

# Lion Tails

## Littlewood Elementary PTA Newsletter

The Information Source for Littlewood Families & Friends

January 2009  
Volume 1, No. 3

### PTA Meetings:

The LITTLEWOOD PTA usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 4:30 in the Media Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

03/09/09  
04/13/09  
05/11/09

Membership Dues: \$10

To receive email reminders of meeting dates and volunteer opportunities, email Amy Vollmer at: [Vollmerfl@yahoo.com](mailto:Vollmerfl@yahoo.com)



### President's Message:

Hi all and Happy New Year. Time is flying by but everyone has a few more opportunities to become involved in PTA. We are forming 2 committees and looking for people interested in serving on them. The first committee will be deciding fundraising activities for next year. The committee will consider the current fundraisers (e.g., gift wrap, coupon books) and other creative new ideas you might have. The second committee will be planning and organizing teacher appreciation week. It is such a great opportunity to give back to those who give to our children on a daily basis. We just need a few

people with ideas and energy to join in these decision-making groups. Each committee will only meet a few times, so the time commitment is minimal as we know how busy everyone is. If you are interested, please contact me at [vollmerfl@yahoo.com](mailto:vollmerfl@yahoo.com) or at 379-3659. Thanks to all of our amazing volunteers! Our children and Littlewood benefit from your time!  
**Amy Vollmer, PTA president**



May 4-8

### Dates to Remember:

February 13	Friday	School in Session not a flex day
February 18	Wednesday	Volunteer Luncheon
February 21	Saturday	Five Points Kid's Marathon 8am
February 28	Saturday	Title I Picnic -Santa Fee Oaks
March 10	Tuesday	FCAT's begin
March 31	Tuesday	Health Fair
April 6 - 10	Mon - Fri	Spring Break
April 15	Wednesday	Kindergarten Roundup
April 24	Friday	Movie Night



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## About Us:

On March 8, 1997, a Junior Girl Scout Troop dedicated the Peace Pole in honor of international students. At Littlewood we have students from all over the world. You can see our Peace Pole in the green area in front of our media center.

## Guess Who:

On which teacher's web site can you find Science Trivia?

- a. Ms. Kelly
- b. Ms. Feldman
- c. Ms. Sesock

(answer on back page)

## Morning Mile Results:

As of January 30:  
4175 Miles run.  
181 Sneakers on the wall.  
372 of 640 students participating.

## Five Points of Life Kids Marathon - February 21<sup>st</sup>

All Littlewood students are encouraged to register for this fun event. **Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 8:00 am.** All you have to do is run or walk 25 miles prior to that day, print the log sheet from the website and bring it to registration. Then on Sat., Feb 21, you run/walk the final 1.2 miles to complete a FULL marathon. We already have over 40 kids who completed over 25 miles in the Morning Mile, and well over 70 who will have 25 miles by mid-Feb, but you can also count miles done on your own!! All participants receive a nice t-shirt and medal!

Did you know that the school in Alachua County with the most students participating can get over \$1000.00? Last year we had over 50 kids, and came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place! Let's try for 1<sup>st</sup> place this year!!

It's easy to register online. Just go to [www.fivepointsoflife.org](http://www.fivepointsoflife.org) and click on Kid's Marathon.

For more information, contact:

Lisa Elgerd Parker  
[eaelder@yahoo.com](mailto:eaelder@yahoo.com)

Kristina Belvin  
[tbelvin@bellsouth.net](mailto:tbelvin@bellsouth.net)

Maria Ripol  
[mripol@stat.ufl.edu](mailto:mripol@stat.ufl.edu)

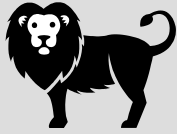


## Volunteer Highlight

Mr. **Michael Verschaeve** is the father of Corbin (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and Reubin (1<sup>st</sup> grade). He is also the owner of Blue Star Nursery in Hawthorne. He is often seen on the Littlewood campus planting trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables, and taking care of them. Not only does he do the plantings, but he has been seen watering them regularly and even covering the orange trees to protect them from the recent freezes.

Some of Mr. Verschaeve's volunteer projects involve the vegetable gardens outside Ms. Kelly's, Ms. Dewar's and Ms. Elkins' classrooms, the butterfly gardens, the blueberry and orange orchard by the Good-Nation greenhouse, and several other plantings. Volunteer projects such as these allow children hands-on experiences growing and caring for food, increasing the likelihood that they will try new fruits and vegetables and make life-long healthy food choices. It will be exciting to see our children enjoying the fruits of their labor.

If you have a special interest and would like to volunteer contact Susan Falsetti at: [susan.falsetti@barrsystems.com](mailto:susan.falsetti@barrsystems.com).



Check out the PTA webpage linked from Littlewood's Web Site:  
[www.sbac.edu/~litlwood](http://www.sbac.edu/~litlwood)

**Phone Numbers:**  
EDEP – 955-6990  
Café – 955-6732  
Phone 955-6712  
Fax 955-7149

**2009 Teacher of the Year:  
Congratulations  
Tammy Gumbiner!**



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## Friends of the Library: New Sunshine State Books Program (SSYRA)

In January, Littlewood students began the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award program. Students in 3rd -5th grade get to vote for their favorite book among 15 titles selected by Media Specialists throughout the state of Florida. Students who read at least 3 of the 15 books qualify to vote, and the title that receives the most votes statewide receives the SSYR Award.

