

# *El Nido del Águila*

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

Feb 2021

Vol. 6, Issue 5

## CALENDAR

### School Day FYIs for This Month:

*Wed. Feb. 3:* Half day

*Wed. Feb. 10:* AM synchronous/PM asynchronous (\*\* "Modified Learning Day")

*Wed. Feb. 17:* Half day

*Wed. Feb. 24:* AM synchronous/PM asynchronous (\*\* "Modified Learning Day")

\*\* On these newly added "Modified Full Learning Days," classes meet synchronously in the mornings; and then in the afternoons, students will complete assigned activities at their own pace while teachers participate in Professional Development. Full, updated District calendar:

[www.pghschools.org/calendar](http://www.pghschools.org/calendar)

### Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting (Virtual)

*Thurs. Feb. 4, 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](mailto:lzwieryznski1@pghschools.org)

### PTO/PSCC Meeting (Virtual)

*Wed. Feb. 17, 6–7:30PM*

*Wed. Feb. 17, 6PM (Virtual): Live Reading with Author/Illustrator Byron Collier*

<https://tinyurl.com/LibertyPSCC>

Please join us online. For more info: [president@pghleaf.org](mailto:president@pghleaf.org)

### Amorcito y Yo (Virtual School Dance Party)

*Fri. Feb. 19th, 7–8PM*

<https://tinyurl.com/libertyamorcitoyyo>

Liberty students and their special adults are welcome to join us for a DJ dance party! We'll have games, giveaways, group activities, and of course DANCING! Come one and all, and dress to impress!

### PPS Public Hearing

*Mon., Feb. 22, 2021, 6PM*

WATCH:

<https://www.pghschools.org/calendar#calendar1/20210228/event/20072>

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>

### One Book Events

- *Wed. Feb. 17, 6PM (Virtual):* Live Reading with Author/Illustrator Byron Collier

- *Fri. Feb. 26, 6PM:* One Book, One Family Event (Virtual)

In this new Liberty initiative, everyone in our community is invited to join together in reading and discussing a bundle of books, gifted FREE by Liberty! For more info, see story below!

### Liberty Talent Show

*March 25th, online.*

Details to come!

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February is Black History Month: the month when the United States officially observes and celebrates the important achievements of African Americans. It was first nationally recognized in 1969. It is a time for us to remember, educate, and create awareness about the great history of African Americans and all that they've contributed to our culture. We celebrate: Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, George Washington Carver, Mae Jemison, Thurgood Marshall, Bessie Coleman, Ella Fitzgerald, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Frederick Douglas, Booker T. Washington, Benjamin Banneker, Maya Angelou, and Jackie Robinson just to name a few. We thank them for many inventions like: the home security system, the 3 light traffic light, refrigerated trucks, automatic elevator doors, lawn movers, typewriters, envelope seals, the pressure cooker, the pencil sharpener, the fire extinguisher, the lock, the gas mask, the hair brush, door knob, and the toilet to name a few.

This year at Liberty, students will discuss the theme: Black Americans Making History. The past history makers will be discussed, as they have helped to shape our world today. Since many students are more aware of current events nowadays, it is important to discuss the contemporary change makers. Each grade level will get a topic, and that topic will be discussed. The topics are: Science, Medicine, Art, Literature, Math and Technology, and Social Justice Politicians.

### Science

Dr. Kizzmekia "Kizzy" Corbett is the African American scientist who is at the forefront of the development of the Moderna vaccine. She is a Viral Immunologist who works with the US National Institute of Health, and has studied many deadly pandemics before COVID-19. She said that being part of the team that created the vaccine is very important for her as a scientist and a woman of color.

Dr. Tomeka Suber is on the front lines as a Pulmonologist and is an expert in acute respiratory distress syndrome. She is working with a team to study COVID-19 and its affects on people, especially African Americans.

### Medicine

Yale Professor Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, a leader in the field of health equity, has been chosen to be a co-chair for the Coronavirus Task Force Advisory Board for President Joe Biden. This task force will craft a plan to curb the spread of COVID-19 including its impact on people of color. She previously advised on the pandemic strategy for Connecticut, serving on the Reopen Connecticut Advisory Board under Governor Ned Lamont.

The National Medical Association (NMA) has installed Leon McDougle MD, as its 121st president. The NMA serves as the oldest and largest collective voice for parity and justice for 50K African American physicians in their effort to eliminate health inequalities.

