

Liberty Center Local Schools

*The Liberty Link*

March 2020

The “Link” Between the School and the Community

Mr. Richard A. Peters, Superintendent

### **From the Desk of Richie Peters:**

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.” –Dr. Seuss

Reading is fundamental. In fact, it is one of the most important skills that a child can learn. Reading develops your brain and helps children do better in all subject areas. The Liberty Center School District recognizes this fact and has invested in a new reading curriculum this school year for grades 1-4 called the American Reading Company (ARC). With ongoing professional development and consultation with an ARC Executive Coach, our teachers have implemented the ARC core curriculum, which consists of grade-level instruction, differentiated support, formative assessment, and proficient writing skills. Collectively, this model not only meets the needs of students at their independent reading level, but also exposes them to grade level content and beyond. At the end of each of the four units, students complete rigorous writing projects that support and prepare them for writing at grade level and further. Most importantly, the curriculum is catered to helping and encouraging students to love reading and writing.

Last year, teachers and administrators worked with American Reading Company to hand select the theme and genre unit studies for the curriculum. Each unit of study comes with highly engaging books that support reading and the writing focus of the unit. The book selections appeal to those reading below, at, and above grade level. In addition to the units that contain leveled books, each classroom comes with a set of over 700 books at various reading levels for students to access at school.

This comprehensive literacy curriculum has already proven to be a wise investment. This year, we are already seeing great gains in our students’ reading and writing skills. The second unit of the curriculum is a research unit, and each of our students participated in independent research and writing. Students became experts on their researched topic and were eager to share their knowledge with parents, friends and other staff members.

Parents have shared they have noticed changes in their child’s opinion of reading and writing, and have been pleasantly surprised that their students want to read at night, and some kids are even doing this without prompting. Other parents have reported their child’s new found love of writing, and are authoring their own books at home! It has been an exciting transformation for all of our students at the elementary level, and we are excited to see the continued growth of our students and the expansion of their love of reading and writing.

If parents ever have any questions about the ARC program, or any facet of our curriculum, we encourage them to get in touch with the classroom teacher or building principal. We’re more than happy to answer questions and give guidance on working with your children at home. These fundamental skills, when mastered in the early grades, will carry our students far in their academic careers and life. We’re investing in our students’ futures beyond the school walls. We want our Liberty Center students to go to amazing “places” on their journeys as lifelong learners!

**Solar Project Update:** The solar field panels have been installed. Tying the electricity generated from the solar field to the existing power source is the final stage of the project and is anticipated to be completed by mid-March. The solar field is located on the southwest corner of the school property and covers 2 acres of unusable land and will provide approximately 62% of electricity at a reduced cost. This is at no cost to our General Fund. This is projected to save tax-payers thousands of dollars over the next twenty-five years.

**Varsity Football Restroom/Concession Stand:** The Liberty Center Board of Education recently entered into a construction agreement with Rupp/Rosebrock for the Varsity Football Field Restroom/Concessions building project. The total of the project is \$430,128, which will be paid with leftover funds from the K-12 building project and a \$35,000 donation from the athletic boosters. The new 2100 square foot facility will be located in the northeast corner of the football stadium. The goal is to have the project completed by the first home football game of the 2020 season-let's hope the weather cooperates!

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### Important Dates

End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks:	March 20 <sup>th</sup>
Easter Break-No School:	April 10 <sup>th</sup>
Easter Break-No School:	April 13 <sup>th</sup>
End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks:	May 20 <sup>th</sup>
Graduation:	May 24 <sup>th</sup>

### Finance Office News

**By: Jenell Buenger**

#### Bond Refinancing

On September 23, 2019, the Liberty Center Board of Education passed a resolution allowing for the refunding of the 2014 Classroom Facilities and School Improvement Bond for the maximum principal amount of \$17,830,000.00. The District has been working with Patrick King from Stifel, Nicolaus Company, Incorporated on this bond refunding. After the board resolution in September, interest rates went up, which did not provide an optimal time for the refunding to occur. We recently received notification from Mr. Stifel that interest rates in the bond market have gone down drastically, making this an ideal time to proceed with the refunding process. This will not provide additional funds to the District; however, the tax payers will see a slight decrease in their property taxes. The anticipated cash flow savings is approximately \$3,000,000. We hope to have the process completed by the end of March. Please contact me if you have any questions.

