



Liberty Patriot Stars

Important Message to Our Parents

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Every child has received a copy of our school handbook. This handbook has been developed to ensure consistency of expectations and procedures for our school.

We firmly believe that a strong home and school partnership, along with consistent communications, will help our children achieve in a safe and positive school environment.

No student should arrive on campus before 7:45am without prior approval from the administration. Parents, please consider your child's safety by not leaving your child at school before supervision begins. **All students need to leave the campus by 3:00pm** unless special arrangements have been made by the administration.

Our LEAP program opens at 6:30am for the convenience of working parents (weekly fees apply). We also offer LEAP afterschool that opens daily from 2:35pm—6:00pm (weekly fees apply). Contact our office personnel for registration information.

We need your help in keeping our students safe during dismissal. We ask that you follow our policy of not permitting early dismissals between 2:05pm—2:35pm. Please wait in the parent pick-up line to pick up your student. If you have misplaced your parent pick-up sign, you will need to wait until we have dismissed all of our students and then we can make you a new one.

We take pride in teaching our students from bell to bell, and the final bell rings at 2:35pm. In addition, our students are transitioning all over campus from approximately 2:30pm—2:40pm and our office staff needs to be able to guarantee that all of our students get home properly.

We thank you for your continued support as we look forward to a bright and promising new year for our children.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Whaley

Important Procedural Change Effective January 8, 2019

At Liberty, we firmly believe in developing independent learners. With that being said, effective January 8, 2019, students will be expected to walk to class in the mornings independently. If a parent or guardian wants to visit the classroom or speak to the teacher, prior arrangements must be made. This is one more step in ensuring the safety of our students and staff here at Liberty Elementary. We assure you that we have ample staff and safety patrols throughout our campus to assist students in getting to their classrooms. We are excited to foster this new sense of independence for all of our students. (These changes do not apply to our Pre-K Programs.)

December

4—Winter Music Program
5:00pm-6:00pm

10—Chick Fil A Night 5:00-8:00pm



Students Return to School
on January 9th, 2019

Happy
New Year

May this new year all your
dreams turn into reality and
all your efforts into great
achievements.

January

8—Teacher Workday

9—Jump Rope for Heart Begins

Otis Spunkmeyer®

FUN-RAISING

WINNERS! WINNERS! WINNERS!





TURKEY TROT





inspiring girls to be healthy and confident

Girls on the Run practice 5K .

The girls will be running the end of season 5K on :

Saturday
December 8th
8am
Charlotte High



Fourth grade made pumpkin pies to practice following directions, reading recipes, and measuring using fractional units. The kids had a lot of fun making them and even more fun eating them!



Talking Time

by Joan Brown
Speech Language Pathologist

There are numerous theories as to why children suck their thumbs and why they will not stop. There are fewer suggestion, however, to help children break the habit.

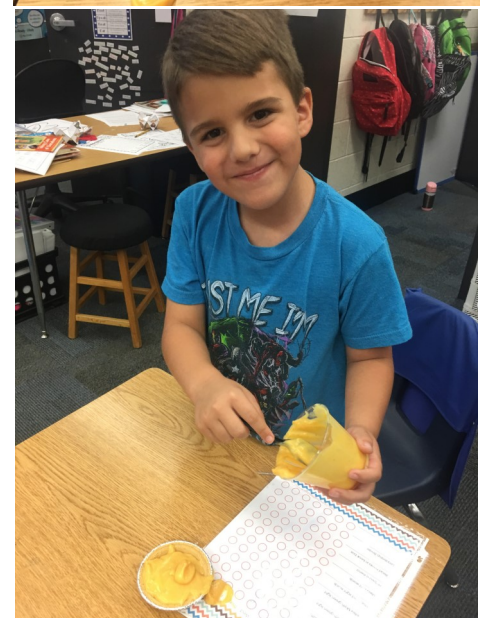
Some infants suck their thumbs even before they are born. The reason for thumb sucking seem to be that it is a natural reflex that makes children feel secure, happy, and restful.

