



## Building Strength by Working Together

May 2008



### Save the dates:

- School-Wide Dress Down Fundraiser: **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**
- Spanish Fiesta for Grades K-4: **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Volunteer Work Day at LLACS: **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- PTO Meeting, 6pm in the Cafeteria: **May 6<sup>th</sup>**
- NJASK Testing for Grades 7-8: **April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>**
- NJASK Testing for Grades 5-6: **May 5<sup>th</sup>-May 8<sup>th</sup>**
- Teacher Appreciation Week: **May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>**
- 12:15pm Early Dismissal for Professional Development: **May 9<sup>th</sup>**
- PTO Mother's Day Flower Sale: **May 9<sup>th</sup>**
- Parent Partnerships Luncheon, 12:30-2:30 pm: **May 12<sup>th</sup>**
- Art Show in the Cafeteria, 5:30-7:00pm: **May 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Board Meeting: **May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**
- Parent Partnerships Breakfast, 8:30 am-noon: **May 17<sup>th</sup>**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Reports Distributed: **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- Memorial Day Long Weekend School Closed: **May 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>**

## Be Part of the Change!

This month at Lady Liberty we have planned a number of events that we invite and encourage you to attend so that you can be part of our continued positive change effort here in our school community.

We are in the process of planning a number of exciting programs and initiatives which we would like you to help us shape. We applied for and have received a Smarter-Charter Grant that will support a critically important project that will develop and strengthen our school wide curriculum. We are also in the process of dedicating Title I funding to designing summer programs and partnerships that will allow us to offer extended year academic and enrichment opportunities to our eligible students and parent involvement workshops to our families.

Please take time to review the events outlined on the back page of this newsletter, the Parent-School Compact attached to this

*"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."*  
--Harriet Tubman

newsletter, and the High School Placement Information Supplement for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade families. In addition, there are a number of dates to save this month. The upcoming PTO meeting will offer parents an opportunity to learn about the Special Education program here at Lady Liberty and the self-assessment process that we are undertaking to strengthen our program.

We greatly welcome your presence and leadership in our school and look forward to working with you at the meetings this month. Come and be part of making positive change for continued growth here at Lady Liberty Academy!

## Tune in to Reading at Home!

Literacy development is a continuous process that begins in infancy when babies are first exposed to language, books, and stories. Its roots are in the home, with branches extending to other environments. Books are the key ingredients to creating a literacy-rich home environment. Families can support language and literacy learning by creating a home atmosphere in which reading, writing, talking, and listening are a natural part of daily life. **We are encouraged in our homes to:**

1. Establish a regular time and place for daily read-aloud sessions, such as before bed or during bath time.
2. Keep on hand a variety of reading materials such as picture books, chapter books, atlases, dictionaries, magazines, and newspapers, and acquire library cards for everyone to use often.
3. Share our love of books and reading. As adults we can say to children, "This was my favorite book when I was your age," or "I can't wait to start my new book."
4. Talk about what our children read and encourage children to think, solve problems, and make predictions. Parents may discuss the books a child is reading, then ask questions such as, "Did you ever...?" or "How would you feel if that happened to you?"
5. Have plenty of paper and writing tools on hand to respond to our reading..
6. Store books and writing materials in places children can reach.
7. Have frequent conversations with each child, as well as with the family as a whole. We should encourage everyone to express their ideas, opinions, and feelings.
8. Reinforce language and literacy skills by doing puzzles and playing games that reinforce literacy, such as Lotto, Candyland, Old Maid, Concentration, Scrabble, and Trivial Pursuit.
9. Model reading and writing for pleasure and for specific uses, such as making a shopping list.
10. Respond positively to children's reading and writing efforts.
11. Set aside plenty of time for reading, by balancing time devoted to sports, television, and other activities.

All of the above strategies tell children that reading and writing are important lifelong activities that are fun and useful. Families also can show children how much they value reading and writing by building partnerships with the teachers and programs at Lady Liberty Academy. (Adapted from: [http://www.rif.org/parents/articles/providing\\_a\\_literacy-rich\\_home.msp](http://www.rif.org/parents/articles/providing_a_literacy-rich_home.msp))

Suggestions, comments, questions:  
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## Reading *is* Fundamental

### Some tips to use at home.

**Ask** your child read aloud to you every night.

**Choose** a quiet place, free from distractions, for your child to do her/his nightly reading assignments.

**Point out** spelling and sound patterns such as *cat, pat, hat* as your child reads,

**When** your child reads aloud to you and makes a mistake, point out words she has missed and help her to read the word correctly.

**After** your child has stopped to correct a word he has read, have him go back and reread the entire sentence from the beginning to make sure he understands what the sentence is saying.

**Ask** your child to tell you in his/her own words what happened in a story.

**To check** your child's understanding of what s/he is reading, occasionally pause and ask your child questions about the characters and events in the story.

**Ask** your child why she thinks a character acted in a certain way and ask your child to support her answer with information from the story.

**Before** getting to the end of a story, ask your child what s/he thinks will happen next and why.

<http://www.rif.org/parents/tips/tip.aspx?View=57>

## Shout Outs of Appreciation!



The PTO would like to thank everyone who supported the April 12<sup>th</sup> Family Portraits Day Fundraiser. It was very successful and we are looking into doing it again before the end of the school year.

The PTO would also like to congratulate the Girls' Basketball Team on making it to the Play-offs. Both the Girls and Boys Basketball teams have done an outstanding job this year. A big thank you goes out to Coach Kornegay, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Vickers for your support and work with our athletes.

## Parent Involvement by Ms Bruzzano

Lady Liberty Academy will be hosting a series of parent events through the month of May. Please join us to learn how to support learning at home, discuss and plan school programs, share concerns and celebrate your child's academic success.

### Friday, May 9: PEER PRESSURE AND SOCIAL SKILLS

**Time:** 2PM-4PM

**Location:** Dance Room

Louise Aldrich, a licensed clinical social worker and former NJ public school teacher, will be presenting a session on identifying characteristics of peer pressure and a child's need for social skills. This presentation will also provide specific intervention strategies for both.

### Monday, May 12: PARENT PARTNERSHIPS LUNCHEON

**Time:** 12:30PM-2:30PM

**Location:** Dance Room

Parents are invited to attend a luncheon from 12:30PM - 2:30PM to hear about the LLACS sponsored summer programs for eligible students and NCLB school improvement initiatives. Parents will also be invited to complete a survey on site regarding the planning of programs for the 2008-2009 school year.

### Saturday, May 17: PARENTS AS PARTNERS

**Time:** Breakfast: 8:30-9AM Presentation: 9-12:00 noon

**Location:** Dance Room

Parents are invited to the first LLACS *Parents as Partners* breakfast at 8:30am. Following will be a presentation by Tanya Caesar, who holds an MA in Human Relations, an MA in Counseling, an MA in Reading, and is certified to teach Family Life Education and Multicultural Education. Ms Caesar will discuss the building of parent / school partnerships in order to ensure the academic success of all children here at LLACS.