### Art

Amy Sherald is a painter, who painted former First Lady Michelle Obama. That painting now hangs in the National Gallery. She works mostly as a portraitist depicting African Americans in everyday settings.

Mickalene Thomas is a contemporary African American visual artist best known as a painter of complex works using rhinestones, acrylic, and enamel.

### Literature

Amanda Gorman is a poet and activist. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, and race. At 22 years old, she is the youngest inaugural poet in US History. She recited her poem "The Hill We Climb" at President Joe Biden's swearing-in ceremony. In this poem, she speaks on the time of darkness that we are facing now. She captivated the world by her honesty in recognizing America's past and present faults.

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Glory Edim is the founder of Well-Read Black Girl, a Brooklyn based book club and digital platform that celebrates Black Literature and sisterhood. In 2017, she organized the first ever Well-Read Black Girl festival. She is currently on Oprah Winfrey's well known book list.

### Math and Technology

Mark Dean is a famous computer scientist and engineer credited with assisting in the development of several breakthrough computer technologies for IBM. He invented the first gigahertz computer chip and co-invented the Industry Standard Architecture System for computing, which allows for common plug-ins such as personal printers and modems. He was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1997. He joined IBM in 1980 as an Engineer while he worked to receive his Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Florida Atlantic University. Most people would have given themselves a pat on the back after that kind of success, but he went on to get his Ph D. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford.

### Social Justice Politicians

Georgia State Representative Stacey Abrams mobilized voters during the Biden vs. Trump election to flip the state blue (Democratic). She thinks that women as a whole can deliver and bring about change in our nation.

Kamala Harris is a politician and attorney who is the 49th and current Vice President of the United States. She is the United States' first female Vice President, the highest-ranking female elected official in U.S. History, and the first African American Vice President. She worked as a deputy district attorney (1990-98) in Oakland California where she earned a reputation for toughness as she prosecuted many difficult cases. She became the district attorney in 2004. She has risen through the ranks, and served in the U.S. Senate (2017-21) and as Attorney General of California (2011-2017).

### Business

Walgreens announced on January 26th that Starbucks executive Roz Brewer is its new CEO. She is the only Black woman leading a Fortune 500 company. She is praised for her expertise in operations, customer relations, talent development and digital innovation. At Starbucks, she revamped stores, cut down on administrative work so that employees could concentrate on customer service, and pushed for more diversity in its ranks. Prior to joining Starbucks, she served as President and CEO of Sam's Club. She has a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Spelman College. She stated that she is excited to innovate in the health care industry in Walgreens, especially as the company helps combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Ursula Burns was the first Black woman to run a Fortune 500 company when she became CEO of Xerox in 2009, but lost that role in 2016 when the company split into 2 companies. There are only a handful of other Black CEO's in the Fortune 500, including Lowe's CEO Marvin Ellison.

### Film

Cicely Tyson was an actress and a fashion model. In a career spanning more than seven decades, she became known for her portrayal of strong African American women. She was the recipient of three Primetime Emmy Awards, four Black Reel awards, one Screen Actors Guild award, one Tony award, an honorary Academy award, and a Peabody award. She refused many roles that were offered to her, stating that she only accepted roles that showed "strength, pride, and dignity". Former President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. She passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2021. She was 96 years old.

## **PAC UPDATE**

Are you interested in sharing your thoughts and ideas with Pittsburgh Public Schools? A lot is changing these days, and PPS PAC provides an opportunity for parent voice. We need your experience and expertise!

PAC is the Parent Advisory Council for Pittsburgh Public Schools. 1-4 parent representatives from each school meet in the evening on the 1st Thursday of the month - all virtual!

At the January meeting we discussed Student Pathways and the Graduate Profile. As a parent of an elementary student, you may be thinking, "I don't need to worry about the Graduate Profile—that's YEARS away." But the pathways go back to the beginning of school - from kindergarten, our teachers and parents are thinking about what our students need to know to get to the next step.

Below is the proposed PPS Graduate Profile.

Liberty has space for more parents to join the Parent Advisory Council. Your advice, your thoughts, your ideas are needed! If you are interested please contact Ms. Z or Ms. Connor. The next meeting is Thursday February 4, 2021 and they will be discussing how COVID-19 and the budget deficits affect the physical footprint of the school district.

