

## Upcoming Events

Tues, Oct. 14-  
Mon., Oct. 21

Book Fair  
(Family nights:  
\*Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm  
\*Baja Fresh Nights!)

Friday, Oct. 17

Cantare "Fiesta"  
Assembly

Wed., Oct. 22

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Hemlock

Wed., Oct. 29

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Firefighter Visit

Tues, Nov. 11

7:30 p.m.

PTA Monthly Meeting  
(Library)

Tues., Nov 12

Picture Retake Take



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**LEES CORNER:**  
**Pride, Teamwork,**  
**EXCELLENCE**

Office  
703-227-3500

Attendance Line  
703-227-3535

Clay Sande  
Principal

[Clay.Sande@fcps.edu](mailto:Clay.Sande@fcps.edu)

**Kathy Case**

Assistant Principal

[Kathycase@fcps.edu](mailto:Kathycase@fcps.edu)

# Lees Corner PTA

[www.fcps.edu/LeesCornerES](http://www.fcps.edu/LeesCornerES)

[www.LeesCornerPTA.org](http://www.LeesCornerPTA.org)

**Please note that hardcopies of this newsletter are available in the front office of the school.**

## PTA President's Message

These are hectic times with the financial markets and the upcoming presidential elections. Fortunately, we can rest assured that your children continue to get a first class education at Lees Corner ES. This year, our student population has grown to 740 students resulting in full classrooms.

Fall is in the air and the field trips have started. The 1<sup>st</sup> graders went to Frying Pan Farm and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will soon have their Hemlock trip on October 22nd. The PTA is wrapping up (excuse the pun) the Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser event with hopes of reaching our goal of \$15,000 to support Lees Corner.

The PTA is kicking off our Clothing Drive later this month and it will run through November 20<sup>th</sup>. **We plan to have boxes available in the lobby for your November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher conferences so you can bring in your items then instead of having them sent to school with our students.** Thanks in advance for your support to this worthy cause.

It's our annual Book Fair this month! Kids are already getting excited on the books they wish to select for purchase. Again this year we are offering the convenience of getting dinner and visiting the Book Fair. Baja Fresh will again set up their grills to serve up delicious burritos and other items. This is a perfect way to avoid cooking for a night and they **will** accept credit cards! The profits support our Library!

During our annual Membership Drive, we currently have 347 members! Thank you for your support as your membership is vital for our continuing initiatives to support our school. Speaking of support, we need everyone to sign up annually with Giant Foods for their contributions based upon your receipts. This year, we hope to have to computer lab at Lees Corner available for you to sign up during the conferences next month. We will have signs to remind you to sign up.

There are so many people to thank that have graciously stepped up to volunteer for committees and volunteers in the classroom. This is what makes our school so great...the parents that invest their time and efforts to support our school and PTA initiatives. My personal thanks! With all the volunteers this year, we still are in need of an individual (s) be the Chairperson of the **Fun Fair**. As most of you know, this is an important event for our school and children. There are already many sub-committees that are staffed like food and games. Guidance can be provided from past Chairs. Please consider this position. We also are looking for help with Family Fun Night Committee and replacements for next year's Membership, Directory, and BAD committees. Now is a good time to learn the responsibilities from the incumbents!

*Notice:*

*At back to school nights, the PTA budget was presented and approved by all parents attending. The current Lees Corner PTA bylaws allow the president, with the consent of the treasurer, to approve an expenditure of up to \$100 above any line item in the approved budget without further board or membership approval. To continue the efficient workings of the PTA, on October 7, 2008, the Board considered and recommended for approval by the general membership an amendment to the bylaws that increases the expenditure level from up to \$100 to up to \$300 per line item. In addition, it imposes on the president a \$900 limit for all line items in a fiscal year. The board invites any comments or concerns regarding this amendment to the PTA bylaws. Please send them to the PTA Parliamentarian, Kevin Kramp at [paula.kramp@hotmail.com](mailto:paula.kramp@hotmail.com) before November 11, 2008, the next scheduled meeting.*

