



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

December 2023

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

I hope this message finds you all in high spirits as we approach the month of December. It is with great joy that I write to you today, as we reflect on the incredible journey we have embarked upon together this year.

In a few weeks we bid farewell to another eventful year, it is important to take a moment and celebrate the achievements and growth we have witnessed within our school community. Our students have shown remarkable growth and success, and the dedication of our teachers and staff is always inspiring.

December also marks a time of reflection and gratitude. I encourage each and every one of you to take a moment to appreciate the people and experiences that have shaped us throughout the year. Our teachers have been instrumental in guiding our students toward academic success, and I would like to extend a special thank you to them. Their unwavering dedication and passion for education are truly commendable.

In the spirit of giving, we will be participating in a local food drive this December. Our students and families will have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of those less fortunate by donating non-perishable food items. Let us come together as a compassionate community and make a difference in the lives of those in need. The collection boxes will be in the main entrance vestibule. Check out the [flyer here](#).



Thank you, once again, for your unwavering support and commitment to our school. I am incredibly proud of each and every member of our community, and I look forward to the many achievements and adventures that await us in the coming year. I look forward to our last gathering of 2023 on December 21st at 6:30pm for the Winter Concert!

Wishing you a joyful and memorable December!

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.
Superintendent

Important Dates

Dec 1	1st Trimester ends
Dec 4	PTA Meeting 6:30pm
Dec 6	BOE Mtg. 6:45PM - Date Change
Dec 6	12:45 pm Early Dismissal - Teacher Inservice
Dec 6	TREPS Marketplace 5pm
Dec 8	PTA Kids Night Out
Dec 11	Report Cards Available to in Portal
Dec 21	Winter Concert
Dec 22	12:45 pm Early Dismissal
Dec 25-Jan 1	Winter Break
Jan 2	School Reopens - full day

Office Items

Report Cards Available in Parent Portal December 11th

If you have not already done so, please be sure to login to the LBS Parent Portal with your credentials and sign off on the forms that are there. This is where report cards are posted each trimester. *You will not have access to your child's report card if you do not complete this step.* If you need your Parent Portal credentials sent to you, please email Mrs. Muia at rmuia@lebanonschool.org

Substitutes (Teacher, Paraprofessional, and Custodial)

- We are in need of substitutes for this school year. If you or someone you know are interested please contact Tricia Duell at tduell@lebanonschool.org.

YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)

Health Office...

Bully-Free Zone: During the month of November, our character trait was Caring. Our focus as a school community was of kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness and helping people in need. The students will continue the character trait of Caring for December.

Nurse's News: Students go outside everyday for snack breaks and recess, if weather permits, for fresh air and exercise. Please send your children to school with the appropriate attire depending on the weather. Coats, layered sweatshirts, accessories like hats, gloves, scarves and boots help to protect students from the cold and wind. If it is a gym day don't forget to pack their sneakers into their backpacks to change into later.



Get strategies and support needed to quit smoking or vaping. Visit the [American Cancer Society](#) website to learn more about the Great American Smokeout!

Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Ryan Wetzel you have been recognized as the Safety Patroller for the month of November and Will be our NEW CAPTAIN for the month of DECEMBER. All your hard work has paid off. You have set a terrific example for the younger pupils by acting with generosity and selflessness while on duty. I'm happy to have you join the Safety Patrol Team. Bravo and keep up the fantastic job!



Art

Even though we've been on-again-off-again in November, your children have been really excellent students! They show up every art class focused and respectful. As a result, classes have been earning Art Reward Days, which means in addition to working on their assignments, some special

activities or privileges were sprinkled into the period. Students have had their portraits drawn, made art alongside a stuffed animal buddy, and had lunch with Mrs. Ace. I'm so proud of them all and looking forward to more days like these. Meanwhile, the students in



Kindergarten and First grade are finishing up beautiful paintings of apple still lifes that will surely dazzle their audiences, just like Cezanne did in Paris. The Second and Third graders have risen to the challenge of creating unique and convincing landscape collages. They've studied



artwork from previous centuries and what elements create the illusion of depth, then used what they've discovered in the creation of their own work. Students in grades 4 through 6 have spent the month working with clay. Using multiple hand-building techniques, they've constructed textured vases. All of their prior knowledge is shining through. I know my students are making high quality work, when I can't spot my teacher sample in the batch. Next month brings promises of collaborative work, more ceramics, and watercolor painting.

It can be hard to wait as these new projects are still works in progress. Take a look at what has been completed on the [Artsonia](#) page. Remember you can purchase items with your children's artwork on them directly from Artsonia, and a portion of the sale raises funds for LBS' art department. I look forward to exhibiting student artwork in upcoming months. Lookout for the slideshow at the concert in December, as well.

Enrichment/Media/Technology

This month 4-6 grades learned about the history behind the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade by reading the book, Balloons Over Broadway The True

Story of The Puppeteer of Macy's Parade by: Melissa West.

They created paper balloon floats for our own LBS

Thanksgiving Parade on Wednesday. PreK-3rd

grades came to the parade in the gym. It was a great send off for the students prior to Thanksgiving break.



The preschool students listened to many Thanksgiving stories including Turkey Trouble and then built structures to "hide the turkey from the farmer." The children did a great job hiding the turkey!

