

THE EAGLE'S NEST

Volume 4 · Issue 3

A Publication of the Liberty Ridge PTA

November 2006

JOIN US FOR FALL FESTIVAL FRIDAY, NOV. 17

Hello all you rockers from Liberty Ridge Elementary! Mark your calendars for the PTA Fall Festival (formerly Pasta Night) to be held **this Friday, November 17, from 6-9 p.m.** It'll be a night of food, music, and fun for everyone!



Come and enjoy D.J. Dan, pizza,

and fun activities in the gym.

Tickets are \$8 per person at the door.

Innisbrook Fundraiser orders will be available for pick up during the evening until 7 p.m.

If you have any questions about the festival, email us at libertyridgepta@yahoo.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe, we are already heading into the winter months and we have to start thinking about mittens and boots. If our school district has an emergency closing for any reason, announcements will be made over WCCO Radio and TV, Channels 5, 9 and 11, and Cable Channel 15.

There are some changes I would like to make you aware of. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Assistant Principal, Adam Janiek. He has replaced Kristine Schaffer who is now the Principal at Woodbury Elementary. Marisa Novak has also been elected as our new parent rep for our SITE Team. Welcome Marisa!

Safety Drills in the 2006-2007 will look a little different from previous years. Minnesota law had required each school to do nine fire drills. Beginning this year, that law has been

revised and we will have five fire drills, one tornado drill, and five lockdown drills. The purpose of these drills is to help students and staff prepare and respond appropriately in the event of an emergency.

I would like to thank our PTA for all they do for our school. We continue to improve our school and home communication; please don't forget to sign up for our "list serve" that is on our website.

It was great meeting so many families who attended conferences in October. The support makes a big difference in your child's education. Thank you to all those parents who donated their time and goodies for our staff dinner. It was greatly appreciated by all!!

Feel free to stop by any time if you have questions or would just like to say "Hi."

Sincerely, *Kari Lopez*

Events Calendar

Nov 17	PTA Fall Festival, 6-9 p.m.
Nov 23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 4	No School, Teacher Workshop
Dec 7	Band Concert, 7 p.m.
Dec 12	Writing Assembly
Dec 19	Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
Dec 21-Jan 2	Winter Holiday
Jan 15	No School, MLK Holiday
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly
Jan 22-27	Prairie Fire Theatre
Jan 26	No School, Teacher Workshop

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COMING SOON: TEACHER'S GIFT WALL

As the holidays near and the list of people to come up with ideas for gifts, don't forget to check out the teacher's gift wall at Liberty Ridge. On the wall in the commons area, tags containing an item from the teachers' wish lists will be posted soon, grouped by teacher. If your family decides to purchase a gift for any of the teachers, make your shopping easy and simply remove the tag



from the wall listing an item that your child's teacher has wished for. Every year many teachers spend their own money to provide items for the classroom. Wishes include items and supplies that the teacher can use to make your child's experience a great one. Let's show the teachers at Liberty Ridge our appreciation and wish them a happy holiday season!

PLEASE CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND

Every year Liberty Ridge donates many bags of clothing and coats to charity as a result of unclaimed lost and found items. If you would like to prevent the loss of your child's belongings, here are a few things you can do. Please remember to label items such as lunchboxes, coats, mittens, hats, boots, sweatshirts, and any Liberty Ridge clothing. All items in the lost and found that have a name on them are returned to students. Every week throughout the school year volunteers check the lost and found for items that have names on them and then return

these items to the child's classroom. Please label all items with a first and last name or a first initial and last name. Sweatshirts and polar fleece shirts are often not labeled but are most often lost because they are taken off at gym or the playground. If your child does lose something please have them check the lost and found as soon as possible. The lost and found is located in the hallway between the commons area and the gym on the backside of the school. Currently, the lost and found is full of hats, mittens, sweatshirts and coats.

WELCOME NEW LRE STAFF

Meet our new assistant principal...