*Finally, your feedback/suggestions are always welcomed. You can send them directly to me at [president@leescornerpta.org](mailto:president@leescornerpta.org) or by coming to our monthly meetings in the LC Library at 7:30 PM on:*

November 11<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> January 6<sup>th</sup> February 3<sup>rd</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> April 14<sup>th</sup> May 5<sup>th</sup> June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Gary Stumpf, Your PTA President

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## Principal's Message

Blizzard called in from his "travels" . . . to let us know he thinks our Student Leadership is awesome!

During October we will hold our Student Council elections, the primaries are over and now Lees Corner officer candidates campaign, give speeches, and run in a Student Council Association election race. The quality of the campaign, replete with posters and slogans, is a credit to the candidates and all our students. The student's speeches speak to their respect for their school, and their desire to serve and be the role models they had seen others become. The 2008-2009 SCA officer candidates are:



**President:** Lauren MacDonald, Ryan McGorty, Jessica Reeves  
**Vice President:** Elizabeth Chung, Christie Murray, Kevin O'Callaghan  
**Recording Secretary:** Ryan Krueger, Makayla Salas, Chae YoungWohn  
**Treasurer:** Rohan Shrivastiva, Vigen Babayan, Nancy Tran  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Michael Eshleman, Madison Fisher, Katelyn Birchfield

I know the students will have a very difficult time choosing from such a talented field of candidates. All our final candidates will chair our various committees such as the Newsletter, Welcoming, and Library to name a few, so everyone is a winner and leader. Mrs Moring is our SCA sponsor supported by Ms. Im and Ms. Lehman, and many of our faculty who work with the various committees. Students at each grade level, yes kindergarten too, have a representative that attends the SCA meetings and gives their class input. I look forward to interacting with our leaders, hearing their ideas to promote school spirit and provide support for our school. Best wishes in the Election!

Those students involved in the SCA are not our only leaders, our sixth graders have been chosen as tutors and mentors to our first graders during the early bird time first thing in the morning, and many of our students apply and train to fulfill the important role of peer support for our special needs students. You will see them providing leadership, friendship and service throughout the building. Not to mention our patrols and sixth grade TV News crews, leaders all, who end each broadcast with, "YOU are responsible for your own behavior." Our older students serve as reading buddies and wonderful role models for our younger students. Yes, it's certainly about high academic achievement--but also leadership at Lees Corner!

### **IT'S ALL ABOUT SAFETY FIRST!**

As always, our primary mission is to ensure a safe environment for our students! To that effect we have a new security system and comprehensive FCPS **SECURITY PLAN** or Crisis Plan that covers a variety of contingencies that include: a crisis management team, lockdown procedures, shelter in place, access control, students or classes requiring special assistance, drills and training, yes tornados, and more. School plans are reviewed and revised as needed and exercises conducted. We soon will have a new visitor check-in system supported by FCPS. Many thanks to **Tim Lisko** who developed our very first system!

### **IT'S ALL ABOUT A GREAT COMMUNITY!**

Thank you for your wonderful response at Back-to-School Night. We benefit from tremendous parent involvement and it is important that you are informed as to our instructional goals. I look forward to seeing many of you at November Parent Conferences, Grade level events, Book Fair, and other PTA and school events. I would like to once again welcome all our new parents and thanks those who attended the New Parent/Volunteer Orientation. Our appreciation is extended to those parents who give of their time and energy to support all our children. Our PTA committees have many wonderful events planned including our **Book Fair**, October 14-17<sup>th</sup>. Check the newsletter for more information.

