

El Nido del Águila

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

November 2021

Vol. 7, Issue 2

DATE CHANGE: *Dia de los Muertos* party will be Fri., 11/5, 6-8 PM!



Our in-person *Dia de los Muertos* party is back, Liberty Eagles! This year's event will be held outdoors. Get ready to get crafty! We'll have several fun projects for the kids, as well as a catered Mexican feast and a festive display of our school-wide *ofrenda* (altar). **See story page 3.**

CALENDAR

Monthly Liberty Community Meetings: Wed. Nov. 10, 6 PM (VIRTUAL)

<https://tinyurl.com/LibertyPSCC>

Liberty holds these two meetings back-to-back one evening each month of the school year:

- 1) Parent School Community Council (PSCC): Led by our principal, this meeting serves as our school district's primary way to engage families at the school level. Topics for the year include: defining the school's mission;

analyzing assessment data; setting goals; and developing school improvement action plans.

- 2) **Liberty Elementary Academic Fund (LEAF):** Led by parents and guardians, LEAF (Liberty's parent-teacher organization) is a nonprofit organization founded to support our students, teachers, and families through fundraising, volunteering, and community events. LEAF funds classroom supplies, supplemental educational tools, cultural celebrations, extracurriculars, and scholarships for advanced learning opportunities. For info: president@pghleaf.org

PPS Public Hearing

Monthly opportunity for citizens' comments on our school board agenda items and other district matters.

WHEN: Mon., Nov. 22, 2021, 6:00 pm

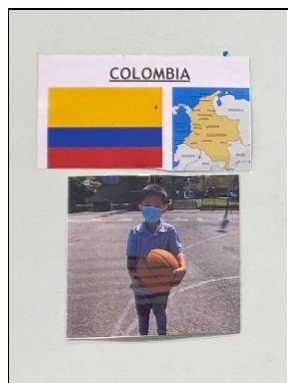
WATCH: <https://www.pghschools.org/calendar#calendar1/20211122/event/20342>

TESTIFY: Write your comments in advance, and they will read them aloud for you. First, you must 1) register (deadline is noon, on the day of the hearing) by calling 412-529-3868; then 2) email your testimony to Laura Getty at lgetty1@pghschools.org. More info: <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/4043>

Liberty Skate Night Feb. 16th, 2022, 6:30-8:30pm

Mark your calendars for a night of family fun this February! Our annual Liberty Skate Night, sponsored by LEAF, will be February 16th, 2022, 6:30-8:30pm at Schenley Park Ice skating rink. Admission is free for Liberty students and families! Skate rentals are \$3 (cash only, please), or bring your own skates.

HISPANIC HERITAGE



During Hispanic Heritage Month, the Spanish team created a display, "Where Is Your Family From?" with photos of Liberty students and staff who have Hispanic

family backgrounds. We were pleasantly surprised at how many people we found, representing countries including Colombia, Mexico, El Salvador and more. The display will stay up in the hallway of our school all year, so if any other families come from Hispanic backgrounds, let us know so we can feature your students!

—Yoli Pinizzotto

NEW DATE: Our Dia De Los Muertos Celebration Has Moved To Fri., 11/5, 6-8 Pm!

See you at the party!

Please join us for Liberty's annual family celebration of *Dia de los Muertos*, sponsored by LEAF! Please note that due to weather, the event has moved to Friday, 11/5, 6-8PM!

This in-person, outdoor party on Liberty's campus will feature craft projects for the kids (ceramic skull decorating, paper butterfly making, and more!), as well as a catered Mexican feast (empanadas, bean burritos) and a festive display of our school-wide ofrenda (altar). To volunteer, contact Elaine: elaine@elainevitone.com

About the holiday

Dia de los Muertos, or Day Of The Dead, is celebrated throughout Mexico between October 31 and November 2. On this holiday, Mexicans remember and honor their deceased loved ones. It is a festive and colorful holiday celebrating the lives of those who have passed on. Many visit the gravesite and have a celebration there. They also make elaborately decorated altars (*ofrendas* in Spanish) in their homes to welcome the spirits. In Pre-Hispanic times, the dead were buried close to the family homes (often in a tomb underneath the central patio of the house), and there was a great emphasis on maintaining ties with deceased ancestors, who were believed to continue to exist on a different plane.

