

El Nido del Águila

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

October 2021

Vol. 7, Issue 1

WELCOME BACK, LIBERTY EAGLES!



CALENDAR

Monthly Liberty Community Meetings: Wed. Oct. , Oct 13, 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., Oct. 25, 2021, 6:00 pm

WATCH: <https://vimeo.com/event/1273917>

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>

Dia de los Muertos school-wide celebration Fri., Oct. 29 (Rain date Nov. 5th!)

As a Spanish language magnet, every year Pittsburgh Liberty K-5 celebrates this delightful Mexican holiday, a lively and joyous celebration of beloved friends and family who are deceased. Celebrants build *ofrendas* (altars) with the departed loved ones' photos, momentos, and favorite foods, and gather together for food and fun. This year, we're planning an in-person, outdoor event on Liberty's campus—complete with our giant schoolwide *ofrenda*! Volunteers are needed to help plan in advance, set up and run the event on the day-of, and clean up after. Contact Elaine: elaine@elainevitone.com

Save The Date: 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.

VACCINATION RESOURCES

Everyone age 12 and over is now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in the state of Pennsylvania!

To find a vaccine appointment, check out:

- <https://apps.health.pa.gov/pavaccineprovidermap/>

Locally, you can schedule at

- <https://www.ahn.org/coronavirus/vaccine/schedule>
- <https://www.upmc.com/coronavirus/covid-vaccine>
- <https://www.gianteagle.com/covidvaccine>

Do you have questions about the vaccines? What's in them? Are they safe? Are they effective? Find answer at:

- <https://www.greatherthancovid.org/theconversation/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html>

MASK REMINDERS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released an update guidance for Covid-19 prevention in K-12 schools. It states that schools should continue to utilize prevention strategies such as masking, physical distancing, testing, ventilation, handwashing, and staying home when sick to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. While students benefit from in-person learning, many safety measures must be in place in order to safely do so. Due to the circulation and highly contagious Delta variant, the CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

At Pittsburgh Public Schools, they adhere to those CDC recommendations. According to PPS rules, students are to wear masks in school, on school busses, and outside only when in a crowded space. It is the responsibility of the *parents* and *students* to follow these rules. If masks cannot be obtained, please contact the school so that something can be done and masks can be provided.

- Always choose masks that have two or more layers of washable and breathable fabric.
- Completely cover your nose and mouth.
- Make sure it fits snugly against the sides of your face and doesn't have any gaps.
- Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES: STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Getting back to the classroom has been a real joy this fall! The opportunity for our students to be in the Liberty building to learn with their teachers and laugh with their classmates feels good as we make our way through the second year of a global pandemic that upended life for all of us.

But the return to school hasn't come without some worries - a rise in COVID cases, bus driver shortages, the impact of over a year of remote learning. And each Liberty family has a unique set of worries: job loss, grief for lost or sick loved ones, injustice in our institutions or simply the uncertainty of living in 2021.

Since the beginning of the pandemic the number of children seeking mental health care is up by 30%. Mental health care is important for many of us who are struggling through this year.

https://www.wesa.fm/health-science-tech/2021-09-16/kids-need-more-mental-health-support-during-the-pandemic?utm_source=inboxedition&utm_medium=email

At Liberty, you can find the help your child needs by reaching out through the Student Assistance Program (SAP). You can call:

Your child's teacher <https://discoverpps.org/liberty/staff>

Our school nurse, Nurse Dobbs (412) 529-8458

Our social worker, Ms. Portillo-Wein (412) 529-8457

There are four phases to the student assistance process: (Thanks to PPS Obama for this excellent description of the program!)

Referral: Anyone can refer a student to SAP when they are concerned about someone's behavior—any school staff, a student's friend, a family member or community member. The students themselves can even go directly to the SAP team to ask for help. The SAP team contacts the parent for permission to proceed with the SAP process.

Team Planning: The SAP team gathers objective information about the student's performance in school from all school personnel who have contact with the student. Information is also collected from the parent. The team meets with the parent to discuss the data collected and also meets with the student. Together, a plan is developed that includes strategies for removing the learning barriers and promoting the student's academic and personal success to include in-school and/or community-based services and activities.

Intervention and Recommendations: The plan is put into action. The team assists in linking the student to in-school and/or community-based services and activities. The team might recommend a mental health assessment.

Support and Follow-Up: The SAP team continues to work with and support the student and their family. Follow-up includes monitoring, mentoring, and motivating for academic success.

RAD DAYS: OCTOBER

RADical days is an annual thank you to the public with free admission, tours, performances, and family activities offered by the organizations and attractions that are

funded by RAD. Due to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases, most organizations are requiring advanced reservations and/or have capacity limits.

- **Oct. 3, 6PM:** Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters
- **Oct. 9, 7:30PM:** First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood (Edgewood Symphony Orchestra)
- **Oct. 10, 10AM:** National Aviary

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.

HAVE YOU VISITED LEAF'S 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)

LECCIÓN DE ESPAÑOL (SPANISH LESSON)

Pittsburgh Liberty K-5 is a school-wide magnet school with an emphasis in Spanish; teachers routinely use Spanish throughout the day in addition to providing direct instruction in the language. Students learn about the culture of many Spanish speaking countries throughout the year. Classrooms "adopt" a country for a semester, learning

about its geography, history, and culture. As a culminating activity, students, teachers and staff share their knowledge with each other and their families.

In each newsletter, we introduce basic Spanish words, numbers, phrases, and some introduction to basic conversation. Here are a few intro words and phrases to kick off this year:

Popular Spanish words

<i>gracias</i>	thank you
<i>a</i>	to
<i>ir</i>	to go
<i>estar</i>	to be
<i>bueno</i>	good
<i>de</i>	of, from
<i>su</i>	your, her, his, or their
<i>hacer</i>	to make
<i>Amigo</i>	friend

Common Phrases

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

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:

elaine@elainevitone.com

Dia de los Muertos Team: Help us plan the event—a Liberty tradition! (See pg. 2 for more details.) Contact Elaine: elaine@elainevitone.com

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 OPPORTUNITIES

Spirit Wear

Support Liberty's parent organization, LEAF, and show you Liberty SPIRIT by purchasing some Liberty gear--which is considered part of our school uniform!

<https://joxrox.com/product-category/liberty-elementary/>



Donate via Facebook:

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

Post a Facebook Fundraiser:

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

Amazon Smile: If you do any of your shopping on 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). 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. 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).

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

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
