The Liberty Bell

October 2016

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Stop Bullying!
Do you have bullying concerns?

CALL
708-952-3255
Call with the following information: your name (optional), bully’s name, what happened where, when and any other information that may be important.

5900 W. 81st Street
Burbank, Illinois 60459
Phone: 708-952-3255
Fax: 708-299-0659

Mission Statement:
In partnership with students, family and community, the mission of Liberty Junior High is to educate the adolescent in a safe and mutually respectful environment.

Students Pledge To Be Drug Free

The big kick off for Red Ribbon Week and Character Counts has begun. Students will have the opportunity to purchase a t-shirt with this year’s theme. The shirt for this year is “You Only Live Once”. The T-shirt this year will be black to go along with the theme.

The month of October also begins National Bullying Prevention Month. The month of October will be devoted to learning how to recognize bullying and what to do about it. There will be daily activities that students will be able to interact and find solutions and responses to bullying solutions. Some of the activities will include viewing videos, group discussions, door decorating contest and a group activity in the student’s P.E. classes. The first step in helping and getting help is for Liberty students to begin by making a pledge to stomp out bullying once and for all!

Celebrating Red Ribbon Week
A Healthy Me Is Drug Free!
Meet Our Newest Addition To Liberty

Liberty Junior High welcomes its newest staff member. You can find Mrs. Burcheri-Vistian teaching Art, in room 136. The room is adorned with many great student works of art. The hallways have also become a show place for all the wonderful art work. Let’s get to know Mrs. Vistian as she shares with us a little bio about herself.

I was born in Sicily and my family immigrated to the US when I was two years old. Fast forward, I grew up in Burbank, graduated from Fry School and Reavis High School. Attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, after graduation started a business making custom picture frames located in the Loop in downtown Chicago. During which, I attended the program at the French Pastry School. With this formal education in all things pastry I was able to maintain my “extra 30 lbs.” I bake often! I always thought about teaching and finally decided to go back to school and Graduated from Saint Xavier University with a Masters in Elementary Education. This is my fifth year teaching visual art, and I love my job here at Liberty!!! It’s a true pleasure to see children’s eyes light up when they create something amazing!

I’m married to the most amazing man who supports my constant new projects. We are raising two fantastic boys and a rambunctious Doberman named Luna.

I’m a self-described “Compulsive maker of things.” At the moment I am learning silver-smithing, and really into ceramics. In my free time I create mosaic murals for an established Chicago based artist, and I’m itching to create one for Liberty. All in good time.

If you want to explore your creative side you can join the Art Club. The Art Club meets on Thursdays, in room 136. Permission forms can be picked up in the office.

2016 Dance Team Is In Full Swing

The Liberty Junior High Dance Team is in full swing for the 2016-2017 school year. Our first performance is Tuesday, November 15th for the Girls’ Basketball Halftime Show. We will be performing a 90s Music Icons Mix with music from Michael Jackson, Madonna, and Prince. We will also be having a competition team and tryouts this year come November. Our Competition Squad will be performing a lyrical piece choreographed by Coach Dynowski. We will perform that routine in February at the Boys’ Basketball Halftime Show. The squad will be competing in the Winter, but no set date just yet. The girls are also scheduled to perform at our Burbank District 111 Talent Show on December 2nd. They are also going to perform both routines at our annual St. Baldrick’s Night in March. We are also planning an End of the Year Dance Show in the Spring. We look forward to a great season and can’t wait to see all of you there cheering us on!

Coach Dynowski and Coach Kopka

Students Pledge To Be Drug Free

In the month of October Liberty celebrated Red Ribbon/Character Counts Week. This year’s theme was “You Only Live Once”. The week will include an Essay Contest, Assembly and a classroom door decorating contest. The essay contest gave the perfect opportunity for students to write about topics regarding a drug free lifestyle. Each day for one week students will be given a color to wear that represented a character trait. The month of October is devoted to learning how to recognize if you have a problem and how to live a drug free lifestyle. For a student the question to ask yourself is, “What can I do to help?” The first step in helping and getting help is for Liberty students to begin by making a pledge to Respect Yourself and Be Drug Free, once and for all!

Fall into Fitness

To celebrate family health and fitness, Liberty will host the Family Health and Wellness Fair which will include the Fall into Fitness 5kRun/Walk. Registration for the 5k run/walk is free and open to all ages and fitness levels. Every participant is required to register. The Fair is scheduled for Saturday, October 29th, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at Liberty. All forms are due by Friday, October 14th.
Power School

Parents can stay connected by using the program Power School. By logging in you can view your student’s progress, grades, attendance, discipline and view your students GPA. Parent’s passwords for Power School can be picked up in the Liberty school office. A valid picture ID is required when picking up your password.