My name is Mr. Janiak, and I am the new Assistant Principal here at Liberty Ridge and at Middleton Elementary School. I feel so lucky to be a part of such a wonderful school. Prior to working here, I taught Physical Education at Bailey Elementary, Lake Junior High and Red Rock Elementary. I have worked as the athletic supervisor at Lake Junior High, coached a number of sports and filled in for administrators across the district when needed. Although I am split 50/50 between the two schools, it is my goal to be in both schools every day. I am very excited to be working with the great staff, students and families of Liberty Ridge Elementary, and I look forward to meeting everyone in the community.

Hello from the school social worker...

My name is Gloria Guinee, and I am excited to be at Liberty Ridge this year! I am new to the school system and prior to this position I worked as a psychotherapist for HealthPartners. Many people have asked me why a school would need a school social worker. At times, a student may be struggling with a social, emotional, or behavioral issue. We know through research that when students are struggling in this area, it is likely affecting all areas of their life. The services I offer include a variety of groups as well as individual counseling. These services are directed toward helping students improve their social skills, manage their stress, transition effectively through difficult family times, and develop meaningful relationships with teachers and peers. Regardless of race, class, or background, a student may have difficulty with a friend, with self esteem, or with another issue at some time or another. If you have questions for me or would like to talk to me, please contact me at (651) 768-5920. I am here on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. My goal is to help all of the students have a great school year, and it is my privilege to be serving the children at Liberty Ridge.

Questions? Comments for the PTA?

Email us at
libertyridgepta@yahoo.com

SAVE YOUR "POP TABS" FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Ms. Dunphy's 3rd grade class is collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House of the Twin Cities.

The Ronald McDonald House (RMH) provides a home-away-from-home for families with children who have life-threatening illnesses. The RMH accommodates 48 families each night. Thirty-one percent of families who live at the house come from Minnesota, 31% from the surrounding four state area, 34% from other states, and 4% from other countries.

Contrary to what some might

think, RMH is not funded by McDonald's. Each Ronald McDonald House raises its own funds.

The Ronald McDonald House began recycling pop tabs in 1987. Since then, the pop tab program has raised over \$700,000.00. To date, more than 400 tons of aluminum pop tabs have been recycled with the proceeds going to Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Upper Midwest (www.rmhmpls.com).

Thank you for helping our class with this "Community Project!"

WENDY'S AND TINUCCI NIGHTS A SUCCESS

Wendy's Night is the fourth Wednesday of each month from 5-8 p.m. Wendy's donates 10% of their restaurant and drive-thru sales to Liberty Ridge. These proceeds go to the hosting teachers for their classrooms. Please mark your calendars for the following Wednesdays: **November 22 (hosted by Phy Ed and Music)** and **January 24 (hosted by 1st grade)**. There will be no December Wendy's Night this year due to the holiday.

Tinucci's Night is the first Monday of each month from 5-8 p.m.

They will donate 10% of their restaurant sales during those hours to Liberty Ridge. Please mark your calendars for Tinucci's Night on the following Monday: **December 4**. The money earned during this event will go to the PTA for enrichment activities.

Watch this newsletter for a future announcement on dates for Papa John's Nights.

Thank you for all your support. We look forward to seeing you at these future events!

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Liberty Ridge has many wonderful methods to communicate with parents. We are interested in exploring the best way to use our voice mail message system, the listserv, the PTA newsletter, and Thursday folders. We are looking to decrease labor intensive communication - such as the PTA newsletter and Thursday folders

while still ensuring we communicate effectively with all parents. We'd like to draft a communication plan to help us use each method to its best advantage. If you have expertise in this area and would like to help or simply have an opinion on how best to communicate please let us know by sending an email to libertyridgepta@yahoo.com.

