

## Upcoming Events

Thurs, Sept 11

7:30 p.m.

Back to School Night  
(Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Wed., Oct. 1

Fall Portrait Day

Tues, Oct 7

7:30 p.m.

PTA Monthly Meeting  
(Library)

**Week of October 13**

Book Fair (evening hours  
10/16 & 10/20)

Wed., Oct. 22

6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Trip to Hemlock



# Lees Corner PTA

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

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

## *From the editor:*

As part of Lees Corner's initiative to "go green" and save money that can be used to more directly benefit our children, it has been decided to move from publishing hardcopies of our monthly newsletter, to posting it on the Lees Corner PTA website and emailing it to our Lees Corner families.

Our email list will be compiled using both the PTA registration envelopes and the email addresses you provided to Lees Corner when registering your child(ren). Please be aware that no email addresses will be published for public eye. To protect your privacy, all email addresses will be blind-copied (meaning no email address will be visible to recipients) when sending out the monthly newsletter/link. To get to the newsletter online go to [www.LeesCornerPTA.org](http://www.LeesCornerPTA.org), and click on the "Resources" tab.

**Beginning next month, everyone we have an email address for will receive the newsletter or the web link to the newsletter electronically and no hardcopy will be sent home.** In the first and all subsequent emails there will be an option for you to be taken off of the email list if you wish.

A limited number of hardcopies will be available in the front office. If you would like to obtain a hardcopy, please contact the front office and a copy will be sent home with your child. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, feel free to email me at [lricher@aol.com](mailto:lricher@aol.com).

## **PTA Presidents Message**

Hope you all had an enjoyable summer vacation filled with fun activities. Now, our children are back in the caring hands of our teachers and staff at Lees Corner. Clay Sande has again assembled a great team of veteran teachers along with a few new teachers are well trained and ready to educate in academics and other life skills.

As way of introduction, my name is Gary Stumpf, and I have the pleasure to return for a second term as your President of Lees Corner PTA. We continue to be blessed with great volunteers! Your PTA support is vital to continue to have a strong voice and support of all our children's developmental needs to enhance every child's experience and provide aid to ensure we continue our many enriching programs like Cultural Arts events, field trips, teacher training, Fun Fair, after school programs, and much more! I encourage you to sign up for PTA membership to show your support as well as getting involved with volunteering. The opportunities in volunteering range from running a committee to donating a

**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

[Kathy.Case@fcps.edu](mailto:Kathy.Case@fcps.edu)

few hours in the classroom, chaperoning a field trip, assisting with the Thanksgiving lunch, or by volunteering during our annual Fun Fair. Check to list below to see if you can lead or help with any of these committees.

Last year, Lees Corner expanded its Kindergarten program to all day. This year, LC has added another Kindergarten class to help control class size to include the addition of Ms. Casey Kotula, mentioned below in Clay's note. Your PTA funds have significantly helped to equip this new classroom. This year, we hope to expand our support by recommending funding of a new Legos Robotic Team that focuses on problem solving using science and technology. Check out their display table at Back-to-School Night for more information.

With Back-to-School Nights, we again kick off our big fund-raising event! Your support efforts directly help fund all our initiatives during the school year. This year, we will give you the option to make a direct donation to the PTA. Or, if your wrapping paper is getting low, please support the Innisbrook wrapping paper drive. Also, School Spirit ladies, Lisa and Natalie, have again served up a great selection of Spirit Wear apparel that will show Blizzard pride in our school.

Thanks to Lowes and Giant merchants for their contribution of gift cards used to spruce up our campus for the start of the new school year. 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:

October 7    November 4    December 2    January 6    February 3    March 3    April 7    May 5    June 2

***Gary Stumpf, Your PTA President***

## 2008-2009 PTA Officers and Committee Chairs

Executive Board	Name
President	Gary Stumpf
1st Vice President	Jodi Fraize
2nd Vice President	Amelia Rossi
2nd Vice President	Giuseppi Rossi
Treasurer	Holly O'Donnell
Recording Secretary	Lisa Abdou
Corresponding Secretary	Sheri Hodinko