### Kindergarten Clinic

Beginning March 2, 2020, all parents of children who will be 5 years old by August 1, 2020 and live in the Liberty Center School District are asked to phone the Liberty Center Elementary School at 419-533-2604, to register their child for kindergarten next year. When you call to set up your appointment, we will need the following information: your child's name and date of birth, parents' names, address, and phone number. There will be an Early 5s Program (Kinderstart) geared towards children who turn 5 between May 1<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> or are not ready for the demands of a kindergarten classroom.

Our clinic will be held Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> at the school. Please plan on the appointment taking approximately 1 ½ hours. It is imperative that you attend this clinic with your child. We are required by law to screen each child before kindergarten. Typically this means that children who do not go through screening in the spring will need to be brought in by parents during the first day of school in the fall to complete the screening process before they can begin regular school attendance.

Entering school for the first time is exciting for both the child and parent. We look forward to working with you and your child to make this experience a memorable one for many years.

## Liberty Center Elementary Literacy

### Showcase:

You are invited on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. to come see our 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade students present their research projects from our new reading curriculum, American Reading Company, and see Kindergarten and KinderStart work displayed in the halls. Light refreshments will be provided.

## Middle School January Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Middle School Students of the Month who were selected for demonstrating exceptional respectfulness: Tyler McDougle, Brianna Taylor, Colbie Strayer, Mykenna Vasko, Vaughn Norrington, Molly Perry and Kaden Soto. Not pictured is Taylor McFadden.



## Middle School Spelling Bee

The Middle School Spelling Bee was held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Sixth grader Joy Brown earned 1<sup>st</sup> place and eighth grade student Reese Kessler was 2<sup>nd</sup> place. They will both advance to the Henry County Spelling, which will be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Holgate. Ms. Brown will also represent Liberty Center at The Blade Bee at Owens Community College on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.



## Family Game Night

The Liberty Center Elementary and Middle School are hosting a Family Game Night on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00-6:30. The book fair will also be open to families that evening. Come and join us for a night of fun! Please RSVP to the Elementary Office by Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Cole William Zeiter, son of William and Carrie Zeiter of Liberty Center, has been identified as a National Merit Scholarship finalist. This year about 15,000 students are being recognized as Finalists for National Merit Scholarships. Cole is now eligible for one of approximately 7,500 National Merit Scholarships to be awarded. He has participated in golf and baseball while a student. Cole is planning to study finance at an undecided University. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Congratulations, Cole!



## Middle School Events

- LC Relay for Life Kick-Off Assembly: May 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 p.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Talent Show: May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 p.m.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Willson: May 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>
- Middle School Awards Assembly: May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m.

## High School Events

- District ACT Testing for All Juniors: February 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.
- Accuplacer for All Incoming CCP Students: March 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- EOC State Tests for Grades 9-12: April 20<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Senior Class Awards: May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Underclassmen Awards: May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m.
- Graduation: May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

## **PTO Events/Fundraisers**

- Skyzone Family Night: March 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Mother vs. Son Dodgeball: March 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Buffalo Wild Wings Eat Wings Raise Funds: March 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Mud Hens Family Fun Night: April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

## **Middle School PBIS Initiative**

Liberty Center Middle School began its PBIS initiative at the beginning of this school year. We introduced our plan to increase positive student behaviors and to both the teachers and to the students. This month we are starting phase two of our plan.

*What is PBIS?* Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is a framework based on the philosophy of recognizing positive contributions of students. Our goal is to help each child develop self-discipline and work together to maintain a safe learning environment.

As a part of PBIS, teachers, administrators, counselors, support staff, parents and guardians work together, using common language, to teach and reinforce positive behavior expectations to students.

*Why PBIS?* School-wide PBIS increases the capacity of schools to educate all students utilizing research-based school-wide, classroom and individualized interventions. Emphasis is placed on prevention of problem behavior, development of pro-social skills and the use of research-based problem-solving techniques for addressing existing behavior concerns.

