

El Nido del Águila

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

June 2023

Vol. 8, Issue 9

☀️ **Come play this summer!** ☀️



Meet us at the playground! We're organizing our first-ever summer playdates & free uniform swap events at Liberty, so families have a chance to get together outside of the busy school year—and get a head start on back-to-school shopping with some free uniform items! ... And BTW, we need uniform items! Please donate to the school office! **See story page 2.** 👕

In This Issue: Summer Playdates & FREE Uniform Swaps * LEAF officer updates & calls for next year's volunteers * LEAF meeting schedule for 2023-24 * Kids of Steel and Pittsburgh Kids Marathon * Leccion de Español: La Clase * Craft Corner: Sidewalk Chalk Paint * Recipe: Pizza Bagels

Calendar

🎪 **Fun Fair: Fri., June 2nd from 6–8pm (NEW DATE! Fri. June 9th, 6–8pm)**

At the end of each school year, LEAF invites Liberty family, friends, and neighbors for an evening of food, games, and fun! To volunteer, contact Jillian Wein Riley at jillianwriley@gmail.com!

🗣️ **PPS Public Hearings (Virtual): Pittsburgh Board of Public Education**

Monthly opportunity for citizens' comments on district matters.

DATE: Mon., Jun. 26, 6:00pm

TO TESTIFY: Write and submit your comments in advance and then read them aloud at the Zoom meeting. Comments can be no longer than three minutes/about 400 words. First, you MUST 1) register (deadline is noon, the day of the hearing) by calling 412-529-3868; then 2) email your testimony to Laura Getty at

lgetty1@pghschools.org. OR, If you are unable to read your own testimony, you may submit it to Laura Getty, and it will be forwarded to the Board of Directors.

MORE ON REGISTRATION: <https://www.pghschools.org/Page/4043>

SPEAKERS' TECH INSTRUCTIONS: [bit.ly/hearingzoom](https://www.pghschools.org/Page/2#calendar1/20230526/event/21282)

<https://www.pghschools.org/Page/2#calendar1/20230526/event/21282>

WATCH: <https://vimeo.com/event/2209623>

Summer playdates & FREE uniform swaps

With the school year coming to a close, the LEAF team is already thinking ahead to next year. One big priority for 2023-24 is to make it easier for families to get to know one another and build community outside of school. (By the way, plans are in the works for opt-in classroom directories next year—stay tuned!)

So, this need for community—for gathering, and gabbing, and playing—was the spark of the idea for organizing Liberty's first-ever summer playground playdates and uniform swaps on our school campus. And it's a go!



Please join us Sat. July 22 10-11:30AM and/or Sat. Aug. 5 10-11:30AM!

LEAF will bring some drinks and freezer pops for the kids. You'll bring the fun!

Please donate your child's outgrown uniforms in advance! Send them to the school office (gently used and laundered). Then, at the events on the above dates, LEAF will have the items organized by size, so you can pick things out.

Questions? Write us at president@pghleaf.org

And: Are you interested in helping us do more to build community at Liberty? Please see our call for volunteers on the next page!

LEAF Officers

Thank you, 2022-23 leadership team

Our sincere gratitude to co-presidents Jennifer Edwards and Maria Guyette, as well as vice president Tatum Clemons, for leading our parent-teacher organization this year. You have each given tirelessly of your time and talents, and our school community is all the richer for it. For your service, we salute you!

Announcing our 2023–24 leadership team

At our May meeting, we established the following LEAF officers for next school year:

- Co-presidents: Elaine Vitone and Teresa Pizzella
- Treasurer: Sarah Starr
- Communications team: Jessa Darwin, Nate Mason (website), Kim Neely (Facebook), Maribeth Torrez, and Elaine Vitone
- Dia de los Muertos event planning co-chairs: Dylan Vitone and Maribeth Torrez

Leadership roles are still available—and we need YOU on our team!

Calling all Liberty parents, grandparents, guardians—all the adults who love and care for Liberty students are welcome to participate in LEAF, our parent-teacher organization.

Many hands make light work! Next year we hope to fill the following roles:

- Note takers for LEAF's monthly meetings
- LEAF Vice President
- Teacher appreciation chair
- Fundraising chair
- Fun Fair event planning chair
- Skate Night event coordinator
- LEAF information table at events throughout the year

For more info about these volunteering roles:

Visit: <https://pghleaf.org/volunteer>

Contact: president@pghleaf.org

Can't commit to a leadership role? We still need YOU at the table!

Join us at any of our monthly meetings throughout the school year (see dates below).

Voice your concerns and express your ideas. LEAF is a nonprofit organization devoted to supporting the entire Liberty K-5 community—all of our students, teachers, and families—through fundraising, volunteering, and community events/traditions. We need everyone's input to realize this dream. Let's work together to make it happen!