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# ONE BOOK

*Editor's note: One Book is a new Liberty initiative. Everyone in our community is invited to join together in reading and discussing a shared book, gifted FREE by Liberty! Well, actually it's a whole bundle of books, with similar moral lessons and themes, across a range of reading levels enjoyable for the whole family. Participating families will each receive some combination of the following books: *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander; *The Rebound* by Kwame Alexander; *Little Shaq* by Shaquille O'Neal; and a book by Bryan Collier. Here's an update from our organizer, Liberty parent Raelyn Ruffus!*

Greetings, Liberty K-5 Families! February is nearing and this California girl freezing! But I have some great news for my Liberty K-5 families that will warm up our souls to our toes: One Book is finally here! February will have some exciting kick off events for your family—attend and engage!

February 16th will be a live book reading with Byron Collier @ 6P.M. on Microsoft Teams. We will get to hear from a real author & illustrator, might I add the book is beautiful! I am really looking forward to this event!

February 26th we will have our first One Book, One Family event @ 6 P.M. Prepare for an exciting night answering the driving question 'Who wrote my book?' in a captivating way that will plant a seed of curiosity in our young readers and dare I say, you too! Please be involved in the activities as these are meant to fun for everyone with the purpose of building family memories.

Remember that the mission of One Book is to bring more reading into the home to ensure lifelong success and build rich family memories on the journey. Our kids are watching us and incorporate what they see into their play and their lives. When they see their caregiver reading, trust me, they notice! Let us take this a step further, what if they saw you reading a book like theirs: same theme, possibly even the same series. Go down the yellow brick road with me for a moment an imagine what that land would look like... The dinner conversations. The engagement in reading. The success that your kid will be set up with, by just simply picking up some books!

Inclusion for all and a high success rate is essential; we have put some valuable pieces to ensure this happens. We will make this as easy and enjoyable for your family as possible by committing to the following:

- Family Book Bundles: You will be getting all these books for the project as a gift from Liberty K-5 to your family! (When you get a chance please thank Mrs. Z for being the best principal ever!) Each student will get a book that is at their

appropriate reading level. Please fill out the survey you will be receiving to make sure your family receives the right books delivered to your home. If your student(s) has already read one of the books or finishes their book early, feel free to offer your book and read it together.

- Monthly One Book, One Family Nights: These will take place the last Friday night of each month from February until May. The themes of the nights are inspired by major themes of the books. We will have a lot of fun getting educated on topics like chronic health diseases, gardening, family traditions, grief, STEAM, and more! You will not want to miss out on these!

- Weekly Read-Alongs: Every Wednesday starting in March from 3-3:30 we will have read-alongs for each one of the books. If your student(s) is struggling with the text or simply wants to join, please encourage them to come so that everyone has access to the text. Mom, dad, and guardian you might be thinking that would be a great thing for me too. Yes, it would and it will be available to you as well! You can either join at the 3:00 time for your book or attend on Wednesdays at 7 pm to accommodate your schedule.

- Feedback and Support: Please let us know how we can improve and what other resources you need for us to accomplish our mission.

Blessings and Happy Reading!!!  
Raelyn Ruffus  
Epic Nerd and Lifelong Learner

### **LIBERTY CHORUS**

Children in grades 4 and 5 have the opportunity to participate in a vocal ensemble with their peers. They can engage in collaborative projects with one another and gain experience as a musician; singing for school events, community outreach, and learning about the finer details of what it means to be a performing artist. For info: Mr. Corbett: [ccorbett1@pghschools.org](mailto:ccorbett1@pghschools.org)

### **LIBERTY SOAR CLUB**

The S.O.A.R. Club was founded by Liberty's art teacher, Ms. Monica Daniels, and is assisted by Mr. Christopher Corbett. The club is offered to 5th graders, especially those interested in CAPA and are seeking more art/music time and leadership experience. Students will actively engage students with rigorous art activities which support science, technology, engineering, & math. Students will have the opportunity to participate in teacher-led activities, learn about artists,

art techniques, showcase their art to the school, and complete self-guided projects that challenge their artistic skills in visual and performing arts.