As children get older, thumb sucking may cause problems with the proper growth of the mouth and alignment of the teeth. Children may also develop a lisp. Thumb sucking may prevent the child from learning other ways to cope with stress. A child's social skills are also interfered with, as "non-suckers" may tease and make fun of the children that do.

Here are some suggestions for breaking the habit:

- ◆ Wean the child gradually
- ◆ Do not fuss, ridicule, or make fun of an older child for thumb sucking. Nagging will only the child feel guilty and may actually encourage the habit to continue.
- ◆ Advise friends and relatives to ignore it.
- ◆ Offer incentives. Rewards increase the chances that the child will practice a new behavior.
- ◆ Allow the thumb sucking at certain times and places for a specific length of time using a kitchen timer. Gradually reduce the time. Reward with hugs and praise.
- ◆ Choose a "penalty" for thumb sucking outside of specified times and places. For an example, give your child a roll of nickels and he must give you one each time he slips. At the end of a week, he can keep the remainder.
- ◆ Introduce an alternate activity to replace thumb sucking. It should use both hands like basketball, piano, card games, jumping rope, using a fidget.

**Mrs. Buck's
First Graders
are busy with
holiday fun!**



Empty

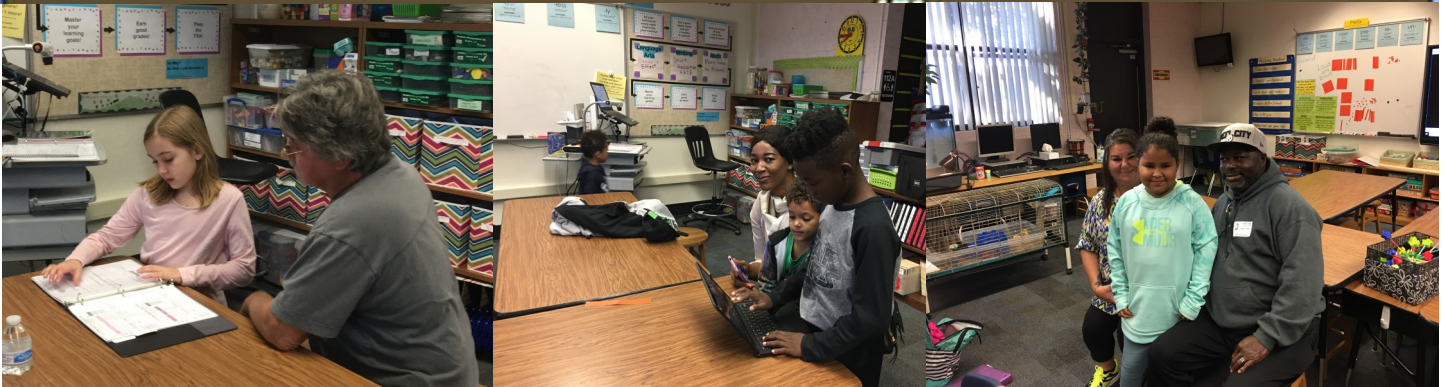
The Liberty
Elementary Choir
did a great job per-
forming at the Emp-
ty Bowls Fundraiser
in November.

Second Grade Studies Native American Culture



Second graders loved learning about Native Americans. The students rotated around to each 2nd grade teacher and learned about four different regions: Southwest, Plains, Far North and Woodlands of the Northeast and Southeast. We also had an in house field trip. The Historical Society came in and taught them about the Calusa Native Americans from Florida and the artifacts that they found. Then they made a Calusa mask. It was very interesting learning about the Fierce People.





What's the Role of the Parent in Student Led Conferences?

Your first role is as a listener. Having a parent audience for learning gives students a powerful reason to learn and work hard. Student-led conferences offer students a real voice in the assessment of their learning and in this context it is a "performance." The first conference can be overwhelming and students may be nervous and need support from their parents.