### **FCPS ESOL Parent Meetings, "Strengthening Family-School Connections"**

**will be Oct 15, Oct. 20, & Nov. 12. Watch for flyers in the mail or contact the school for more information. Dinner, childcare, and interpreters will be available.**

### **Parents - It's All About Keeping in Touch!**

**Lees Corner Parents---Have you seen the slide show from the first day of school at Lees Corner?? If not, go to the "Lees Corner All" photo album site on 24-7 Blackboard and see how many people you recognize! (You may access the FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) account from any computer with internet access. The address is <http://fcps.blackboard.com> . A link to FCPS 24-7 Learning is also found on the FCPS home page <http://www.fcps.edu>. When you log in, you will see the "Lees Corner All" site listed on the main page.) With over 80 photos, you'll feel like you were there! And don't forget to check back often to "Keep in Touch" with all the wonderful things happening at Lees Corner**

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We encourage you to visit your **teacher's/grade level 24/7 Blackboard site** and **share your thoughts on my BLOG!** Do check out **Helping Your Child Learn** a monthly parent publication, **Today's Tip for Parents**, and **Ideas for Parents** updated frequently on our school web site, at <http://www.fcps.edu/LeesCornerES>. We appreciate your feedback to help us make your school the very best it can be! **Clay Sande, Principal**

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## Counselor's Corner

**Sue Buckley**  
**Nadjmeh Salimi**

Another exciting year is underway, and students have settled into their daily routines. We have some exciting programs that are ready to begin, including Sixth Grade Tutoring and First Friends. The Sixth Grade Tutoring Program involves sixth graders who express an interest in assisting younger students in grades K-3 with basic learning skills. The sixth graders check in with their teachers before going to the classroom of the student with whom they are working. They return to their classrooms at 8:25, and this is done every day. Sixth grade teachers expect them to make up any early work they miss, so the tutors must be responsible, respectful to other students and adults, and kind (our Blizzard's Bees Rules) in order to be selected. Some of our sixth graders are chosen as buddies to work with special education students, and this is a true joy for all students involved. They learn compassion, acceptance, and how to motivate and encourage. Our first group of tutors consists of the following students: **Neil Desai, Mary Alice Sine, Drew Cohen, Isabel Goldschmidt, Katelyn Birchfield, Lauren MacDonald, Renee Griese, Ian Horil, Shruti Gokhale, Hannah Lull, Lawson Race, Michael Eshleman, Brayan Rodriguez, Julia Golden, Ryan McGorty**. As more teachers request tutors, more will be assigned.

Our other program that will soon be under way is First Friends. Each teacher selects one boy and one girl to assist new students who join the classroom throughout the year. These students will make introductions, give mini tours, help the new student in the lunch line and library, and make sure they find someone who rides the same bus. Once all the students have been chosen, they will have a training session to help them get started. Each new student will get a welcoming brochure, a Lees Corner pencil, and some great first friends.

Another program that has begun is the Chantilly Community Coalition. This is a group of people who represent schools, the police department, our regional library, and other critical organizations. Our first meeting was on September 29 at Chantilly High School in the Media Center. This coalition receives grant money to fund alcohol, drug, gang, and bullying prevention throughout the county. There are many school pyramids that have coalitions. Grant money is requested through a formal application process to fund prevention activities. Funds are limited, and the process is rigorous. The elementary schools can receive funds to support Red Ribbon week, after school prevention and parenting programs, and prevention materials. The countywide theme this year is: "*Parents Who Host, Lose the Most.*" If you are interested in attending a meeting to find out more about our coalition, please contact Sue Buckley, Lees Corner Coalition Representative. The next meeting is from 4:00-5:00 at Chantilly High on October 27.

Classroom counseling began in September and will continue through October to teach bullying prevention skills. All students are asked to tell an adult when they have experienced bullying, and we are teaching bystanders their critical role of getting help when they see bullying. Mrs. Jeffries, Technology Specialist, and the Counseling Department have combined lessons to include not only what we traditionally think of as bullying (physical, teasing, rumors, etc.), but also to educate our children about the dangers of the Internet. Cyber-bullying is taking on epidemic proportions, and we want to ensure that our children know how to use the Internet safely and wisely. Please make sure to monitor your child's access and activities on the computer.