Thank you volunteers

Thank you to the many volunteers that made this year's *Book Fair* happen:

Tracy Allen
Elizabeth Anderson
Jennifer Arndt
Heidi Avery
Linda Berg
Valerie Boyd
Patty Brugger
Dawn Collodora
Kristi Connors
Denise Coronado
Tracey Costello
Amy Crouch
Barb Dean-Hendricks
Shannon Dorf
Sara Duebner
Deb Eckberg
Karla Ethier
Sara Finn
Sue French
Pam Hanson
Renee Johnson
Kelsey Kadrlik
Anne Kenney
Tanya Kugel
Michael-Ann Langer
Meg Nelson
Terri NewKirk
Grandma Schellenbach
Cindy Silkett
Kris Tott
Tambra Wohlenhaus
Carrie Wood
Rochelle Woodward
Cathy Yee

A thank you also goes to our speedy *Parent Handbook* assemblers who assembled 600 handbooks in an hour!

Sara Duebner
Mary Kieffer
Heather Simon
Tammy Woker
Susan Yoshida

And a big thanks to Traci Persche and Paula Stearns for putting the *Student Directory* together.

MEDIA NOTES

Kindergarten-The students have been studying the different versions of **Nursery Rhymes** this month. They looked through many different books to see the differences between rhymes. Sequencing will be reinforced in this unit also.

1st Grade-*Mercy Watson* is the pig to read about. This series of books was written by Kate DiCamillo. The students used a paint program in the computer lab to draw their own pigs.

2nd Grade-They began a new math program called *Math Facts in a Flash*. This program helps them with their addition and subtraction facts. They also had book talks about Arthur chapter books and played Arthur Character Bingo.

3rd Grade-They continue to work on keyboarding, *Math Facts in a Flash*, and *Mr. Crumb's Secret*. Mr. Crumb is teaching the third graders about different reference materials. They learned how to use guide words in a dictionary and how to use our OPAC system to find books in our library. Next month they will start a program called *Study Island*, more information will be coming.

4th Grade-These students are studying reference materials and parts of a book. They also are working on keyboarding. They made up "Keyboarding Conversations" with partners and used the highlighter feature of Microsoft Word to show dialogue. Next month they will start a program called *Study Island*, more information will be coming.

5th Grade-They are using their study skills to search print and non-print material to collect facts about producing pumpkins. This month we focused on using the dictionary, Internet, atlas, and nonfiction books. Keyboarding and word processing skills improvement remain a focus for 5th graders. Next month they will start a program called *Study Island*, more information will be coming.

**All grades are continuing to choose at least one "Just Right" book during checkout. We would like each child to bring home a book that is at their reading level. This is a skill we are reinforcing from their classrooms.

BOOK FAIR UPDATE

Thanks for all your help at the Book Fair. We were able to profit about \$5,000. These proceeds will purchase many books and technology items.

We also collected \$300 in the "Buck for Books." Scholastic matches these funds to support the National Literacy Foundation.

We would like to thank all our volunteers. We could not have done it without all the support.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW GARDENS

In late September, the entrance of Liberty Ridge received a "face lift" with the installation of two new beautiful gardens. If you haven't seen them yet, they are 50' long by 20' wide and contain low maintenance shrubs and perennials. There are also four cut out areas for colorful annuals which were planted by our own 3rd graders in Mrs. Nelson's class.



Thanks so much to the Garden Committee members for making this happen and the following volunteers:

Jennifer Arndt, Garden Committee chair
 Dave Arndt
 Mark Daubenberger
 Barb & Pat Dean-Hendricks
 Dennis Dussik
 Karen El-Halawani
 Mary Jane & Scott Jallen
 Bill Johnson
 Dave Koller
 Miquelyn & Nolan McNair
 Terri NewKirk
 Tracey & Nick Nyvall
 Larry Sheehan
 Norm Tiedemann (he even came over on his lunch hour on Friday!)
 Jodie Van der Sman
 Paula & Jim Stearns
 Christy Williams

We also owe these companies a BIG THANKS for their help:

Chris Brandt, Chris Brandt Pavers & Landscapes, our contractor who prepped the beds for us and came out for FREE on Saturday with his bobcat so that we were able to move 22 tons of rock into the beds in just two hours.

Richard Icing of Composting Concepts who gave us FREE delivery of three loads of compost which would normally cost \$100 per load.