LEAF meeting schedule for next year

Next year, LEAF meetings are moving to the **second Tuesdays of each month**, from September through May.


We have decided not to do hybrid next year. Instead, all meetings will be in-person only (in the school library) except for November through February, which will be remote/Zoom only (so families can dodge the worst of the winter weather and cold-and-flu season!).

Next year's LEAF meetings are scheduled for 7-8PM on these dates:

- Sept. 12, 2023 (in person @ the Liberty school library—dinner & childcare provided)

- Oct. 10, 2023 (in person @ the Liberty school library—dinner & childcare provided)
- Nov. 14, 2023 (virtual, via Zoom)
- Dec. 12, 2023 (virtual, via Zoom)
- Jan. 9, 2024 (virtual, via Zoom)
- Feb. 13, 2024 (virtual, via Zoom)
- March 12, 2024 (in person @ the Liberty school library—dinner & childcare provided)
- April 9, 2024 (in person @ the Liberty school library—dinner & childcare provided)
- May 14, 2024 (in person @ the Liberty school library—dinner & childcare provided)


Note: PSCC meetings (led by our principal, Ms. Z) will also take place on each of the above dates, immediately before the LEAF meetings, from 6-7PM.



DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A WEBSITE?

LOG ON TO PGHLEAF.ORG FOR:

- Extracurriculars
- "Gifted" Services (a.k.a. "Greenway")
- Back issues of this newsletter
- Childcare (extended day, summer camps, etc.)
- Kindergarten families' section (orientation video)
- 5th grade families' section (middle-school magnet application processes)
- Making sure you're receiving all announcements from the district, the school, your teachers, & LEAF—your friendly parent-teacher organization!



Congratulations, Liberty K-5 Kids of Steel and Pittsburgh Kids Marathon Participants!



This year, 83 Liberty students participated in the Kids of Steel program—an effort to get the kids running the entire length of a Pittsburgh Marathon (26.2 miles)—over the course of 8 weeks. Every Monday and Thursday, participants gathered by the playground for some light stretching then walked/ran 4 times around the school (with Liberty parents cheering on!). And for the final run, students participated in the Pittsburgh Kids Marathon on May 6th.

This year, some 50 Liberty students signed up for the Pittsburgh Kids Marathon!
Congratulations, kids!

And a very special thanks to our organizer and physical education teacher, Ms. Fuerst, for growing this annual effort into what has become a huge, and very proud, Liberty K-5 tradition. 🏃

Summer fun!

Citiparks has recreation opportunities, meal programs, swimming pools & spray parks, and more to offer - <https://tinyurl.com/2xhh7tkc>.

The City of Pittsburgh has movies in the park, free concerts, Farmers' Markets, festivals, and more - <https://tinyurl.com/4v4hmat8>.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has a great summer reading program: kickoff programs are happening in your neighborhood:

1. Wed., June 14th 5-7pm at CLP Lawrenceville, 279 Fisk Street 15201
2. Thurs., June 15th 2-4:30pm at CLP Hill District, 2177 Centre Ave. 15219
3. Sun., June 18th 1-3pm at CLP Main, 4400 Forbes Ave. 15213

If you're looking for summer camps and child care this summer - <https://tinyurl.com/27zfatjd>.



Or scan this QR code to see a complete guide to summer!

Leccion de Español: La Clase

student: *estudiante*
 teacher: *maestro, profesora*
 (feminine) *profesor* (masculine)
 seat: *butaca*
 desk: *escritorio*
 chair: *silla*
 book: *libro*
 notebook: *cuaderno*

pencil: *lapiz*
 pen: *pluma*
 eraser: *borrador*
 marker: *marcador*
 pencil sharpener: *sacapuntas*
 ruler: *regla*
 colored pencils: *colores*
 classroom: *salon de clases*

scissors: *tijeras*
backpack: *mochila*

crayons: *crayolas*
paper: *papel*

Craft corner: sidewalk chalk paint

What You Need:

1/2 cup cornstarch
2/3 cup water
food coloring
muffin tin or similar painting tray

Mix together the water and cornstarch, and stir until the cornstarch dissolves. Divide the paint mixture into the wells of a muffin tin or similar painting tray, and add food coloring to achieve the desired colors. The colors will dry lighter on the sidewalk than they appear in the tin. You may need to add extra water to achieve a good consistency to paint.

Recipe: Pizza Bagels

You will need:

plain bagels
tomato sauce
mozzarella cheese
pizza toppings of your choice

Directions:

- 1) Toast the bagel while you gather everything that you need.
- 2) Spread tomato sauce on your bagel, and add cheese and toppings.
- 3) Microwave for 20-30 seconds to melt the cheese.
- 4) ENJOY

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