Counseling groups will begin this month, and if your child has been selected by her teacher to participate in a group (such as for study skills), you will receive prior notice and a form to sign giving your permission for your child to participate. Groups are conducted in a positive atmosphere, emphasizing each child's strengths, and helping them gain skills to be more successful in school.

If you have any questions about the School Counseling Program at Lees Corner, please call. We will be happy to speak with you or to make an appointment for a meeting.

Sue Buckley, Counselor for grades 1, 3, 5, 6, Special Education  
Nadjmeh Salimi, Counselor for grades K, 2, 4

## RED RIBBON WEEK

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first official celebration of Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is dedicated to Enrique Camarena, a drug enforcement agent, who was killed by drug traffickers in Mexico in 1985. During the week of October 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> our students at Lees Corner will sign a pledge in their classrooms showing their individual commitment to lead healthy lives free of using alcohol and tobacco. Each day of the Red Ribbon Week we will be wearing our Red Ribbons to symbolize our commitment to make healthy choices. **Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> is wear Red Day. Please encourage your child to wear red on Friday!**

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## PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM 2008-2009

The Reflections Arts Program is now underway. The Reflections Program was developed by the National PTA to encourage children, in grades K-12 to express themselves through the creative arts. This year's theme is "Wow!". Children can submit works in 6 categories: Literature, Visual Arts, Photography, Music, Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production. First, Second, Third, and three Honorable mentions will be awarded in each of the arts categories for each age division. The goal of Reflections is about participation. Although the program follows a judging format, winning should not be the emphasis. Students will be recognized and awarded for their achievement in their chosen art medium.

**The deadline for this year's program is October 17<sup>th</sup>.** If your child has not received a program packet or you would like more information, you can find the entire program packet and separate student entry forms on the school website at [leescornerpta.org](http://leescornerpta.org) under resources. You may also contact Trish Brehm at [trishbrehm@hotmail.com](mailto:trishbrehm@hotmail.com) or Gina McCue at [Ginamccue@cox.net](mailto:Ginamccue@cox.net) (Reflections Chairs).

All entries and awardees will be displayed at the school during the week of parent/teacher conferences in November. In addition, all participants will be able to enjoy an awards party to be held later in the month.

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## Cultural Arts at Lees Corner

The PTA has scheduled four outstanding artists to perform at Lees Corner this year through the cultural arts program and is also contributing funds to bring author Steven Kroll to Lees Corner. Our first assembly will be on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> with Cantare's Fiesta! A Celebration of Life in Latin America. Students will hear Latin American music performed with a variety of fascinating instruments such as an armadillo shell guitar and a donkey jaw!

On November 17<sup>th</sup> students will hear from author Steven Kroll. He has written over 90 children's books. The Biggest Pumpkin Ever, Biggest Snowman Ever, Biggest Valentine Ever, The Boston Tea Party, Lewis and Clark (Explorers of the American West), By the Dawn's Early Light (The Story of the Star Spangled Banner) to mention just a few of his titles.

Later in the year, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, Mark Jester, a wildly popular mime will dazzle the students with his show. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Nada Brahma's World Music exposes the students to musical styles and instruments from the Caribbean, Andes Mountains, Central and Southern Asia, Australian Outback and Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North America. The final assembly of the school year will be on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Performer Goombay will highlight the multi-lingual aspect of the Caribbean Islands, teaching students a little Spanish, French and Creole through their musical performance.

Many thanks go to all the parents and teachers who support the PTA and enable us to bring these great performances directly to our school.

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## Regarding Children going home with other children...

When sending in notes for your child(ren) to arrange play dates, please include the following information:

1. Your child's first and last names
2. Your child's teacher's name
3. The other child's first and last names
4. The date the activity is to take place
5. Mode of transportation – bus, car rider, or walker
6. Your full name and daytime phone number

Just a reminder – we need notes from both families involved!!