After the vote in April there will be a special celebration for students that qualify. To qualify for an invitation students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are required to read 4 of the titles, 4<sup>th</sup> graders are to read 5 titles, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are to read 6 titles. Keep reading lions! For more information about this program visit our school web site or contact **Mrs. Moore at [kelly.moore@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:kelly.moore@gm.sbac.edu)**

## Science Club:

Have you ever wondered why a long line of students follow **Mrs. Bracken** every Wednesday afternoon? This is our science club! For the second year Mrs. Bracken, in alliance with SECME, runs this club for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. SECME is a strategic alliance to renew and strengthen the professional capacity of K-12 educators, motivate and mentor students, and empower parents so that all students can learn and achieve at higher levels. SECME started in 1975 to give

## Science club continued:

under represented kids an opportunity to build a great career in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, helping to create a more diverse and competitive workforce. Each year, students compete against other students in the county. Last year Littlewood won 2<sup>nd</sup> place all around and was 1<sup>st</sup> place banner for 2008. Many of our students won individual awards as well. Trophies are displayed in the front office. This competition gives students and teachers the opportunity to learn from each other and put their skills and imaginations to the test. SECME uncovers talents and skills in students that otherwise would remain hidden. Visit Mrs. Bracken's classroom web page for pictures and more information.

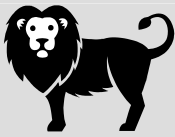
## Health Fair

**Date:** Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 5:30-7:30

## Events:

5:30: Evening Mile on P.E. Field  
5:45 - 6:15: Dinner with free reservation dinner tickets  
6:15 - 7:30 Heath Fair booths and activities  
Hearing/Blood Pressure tests  
Bike Helmet Safety(free helmets, limited number)  
Kids Yoga/Dance  
Bone density/Nutrition  
Seat belt and car seat safety  
Pharmacy representative  
Athletes coming: Demonstration by wheel chair basketball team, UF swimmers, cyclists.



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## PTA Membership Update

Thanks to our involved and caring parents and school staff, membership has increased slightly this year. So far, we have 64 parents, grandparents or guardians and 36 teachers or staff members as official members. Congratulations to our recent winner of the staff/teacher membership drive: **Nettie Maguire!** It is not too late to join your PTA! Membership application forms can be found in the front office. Membership cards have finally arrived from the district so if you have joined, please look for your card to come home with your child very soon.

### Thank You: Parents/Guardians/Grandparents/Teachers/Staff for Supporting Littlewood's PTA

E. Bainbridge, L. Bauer, K. Belvin, M & H Bishop, J. Burton, S. Carter, A. Castleberry, M. Cauthon, K. Cupoli, G. & N. Dell, W. Dever, S. Dorris, L. Elgerd, S. Fanning, M. Foster, S. Gano, K. Gilland, R. Goldstein, S. Gorman, J. Greer, R. & E. Guerra, M. Headrick, A. Hermansen-Baez, M. Homick, J. Jaeger, S. & M. Jones, E. Jones, T. Kaercher, M. Kamman, Kookenfamly, S. Lear, J. Lemire, G. Linder, P. Locascio, D. Mahn, L. Manker, B. Martin, A. McCoy, D. Milne, M. Mott, L. Muchnick, L. Navarrete, M. Nordlie, J. O'Neal, L. O'Sickey, M. Paz, K & N. Pearson, S. Riley, M. Ripol, M. Rohrbaugh, L. Schoonmaker, C. Seubert, J. Skiver, D.

.Stacey, D. Stillwell, C. VanCamp, A. V ollmer, G. vonMering, M. Wallig, P. Walls, N. & J. Watkins, J. Wilby, S. Wohlgemugh, D. Patel, R. Ableman, B. Bean, L. Bryan, C. Burton, K. Coffey, B. Dewar, B. Dovell, M. Emerson, J. Feldman, A. Foust Winfrey, L. Hales, S. Harner, L. Huggins, J. Johnson, K. Kieszek, T. Kilpatrick, N. Logan, K. Lynch, N. Maguire, A. McNichols, Mrs. Milne, K. Moore, K. Munn, D. Nation, C. Pigott, P. Reed, D. Reed, J. Seebeck, B. Siegel, S. Simmons, L. Stafford, K. Weaver, J. White, A. Whitehead.

### Fundraising Update:

Gift wrap:	\$ 5,200
Donations:	\$ 920
Box tops:	\$ 895
Carnival:	\$ 6,300
Baskets:	\$ 6,100
Membership	\$ 900
Spirit Wear	\$ 60
Yearbook	\$ 1,100
Coupon book	\$ 2,400
Planners	\$ 1,400
Book Fair/ Bazaar	\$ 3,400

This money is used for: Computer Aide's salary, Lion's Pride Tutoring, Teacher Appreciation Week, cafeteria lunches for needy students, PTA special events and more. **All PTA Members get a vote on how this money is allocated.**

### School Volunteers

Did you know last year 34,225 hours were recorded by our volunteers? Be sure to record your hours on the forms in the front office, and thanks for you time!

### Guess Who answer:

C. Ms. Sesock. Visit Littlewood staff websites at [www.sbac.edu/~litlwood](http://www.sbac.edu/~litlwood)

The end...



**PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM – return to your child's teacher**  
Please include \$10 cash or make checks payable to: Littlewood PTA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's

Names & Grades: \_\_\_\_\_