

# *El Nido del Águila*

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

May 2023

Vol. 8, Issue 8

## **We want to hear from you!**

***What is something that you would like to improve, continue, or add next school year?***

Parent and teacher responses have included:

- Castle Groups
- Family Fridays
- The desire to add more community events for parents

Responses will be collected and shared with Ms. Z and at the next PSCC meeting! You're invited to submit online

(<https://forms.gle/FcPyEuBAGfxwVtJv8>) or by email ([president@pghleaf.org](mailto:president@pghleaf.org)).



## **Calendar**

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

This month's meeting will be held on **Wed., May 10th 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., May 8th; 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](mailto:president@pghleaf.org)

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

Monthly opportunity for citizens' comments on district matters.

DATES: Mon., May 22, 6:00pm \* 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](mailto: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](http://bit.ly/hearingzoom)

TO WATCH MAY 22:

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

TO WATCH JUNE 26:

<https://www.pghschools.org/Page/2#calendar1/20230626/event/21287>

### ***Cinco de Mayo K-3 Celebration on Fri., May 5th at 2-2:45pm***

Ms. Pinizzotto has organized a performance with the K-3 students to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Families are invited to join us on the Liberty field at 2pm for the performance.

Street parking only, please. Suggested clothing to wear for the event:

- Boys: blue jeans or blue uniform pants and a white shirt
- Girls grades K-2: have costumes to wear. They may wear shoes they are comfortable dancing in. Dresses are thin so a tank top and shorts are recommended to wear under the dress.
- Girls grade 3: colorful skirts or dress

### ***📖 Book Fair: May 8-12***

This event gives students and families access to thousands of affordable, popular books from the world's top publishers, inspiring a lifelong love of reading and generating much-needed funds for school and classroom libraries. Liberty students can visit the Book Fair in the library May 8-12 to buy the books they want, know and love! Parents can also make purchases online. LEAF is looking for 10-12 volunteers to fill various slots throughout the week of the book fair: a couple hours in the morning and a couple hours in the afternoon. Assistance is needed for help with setup and breakdown as well as student shopping concierge. Students, teachers, and staff would greatly appreciate your help! To sign up, use the QR code or visit <https://pghleaf.org/volunteer>.



### ***🎪 Fun Fair: Fri., June 2nd from 6-8pm (rain date June 9th)***

At the end of each school year, LEAF invites Liberty family, friends, and neighbors for an evening of food, games, and fun! It will be 6:00 - 8:00pm on Friday, June 2nd, with a rain date of June 9th. To volunteer, contact Jillian Wein Riley at [jillianwriley@gmail.com](mailto:jillianwriley@gmail.com)!

## **Welcome, Mr. Gosa!**

Say hello to Mr. Gosa! He will be representing the Just Discipline Project here at PPS Liberty K-5.



According to the University of Pittsburgh, “The Just Discipline Project is a research to practice initiative designed to advance achievement for all students by implementing and evaluating school-based relational climate and restorative practice programs.” It started at the Woodland Hills School District in 2017. On top of decreasing suspensions, and improving relationships, Mr. Gosa wants to learn more about the students and staff here at Liberty as well as where the students come from. He wants to create a place where restorative practices thrive and would like to build on the established practices. Lastly, he wants to make a podcast including some students using 10-20 students for different things like student council, president, or vice president!

Some fun facts about Mr. Gosa are his favorite color is blue because it’s a calming cool color and it stands out. When he goes to bakeries, he would order a glazed doughnut because it’s plain, simple, and delicious. Mr. Gosa prefers reading over math, and speaking of school, he understands the value of education now, but he did not when he was in high school.

In conclusion, we are so happy to welcome Mr. Gosa to Liberty and his future contributions to this school! (Glazed doughnuts.)

## 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](http://bit.ly/pghleaf-teachers), send it (along with your receipt) to [president@pghleaf.org](mailto: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.

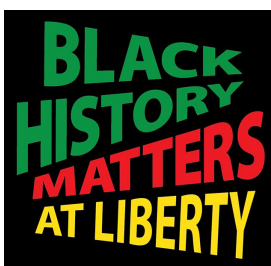
## Liberty spirit wear & Black history tees



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, left). 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](http://bit.ly/LibertySpiritWear)





## DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A WEBSITE?

LOG ON TO [PGHLEAF.ORG](http://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!



## Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo literally means the fifth of May. It is a Mexican holiday celebrating the Battle of Puebla, which took place on May 5, 1862. It was one of the few Mexican victories during France's attempt to penetrate Mexico.

In 1861, France sent a massive army to invade Mexico again. The French army was much larger, better trained, and more equipped than the Mexicans who struggled to defend the road to Mexico City. It rolled through Mexico until it reached Puebla, where the Mexicans made a valiant stand. Against all logic, the Mexicans won a huge victory. The triumph was short-lived, however. The French army regrouped and continued on, eventually taking Mexico City. This holiday is not to be confused with Mexico's Independence Day, which is September 16th.

Cinco de Mayo is a big deal in Puebla, where the famous battle actually took place. However, in Mexico, Independence Day on September 16th has a lot more significance. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated more in the US by Mexicans and Americans alike than it is in Mexico.

