

# The Liberty Bell



The Official Newsletter of

the Liberty Middle School PTO

February 2010

## President's Corner



Welcome to 2010! We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing holiday break filled with many special family moments. Now we're excited to be starting a new year and beginning the second half of our school term.

We have a new addition to our regular slate of newsletter topics. Be sure to read the new "Word from our Principal" section by Gena Williams. We're thrilled to have her input! Thank you, Gena.

Also please read the section about the upcoming PPT Forum on Motivating Kids. The topic should prove to be very interesting and of value to any parent of a middle-schooler.

Even though we still have half a year to finish, we are starting to look for parents interested in working with the PTO next year as officers, committee chairs, and volunteers. Check out Leanne's section about our future needs and see if anything sounds interesting to you. Our PTO cannot survive without your support and participation.

The coat drive was a HUGE success. Thanks to all the parents who checked their closets and were able to help out some families in need during this cold winter. We appreciate your generosity.

A long overdue "thank you" goes to Andrea Wood this month. Not only is Andrea our hard-working secretary, but she also handles the ordering and sale of our Spirit Wear. Spirit wear has never been much of a fundraiser for the PTO. We do it as a service for the kids. Andrea has really taken this project in as "her baby" and helped to make it more successful. Thank you, Andrea!

Another “thank you” goes to Karen Anderson as our School Store committee chair and all the parents who help her on Fridays. As with the spirit wear, the school store does not make money, but we do it because the kids like it. Karen and her team work hard to make it successful and are always brainstorming and trying to find ways to make it more fun for the kids. Thanks to you as well!

We hope you find this newsletter useful. We are always open to your thoughts, ideas, comments, and concerns so please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Hamilton ([nessa718504@earthlink.net](mailto:nessa718504@earthlink.net)) and Leanne Gossett ([leanne\\_gossett@yahoo.com](mailto:leanne_gossett@yahoo.com))

PTO Co-Presidents

### **Liberty Middle School PTO Officers for 2009/2010**

<u>Co-Presidents:</u>	Leanne Gossett Vanessa Hamilton	leanne_gossett@yahoo.com nessa718504@earthlink.net
<u>Vice-President:</u>	Duff Patterson	dpatter@columbus.rr.com
<u>Secretary:</u>	Andrea Wood	ashwood166@att.net
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Susan Bolton	jbolton@columbus.rr.com
<u>Assistant Treasurer:</u>	Mark Latham	mlatham1@columbus.rr.com
<u>Reporter:</u>	Tammy Prouteau	tprouteau@yahoo.com

## PTO Meetings

The Liberty Middle School PTO will hold its monthly meetings on the **third Wednesday of each month**. February's meeting will be **Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**. Refreshments will be served at 9 a.m. We know your time is valuable so we make every effort to be finished with our meeting by 11 am. The meetings are held in the Guidance Conference Room, affectionately called the "fish bowl".

All parents of LMS students are members of the PTO. We hope you can participate in our meetings and you have the opportunity to use your talents for one of our committees.

Why attend monthly meetings? We welcome your ideas and opinions. Participation at our meetings gives you a voice. You help decide what we do as a group. Members attending our meetings have the opportunity to discuss, evaluate, and vote on PTO issues. We look forward to your support.



### **A Word From Our Principal**



The mid-year point is upon us! We have had a wonderful first semester. There have been no major discipline concerns, our students are achieving at high levels, and are arts and sports programs are flourishing. We are a fortunate school community. The students come to us prepared to learn. The parents have high expectations. Talented teachers have the opportunity to guide learning. Thank you for your support through first semester.

As second semester encroaches we begin to focus on scheduling next year, OAA and Terra Nova Testing, and, of course, the Washington D.C Trip for our Eighth Grade class. The second semester always flies by at lightening speed!

We want to remind you that our doors are always open to your questions, or for comments and concerns. Our partnership is integral to your student's success. Please let us know if there is something we can do to help.

Gena Williams

## **Mark Your Calendars...**

Wednesday, February 10 @ 7 pm – PPT Forum at OHS

Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – No School

Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7 pm – OLMS Choir Concert

Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm – OLMS Orchestra Concert

## **The Olentangy Schools Parent Program Team (PPT)**

PPT Forum: "Motivating Youth"

Speaker: Dr Chris Stankovich

Wednesday February 10th 2010

Olentangy High School Theater

7pm - 8.30pm

Babysitting Available

Dr Chris Stankovich is a professional Counselor, Professor, media spokesperson and author. For more information go to [www.drstankovich.com](http://www.drstankovich.com)

For more information on the Parent Program Team and future forums see the PPT link at the bottom of the Olentangy Local Schools District Home Page under Community.

*Janette Leonard*



**Parents** -- Last year, Kroger changed their reward program. No longer could we use reloadable gift cards to earn money for the Washington DC trip. This old Kroger program funded our PTO activities. When Kroger started their new “Community Rewards” program, our PTO did not know if we would be able to see how much each family contributed to this program. Would we have the ability to deposit money in your child’s DC account?

