

El Nido del Águila

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

March 2023

Vol. 8, Issue 6

A Night To Remember



Thank you to the Liberty community and Mrs. Cox for making our Amorcito y Yo dance a night to remember—more than 300 people attended! Pictured here, winners of the Best Dressed contest with their loved ones and their prizes: Christauna Perry (left) and Stacy Berry (right). For more photos visit: <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyPPS>

Black History month performances

Congratulations to our students for their hard work, and thanks to all who helped with Black History Month activities and performances on February 24th! The students' projects included a play, a costumed "wax museum," reports/tri-fold boards, and a soul food feast. As of this printing, the photos/videos were not available yet; watch the school's facebook page in the weeks to come! <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyPPS>



March 2023 Calendar

Monthly Liberty Community Meetings—**Attend in person OR online!**

This month's meeting will be held on **Wed., March 8th from 6-8pm**. PSCC will take place from 6-7pm followed by LEAF from 7-8pm.

In-person location: School library

Zoom link: see email from Ms. Z

Please RSVP by Mon., March 6th; dinner and childcare are provided at these monthly meetings, which are held back-to-back:

- 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: March 20th at 6:00pm

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

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>

FUNDRAISER: Honeygrow, March 1st

Located at 105 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206. To order online, visit <https://honeygrow.olo.com/>. Use the promo code of "GIVE119" and 20% of your meal's price will be donated back to LEAF. This does not include 3rd-party delivery apps. For storefront/walk-in orders, visit the location at 105 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206 and they will take your order from their storefront for take-out. Mention that you are with Liberty Elementary Academic Fund before placing your order.

Fun Fair Friday, June 2, (rain date June 9)!

We are planning for our annual Fun Fair! At the end of each school year, LEAF invites Liberty family, friends, and neighbors for an evening of food, games, and fun! (It's right in the name!) Can you help us plan this awesome evening? It will be Friday, June 2nd, with a rain date of June 9th. **Please sign up to volunteer at:**

<https://pghleaf.org/volunteer>

Help Liberty students learn to ride a bike!

Do you remember learning to ride—and all the joy, confidence, and mobility that came with it? Our school is actively fundraising to bring that joy to our kids with a fleet of bikes and a series of lessons for our kindergarten PE classes!

Liberty hopes to implement what's known as the All Kids Bike Learn-to-Ride Kindergarten PE Program.



The fundraising required for the project is \$6,000. To implement this program in our school, we need support!

Your gift would mean so much to us, but it would mean even more to the little kiddos who will receive everything needed to learn to ride a bike in kindergarten PE class. The full program price includes a fleet of (24) balance-to-pedal bikes, pedal conversion kits, fully adjustable helmets, one teacher instruction bike, and an 8-lesson Learn-to-Ride Curriculum aligned to SHAPE America National PE standards. The bikes are for the school to keep and meant to last at least 7-10 years, teaching hundreds of future kindergarten students to ride.

Did you know that kids spend an average of over 7 hours per day on screen time? And the rate of childhood obesity among kids ages 2 to 19 increased to a record level of 22.4% in 2020? Now more than ever, it is crucial for kids to start on the path of a healthy lifestyle. The ability to ride a bike develops physical, social, and mental wellbeing. Together, we can bring our kindergarten students the opportunity to learn to ride on two wheels! To learn more or to donate, visit:

<https://bit.ly/libertykidsbikes>

Liberty spirit wear & Black history tees

Wear your pride on your sleeve—or 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!)

Also available year-round: Liberty's Black History gear (pictured, below). The front reads, *Because They Did, We Can*; the back: *Black History Matters at Liberty*.)

Both kids' and adults' sizes are available! Orders may be placed online and paid via paypal or credit card. Visit: bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear



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.

Thanks for coming out to Skate Night!

Thanks to all who came out on February 8th for our annual Liberty Skate Night, sponsored by LEAF! This year, we had excellent weather, and more than 200 people came out to twirl around together at Schenley Park Ice skating rink. Admission and rentals were free for Liberty students and families. Many thanks to Allison Seidel for organizing the event! To see more photos, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyPPS>



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 8th, 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 8th Women's History Week across the country. 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. 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 2023 theme is Celebrating Women Who Tell Their Stories. This theme honors the role of women as storytellers in all forms of media—film, TV, journalism, radio, and more recently, social media.

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 Tabai * 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 17th, 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 color the sky blue and make green grass with crayons or markers. 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!

Article deadlines for this year are March 21 (April issue), April 18 (May issue), and May 21 (June issue). Send stories 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