Your second role as a parent is to talk with you after the work is presented. We ask that you take notes and ask questions AFTER your child has presented everything. You will gain a better understanding of the academic expectations set for your child.

Your third role as a parent is to identify ways you can support the student to achieve goals that will be set for the next grading period. The focus of the conference is on learning and growth, not simply a "show and tell" display of work. It is a time for parents to "sit beside" their child, listen to and trust their child's assessment of his/her own learning, and ask good questions. Some guiding questions will be provided at the conference.



STUDENTS AT LIBERTY ELEMENTARY PARTICIPATE IN JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



**American
Heart
Association®**



***It Takes Heart
to be a Hero!***

Students at Liberty Elementary are jumping at the chance to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers.

Please take time and look for the form in your child's backpack. Students will jump at school for the American Heart Association which funds cardiovascular disease research, public and professional education programs. Jump Rope for Heart is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. All donations should be turned in by February 14th, Valentine's Day.

The average heart beats 100,000 times each day. One of the best ways to take care of your heart is to make exercise a regular part of your everyday life. Jump Rope for Heart teaches students how exercise benefits the heart and shows students that volunteering can be fun and beneficial to the whole community. They learn how they make a difference by providing important community service and having a great time.

Money raised will go to fund potentially lifesaving research and educational community programs. Please help the students help others. When a student asks you to give a donation, support Jump Rope for Heart with whatever you can afford to give. If not this year then maybe next year. If you would like to help more, call your nearest American Heart Association office or call 1-800-242-8721 (1-800-AHA-USA1).

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



family fun night





All of our online programs can be accessed through our county CLASSLINK portal. Once students are logged into their Classlink account, all of their websites will be available as icons.

To log into CLASSLINK at home:

1. Go to the LES homepage.
http://www.edline.net/pages/_Liberty_ES
2. Click on shortcuts
3. Click on Classlink
4. Enter username and password.

username _____

password _____



iReady is a computer based program that provides both assessment and practice for math and reading. The goal for all students is to make one year's growth in both areas and score in the proficient range for their grade level.

After the assessment, students are placed in an individualized instructional path for each of these areas. These practice lessons align to our classroom materials and enhance the student learning experience. We encourage each student to "STRIVE for 45" by completing 45 minutes in their reading path and 45 minutes in their math path per week. We ask that your student completes lessons at home to reach this goal. Continue to check your child's progress on their log in screen and encourage them to pass all lessons with a 75% or better. iReady can be accessed through Classlink.

Accelerated Reader



Accelerated Reader is a program that allows students to earn points for reading and comprehending books. In order to earn points, a student needs to read a book and understand what the book was about. Then log

on to AR using the account provided by their teacher, to take a quiz on the book. Most picture books have 5 questions, and most chapter books have 10 questions. If the student receives a 100% they will earn full points for the book, however if they receive less than a 100% they will receive a portion of the points. Most picture books are worth 0.5 points and chapter books vary in point value based on difficulty. **Quizzes can only be taken at school during school hours**, but we encourage students to read their AR books at home. Kindergarten students will begin taking AR quizzes when they master 100 sight words. You can find out if a book has an AR quiz by visiting www.arbookfind.com.

So how can students celebrate these points?

Each grade level has a point goal to reach by the end of the school year. If they reach that goal, they will earn an AR t-shirt and an ice cream party. As students earn points, they will have opportunities throughout the year to purchase items at the AR store using their points.



Reflex helps students of all levels to develop fluency with their basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Math fact fluency is the quick and effortless (automatic) recall of basic math facts. This makes learning new math skills much more attainable for students.



Adaptive and individualized instruction



Engaging games that keep students coming back for more



Intuitive and powerful reporting for educators

Students can earn a **Movie and Popcorn party** twice a year if they achieve and maintain 100% fact fluency on Reflex. Students login and practice math facts through colorful interactive video games. Once they have answered enough facts correctly for the day, they will earn a green light. This should be **done at least 3 days per week**.