Now we are receiving our quarterly checks. The report we receive from Kroger includes a by family breakdown. **As a result, we have decided to continue to return a proportion of the funds we receive to each individual student’s DC account for those who sign up on Kroger’s website.**

If the Smith family earned \$100 for our school during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, \$60 will go to the PTO to fund all its activities and \$40 will go to the Smith child’s account. This is the same as the division used in the past, and it allows us to continue to operate as a PTO without coming to you for additional fundraisers.

Please sign up at **[www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)**. Use our PTO number 80966. Our PTO website, **<http://libertyms.olentangypto.org>**, has more detailed instructions on registration. Be sure to register your card today! **If your child is an eighth grader, the last day to contribute is January 31, 2010.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS!!!**---The Kroger report does not include a student’s ID number—just the name on the Plus card. We are having some problems matching names on the Kroger report if they don’t match a child’s name. Also some Plus card numbers don’t even have names attached to them. **To ensure your child’s DC account gets proper credit, please email your child’s name/student number/grade and your Kroger Plus Card number to Mark Latham at [mlatham1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mlatham1@columbus.rr.com).** **Please have grandparents and others who may be contributing for your child do the same.** If we are unable to match a name on the report with a child, that money will be going to the Caring Fund and the PTO.

Please feel free to contact us with your questions. Thank you.

Vanessa Hamilton ([nessa718504@earthlink.net](mailto:nessa718504@earthlink.net)) and Leanne Gossett  
([leanne\\_gossett@yahoo.com](mailto:leanne_gossett@yahoo.com))

PTO Co-Presidents



Apples For The  
Students

## **GIANT EAGLE APPLES FOR STUDENTS**

The **Giant Eagle Apples for Students** program begins October 11, 2009 and runs to March 28, 2010. This program offers our school an opportunity to earn great educational tools and all you have to do is register your Giant Eagle card and swipe it each time you shop. Last year our school earned an Apple iMac computer, Canon Mini Digital DVD camcorder, karaoke machine and more. We'd love to be able to duplicate our success from last year.

If you have previously registered you do not have to register again. Just keep shopping. If you have not already registered or are registered with a different school, we ask you to register for Liberty Middle School **NOW!**

### **How do you do it?**

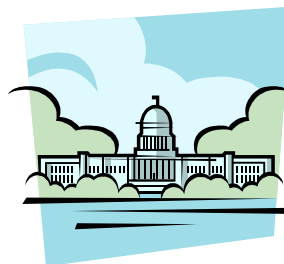
- 1. Register your Giant Eagle Card at [www.gianteagle.com](http://www.gianteagle.com)**
- 2. Enter our school ID#: 3520**
- 3. Shop with your Giant Eagle Advantage Card**

**It's that easy!**



## **Barnes and Noble Book Fair**

On the weekend of November 21<sup>st</sup>, Christmas shopping and holiday spirit got off to a good start at our first ever Barnes and Noble book fair. A special thanks to our choir and orchestra directors and their students for providing everyone with some holiday entertainment. They sounded great! Thanks to all who came out and shopped to benefit our library!



## ***Are you using Scrip to fund your child's Washington DC trip?***

Our PTO's philosophy in fundraising is to provide programs whenever possible you can participate in without changing your current shopping habits. We are trying to avoid the wrapping paper, pizza, cookie, or plant sales!! Along those lines is the **Shop with Scrip gift card program**. By purchasing gift cards from the Shop with Scrip website for the stores you are already shopping at you can earn money for your child's Washington trip.

For example, purchase Giant Eagle gift cards from the website and use them as cash at Giant Eagle. You receive 2% of the amount spent in your child's trip account. The other 2% goes into the PTO account which also funds your child's school experiences. For details about how to sign up and participate in this program, please pick up a Scrip gift card packet or visit the PTO website (<http://libertyms.olentangypto.org/>).

## **Student Directories**



For anyone interested, we still have student directories available for sale. Directories contain student address and phone number information. To obtain a directory, send a check for \$3 made payable to OLMSPTO and mail it to the attention of Vanessa Hamilton, 2335 Bryton Dr, Powell, OH 43065. Be sure to include your child's name on the memo line of your check, and a directory will be delivered to them in their advisory period.



## **Spirit Wear**

The PTO will continue to sell Spirit Wear on the first Friday of each month at lunch time during the School Store. All items are now marked down and we will sell until the inventory is gone.

Any questions call Andrea Wood at 614-785-0115.



## **2009 Magazine Sale Update**

Thank you to all of the families that participated in the 2009-2010 Magazine Sale. The students sold 1,574 orders with total sales of \$39,341.

Congratulations to our top sellers: Heather Litton (33 orders), Evan Heydorn (21 orders), Andrew Wiemels (21 orders), and Michael DeLeon (20 orders). You are all well on your way to Washington DC!

Kudos to Mrs. Buckerfield's students! They helped kick-off our sale by diligently collating the magazine sale packets. Thank you for getting all of this material to our Advisory teachers and students.

We appreciate the help of the numerous parent volunteers. Your dedication to our OLMS families is outstanding! Without your tremendous commitment and hard work this important fundraiser would not be possible.

