegas. Sweet and fried pastries that come in delightful shapes.

Potaje de Vigilia-Traditionally served on Good Friday, this vigil stew is made of cod, chickpeas, spinach, and garlic.

Bunuelos- A fried doughnut made with water, milk, egg or yeast, and can be sweet or savory.

Leche Frita- Literally fried milk, typical in Northern Spain. It is made by cooking flour with milk and sugar until it becomes firm. It is then topped with cinnamon and a sugar glaze.

Bartolillos-Traditionally served in Madrid. These are dumplings of thin dough that are fried with a custard filling.

Sopa de Ajo- This soup, often made of garlic, chicken broth, egg and sherry, is a traditional dish to serve during Semana Santa.

LIBRARY CLP GRAB AND GO KITS

Grab & Go Activity Kits are intended to replicate the Library's in-person, learning experiences for youth, which aren't currently available due to COVID-19.

These are available at all 16 locations. Information is here

<https://carnegielibrary.libanswers.com/info/faq/330284> This month was art supplies and next month will be mindfulness resources. We post the video programs for the kits on YouTube and all of our social media, <https://www.youtube.com/user/clpvideo/playlists>.

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

Email us: president@pghleaf.org
