

**April, 2009**

# Liberty News

Liberty Elementary School  
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Principal: Mr. Raymond Epperson  
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April has arrived! The shoe drive rolls in, an author will come visit and share how to be a "bucketfiller", Spring Break will provide some relaxation, Terra Nova testing comes for our second through fifth graders, and exciting things are happening every day in classes around the building.

We reached our St. Baldricks goal and raised \$11,298.00 and still counting. These funds all go toward Cancer research and specifically for research into cancers that impact youngsters. We have several students who had their heads shaved, and had hair cut off for Locks of Love. Mr. Henderson also participated as a head "shavee." We are so proud of the Liberty community!

Registration packets for the upcoming school year will be sent home on Friday, April 3. Please return them ASAP so we can effectively plan for the 2009-2010. All forms MUST be turned in by May 4, 2009.

## Terra Nova Testing

Students in grades 2 through 5 will be participating in the Terra Nova Achievement Assessments. This test will begin on April 20, 2009. Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest, has a healthy breakfast, and please avoid scheduling appointments during this week if possible. These tests are nationally normed to give an indication of student performance as compared to other students at the same age or grade across the country. These tests do not count towards your child's classroom grades.

## Shoe Drive

If you have any old, worn out athletic shoes that you want to get rid of, here is the answer. We will be holding a shoe drive April 20– May 1. Every part of an old athletic shoe can be recycled. There will be shoe bins for collection located in the main entrance of the school. Our goal is to collect at least 10 large garbage bags or more full of old athletic shoes. Will County will come and take old athletic shoes to Nike.

The character trait for the month of April is Self-Discipline. Check out our Character Tree for the names of students exhibiting this trait.

## Special points of interest:

- Nalco Science Assembly for fourth grade, April 1.
- Market Day pick up is April 2.
- Fifth Grade Band Pizza Party, April 3, 11am
- Spring Break is the week of April 6-10. Students return to school on April 13th.
- Bucket Filler Assembly, April 14.
- PTA Meeting, April 15 at 6:30 pm
- Cookie Dough Pick Up, April 16, 6:30-8:30 in the Gym.
- Liberty Food Drive, April 16.
- Terra Nova Testing Begins, April 20.
- Parent Diversity Group, April 20, 6:30 PM in the Media Center
- Shoe Drive, April 20– May 1.
- Popcorn Friday, April 24.
- Choir Concert at PEHS, April 28 at 7:30.
- Fifth Grade Field Trip, April 29.
- Upcoming Drills: Lock-down, fire, severe weather.

### Family Reading Night

Thank you to all of the people who donated your time to help, donated books, or attended our Family Reading Night. After the exchange, books were donated to teachers to use in their classroom libraries. The rest of the books will be donated to several shelters in our area. The night was a great success!

### KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

If you have a student who will be in Kindergarten next year, or have a neighbor, or friend, or relative with an incoming Kindergarten student we will be having a parent/student information night on Tuesday, May 5th. Last names beginning with letters A-L from 6:00-6:45 and letters M-Z from 7:00-7:45. Mark the date on your calendar and we will see you then!

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for next year has begun. If your child turns five on or before September 1, they are eligible to begin Kindergarten next year. Early registrations help us better plan for the year as we prepare for the new students. District 202 parents may register their student for the upcoming school year at the district registrar's office at 24120 W. Fort Beggs Drive, across from PHS-CC.

Registration will continue the following hours through April 30. Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM. There are extended hours on Tuesday evenings until 7:00 PM. Saturday, April 18, the office will be open from 8:00 AM- 12:00 PM for registration. Please pass this information on to any friends, relatives, or neighbors who live in the district and have a Kindergarten age child.

### Attendance Letters

Just another reminder that the elementary schools across the district have begun sending home automated attendance and tardy letters. These letters are generated at certain target numbers, the first being 10. They are automatically generated and sent out to everyone who reaches the specified numbers. Please do not take this letter as an insult or accusation, it is simply a way of communicating attendance information.

