

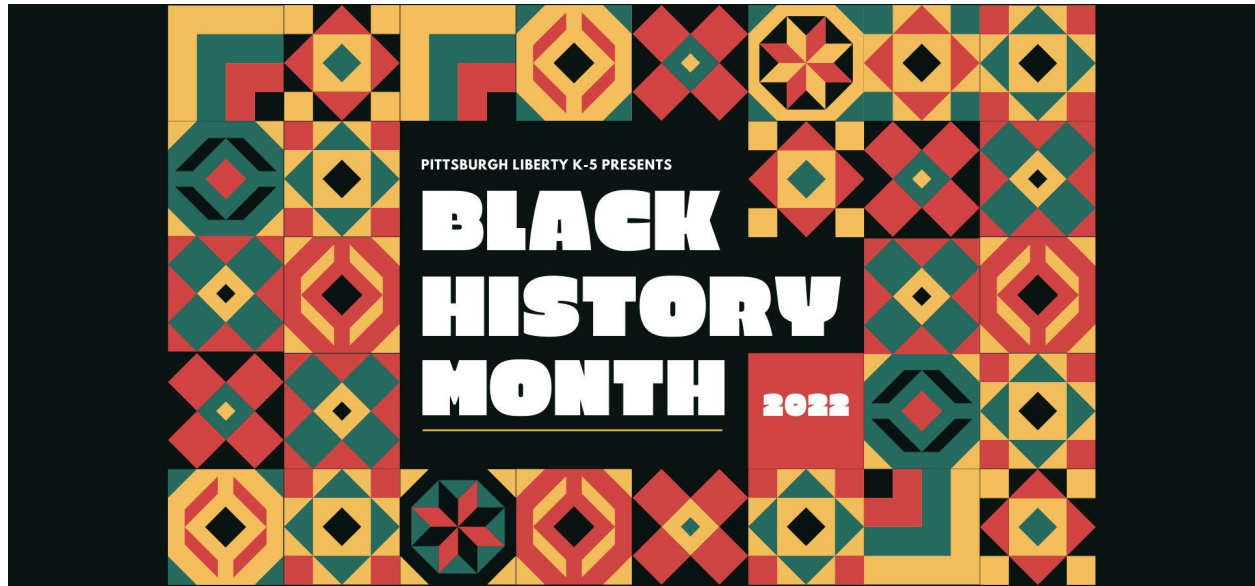
El Nido del Águila

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

January 2022

Vol. 7, Issue 4

Get ready for Black History Month!



February is Black History Month, a cherished Liberty tradition! Ms. Dennison and Ms. Daniels, in partnership with Legacy Arts, are developing a whole calendar of February fun, with a culminating event at the end of that month. This year's theme will be: *Black Excellence: They Did It So We Can!* To volunteer, contact Ms. Dennison at jdennison1@pghschools.org and Ms. Daniels at mdaniels1@pghschools.org. Looking forward to a bunch of great programming in the works!

Calendar

Monthly Liberty Community Meetings: Wed. Jan. 12, 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.
- 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. Jan. 24, 6:00 pm

WATCH: <https://www.pghschools.org/calendar#calendar1/20220119/event/20531>

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.

Meet Ms. Eliza Portillo Wein

Ms. Portillo Wein is our new Social Worker. She is a native Pittsburgher and a graduate of Pittsburgh Public Schools. She attended Allegheny College for her Bachelors degree and the University of Pittsburgh where she received her Masters Degree in Social Work. Before coming to Liberty, she worked at the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and the Latino Community Center, and other Pittsburgh organizations while in Grad school. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, eating, reading, watching tv, going to Frick and Highland Parks, and spending time with family and friends.

Thanksgiving poems from the 4th grade

Mr. Bassett's 4th grade class wrote poems for Thanksgiving—a good time to reflect on what we are grateful for.

“I’m thankful for a lot of things!”

BY KENDALL MARCELLE

I’m thankful for a lot of things!