# You Can Make a Difference in Your Child's Middle School Experience!



Liberty Middle School PTO is currently organizing officers, committee chairs and event volunteers for the 2009-2010 school year.

The PTO provides valuable resources for our teachers and students.

It also supports and offers the following worthwhile programs:

- Kroger and SCRIP Gift Card Programs: Fund PTO programs and student DC accounts
- Book Fair
- School Sound System
- Liberty Bell Newsletter (PPT)
- School Beautification
- School Directory
- Author Visits
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration
- Parent Programs Team
- Staff Appreciation
- Communication Boards

**Research shows that a student's success is *directly* related to parental involvement.**

**We count on you. Think about where YOU can use your talents to support this dynamic organization! After all.....**

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS!**

*(Check areas of interest, descriptions on back)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Officers:** ( ) President ( ) Assistant Treasurer,  
( ) SCRIP report  
( ) Vice-President ( ) Secretary  
( ) Treasurer ( ) Reporter, PTO newsletter

**Committee Chairs:**

- |                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ( ) Kroger                | ( ) Scrip                             |
| ( ) Logo Wear             | ( ) School Store                      |
| ( ) Book Fair             | ( ) Parent/Teacher Conference         |
| ( ) Beautification        | Dinners                               |
| ( ) Directory             | ( ) Staff Appreciation                |
| ( ) PPT Representative    | ( ) 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration |
| ( ) Volunteer e-mail List | ( ) Web-Page                          |
| ( ) Nominating Committee  | ( ) Back-To-School Store              |

**Please return this flyer to the Attendance Office by Friday, March 19  
or contact Leanne Gossett at [Leanne\\_gossett@yahoo.com](mailto:Leanne_gossett@yahoo.com) or 740-881-3828.**

## **Duties of Board Member and Committee Chair Responsibilities**

As stated in the PTO by-laws, “officers shall be elected annually in the Spring Quarter and shall assume their official duties at the end of the school year. This is with exception of the Treasurer, who serves for the fiscal year, August 1 to July 31. The term of office is one year.”

“All Committee Chairpersons are responsible for keeping the OLPTO Board informed about the activities of the committee. The chairperson is responsible for getting all pertinent information to the Reporter. A wrap-up report should be submitted to the Board at the conclusion of the committee’s activity.”

All officers and committee chairpersons are responsible for providing all official material and an updated committee folder at the end of their term.

## **Officers**

**President**: Presides at OLPTO meetings; appoints chairpersons of standing and special committees and performs other duties when deemed necessary.

**Vice-President**: Performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President. Assists President when deemed necessary.

**Secretary**: Records the minutes of the meetings and handles all official correspondence.

**Treasurer**: Has custody of all funds of the OLPTO; keeps an accurate account of receipts and expenditures; makes disbursements as authorized and presents a financial report at every meeting. An auditor that has been appointed by the Sustaining Committee, as outlined in the By-Laws, will examine the Treasurer's accounts annually.

**Asst. Treasurer**: Responsible for the accounting of all SCRIP funds. Presents a SCRIP financial report at each OLPTO meetings

**Reporter**: Informs membership of upcoming events, meetings and information that pertains to the OLPTO through the news media, district and school publications. Writes and distributes the OLPTO newsletter, "The Liberty Bell," via OLPTO website.

## **Committee Chairs**

**SCRIP Chair**: Responsible for Kroger and Scrip fundraisers. Works together with Assistant Treasurer to track all Scrip/Kroger funds. Prepares Instruction/Information Packets. Serves as Coordinator for Great Lakes Scrip online program. Assists families with registration and ordering of Scrip. Performs online functions necessary to place orders and distributes cards.

**Back to School Store**: Contacts principal for team supply requests, coordinates volunteers, prepares order, contacts vendors, sets-up, implements and cleans-up event, and prepares deposits.

**Logo Wear**: Takes inventory, orders and sells logo items at Back-to-School store, school store and school functions.

**School Store**: Coordinates volunteers, orders and maintains inventory, prepares deposits.

**Book Fair**: Contacts vendor, coordinates volunteers, makes deposit, completes orders, works with school librarian for book requests.

**Parent/Teacher Conference Dinner:** Contact Principal for date and staff numbers, coordinate committee and volunteers, plan, set-up and clean up.

**Beautification:** Plans new beautification projects and maintains outdoor gardens with assistance from staff, students and other parent volunteers.

**Directory:** Solicits for advertisements, consults with PTO regarding style, types, edits, obtains printing quotes, shows officers proofs, has directory printed, and distributes the directory.

**Staff Appreciation:** Coordinates volunteers, plans, sets-up, implements and cleans-up event.

**PPT Representative:** Attends monthly meetings, communicates information at PTO meeting and to the Reporter for a newsletter submission.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration:** Contacts principal for teacher contact, coordinates volunteers, plans, executes and cleans-up at event.

**Volunteer E-Mail List:** Develops PTO volunteer list, generates requests for volunteers by Chairs.

**Web Page:** Designs and updates existing OLPTO website. Volunteer with web design skills is helpful.

**Nominating:** Proposes a slate of candidates for New Board.