Parents can also visit the Burbank District 111 Website and view the School District’s budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

S.M.A.R.T. Club Builds Positive Attitudes

Students Making A Right Tomorrow’s mission is to empower young people to successfully make positive changes in the school environment that carry over into their daily lives. The way to accomplish this is by creating, equipping, and sustaining a network of student-led activities in school focused on positive peer pressure. S.M.A.R.T. Club fosters a sense of belonging and promotes teamwork, leadership and advocacy skills so that young people make constructive life decisions. We believe that positive attitudes are contagious and S.M.A.R.T. Club members ignite their peers to develop healthy self-esteem and relationships.

For the month of October, S.M.A.R.T. Club members discussed issues at Liberty surrounding bullying. They identified various types of bullying that they see on a daily basis and create role playing to demonstrate what to do if a student encounters a bully.

Upcoming topics include developing a healthy body image, positive coping skills, building a caring school community, and goal setting. Meetings are mostly held twice a month on Tuesdays or Thursdays. The club is open enrollment and any student can join throughout the year.

Honoring Our Veterans On Veteran’s Day

Liberty students will also be observing Veteran’s Day with an assembly on Wednesday, November 9th. Veterans will be honored at the assembly.

This will be the 13th year that Liberty will host a Veteran’s Day assembly, to honor past and present servicemen from all branches of service. The school colors and theme of our Junior High welcome and encourage students to always give honor to the men and women of this country, who have served and died, so that every citizen of this nation can have the most invaluable gift of all, FREEDOM!

Halloween Dance

It is truly a wonderful way for the Liberty 7th and 8th grade students to show their support for the Student Council and come out to the “Halloween Dance”.

The Student Council Halloween Dance will be held on Friday, October 28th, from 5 to 7 p.m. The price of the ticket will be $5. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Student IDs are required for entry into the dance.

Costumes are suggested but are not mandatory. During the dance, students will be judged on their costumes and prizes will be awarded. So come out and join the fun and have a spooky good time!

Liberty Band Performs At Fall Concert

On Tuesday, October 11th the Liberty Bands performed their Fall concert. The performance represented the work that the students have accomplished in the first seven weeks of the school year. The brief concert was a great start to the year for both 7th and 8th grade bands.

On Friday, October 14th, the Liberty Band will perform at the Reavis Football game. The Patriot Band had the honor of performing with the Reavis Marching Rams. The Liberty students marched on the field with the Reavis Band and performed the pre-game show. This consisted of the playing of our National Anthem and the playing of Reavis’ school song. The Liberty band students continued to participate with their Reavis Counterparts in the stands during the first half. Our students helped cheer on the Reavis team and get the crowd into the game by playing pep tunes. The students watched the Reavis band perform their half-time show and then concluded their experience by performing Tito Puente’s Oye Como Va..
October
10 - No School
   Columbus Day!
24 - Red Ribbon Week
26 - Board Of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.
25 - End of First Quarter

November
9 - Veteran’s Day Assembly
11 - No School
21 - Half Day of School
   11:45p.m. Release
21 & 22 Parent Teacher Conferences

No School 22, 23, 24 & 25
24 & 25 - No School
   Thanksgiving Holiday!
28 - School Resumes

Volunteer Your Services
If you are interested in being a volunteer for Liberty Junior High School, please inquire in the school office.

2016 Boys Softball Team
The 2016 Boys Softball team had a good season. The season consisted of many close and competitive games, some ended up victorious and some ended up a little bit short. Regardless of the outcome, the boys always gave their full effort on the field. The team had a mixture of experienced players and some first year players. The team displayed good leadership and communication on the field which helped lead to success. Coach Rick Gamino and Coach Chris Pardek are very proud of the boys this season and hope the boys had as much fun as they did.

The Boys Softball team roster included Omar Alhind, Joe Aguire, Josh Wojo, Aiden Aragones, Aaron Dacer, Adrian Gamez, Gerardo Nunez, Tom Spengler, Aidan Padilla, Sean Dowling, Frankie Muraida, Avian Luna, Angelo Temko, Haron Abujejha and Gerardo Gomez
The team was coached by Head Coach Rick Gamino and Assistant Coach Chris Pardek.

2016 Girls Softball Team
Pictured to the right are the 2016 Girls Softball team. The team had a tough season, but they showed their dedication by making themselves better. Throughout the season the girls worked hard and demonstrated great teamwork.


The team was coached by Head Coach Katie Motola And Assistant Coach Joanne O’Riordan.