

El Nido del Águila

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

Mar 2021

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CALENDAR

One Book Event: "Getting to Know My Author"

Fri. Feb. 26, 6PM

<http://tinyurl.com/libertyonebookfamilynight>

Join us for an evening of art and music to stir up curiosity about our books! Read more about our new Liberty initiative, dubbed One Book, in the story below.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting (Virtual)

Thurs. March 4, 6-7:15PM

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

*** This PAC meeting topic will be the start of a City School Budget Engagement series (find out more in the message from your PTO below) ***

PTO/PSCC Meeting (Virtual)

Wed. March 17th, 6-7:30PM

<https://tinyurl.com/LibertyPSCC>

What can we do as a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to help make your school experience better? You can email us any time (president@pghleaf.org), join us online at our meeting, or call/text our PTO president, Maria Guyette, at 412-992-7517.

PPS Public Hearing (Virtual)

Mon., March 22, 2021, 6PM

WATCH: <https://livestream.com/accounts/7031315/events/9545177>

TESTIFY: They will read your written comments aloud for you, but you must call (412-529-3868) to register in advance (any time after March 15), and then submit your written comments by noon the day of the hearing. Each person's testimony is limited to 3 minutes. Details: <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/4043>

Liberty 5th Grade Talent Show (Virtual)

March 25th, 6-7PM

Come see the 5th grade class of 2021 show off their skills! Every 5th grader who submits a short video of their talent will be entered into a PRIZE RAFFLE for the night

of the event. Send videos to Mrs. Daniels (mdaniels1@pghschools.org) and Mr. Corbett (ccorbett1@pghschools.org). Presented by the S.O.A.R Club.

School Day FYIs:

Wed. 3/3: AM synchronous/PM asynchronous (aka “Modified Learning Day”)

Wed. 3/10: Half day (12:56 dismissal)

Wed. 3/17: AM synchronous/PM asynchronous (aka “Modified Learning Day”)

Wed. 3/24: Half Day (12:56 dismissal)

Mon. 3/29 - Fri. 4/2: NO SCHOOL—Spring Break

Full district calendar: www.pghschools.org/calendar

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PTO

Dear Liberty Families,

Spring is in the air!! So the groundhog wasn't kidding when she predicted 6 more weeks of winter...but after a day of sunshine and a tiny bit of snowmelt, it feels like we really could be on the verge of blue skies and green grass. I'm sure you are all looking forward to getting outside as much as we are. After 12 months of COVID, spring is especially welcome this year.

After you get some time to stretch your body and refresh your brain in the spring air, remember that the contents of that brain are valuable. LEAF is interested in hearing from you. How are you doing? How are your students doing? What can we do as a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to help make your school experience better? You can email us any time - president@pghleaf.org, join us online at our next PSCC/LEAF meeting on March 17th at 6pm, or call/text our PTO president, Maria Guyette, at 412-992-7517.

This spring we will also start the process of School Board elections in some of our districts. The primaries are May 18th and the deadline to register to vote is May 3rd. Check <https://www.voteschoolboardfirst.org/> to find your district.

While we are on topic of using your voice this spring...the PPS PAC (Parent Advisory Council) meeting will be the start of a City School Budget Engagement series. This follows a district presentation disclosing a significant budget deficit and a proposal to address this, in part, with school closures.

The PPS Board of Directors voted not to start discussion on the school closure plan at this point in time, in part because other means of addressing the budget gap were not included.

On Monday March 1 the administration will present a budget update - watch live at <https://livestream.com/accounts/7031315> or check out the recording on the PPS website at any times.

On Thursday March 4th the PAC will discuss the budget updates. Want to learn more about where we are at and where we are headed and share your thoughts with PPS administration? Email Ms. Z lzwieryznski1@pghschools.org.

Warm regards,
Your PTO team

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. Families who have signed up to participate 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!*

Greeting Liberty K-5 Family!! On your mark, get set, go!! One Book is officially here!

For families who signed up in our online form, books will be delivered in the mail soon—hopefully next week!

In February, Mr. Bryan Collier, author and illustrator, kicked off our One Book programming with his amazing presentation on his career through a whopping 70 books. (This is not a typo!) He persevered through rejection for 7 years before he was published. The man got my family inspired for sure. I enjoyed how his eyes lit up about his work.

He had such a great overarching message that sparked great conversations into my home: find your craft and work on it everyday. In our house we use the word “gift” so as soon as I simulated the word “craft” to “gift” my three curly haired, epic, change-makers understood exactly what I was talking about. (Can you tell, like many of you, I am one proud momma!) Put simply, in the words of the great Steven Harvey, “your gift is what comes easy to you.” This is one of many themes we will continue to talk about with One Book.

In our book series all of the main characters have athletic gifts, they love and are great at basketball. Use this as a talking point to your kids, what is their unique gift? Do they talk to people really easily, like Chuck Bell in *Rebound* and *The Crossover*? Or intellectually advanced like CJ/Crystal? Perhaps they have an entrepreneurial spirit like Little Shaq.

At our event this Friday (6PM), our theme is “Getting to Know My Author.” We are lucky enough to have another event where we will witness some more gifts/crafts right here at Liberty K-5. Ms. Daniels is going to be bringing us an art lesson to stir up our curiosity about our books, hooking us with some character development; Mr. Corbett will be guiding us down a relaxing journey through some good ol’ jazz music. (Yes, another aspect of our book series.) This will be an event you will not want to miss!

Can’t make this one, that is okay, stay tuned...on the last Friday of each month we will have a One Book, Family Fun Night event for your family to participate in. The following are the themes for each month.

- Fri. March 26: Health and Family Traditions
- Fri. April 30: Gardening and cooking with veggies
- Fri. May 28: Grief and Family Games
- June (date TBD): Celebration

I hope you all are as excited as I am. Please send us your feedback so that we can keep getting better at our service to your family.

Blessings!!!
The Ruffus Family

¡ MI CORAZON !

Many thanks the Liberty staff—especially Ms. Cox—for our second annual *Amorcito y Yo* school-wide dance! More than 100 families signed on. It was truly a night to

remember, with dancing, music, raffles, prizes, slide shows, games, art, contests. For photos, check out the Liberty Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyPPS>

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8th.

The actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history, and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California in 1978. A few years later, the idea had caught on within communities, school districts, and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

Here is a list of some extraordinary women:

Marie Curie * Rosa Parks * Amelia Earhart * Susan B. Anthony * Clara Barton * Harriet Tubman * Oprah Winfrey * Eleanor Roosevelt * Florence Nightingale * Mother Teresa * Sojourner Truth * Indira Gandhi * Cleopatra * Joan of Arc * Sacagawea * Katherine Johnson * Shirley Chisholm * Junko Tabai * Benazir Bhutto * Sandra Day O'Connor * Dr. Mae Jemison.

A Book List for Elementary students:

- RAD American Women A-Z by Kate Schatz
- Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? by Tanya Lee Stone
- Women in Science: 50 fearless pioneers who changed the world by Rachel Ignotofsky
- Here Comes the Girl Scouts! by Shana Corey
- Shaking Things Up: 14 young women who changed the world. by Susan Hood
- The Youngest Marcher by Cynthia Levinson
- Frida Kahlo by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
- Shark Lady by Jess Keatling

- Brave Girl by Michelle Markel (This book was reads by our fourth grade this year)

LECCION DE ESPAÑOL

Months of the Year: *Mesas 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*

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 accordion 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.

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