Notes are sent to the office by the teachers and it is very difficult and time-consuming to match up notes when we don't have this information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

# Lees Corner's Annual Clothing Drive!



We're in Search of New or Gently Used Clothes for Infants, Children, & Adults!

Do you have clothing your kids have outgrown, or that you no longer want? Would you like to see someone else get some use out of them? If so, bring them in Monday and Tuesday November 3rd & 4th, during Parent Teacher Conferences, and drop them off in the boxes by the windows overlooking the library! Or, have your child bring them in anytime between now and November 19th!

All clothes received will benefit families in need at our sister school: [Bailey's Elementary in Arlington](#).  
**Sponsored by Lees Corner PTA - Volunteer support provided by Junior Troop 131**

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## Lees Corner Book Fair Safari 2008

Books  
make  
GREAT  
Gifts!!

Join us on a book adventure by attending the  
**Lees Corner Book Fair Safari**  
**Dates: October 14-21<sup>st</sup> 8:30am – 2:30pm**  
**Family Nights: Thursday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00pm**  
**Monday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00pm**

Credit  
Cards  
Accepted

**Gift Certificates Available**  
**Wish Lists for Students and Teachers**  
**Educational Software**

*Please contact Book Fair  
Committee Chairs Michele  
Anderson  
<billy\_michele@msn.com>,  
Stephanie Cavanagh  
<dmsncav@yahoo.com>, and Kristi  
Pennell <kristipennell@verizon.net> if  
you have questions.*

**Enjoy Baja Fresh with your family  
before visiting the book fair!**

**Baja Fresh will have items from their menu  
for sale during the book fair Family Nights.  
18% of the evening's food sales will be donated  
to the school.  
CASH OR CREDIT**

**Proceeds benefit Lees Corner Library**



**Enjoy great Baja Fresh Food  
At Lees Corner Elementary  
18% of the evening's food sales will be donated to  
the school**

*Date: Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>*

*Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.*

**Where: Lees Corner Elementary Cafeteria**

- \* **BAJA BURRITO**  
Chicken or Steak, Melted jack cheese, guacamole & Fresh Pico de Gallo. \$ 7.00
- \* **BURRITO**  
Chicken or Steak, Grilled veggies, melted cheese, Salsa Baja, rice & sour cream. \$ 7.00
- \* **QUESADILLAS**  
Melted Jack Cheese, Sour Cream, guacamole & Fresh Pico de Gallo.
  - Chicken or Steak \$7.00
  - Cheese \$6.00
- \* **DRINKS** \$1.00
- \* **CHIPS & SALSA** \$3.00
- \* **CHIPS & GUACAMOLE** \$4.00

# REGISTER YOUR GROCERY LOYALTY CARDS – IT IS SUCH AN EASY WAY TO HELP THE SCHOOL!

Let us register you immediately!

- ✓ Simply complete this form (even if you registered last year) and return it to school with your child.
- ✓ Your grocery purchases earn points and eventual cash for the school.
- ✓ Encourage your friends and family to sign up too. (add their information on back of form)
- ✓ *The program runs from October through early April.*
- ✓ *Lees Corner earned \$4,600 from these programs last year allowing the school to purchase needed supplies for the school.*

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)	
Your Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Lees Corner Parent
E-Mail: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Lees Corner Staff
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lees Corner
City & Zip: _____	
Phone: _____	
Name of oldest Lees Corner student: _____ Teacher: _____	

**If you have already enrolled on your own for this year's programs, either online or at the grocery store, please indicate so we can include your enrollment in our participation rate:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Giant \_\_\_\_\_ Safeway \_\_\_\_\_ Harris Teeter

GIANT Bonus Card Number
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

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HARRIS TEETER VIC Number
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Michelle Gervasini ([gervasinis@verizon.net](mailto:gervasinis@verizon.net))  
 Liz Persell ([lizpersell@msn.com](mailto:lizpersell@msn.com))  
 Lees Corner Receipt Committee

Please indicate if you need to split the earnings with any other Fairfax County Schools.  
 School Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_