Committee	Name	Committee	Name
After School Program	Lisa Adou	Minority Liaison	Kim Graham
BAD	Polly Murray	Newsletter	Laura Richer
Book Fair	Melinda Golden/Laura Dreyfus	Parliamentarian	Kevin Kramp
Box tops for education	Kirsten Young	Receipts	Liz Percell/Michelle Gervansini
Clothing Drive	Colleen Hawley	Reflections	Trish Brehm/ Gina McCue
Cultural Arts	Beth Hartgett/Laura Preede	School Spirit	Natalie Cohen/Lisa Vivian
Directory	Claire Finks	School Supplies	Kim Carter/Laura Dreyfus
<i>Family Fun Nights</i>	<i>vacant</i>	6th Grade Basketball	Tom and Peggy Cook
<i>Franklin Liaison</i>	<i>vacant</i>	6th Grade Lunch	Ellen Werren/Ann Booker

<i>Fun Fair</i>	<i>vacant</i>	S.U.R.F.	Lydia Izquierdo/Liz Lisko
Grounds Beautification	Gary Stumpf	Technology	Rob Fitzhugh/Jose Castillo
Hospitality	Donna Stumpf/Sara Godfrey	Volunteers	Ingrid Miller
Language Program (French only)	Karen Connell	Ways & Means	Denise & Mike Clendenin
Membership	Claire Finks	Welcoming	Karen Connell

A brief description of each currently *vacant* position and those positions that are **looking to transition their duties** this year are as follows.

### **Family Fun Nights Committee**

Organizes and executes family-oriented events during the school year (usually three events). These events are intended to promote the Lees Corner community. The events are generally held at the school on a Friday evening and last about two hours. Events may include snacks and beverages or food available for purchase. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Franklin Liaison**

Contacts Franklin Middle School before each Lees Corner PTA meeting to see if there is anything happening at the school that might be of interest to our school members. The Liaison also attends the Franklin Middle School PTA meetings and reports on any items of interest. The usual events of interest are the 3rd Thursday Parent Workshops and school plays and concerts. The Franklin Liaison may also serve the Franklin PTA as the Lees Corner Liaison.

### **Fun Fair Committee**

Organizes and runs the Fun Fair which is a community and fund raising event held in the Spring.

## *Principal's Comments*

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for a fantastic new year.

While our SOL scores remained high overall, and reflected our focus on language arts, we did not make annual yearly progress (AYP) in our limited English subgroup in math. We will continue to make student learning for each and every child a priority as we continue to focus on our students with limited English proficiency, and a focus on math at the upper grades. It is our goal to develop the potential of each student. Throughout the year our teachers will implement the FCPS new curriculum and assessment initiative eCART and will continue to attend workshops to assist them in implementing curriculum changes and best practices to meet the challenges and needs of all our students. We are very excited to offer a Level IV GT program at Lees Corner. Look for more about each of these initiatives and other new resources in future issues.

I hope you will visit and comment on my new **Principal's Blog** that can be accessed through the Lees Corner All **24/7 site**. I hope this will provide yet another vehicle for communication with you our parents on topics important to our children's education.

We will be using the new **FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT)** system regularly this year to keep you informed about school and PTA events and activities. I will also be posting school news and PTA information on 24/7 Learning (Blackboard). **Much of our communication with you will be through your child's classroom and Lees Corner All 24/7 site. As we also are going "green"!**

The new KIT and 24/7 system ties in directly to our school system's student database (SASI), so it is very important that your phone number and e-mail addresses are accurate in our system. **You are strongly encouraged to register for Parent View at our Back-to-School Nights.** After this "one time" registration, you will be able to access your contact information online from home and make changes to your phone numbers and/or e-mail address (es) and it enables access to KIT and 24/7.

In the spirit of our motto, *Pride, Teamwork and Excellence*, I know you join me in congratulating **Susie McCallum**, the new principal of Dranesville ES. I am very fortunate to have **Mrs. Kathy Case**, our new Assistant Principal, join our team and would like to share a little from and about Kathy:

"I consider myself a native Virginian since I moved to northern Virginia when I was 10. I attended Fairfax County schools and did my undergraduate work at Virginia Tech where I met my husband, Tony. I feel fortunate to have stayed home with my two children while they were in elementary and middle school and went back into the work force as a test coordinator at Lake Braddock while my children attended school there. I have a master's degree in Gifted Education from the University of Virginia and have been a GT resource teacher as well as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade GT center teacher. I enjoyed the challenge of helping kids reach their potential and stretch themselves in ways they didn't think were possible. I recently finished my administrative endorsement with LEAD Fairfax and am thrilled to be at Lees Corner.