Travis at Hedberg Aggregates who gave us a GREAT deal on the rock, mulch, and steppers.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Picking up your child early?

Please note that if you need to pick up your child early from school, you must do so prior to 3:20 p.m.

Morning drop off

If you are dropping off your child in the morning, please remember that the doors do not open until 9 a.m.

How cold is too cold for recess?

We will be going outside for recess every day this winter unless the temperature or wind chill drops below zero. As a reminder, please dress children for the cold weather (jackets, hats, boots, and mittens) and please mark the student's name in them.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fundraiser Committee

Interested in a new and different fundraiser? Join the Fundraiser Committee to evaluate different fundraising opportunities. Results will be presented at the February PTA General Meeting.

PTA Nomination Committee

We are currently seeking volunteers to serve on the PTA Nomination Committee. This committee will be responsible for presenting candidates for next years PTA Board to the general PTA assembly.

If interested in serving on either of these committees, or if you would like more information, please contact Mary Jane Jallen at 714-9593.

A CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS!

It's a celebration!! Our Innisbrook fundraiser was a success. We raised \$16,000!! We would like to thank all the families who participated and helped raise this money for our school! The money will be used to fund PTA-sponsored programs such as Prairie Fire Theatre, Battle of the Books, Science Fair, COMPAS authors and artists, and other school-wide assemblies. You can order online all year long and our school will continue to earn money. Just visit www.innisbrook.com and enter our school ID number 119453.

Fundraiser items will be distributed Friday, November 17, in the commons from 3:30-7:00 p.m.

Congratulations to the numerous winners of our daily contests. One class from each grade received a "Surprise Party in a Box" for having the highest percentage of returned fundraiser packets. Those classrooms were

Kindergarten: Mrs. Wisecup - 85%

1st grade: Mrs. Barrett - 90%

2nd grade: Mrs. Ryan & Mrs. Brown - 100%

3rd grade: Mrs. Nelson - 83%

4th grade: Mrs. Mader - 93%

5th grade: Mrs. Dox - 89%

Mrs. Ryan won the Personal DVD Player for having the highest percentage of students (90%) ordering items in the fundraiser. Jacob Olson in 2nd grade and Bailey Ness in 5th grade won the Karaoke Machines; Kerry Owusu in 4th grade won the Can Dispenser; Damon Spriggle in 1st grade won the Handheld TV; and Shameem Ahmed in 3rd grade won the Video Camera. We hope you have been enjoying your Innisbrook prizes!

We would also like to thank our many parent volunteers for their assistance with the kick-off assemblies and processing the orders: Cathy Donovan and Karla Ethier (Coordinators), Mary Jane Jallen, Jean Ickstadt, Julie Duncan, Amy Crouch, Paula Stearns, Lisa Lehmann, Renee Johnson, Tanya Kugel, Tracey Nyvall, Terri NewKirk, Christie Schellenbach, Mary Kieffer, Alberder Gillespie, Tina Feuer, Cindy Silkett, Kristen Ehren, Tracy Populorum, Dawn Collordora, Sara Finn, and Kristi Connors. We couldn't have done it without you!!

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Have you heard of the District 833 Virtual Media Center? Our students use this wonderful resource all the time when they are working on projects in the computer lab in the Media Center and in their classrooms. If you have a computer at home with Internet access, you can access the Virtual Media Center too! Here is how you do that:

1. Log onto the Internet on your home computer
2. Type in this URL address in your browser box:
<http://www.sowashco.k12.mn.us/lre>
3. You will now see a list of subject areas, topics, etc.
Click on a word depending on what your child needs to do or practice.
4. Also, check out the Monthly Sites for great ideas, too!

The wonderful thing about the Virtual Media Center is that it is maintained by a District 833 teacher. The web sites are checked periodically to ensure they are safe for students to be using. Use this fabulous online resource designed for student use!

We have another exciting resource to tell you about: Liberty Ridge Elementary School has subscribed to Grolier Online – the extraordinary online resource designed to make research easier and more productive. Grolier Online delivers proven educational content and value through a controlled environment that's safe and easy to use.