With the arrival of the Spaniards and Catholicism, All Souls and All Saint's Day practices were incorporated into Pre-Hispanic beliefs and customs that the holiday came to be celebrated today. The belief behind Day Of The Dead practices is that spirits return to the world of the living for one day of the year to be with their families. The spirits are greeted with offerings of special foods and things that they enjoyed while alive. Some of these things are: *Pan de Muertos* (Day of the Dead bread), *Calaveras de Azucar* (Sugar skulls that are not eaten), *tamales*, hot chocolate, *mole*, and many other fruits and foods. Marigolds are placed at the gravesite and usually lead to the house for the spirits to find their way home.

It is customary to spend the night in the cemetery with a picnic dinner, music, and parties. Altars are made at the house to greet the dead. They are decorated with flowers, foods, and bright colors to celebrate and welcome the deceased loved ones.

CASTLES PROGRAM AT LIBERTY

At the October PSCC meeting, Ms. Bender walked us through the Castles program—those shirts the kids wear once a week for group activities!

Also known as the “house” program at other schools, Liberty’s castle program assigns our large student community into smaller groups. Members of a group work together as a team and encourage one another in celebrating collective successes.

During the school day, the kids are learning about how to model and recognize the traits. The program promotes character, academic success, school spirit, a family atmosphere, and culture of excellence. It is designed to uplift *all* students.

At Liberty, each castle is named after a character trait, and given an associated color, mascot, and T-shirt. Castles earn points as members display the month’s trait. These points earn Soaring Eagle tickets. Castle flags and points are posted by the school library.

Liberty’s castles are:

- Grit // Huskies // Green
- Confidence // Lions // Blue
- Determination // Bulldogs // Red
- Curiosity // Bears // Yellow
- Creativity // Panthers // Grey
- Integrity // Mustangs // Purple
- Honesty // Honesty // Gold

On September 13, Liberty students were each assigned to a castle for a big kick-off. The goal is to hold a meeting at the beginning of each month to introduce a different monthly trait and celebrate the winning castle for the previous trait/month. A second monthly meeting then gathers the kids to participate in fun activities.

Points are awarded to any student demonstrating the monthly character trait each school day. Points are only given—never taken away. The leading castle is announced during the school-wide announcements. The castle with the most points is celebrated at the end of the month at the castle meeting.

ATTENTION, LIBERTY TEACHERS!

Does your classroom need a facelift that doesn't fit in the budget? Is there a special training you need? Or special equipment, supplies, or costumes for Liberty events? Please fill out the form at bit.ly/pghleaf-teachers, send it (along with your receipt) to president@pghleaf.org, and get reimbursed by LEAF, our parent organization. The check will then be delivered to you shortly after the monthly LEAF meeting.

LECCIÓN DE ESPAÑOL (SPANISH LESSON)

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

La Noche de Duelo

Ofrenda

Papel Picado

Calacas

El arco

DAY OF THE DEAD

The Night of Sorrow is usually started with a candlelight procession to the cemetery.

offering: goods that are set out on the altars to memorialize the dead.

A type of Mexican Folk Art using tissue paper with intricate festive designs cut out that are used as decorations.

Prominent figures in all celebrations. The skeleton figures that represent death.

The arch on the grave or on the altar.

EL DIA DE ACCION DE GRACIAS (THANKSGIVING)

Feast: un banquete

Turkey: el pavo

Stuffing: el relleno

Bread: el pan

November: Noviembre

mashed potatoes: el pure de patatas

Gravy: la salsa de carne

The Numbers: Los numeros

0: <i>cero</i>	11: <i>once</i>
1: <i>uno</i>	12: <i>doce</i>
2: <i>dos</i>	13: <i>trece</i>
3: <i>tres</i>	14: <i>catorce</i>
4: <i>cuatro</i>	15: <i>quince</i>
5: <i>cinco</i>	16: <i>dieciseis</i>
6: <i>seis</i>	17: <i>diecisiete</i>
7: <i>siete</i>	18: <i>dieciocho</i>
8: <i>ocho</i>	19: <i>diecinueve</i>
9: <i>nueve</i>	20: <i>veinte</i>
10: <i>diez</i>	

Colors: Los Colores

black: <i>negro</i>	white: <i>blanco</i>
green: <i>verde</i>	blue: <i>azul</i>
yellow: <i>amarillo</i>	brown: <i>cafe or marron</i>
orange: <i>naranja or anaranjado</i>	purple: <i>morado</i>
red: <i>rojo</i>	pink: <i>rosado or rosa</i>
gray: <i>gris</i>	

NEW PROGRAM TO WELCOME NEW FAMILIES TO LIBERTY

Liberty community members are working together to ease the transition for kindergarten and transfer students and their families. It's a new effort we're calling Linking Liberty!

