

El Nido del Águila

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

March 2022

Vol. 7, Issue 6



"Bessie Coleman" By Beatrice



"Misty Copeland" By Rae'vn



"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."
By Daivon

**What did you
most enjoy
learning about
during Black
history month?**

Perspectives from Ms. Brandt's
1st grade class!

Calendar

Monthly Liberty Community Meetings: Wed. March 9, 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. March 21, 6:00 pm

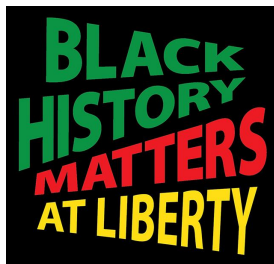
WATCH: <https://www.pghschools.org/calendar#calendar1/20220322/event/20539>

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 spirit wear & Black history tees



Wear your pride on your sleeve—or, rather, on the front of your shirt! Liberty school-spirit hoodies and sweats may be worn as part of the school uniform. (And BTW, we carry hats, too!)



And—new this year—Black history shirts designed by Liberty's own Ms. Daniels! The front reads, *Because They Did, We Can*; the back: *Black History Matters at Liberty*.



Sizes are available for both kids and adults!

Orders may be placed online and paid via paypal or credit card. bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear

Black History play—coming soon!

Ms. Dennison and Ms. Daniels have been working on a Black history play with our students. And a video is in the works! Once it's complete, it will be shared via facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PghLibertyPTO/> ... Stay tuned!

Equity at Liberty: an update

What is *equity*, and how does it differ from terms like *equality* and *justice*?

Equality means we have the same supports for everyone.

Equity means we make sure that everyone has the supports they need in light of existing barriers.

For *justice*—the true goal—we address and remove the barriers that are blocking us.

Why are we even talking about equity and justice? Every year at our Title 1 parent meeting at the start of school, we hear about the markers of school performance: test scores. Although these aren't perfect measures, we hear that by almost every measure our Black students and families at Liberty—and across PPS—aren't getting the opportunities and supports they should be getting. The cause is systemic racism, and you can see the effects of systemic racism in education in the PPS data, available at: <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/5071>

In the 2018-2019 Liberty parents and teachers started asking more questions about why and how that is, and what we need to do so there isn't an opportunity gap for our students. Striving for justice with equity in mind is one way that we can work towards eliminating systemic racism.

In the spring of 2019, LEAF and the Liberty community spoke with the PPS Office of Equity and then invited Dr. Paul Spradley, founder and Chief Inclusion Officer of Care Based Leadership, LLC, to come help us get started in this work. We came together to create a mission statement that is core to all that we do:

Equity Committee Mission Statement

We, the Liberty Equity Committee, will facilitate necessary changes to create a positive and healthy educational atmosphere in which all are valued and can reach their maximum potential by embracing diversity and actively working to understand rich and complex identities of self and others.

As we come up to the 3 year mark our initial Equity Committee, guided in our initial steps by Dr. Paul Spradley, with the work advanced by many of our parents, teachers, and staff along the way, we wanted to share the progress and the work still left to do.

We invite you to join us in this work. Our PSCC/LEAF meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month, on Teams, at <https://tinyurl.com/LibertyPSCC>. All ideas are welcome, all ideas are important, and every voice helps us get closer to an equitable education for our students.

In 2020, as a team of teachers and parents, we identified opportunities in our 4 areas to concentrate on: Parents, Curriculum, Teachers and Students. All are essential to the work, so we have continued to discuss all of them together.

Listed below are the goals with updates. We’ve made progress, but still have a lot of work to do—we welcome you to join us!!! And if you aren’t able to attend a meeting but want to share some ideas, reach out at: president@pghleaf.org.