My children are now fabulous young adults that I am very proud of. My daughter graduated from VA Tech with a double major in Communications and Political Science. She currently lives in Arlington like many twenty-some things seem to want to do. My son is in his senior year at Florida State where he is majoring in Music Education. I am hopeful he will share his knowledge and talents with students in Fairfax County next year. Currently, I think he may have other ideas about his future.

I am passionate about my family, friends, reading, and Hokie football. I love working with the youth at my church and have attended work camp with them the last couple of summers. I also love American history and can be found wandering around Mt. Vernon or exploring other sights that have historical significance.

I feel very fortunate and blessed to have landed at such a great school with a fabulous community."

Please welcome some additional terrific new faculty members to our Lees Corner team! Our school and community reputation makes it easy for us to attract both wonderful experienced teachers and those new to the profession:

It is quite exciting to welcome back Ms. Casey Kotula, a former Lees Corner student, as our fourth kindergarten teacher! Can you believe it! Having heard so many wonderful kudos about Michelle Sullenberger, we are delighted she decided to join our first grade team. Complementing the fourth grade team and bringing that excitement and growth that only new teachers can, we welcome Sarah Frontino who has a master's degree in childhood literacy. Maria Figueira has already proven to be a wonderful addition to our great special education faculty.

We are very excited to officially bring on board instructional assistants Patti Castan, and Teresa O'Callaghan valued members of our Lees Corner community. We have grown and will now have additional art provided three days a week by Ms. Erica Holson and are excited to welcome our new full time art teacher Ms. Kris Cho. Please also welcome a new evening custodian, Mr. Darryl Williams. Did you doubt that we were busy this summer?

*A new school year, a new beginning, and much like our children, we look forward to it with anticipation and excitement! As I welcomed our children and families back to your school, I was excited to see student's smiles and anticipation, not to mention the wonderful hugs!*

*Your principal, Clay Sande*

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## **New Door Access System**

Lees Corner Elementary School has received approval to begin its keyless entry program designed to increase school safety and security.

Beginning September 15, 2008, the front school entrance will be locked and will require parents and visitors to press a button near the entrance to gain entrance. Monitors in the building will allow staff members to "buzz" in the parents/visitors based on an audiovisual system. Doors will be opened at arrival and dismissal to allow access for opening, dismissal and after school activities.

Kiss and ride students will continue to be able to enter through the cafeteria doors when staff is present to greet them.

Given that Lees Corner Elementary has hundreds of volunteers and visitors each year, we expect there to be a learning curve as we adapt to this new system. We also expect it to improve school security. Lees Corner has worked with the FCPS Security Office and Facilities to insure a smooth transition to the new system.

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## **Lees Corner Notice**

**Half time Office Clerical Position Available  
Position includes benefits.**

**Please contact Ruth LaCroix at 703-227-3503 if interested.**

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## **Lees Corner Spirit Wear is Here!**

Spirit order forms were sent home in last Wednesday's folders. Please order your Spirit Wear today! Forms are due by Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have questions or concerns on sizing, availability, etc. please contact Natalie Cohen at 703-263-1664 or phipsi93@msn.com, or Lisa Vivian at 703-817-1272 or mavivian@cox.net.

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**Do you have Box Tops piling up from this summer?  
BRING THEM IN—Lees Corner needs them!**

Have your child place them in the Box Top bin in the main lobby of the school.

You can also register online at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). This website is full of ideas for activities, easy recipes the kiddos will enjoy (and mom or dad will have fun making), and money-saving coupons! Since 2002, Lees Corner has earned over \$10,000 by clipping boxtops!

And don't stop clipping...Lees Corner will collect the Box Tops all school year.  
Thanks for your support!



## **Innisbrook Time Again!**

More importantly, money for the kids! This is Lees Corner Elementary's biggest fundraiser of the year. Our target this year is \$16,000.

### **What does that get us?**

- Field trips for each class, including trips like Shenandoah Caverns, Richmond, and Medieval Times.
- Visiting artists, musicians and authors.
- More Smartboards for the school.

**The fundraiser will run Sept. 12 – Oct. 3rd.**

This year, you can enter all your orders on line with the EZ Parent Order Entry. Make sure to go to [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com) and register your child online.

**Lees Corner School # is 101743.**

Thanks in advance for helping to make this year's effort a success!

Michael and Denise Clendenin  
Lees Corner PTA Ways & Means Chairs