Are you new to Liberty? Go to the following link to be connected to a current student family: <https://tinyurl.com/LinkingLibertyNew>

Are you a Liberty Veteran that wants to help someone new? Sign up at the following link to be connected to a new family.
<https://tinyurl.com/LinkingLibertyVet>

Reach out to Vicki Potter (vicki.potter78@gmail.com) for more info.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Check out www.pghleaf.org for info on:

- Gifted Services at Liberty
- Extracurriculars at Liberty
- Communications (making sure you're receiving all announcements from the district, the school, your teachers, and LEAF)
- PDFs of LEAF's newsletter, *The Eagle's Nest* (current and archive issues)
- Childcare (extended day, summer camps, etc)
- Kindergarten families' section (orientation video)
- 5th grade families' section (middle school magnet application processes)
- Fundraising opportunities for our teachers and students

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

PAC is our school 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 district-wide meeting, contact Ms. Z:

lzwieryznski1@pghschools.org

RECIPE: EMPANADAS

Empanadas or empanadillas are baked or fried turnovers (made from wheat or corn flour), which are usually filled with meat, cheese, vegetables, and even sweet ingredients such as apple or guava paste. They are popular throughout Latin and South America. They are thought to have been originated in Spain, where the Empanada Festival is part of Galician culture. The name comes from empanar or to coat with bread. One of the Catalan Chefs, Roberto De Nola added the empanada recipe to the very first published cook book in Spain in 1520. When the Spanish hit the New World in the 16th century, they shared their empanada recipe with the Aztecs and Maya. Every single language, every single country has a word for empanada and a recipe to follow. For this recipe, the trick to the perfect dough is to add hot water. This makes the process easier and the dough will be more elastic at the end.

3 Ingredients Homemade Empanada Dough

3 cups all purpose flour sifted
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp salt
1 cup hot water

Instructions:

In a large bowl, mix the flour, salt, and oil. Stir with a spatula. Carefully, add the hot water and stir again until the consistency is crumbly. Knead the dough with your hands for a few minutes and form a ball. Let the dough rest for 30 minutes before making the discs. After 30 minutes, use a rolling pin to roll out the dough into a thin sheet, and cut it into pie circles (You can use a small plate for this). Use immediately, or store in the fridge for up to 3 days or in the freezer for a few months. If the dough is too wet or dry, you can add more flour or water.

CRAFT: HOMEMADE PUMPKIN PLAYDOUGH

Ingredients:

1 cup of flour

1/4 cup salt

2 tsp cream of tartar

2-3 tbsp pumpkin pie spice (You can make your own pumpkin pie spice blend with nutmeg, cinnamon, ginger, and cloves.)

2 tbsp vegetable oil

1 cup of water

Directions:

Mix in a saucepan over medium heat while stirring. The mixture will get lumpy and form into a dough. Allow to cool. Once it is cool to the touch, you can knead it until it is soft. Enjoy.

CRAFT: COFFEE FILTER LEAVES

You will need:

- newspaper or something to cover the work surface
- white coffee filters (any size will do)
- Markers
- Scissors
- Spray bottle with water, vinegar, or a combination of both.

Spread out the newspaper on your work surface. Place the coffee filter on the surface, laying it flat. Draw a leaf in the middle of the filter. Use various Fall colors. Spray the leaf with the spray bottle. Do not saturate, but spray enough to allow the colors to mix and spread. Allow to dry. Watch as the colors blend together as the

leaf dries. Cut out the leaf, once it is completely dry. Make a few, and hang them together.

RECIPE: MINI CORNUCOPIAS

You will need

- waffle cones
- fresh fruit of your choosing. (Apples, grapes, and berries are great choices. You can even add cheese.)

Let your children pick their favorite fruits. Wash and cut the fruit. Add it all into the waffle cones. Enjoy.

SUBMIT TO THIS NEWSLETTER!

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.

Website: www.pghleaf.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PghLibertyPTO/

Email: president@pghleaf.org