Like my family
My country
My dog
My sisters and brothers
Lastly, my cousin Jayden.
My brothers aren't coming like every year
My sisters also won't come.
I am thankful for my Parents
For coming
Payton and Kayla
My dog I'm completely thankful for.
My parents
And whole Family.
And dogs
And friends
I'm thankful for my parents for helping me when I need it the most.
I'm thankful for my sisters for being there when I need help.
I'm thankful for my dog staying with me when I am sad.
I am mostly thankful for my family.
I feel loved and excited.
I am thankful.

"Giving Thanks"

BY MYKIAH HINES

I am thankful for things.
I'm thankful for my family I get to see on holidays.
I'm thankful for my mom creating me. I'm thankful for a life.
I'm thankful for my lovely cat.
I'm also thankful for my lovely dog. I'm thankful for my mom.
I'm thankful for my sisters (I may fight with them but I still love them so much)
I'm thankful for a house.
I'm thankful for the clothes and shoes I got.
I'm thankful for all the things I get on my b-day and Christmas.
I'm thankful for friends I have.
I'm thankful for not getting COVID-19.
I'm thankful for being smart.
I'm thankful for being at school.
I'm thankful for being me.

Looking for a good book this holiday?

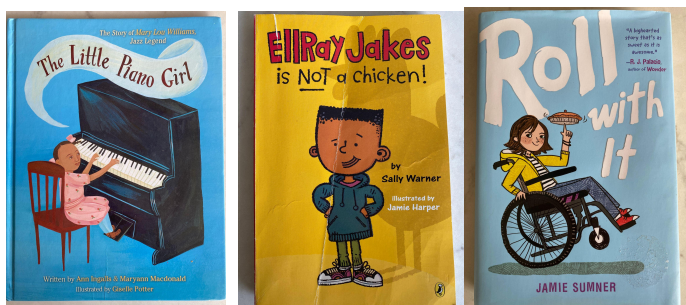
Roll With It by Jamie Sumner is about a girl who uses a wheelchair to get around. In this book Ellie, the protagonist, overcomes many hurdles. This heartfelt story about finding your calling and friendship is truly amazing.

Ellray Jakes is NOT a Chicken by Sally Warner, illustrated by Jamie Harper, takes you into Ellray's third grade classroom and playground as he figures out how to deal with bullies at school. You also meet his parents and his sister, Alfie, who help him stay out of trouble and make new friends in the process.

The Little Piano Girl, written by Ann Ingalls & Maryann Macdonald, illustrated by Giselle Potter, tells the story of Mary Lou Williams. Mary Lou was a jazz legend and she grew up right here in Pittsburgh!

Check out the library location nearest you for holiday hours!

<https://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/>



Leccion de Español

New Year's Eve: *la Nochevieja; la vispera de Año Nuevo; el fin de ano*

Gloves: *guantes*

Parka: *abrigo de invierno*

Earmuffs: *orejeras*

Jacket: *chaqueta*

Scarf: *bufanda*

Overcoat: *sobreabrigo*

Boots: *botas*

Sweater: *sueter*

Snow: *nieve*

mother: *madre*

father: *padre*

grandmother: *abuela*
grandfather: *abuelo*
aunt: *tia*
uncle: *tio*
Daughter: *hija*
sister: *hermana*
son: *hijo*
brother: *hermano*
cousin (female): *prima*
cousin (male): *primo*
great grandmother: *bisabuela*
great grandfather: *bisabuelo*

Are you receiving school communications?

Are you wondering if you're missing important announcements? Here's a quick rundown on the communication channels used by 1) the PPS school district, 2) our school, 3) the parent-teacher organization (that's us--LEAF), and 4) your child's teachers!

District Communications

Via email, calls/voicemails, postal mail

The PPS website portal called the Home Access Center (HAC), is the main hub for contact info used in these mass communications to parents/guardians. If you are not getting these communications and need to be added to or updated in the HAC, contact Ms. Brandi Ellington at 412-529-8452 or Bellington1@pghschools.org and tell her your child's name. (By the way, HAC also has tons of useful real-time info for families: student schedules, attendance, published assignments, quick links to communicate with teachers, class averages, report card information, & transcript grades!) If you're having trouble logging on to HAC, contact the Parent Hotline at 412-529-4357 or parenthotline@pghschools.org

Via mobile app

Talking Points is a free district-wide communication app that allows families to easily connect with teachers and principals.

