



Liberty Newsletter

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Principal's Message



October 2017

Liberty Elementary School

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Valley Cottage, NY 10989

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Monthly Highlights

- Oct. 4 PTA Mtg.—7pm
- Oct. 9 Columbus Day -
School Closed
- Oct. 10 School Bd. Mtg.-
(H 7:30pm)
- Oct. 24 School Bd. Mtg.-
(H 7:30pm)

Daily Events

- Oct. 19 School Pictures
- Oct. 20 Trunk or Treat-
(7pm)
- Oct. 27 Trunk or Treat-
(RAIN DATE)-
7pm

Dear Liberty Families,

Fall is in the air and we have many exciting things happening around Liberty! Thank you to all of our parents and guardians who attended "Back to School Night". I hope you found the evening to be informative.

Thank you to our PTA for the wonderful events during the month of September. Our "Touch a Truck" and Movie Night events were successful and a great way to start our new school year. Our next PTA meeting will be Wednesday, October 4 at 7pm in our Liberty library. Please join us and hear about all the wonderful things being planned for your children.

The character trait for the month of October is Creativity. We will talk about creative ways to approach tasks and challenges that often come our way. The week of October 9th is Fire Prevention Week. Our students in Kindergarten through Grade 2 will be visited by the Valley Cottage Fire Department to learn about fire safety on October 11th.

Although our students do not wear Halloween costumes to school, we do encourage students to celebrate in their costumes on Friday, October 20 (rain date October 27) at 7pm for our annual "Trunk or Treat" Liberty Halloween celebration. Please join us and decorate your car trunk to enter a contest!

School pictures will be taken on Thursday, October 19. The flyer will be sent home.

*****NO SCHOOL*****

Monday, October 9th for Columbus Day

Thank you for your continued support in making Liberty a learning environment where all children can be successful!

Ellen M. Rechenberger
Principal

From our School Social Worker:

A new school year brings with it lots of excitement—this year is no exception! There is an added level of enthusiasm related to our Primary Project Program. As the newly assigned Mental Health Supervisor of our Primary Project, allow me to re-introduce the program. Primary Project is a national evidence based program that helps children in Kgn. and 1st Grade to adjust to school, gain confidence, social skills, and focus on learning. Through play, Primary Project addresses children's school adjustment difficulties and increase their chances for success. We will begin the screening and selection process in October. With parental consent, selected children will meet with a trained and supervised Child Associate in a playroom setting once a week for 12-15 weeks.

The goals of Primary Project are:

- Detect school adjustment difficulties early
- Children develop a school-based, trusting relationship with an adult
- Reduce social, emotional, and school adjustment difficulties
- Enhance learning skills

On another note, the 5th Grade Girls Circle, facilitated by our Family Resource Coordinator, Silvia Henry, and myself will begin on October 2nd. Girls Circle is a national, evidenced based program that promotes strength and resilience in young girls. Consent has been sent home, Seats are limited, however,, we will be running two cycles of this program, so if your student is not on the schedule for this upcoming cycle, they will be first on the list for the second round. Based on your requests and the success of Girls Circle, Ms. Henry and I are working on the development of a 5th Grade Boys Circle as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or feedback!

Wishing everyone a wonderful start to our school year,

Enisa Nikocevic, LMSW, CASAC-T
School Social Worker

From the Psychologist :

Dear Parents,

Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) is a process for creating safer and more effective schools by focusing on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. Liberty Elementary School refers to the acronym STAR to help reinforce behavioral expectations:

STAY SAFE

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

ALWAYS TRY YOUR BEST

RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS



This approach to managing behaviors is also a positive one; We will be incorporating school-wide activities that acknowledge students for exhibiting STAR behaviors. You will also notice that our main entrance, cafeteria and classrooms are decorated with STAR logos as a continual reminder for students to demonstrate positive behaviors. Our morning and dismissal announcements further reinforce the concept.

In order to highlight positive behaviors and decision making skills, we will be selecting STAR student representatives on a monthly basis. Students are nominated by staff and classmates based on their demonstration of extraordinary behaviors. Their name, picture and 'Random Act of Stardom' will be on display. As part of PBIS, students will also learn positive behaviors and through books, lessons, and a variety of community service experiences.

We believe that by helping students practice good behavior, we will build a school community where all students have an environment where they can succeed and grow. Please take this opportunity to talk to your child about the expectations at school and the importance of continuing to demonstrate STAR behaviors. With your continued support and involvement, Liberty Elementary School will remain an environment that promotes and maximizes academic achievement and behavioral competence. Thank you for your support!

Pia Weston, Ed-M., NCSP

Notes from the Nurse:

Fall is here and we would like to take this opportunity to pass along some helpful information:

Cold and flu season will be here before you know it. The basics will help keep you healthy. Wash your hands frequently. Remind children to cover their nose and mouth when coughing and/or sneezing. Getting a good night's sleep and eating healthy foods will provide your body with the fuel it needs to get through the day and fight off viruses. If your child becomes ill and feels that he/she cannot participate in all of the school's daily activities, *please* keep them home. Your child should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school. As always, seek advice from your physician if your child is not feeling well and symptoms persist.

It is also the time of year when asthma and seasonal allergy symptoms can intensify. If your child requires medication for seasonal allergies while in school, please send in a note from your physician and the medications to be administered. Or, if possible, try to give your child any necessary medication before school so that they can be symptom free for the day. If your child has asthma and requires the use of an inhaler or nebulizer, please send in the Asthma Action Plan (which can be found on the Liberty School website) signed by your physician and the prescribed medication. We want to be able to help your child when he/she is symptomatic. I have a nebulizer in the office for students.

A physical exam is required for students in grades K, 2, & 4 and any new students to the district. A physical exam performed on or after September 1, 2016 will meet this requirement. Kindly submit physicals as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

K. Fredericks, RN
Liberty School Nurse



Kathleen Fredericks
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