Parent Goals	Parent Updates
Recruit current families to be mentors to incoming families	Linking Liberty started up this year! Would you like to join as a new family or mentor? See story page 6!
Draft document of suggested topics for family mentors	Completed and shared with mentor volunteers
Plan informal gatherings for incoming families to meet	On hold due to COVID
Support 5 th grade families with magnets	Completed

Curriculum Goals	Curriculum Updates
Equity Committee review of existing texts in classrooms using an evaluation tool	After one session of review, determined that evaluation tool is more useful for teachers during planning; shared with teachers

<p>Parent involvement in text purchasing</p>	<p>Add leveled libraries for every classroom, with texts specifically chosen with characters of color and stories from historically marginalized voices. These texts have been purchased from Lee & Low Books, the largest multicultural children's book publisher in the US, and will be delivered March 2022. See story in our next issue of this newsletter!</p>
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<p>Teacher Goals</p>	<p>Teacher Updates</p>
<p>Create survey for staff for areas of interest, with an equity lens</p>	<p>Teachers informally asked about professional development interest; broad interest expressed among the teachers</p>
<p>Equity committee will review and fund professional development</p>	<p>Suggested areas for professional development: *Trauma-Informed Instruction *Equitable Learning Environment *Social and Emotional Learning *Culturally Responsive Teaching (Zaretta Hammond, Sharroky Hollie) *Restorative Practices *Science & Strategies behind solid phonics instruction to enhance PPS curriculum</p>

<p>Student Goals</p>	<p>Student Updates</p>
<p>Review Panorama Social Emotional Learning Survey with Equity Committee</p>	<p>We'll be talking about the student domain of the Equity Plan at the March PSCC/LEAF meeting – join us March 9th at 6pm!!</p>
<p>Create Liberty Social Emotional Learning Survey to determine student strengths, unmet needs and next steps</p>	
<p>Create student interest survey for clubs</p>	

Welcoming 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 who 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.

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.

Women's History Month

The first Woman's History Day was on February 28, 1909 in New York City. It commemorated the one year anniversary of the garment workers' strikes when 15,000 women marched through lower Manhattan. An education task force in Sonoma County, California kicked off Women's History Week in 1978 on March 8, International Women's Day, according to the National Women's History Alliance. They wanted to draw attention that women's history wasn't included in K-12 curriculums at the time. Women's organizations campaigned yearly to recognize Women's History Week. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8 Women's History Week across the country. Since 1995, every president has issued a proclamation declaring March Women's History Month, usually with a statement about its importance. Every Women's History Month has a theme. The 2020 theme was Valiant Women of the Vote. It honored women from the original suffrage movement, as well as women who continued the struggle in the 20th and 21st century. Due to the pandemic, the theme was extended and renamed Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced. The 2022 theme is Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope. This theme honors the tireless work of caregivers and frontline workers during the pandemic, but also women who have provided healing and hope for patients, family, and friends.

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that 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 week long 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 Tabei * 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*

Craft corner

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 accordian 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.

Dr. Seuss

Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss! He was born Theodor Geisel in Springfield, Massachusetts on March 2, 1904. His first children's book, *And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*, hit the market in 1937. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 and 3 Academy Awards. He is the author and illustrator of 44 children's books, some of which have been made into audiocassettes, animated television specials, and videos for children of all ages. In addition to Dr. Seuss, Theodor Geisel also used the pen name Theo Lesieg (Geisel spelled backwards) for books that were written by him, but illustrated by others. Even after his death in 1991, Dr. Seuss continues to be the best selling author of children's books in the world. Here are a few of his most popular books and the years that they were published: *The Cat In The Hat* (1957), *Cat in the Hat Comes Back* (1958), *The Foot Book* (1968), *Fox in Socks* (1965), *Green Eggs and Ham* (1960), *Hop on Pop* (1963), *Horton Hears A Who* (1954), *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (1957), *The Lorax* (1971), and *Oh, The Places You'll Go* (1990).

Are you receiving school communications?

Are you wondering if you're missing important announcements? Visit <https://pghleaf.org/school-communications> for a go-to list of 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!

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