## Leccion de Español

### English words of Spanish origin

avocado	burrito	iguana
hacienda	hombre	chile
bodega (small shop selling groceries or where people come together)	cabana	lasso
	hurricane	chipotle
	cassava	macho

chocolate	patio	tortilla
mesa	desperado	siesta
cigar	poncho	tostada
mesquite	fiesta	sombrero
cocoa	quesadilla	vamoose (leave suddenly)
mole (spicy sauce contain chocolate)	guacamole	taco
corral	ranch	vanilla
nacho	rodeo	tamale
cowboy	tornado	vigilante
	salsa	tapioca

**clothing: (la ropa)**

pants: los pantalones

tie: la corbata

shorts: los pantalones cortos

shirt: la camisa

socks: los calcetines

jacket: la chaqueta

dress: el vestido

hat: el sombrero

shoes: los zapatos

sweater: el sueter

jeans: los vaqueros

blouse: la blusa

coat: el abrigo

pajamas: la ropa interior

## Craft corner

May is an interesting month for opportunities to craft and make some creative recipes. The weather is getting warmer, and school is almost over. Teacher Appreciation Week is from May 8th to 12th. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on May 5th. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14th. Memorial Day is Monday, May the 29th. There are plenty of crafts that can be made for these holidays from something colorful and cheery for Cinco de Mayo, various handprint crafts and colorful flowers for the teachers and mothers, to something red, white, blue, and patriotic for Memorial Day.

The first craft is a water bottle maraca. You will need an empty plastic water bottle with a lid, masking tape, markers or anything to decorate the bottle with, and any kind of dried beans, popcorn kernels, buttons, or anything that will make a noise when shaken inside the bottle. Also, be sure that it can fit first. Place your item inside the bottle. You can use a few items for more noise. Wrap the bottle with the masking tape. Color or paint to decorate. Stickers would be fun to use on this also. Now you are ready to shake, shake, and shake.

The second craft is a USA handprint wreath. You will need glue or glue sticks, scissors, and red, white, and blue construction paper. Trace your hands onto the 3 different colors of paper. You will need 2 to 3 of each color depending on the size of wreath that you want. Cut all the handprints out using the scissors. If they are not child safe scissors, ask an adult to cut them out. Glue them together using the glue or the glue sticks to form a wreath.

For Cinco de Mayo, you can eat tacos, burritos, nachos, and tortillas. The first recipe is easy enough for the kids to assemble. It is a tortilla and cheese roll up. You will need a small tortilla, any kind of cheese, stick or regular, and salsa which is optional. Place the cheese or stick cheese near the end of the tortilla and roll it up until the end. Have an adult microwave it until the cheese is melty. Dip in salsa if desired.

The second recipe is a Patriotic Berry Trifle. You will need strawberries or any red fruit, blueberries, whipped cream and angel food or sponge cake cubes are optional, and a large bowl. In the large bowl, layer all of the ingredients. Top with whipped cream and enjoy.

## **Recipe: Salsa**

This chunky salsa recipe is good with tortilla chips. It is a great way for kids to practice their chopping skills with adult supervision. For a smooth salsa, you can mix it all up in a blender.

1 large tomato ( or 2 small ones)	1 garlic clove
2 tablespoons chopped green pepper	1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
1 teaspoon mixed chili pepper (optional)	1/4 of a lime salt to taste

A grown up can help dice the tomato. Put it in a medium sized bowl. Cut the garlic clove in half, and crush it with a garlic press or press it with the back of a spoon. Put the garlic into the bowl. Chop the green pepper and add it to the bowl too. Mince the chili pepper and add 1 teaspoon to the salsa. (optional). Snip the cilantro with kitchen scissors. Measure out tablespoon and stir it in the salsa. Squeeze the juice from the lime quarter over the salsa. Add a pinch of salt, and stir again. Taste the salsa, and add more salt, lime juice, garlic, or pepper , if needed. Eat it right away or refrigerate for up to 1 day.

## Recipe: Guacamole

1 Hass avocado  
3 tablespoons chopped onions  
1 teaspoon chopped jalapeno (optional)  
1 1/2 teaspoons chopped cilantro  
2 tablespoons chopped tomato  
1/2 teaspoon salt

In a bowl, using the back of a wooden spoon, mash the following ingredients into a juicy paste: chopped onion, chopped jalapeno, chopped cilantro, and salt. Split the avocado in half lengthwise in approximately 1/8" strips, then across forming a grid. Scoop the avocado out of the skin with a spoon. Add the avocado to the paste, mix, then add the rest of the ingredients and fold. Add jalapeno and salt to taste.

## 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](mailto:lzwieryznski1@pghschools.org)

## 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!

## Submit to This Newsletter!

Article deadline for the last issue of the school year (June issue) is May 21. Send stories to [president@pghleaf.org](mailto:president@pghleaf.org)

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*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](http://www.pghleaf.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PghLibertyPTO/](https://www.facebook.com/PghLibertyPTO/)

Email: [president@pghleaf.org](mailto:president@pghleaf.org)

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