Link: <http://www.sowashco.k12.mn.us/grolier>
User Name: Grolier
Password: grolier

Your children can access Grolier Online from home to help with homework and extend learning beyond school hours. Grolier Online includes:



- ✓ Encyclopedia articles
- ✓ Prescreened, academically relevant web links – ALL LINKS ARE SAFE!
- ✓ Homework Help
- ✓ Research Starters
- ✓ Science Projects
- ✓ Current events and news sources
- ✓ Biographies and timelines
- ✓ Magazine and newspaper articles, all directly accessible from encyclopedia articles
- ✓ Rich multimedia

If you have a computer at home with Internet access – take a look at this wonderful resource!

One final note from the Media Center

From time to time throughout the school year your child may bring home an overdue notice. This is a sheet of paper to remind them to look for the book(s) listed on the paper. The books can be brought in on their checkout day and renewed to keep them longer or they can be returned so they can get new books. The price is also listed. **We ask students to pay for a lost book, then if it shows up during the school year, your money will be returned. Please make sure your child puts their books in the blue bucket outside their classroom on their assigned Book Return Day!**

Thanks, *The Media Staff*

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

This year in Student Council we have a lot of cool things ahead of us.

Our **School Store** will begin on November 23rd and will continue every Friday before school. We will sell pencils, erasers, notebooks, water bottles, healthy snacks, and more. If you are interested, please send a few dollars with your child on those mornings. Let your child know that they need to be on time for class. The store will be open from 9:00-9:15.

Student Council also will be having a **Community Outreach Project**. Josh Peterson, a kindergarten student here at Liberty Ridge, is receiving therapy for a brain tumor at Children's Hospital. We would like to help him and all children on the Oncology floor by having a toy/craft drive. We will be collecting children's books, DVDs, markers, crayons, and coloring books. Look for more information

coming in Thursday folders after Thanksgiving.

Spirit Day and more **Recess Equipment** are also fun things you will see at Liberty Ridge. Student council is very excited about the new things at Liberty Ridge this year.

Olivia Kieffer
Student Council President

PTA GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Thank you to all the parents and teachers that attended our PTA general meeting on November 2. We value your input on the issues that affect our children and their education. Below is a summary of the meeting.

Principal's Comments

Climb Theater will be coming to Liberty Ridge to perform an in-class production on bullying. This opportunity is being provided by the district. The principal will be providing a half-day training session for teachers, which is intended to help teachers adjust their teaching methods and processes to address gaps identified by the MAP test results.

Treasurer's Report

The PTA has supported the following programs during the month of October:

School Gardens	\$5000
5 th Grade COMPAS	\$1000
Writing & Publishing Center	\$ 500
3 rd Grade Project GO	\$ 330
Art Programs	\$ 200
1 st Grade Native American Speaker	\$ 150
Staff Appreciation	\$ 150
Staff Start-Up Funds	\$ 300

Proposals

The following proposals were presented to the general assembly for consideration:

- The assembly approved the purchase of the Exploring Writing Series for use in grades 3-5. These kits help students learn to write in different genres.
- The assembly approved the purchase of Visual Timers for each classroom. These timers will serve as an aid to both students and teachers in performing timed tasks.
- The assembly approved the purchase of Big Books to increase our supply for use in grades K-2.
- The assembly approved the purchase of resource books to be used by the Enrichment Specialist to train teachers in thinking and reasoning skill development as well as differentiation teaching methods.
- The assembly did not approve a donation to the district's Education Foundation.
- The assembly approved the replacement of missing and damaged white boards used by all grades.

Other Items

The assembly agreed to continue having an annual fundraiser; however, members are interested in something new and different. A Fundraiser Committee is being assembled to evaluate other opportunities. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact Mary Jane Jallen at 714-9593.

Due to the passing of the referendum, the district will be putting together a number of committees to provide input on various subjects. Please look for these opportunities on the district website (www.sowashco.k12.mn.us).