Download: [iPhone](#) or [Android](#)

Facebook

The Pittsburgh Public Schools Facebook Page is used to communicate closure information and districtwide events.

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

PeachJar

PeachJar is a newer app/website/paperless delivery system for flyers from the district.

<https://www.pghschools.org/Page/1454>

School-Wide Communications

Email List

General notices and school-wide calendars and flyers are emailed by the principal, Louann “Ms. Z” Zwieryznski, on a weekly or as-needed basis. She uses the list of email addresses that is in the HAC. (What the heck is the HAC? See “District Communications” section, above!). If you are not getting those emails and would like to add/update your contact information, contact Ms. Brandi Ellington at 412-529-8452 or

Bellington1@pghschools.org.

Via Facebook

Ms. Z maintains the school Facebook page, which is used for school closures and other important announcements, sharing photos of our adorable kids, etc.

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

Hard Copy (via orange folders)

Hard copies of the monthly calendars, flyers, and other announcements (from both the school and the PTO) sent home in students’ orange folders on the last full school day of the month. These folders are also used to communicate important feedback on your child’s academic work. Parents are asked to review the contents with their children and return the empty orange folder the next school day.

Pto Communications

LEAF (aka Liberty Elementary Academic Fund) is the parent-teacher organization for Pittsburgh Liberty K-5.

Facebook

The LEAF public Facebook page helps keep us connected to one another and up to date on meetings, community-building events, and fundraisers for our students. Like us!

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

LEAF also has a private discussion group where parents/guardians can engage with Ms. Z. Click on the big blue “VISIT GROUP” button on the right.

Newsletter

Current and back issues of The Eagle's Nest are distributed at the end of each month via orange folders, and also on our website, at:

<https://pghleaf.org/leaf-newsletter>

Individual Teacher Communications

If you have questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher. The Liberty directory is online at: <https://discoverpps.org/liberty/staff>

(Or maybe your teacher is using an app to communicate with families--there is a popular one for that too! It's called ClassDojo.)

<https://www.classdojo.com/>

Ten places where the kids can keep busy during the winter break

Senator John Heinz History Center

Free admission for the entire month of December for anyone 17 and younger. This is due to the Howard Hannah sponsorship. The History Center is a showcase of local history with a number of interactive exhibits, a special area for kids to move and run, and an interactive model of the city in the lobby with a Liberty Tubes tunnel slide. There is also a Christmas in Pittsburgh exhibit.

Carnegie Libraries and county libraries: various locations.

Dozens of libraries exist thanks to funds provided by Scottish millionaire and famous Pittsburgher Andrew Carnegie. Many libraries have packed calendars and plenty of quiet nooks to read on a cold day.

Beechwood Farm Nature Reserve: Audubon Society, Fox Chapel

Winter hiking is fabulous and accessible at Frick Park, Schenley Park, and Riverview Park within city limits. Beechwood Farm is a natural play area and has many easy trails. Make sure to properly bundle up in cold weather.

Soccer Shots Arctic Animals Camp: various locations.

While Soccer Shots is known for its year round soccer leagues, they also offer a winter break camp to give parents a hand. For kids ages 4 to 7, there are both morning and evening options at several locations around the region. These camps offer soccer, crafts, and fun daily themes.

Fort Pitt Museum:

Free admission for the entire month of December for anyone 17 and younger (same sponsorship as Heinz History Center). This museum is located downtown near The Point. There are tons of models and visuals here. You can also learn about colonization of the Pittsburgh region and our complicated history. Its a quick walk to Market Square to Starbucks where you can grab a hot chocolate and watch the skaters around the tree in PPG plaza.

Fun Slides Carpet Skate Park: North Hills

Pittsburgh is home to the world's only indoor carpet skate park. Kids can slide, scoot and run around. There is also a ninja warrior course, Nerf wars, bounce houses, dodgeball, and carpet hockey. A 30 day pass can make a great stocking stuffer. *There is a fee to play here. *

Snapology: Bridgeville (day camp, workshops, and free play) and various locations across the city.