Student: Liberty K-5 community

Outstanding: Exceptionally good

Arts: Creative expressions of visual and performance display

Revival: An instance of something becoming popular, active, or important again

Watch the SOAR Club's winter video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=setBKg6liR4&feature=youtu.be>

Contacts:

Ms. Daniels: [mdaniels1@pghschools.org](mailto:mdaniels1@pghschools.org)

Mr. Corbett: [ccorbett1@pghschools.org](mailto:ccorbett1@pghschools.org)

## LECCION DE ESPAÑOL (SPANISH LESSON)

*cabeza*: head

*hombros*: shoulders

*rodillas*: knees

*pies*: toes

*ojos*: eyes

*orejas*: ears

*boca*: mouth

*nariz*: nose

Song: “*Cabeza Y Hombros*” (“Head, Shoulders (Knees And Toes)”

*Cabeza y hombros, rodillas y pies, rodillas y pies*

*Cabeza y hombros, rodillas y pies, rodillas y pies.*

*y ojos, orejas, boca y nariz.*

*Cabeza y hombros, rodillas y pies, rodillas y pies.*

(Repeat)

## ♀ STRONG WOMEN STRONG GIRLS

Strong Women, Strong Girls is excited to continue working with girls at Liberty Elementary, Mondays, beginning February 15 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

SWSG serves girls in 3rd through 5th grades in our free and innovative after-school program, helping them to build skills in leadership, self-esteem, and problem solving through the study of contemporary and historic female role models. Through participation in Strong Women, Strong Girls, girls will work to



build positive mentoring relationships with female college-aged mentors and to build community with the girls with their SWSG program site. Please note: Strong Women, Strong Girls programming will continue to be VIRTUAL this semester so girls can sign into the program from anywhere!

Girls registered through Liberty will be paired with female mentors from our Carnegie-Mellon University chapter. Our curriculum highlights girls and women of different backgrounds, such as age, race, ethnicity, career, and ability. Throughout the semester, your SWSG girl will play games that promote healthy youth development and will learn how our girl and women role models made a difference in the world!

Please reach out to Ms. Garcia with any question or to register: [mgarcia1@pghschools.org](mailto:mgarcia1@pghschools.org) or by phone at 412-529-8461.

## ≈ CRAFTS & RECIPES 🍴

Despite its status as the shortest month, February is packed with many special occasions where crafts and recipes can be made. There is: Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, and the birth of two Presidents (Abraham Lincoln and George Washington). This year, Chinese New Year also falls in February. February is also one of the coldest months, and winter crafts and recipes are in abundance.

### Black History Month

A craft for Black History Month will be the traffic light. Garrett Morgan is the inventor of the traffic light. For this craft, you will need: black paper, white paper, crayons or markers, scissors, and glue or a glue stick. Cut the black paper into a rectangle with rounded corners to resemble a traffic light.

Draw 3 circles on the white paper. Color one red, one yellow, and one green. Cut them out and glue onto your traffic light. Place the red at the top with the yellow in the middle, and the green on the bottom.

The recipe that I chose for Black History Month is the No Bake Peanut Butter Jam

Thumbprint. George Washington Carver worked with peanuts, he did not invent peanut butter.

You will need: 1 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar or powdered sugar, 1 cup of creamy peanut butter, 3 tbsp. butter, 1 cup crushed pretzels, 1/2 cup Rice krispies, and 1/4 cup strawberry or your favorite flavor of jam. In a bowl, beat sugar, peanut butter, and the butter. mix well. Add pretzels and rice krispies and mix gently. shape the mixture into about 30 balls. Place them on wax paper or a parchment lined cookie sheet. Press your thumb into each ball making an indentation. Spoon about 1/4 tsp. jam into each dent. Chill for 2 hours. Serve cold.

### Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year falls on February 12th this year. It is the Year of the ox. For this holiday, a good craft will be a red fan with the picture of an ox. You will need: red construction paper and a black crayon or marker. Red, corresponding with fire, symbolizes good fortune and joy. A red envelope is given for Chinese New Year, and is usually a monetary gift. The red also represents good luck. Take the red construction paper and fold it accordion style like a fan. Using the black crayon or marker, draw a picture of a dog and write the year 2021.

### Valentine's Day

A Valentine's Day craft that can be used as a recipe is the Tic Tac Toe Graham Cracker snack. You will need: a graham cracker, icing, and conversation hearts. Using the icing, draw a tic tac toe diagram on a graham cracker. (#) Then, using the conversation hearts, play the game. Enjoy playing with a friend, then enjoy the treat.

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

Submissions are due on the 20th of each month of the school year. Send them to: [president@pghleaf.org](mailto: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](http://www.pghleaf.org)*

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