### *Common Terminology*

Liberty Center Middle School will emphasize the R.O.A.R. philosophy

**R**esponsible

**O**n Task

**A**cademically Involved

**R**espectful

ROAR expectation charts lay out the appropriate behaviors for different areas of the school.

### *Rewards for Positive Behaviors*

All teachers and staff will actively seek students who are modeling ROAR expectations. These students are recognized and rewarded in a variety of ways. Recognition occurs throughout the school year.

### *The importance of working together*

Teaching expected behaviors works best when there is consistency across home and school settings. A strong partnership between the school and the family is important for developing and maintaining student behavior. School-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports is an approach to helping all children learn to self-manage behaviors. When parents are involved, outcomes for children are better. Participating in a school-wide PBIS initiative is different than volunteering to help with a school field trip, being a chaperone or helping out in the classroom. It is a willingness to promote your school's PBIS initiatives by continuing conversations with your children regarding ways they are demonstrating the ROAR expectations and making an effort to model and praise the positive traits we wish to see in our children.

## **LC Schools: Relay for Life School**

The staff at Liberty Center recently held a fundraiser in support of Henry County Relay for Life and their initiative to 'Give Cancer the Boot.' The staff raised \$640.00. A huge thank you to everyone for their support in making Liberty Center a Relay for Life School!

## **Athletic Booster Fundraiser**

The L.C. Athletic Booster Club will be hosting "A Night at the Races" fundraising event on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at the Napoleon American Legion. The doors open at 4:30 p.m., dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. and races start at 7:00 p.m. The event promises to be a fun filled evening featuring live race announcers calling thoroughbred horse races shown on a video projection screen. Your \$25 entry ticket includes a meal and two drinks. Besides racing, there will be upbeat music, entertaining videos, raffles, a big six wheel, best Derby dressed contest and more. You must be 21 to attend.

You can buy and own a horse for \$20. Doing this prior to March 15<sup>th</sup> will guarantee your name, along with your horse's name, printed in the event program. Need not be present to win.

Tickets and information can be found at the Boosters' table at Varsity basketball games. Tickets can also be purchased at BA Miller Trucking, American Freedom Energy, Meyer-Badenhop Insurance in Liberty Center, by contacting Mike and Cheryl Mann at 419-822-7381 or 419-270-2659 or any other Booster officer. All proceeds benefit our student athletes in every sport.

#### **A Note from the Nurse**

Just a reminder for when your child is sick, they need to be fever free without the use of fever reducing medicines, no vomiting and no diarrhea for at least 24 hours before you send them back to school. Please remind your children to wash their hands often and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

#### **LC Education Foundation News**



Detergent Fundraiser - Thank you for supporting our Liberty Center Education Foundation!

You can help us raise money for LCHS Scholarships and Educational School initiatives. Please contact a member of the LC Education Foundation to get an order form if you would like to purchase laundry detergent. Payment is due at the time of ordering. All fundraiser money must be turned into the Liberty Center Elementary School office by March 6, 2020. The laundry detergent will be delivered on March 25, 2020 to the Liberty Center Local Schools parking lot. You may pick it up from 5:00-6:30 pm. Please make all checks payable to the Liberty Center Education Foundation. We thank you for your continued support. - The Liberty Center Education Foundation



#### **Friends of the Liberty Center Library Upcoming Events:**

- **February 18- Adult Coloring Night** 6:30PM
- **March 2 - Friends of the LC Library Monthly Meeting** at 7PM (Now on the first Monday of the month!)
- **March 17<sup>th</sup>- Adult Coloring Night** at 6:30PM
- **April 4 – Cabin Fever-** The Friends will be having a used book sale. There will also be items for raffle for adults and children. If you haven't renewed your membership, you can do that too!
- **April 6- Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting** 7PM
- **April 21- National Library Workers Day** This day is designated to honor all library staff and the valuable contributions that they make. Come up to the library and let our fabulous staff know what a great job they do.
- **April 21- Adult Coloring** 6:30PM
- **May 4- Friends of the LC Library Monthly Meeting** at 7PM
- **May 19- - Adult Coloring** 6:30PM
- **June 1- Friends of the LC Library Monthly Meeting** at 7PM

\*It's not too late to become a Friend! \$5 for single, \$10 for family or \$100 for a lifetime membership! \*