This is a national franchise of STEAM exploration centers that was founded in Pittsburgh by two local moms. Kids can attend for one hour, two hours, or for full or half day camps over the break. *There is a fee to participate in most of the camps.*

Carnegie Science Center: Holiday camps and more

These camps are some of the most affordable of the nonsubsidized childcare options in the city for winter break. The Pompeii exhibit is still available to be seen. Don't forget that families with EBT/Medicaid access cards, the museum offers a discounted membership of \$3 per person for up to 4 people. Teachers and teenagers receive free admission. Families can sign up for a \$20 membership for the year, as the museum seeks to remove financial barriers to enjoying their facility. *There is a fee to play here. *

Hunt Armory Ice Rink: Shadyside

An attempt by the Pittsburgh Penguins to make skating more accessible, the new Hunt Armory in Shadyside has a goal of including more kids in hockey and skating. For \$10 per person, it is a fun option. Many workshops and lessons are also available. Shuttles from different locations around the city are also available to transport participants to skate also. *There is a fee to skate here.*

Neighborhood North Museum of Play: Beaver Falls

This fun space is new to our region and to celebrate its opening, admission is free through January 31, 2022. A group of local community stakeholders and educators designed the space to foster a love of music, science, art, and more. They offer a variety of classes and workshops and free play time. They are closed for a few days over the winter break, but are having a New Year at noon party on December 31. Pre-registration is required.

Craft corner

January is a month celebrating the New Year, Chinese New Year, and Martin Luther King's birthday. There are many crafts associated with each of these special days. January is also one of the most snowy months of the year.

Winter Bird Feeder

The materials needed are : toilet paper or paper towel tube, peanut butter, birdseed, 24 inches of ribbon or just long enough to hang from a tree branch or window, an empty box, and scissors . Spread a coat of peanut butter all over the cardboard tube. Pour birdseed into the empty box, so that there is a thin layer covering the bottom of the box. Roll the peanut butter covered tube into the birdseed, so that the seeds adhere and cover the peanut butter completely. Thread a ribbon through the tube and tie the ends together to form a knot. Hang it from a tree branch near the window, so that you can watch the birds feast.

New Year's Eve Fizzy Baking Soda Science

This is a great example of simple Chemistry, mixtures, and reactions. The materials needed are: Baking soda, vinegar, food coloring, glitter, a spoon, a tray or something to put the craft on, and any kind of plastic cups. When you combine baking soda which is a base and vinegar which is an acid, you get a gas. This gas is called carbon dioxide and is exactly what gives you the bubbling and fizzing. Put the cups onto a tray or somewhere that will prevent the mess from spreading. Fill a cup with baking soda and a few sprinkles of glitter. In another cup, add white vinegar (lemon juice works also), and a few drops of food coloring. Spoon the vinegar mixture into the baking soda mixture and watch the fizzing fun. Continue doing this until the contents of your cups are emptied.

Easy Icicles

You will need paper, glue, and salt. Apply a thick line of glue on the paper at the top, going back and forth to make the line thick. Stand the paper upright and watch the glue run down the paper forming icicles right before your eyes. Just before the

glue starts to run off the paper, place the paper flat on the table or floor. Sprinkle the paper with salt and let dry.

Recipes

There are a lot of recipes that range from comfort foods to easy snacks that kids can make themselves. While comfort foods are great, it is always fun to let the kids make a snack or simple meal on their own or with minimal help.

Fruit Loop Trail Mix

You will need:

- 1 box (15 ounce) of Fruit Loop cereal
- 1 bag of mini pretzel twists (15 ounce)
- 1 bag (1 pound) of M & M's
- 1 box of raisins
- 1 can of salted peanuts.

If you have a nut allergy or simply don't like peanuts, they can be omitted. Mix all of the ingredients together and store in an airtight container.

Banana Pops

You will need:

- bananas
- yogurt
- breakfast cereal or granola

Peel a banana, dip it into the yogurt of your choice. Then, dip into crushed breakfast cereal or granola. Freeze, then enjoy.

Liberty spirit wear

Wear your school pride on your sleeve! (Or, rather, on the front of your shirt/hoodie/sweatshirt!) Liberty Spirit wear may be worn as part of the school uniform. Orders may be placed online and paid via paypal or credit card.

bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear

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.

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