### Plainfield Township Public Library

The Plainfield Township Public Library will ask voters on April 7, 2009 to support a referendum to nearly triple the size of its downtown Plainfield location, to better serve the area's growing population.

The Plainfield Library and District 202 have worked together, and continue to work together on many important programs and initiatives that support and benefit thousands of Plainfield area students, families and residents.

On February 12, 2009, the Plainfield Community Consolidated District #202 Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution supporting the Plainfield Library's referendum and expansion plan. Please carefully research this proposal and remember to vote on April 7, 2009. For more information on the referendum and expansion plan, please call (815) 436-6639 or [www.plainfieldlibrarydirector.blogspot.com](http://www.plainfieldlibrarydirector.blogspot.com).

### What is this “Youngest Child” thing all about?

In an effort to be cost and time efficient, and to help reduce the amount of paper used on a regular basis we will begin sending some things home with only the “youngest child.” For example, if you have three children at Liberty you will no longer receive three newsletters, your youngest child in school will bring home a copy of the newsletter. We chose the youngest child because parents still regularly check their book bags and this does not always happen with our fourth and fifth graders as they become more independent. If it is something where your child is registering for a program each child will still receive the information. By using the youngest child method we will be making about 660 copies of things instead of 885. We will continue to use this method until the end of the school year. For next year, we are looking into ways to send information through electronic emails.

### Bucket Filler Assembly

Children face many challenges throughout the day. Bucket fillers are people who say and do nice things for others on a regular basis. This presentation is a way to create a “bucketfilling” environment, a school where everyone helps and respects others. The Bucket Fillers will read and discuss their best-selling book, Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids. Attached you will find an order form to purchase one of the Bucket Filler’s books. Please return any orders to school by April 3, 2009.

### Bullying Information

Bullying affects all children. Bullying is when one child picks on another child again and again. The three types of bullying are physical, verbal, and social. When your child is bullied, it is important to help your child learn how to respond, teach them how and when to ask for help, and encourage your child to make friends with other children. Children who are bullies can change their behavior. When bullies are allowed to continue, it often leads to future problems. It is important to alert school officials to the problem and work with them to create a solution. Concerned and involved adults can reduce bullying in schools.

### Which day is it?

As a reminder, here is the April ABCDE specials calendar.

April				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1C	2D	3E
6 Spring Break	7	8	9	10
13A	14B	15C	16D	17E
20A	21B	22C	23D	24E
27A	28B	29C	30D	1E

### Dress Code

As the weather begins to warm up, children are encouraged to continue to dress appropriately. Here are just a few friendly reminders from the handbook. Shorts and skirts must be such a length that when you stand with your arms at your side, the fingertips touch the bottom hem. Off the shoulder, backless, strapless, or shirts with thin “spaghetti” straps are not allowed unless a shirt is worn over them. Thanks so much for your support and cooperation.

## Classroom Assignments for 08-09

Believe it or not, it is that time of year when we begin thinking of next year's classes. Establishing classroom rosters is an important process. Many factors are taken into consideration including student academic needs, behavior, gender, interpersonal relationships, and possible support services. The process that we will use in placing children in classes for the fall is outlined below.

1. Please do not request a specific teacher. The most beneficial information you can give us is related to the type of learning environment that best supports your child as a learner. If you feel the need to list teachers, please provide the names of three teachers who have a teaching style you feel matches your child's learning style.
2. If there is a particular student your child has had problems with last year or this year, please provide this information and we will do our best to separate them.
3. Please do not feel like you must submit information. Our staff does an excellent job of identifying students' strengths and areas in need of support. Knowing your children as learners the staff can often make the best recommendation for next year's placement.
4. If you are planning on submitting information, please do so **in writing**. This request must be received **no later than Friday, May 8**. With the number of variables involved in classroom assignments, your request cannot be guaranteed, but information you provide will be given strong consideration in the planning process. We will begin working on class lists immediately following this date. It is imperative that you have your recommendations submitted on time.
5. Post cards will be mailed out in August informing you of your child's classroom placement. Once the postcards are mailed students will only be moved in extreme circumstances.
6. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Epperson.