The Third graders have been researching the Wampanoag tribe over the past

few weeks. We even transported ourselves to Patuxet, the pre-European homeland of the Wampanoag, and were immersed in a story of cultural change and persistence that spans 12,000

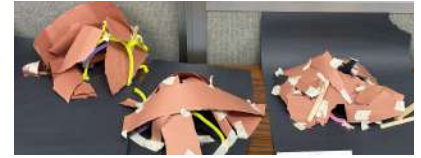


years by playing "You are the Historian" Interactive Game on the Plimoth Patuxet Museum website. After learning about the Wampanoag the children built Wetus in teams. All teams had the same amount of materials and needed to build the Wetus in 30

minutes. The students said the most challenging part using the tape wisely, once they ran out they had to pivot their idea.

TREPS Students have been gearing up for the *Marketplace on Wed. Dec. 6th in the LBS Gym*. The children have been learning what makes a good advertisement, making paper/digital posters for their shops and practicing

1 minute elevator pitches. Please come out and support our LBS entrepreneurs next week, there will be many unique items in our marketplace. I hope to see you there!



Music

We are in full concert mode in music class. The students are excited to perform a song for everyone at the concert on December 21st!

Each grade level will perform one song at the concert.

The grades five and six band will perform as well!

PK - Feliz Navidad

K - Jingle Bell Stomp

1st - 12 Days of Christmas

2nd - Rudolph

3rd - Jingle Bell Rock

4th - No School Tomorrow

5th - Oh Hanukkah

6th - Frosty the Snowman

We are excited for the 21st!



Physical Education/Health

In PE this month all classes continued on to improve on their throwing and catching skills as well as, their motor skills and fitness levels. Below are some pics of the kids playing a PE favorite “Get Your Trash Off My Lawn.” We also broke out the big parachute during the short for the younger grades. In health class focused on nutrition and the importance of eating healthy foods.

We talked about the food groups, the importance of nutrients and how the foods we eat can affect our overall health. We also focused on our monthly character trait, caring. We discussed the importance of how we can show others that we care and have empathy. In December we will practice with jump ropes and jumping games and activities and play some holiday themed games and activities.. The health unit will focus on Community Health & Safety, violence prevention and our Caring character trait.



Spanish

¡Fabulous noviembre! We all enjoyed learning and expanding our knowledge about Día de los Muertos. Look at the photos of the beautiful creations of calavera gem art and flores (flowers) your students made!

Grades K-1 have been identifying the months of the year, the days of the week and grouping them in their appropriate time frames. We are still practicing finding numbers on the calendario....! We are now able to comprehend basic questions about the calendar and respond in Spanish.

Grades 2-3 have been learning to talk about school routines and express feelings.

Grades 4, 5, and 6 have been immersing themselves in all things Spanish—listening for comprehension, reading and interpreting text, and having a lot of fun along the way. We look forward to the holiday season and all the ways it enables us to learn even more about the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

Preschool



AM: In November we learned about trees, color mixing and thanksgiving. We measured around the tree trunk and learned that this is the circumference, we also learned about the parts of the tree and put leaves in our sensory bin. We had a lot of fun using model magic to mix colors together to make a new color. We learned the letters F, E, H and numbers 2 and 3. We continue to practice sorting, patterns, counting and sharing. We celebrated 2 birthdays this month! We continued show and tell and named things we are thankful for. In December we will

learn about hibernation, gingerbread and holidays.



PM: This month we learned about pets, color mixing, nutrition, thanksgiving and dinosaurs. We painted a color wheel and used our fingers to mix the colors. We sorted animals that are wild and pets, learned about making healthy food choices and eating sweets in moderation, we also watched a dinosaur egg hatch in water. We continued show and tell and watched the 4-6th grade students parade around with their balloons that they made. We went to the kindergarten classroom to meet the teacher, learn about turkeys and make a turkey headband. In

December we will learn about hibernation, gingerbread and holidays. We are also looking forward to our winter show.



Kindergarten

During the month of November the kindergarten class has learned the difference between fiction and nonfiction text. They have been listening to a variety of texts read aloud. We have been learning about the parts of a book. The class has done an excellent job writing in their journals during writing workshop. They are using phonetic spelling to write their words. Next, the students will be learning about opinion writing. We are continuing to build our sight word vocabulary and we are working each week on multiple phonics sounds to help us blend and read more words. We are working on plural nouns. In our next reading unit we will read many stories about animals. We will also be learning to recognize adjectives.

In math we are currently working on sorting and classifying objects. Our next module will focus on addition and subtraction equations. We have been working with a partner to complete math center activities on various levels. This month in social studies we have been learning about the past and present. We observed and discussed how things have changed. We learned about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. We learned how the Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons are made. We worked on many projects, crafts and activities for Thanksgiving. We also worked together with our preschool friends to learn about turkeys and to make a craft together. We had a lot of fun!



First Grade

We hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving! First grade is excited to get into the holiday season! During social studies, we will learn about important winter holidays like Hanukkah, Diwali, Las Posadas, and Kwanzaa. We will also learn about our classmates' special holiday traditions! Following our Holidays Around the World unit, we will



we will begin our unit on Animal Superpowers in science.

During this unit, the students will explore how the external characteristics of animals are essential for their survival.

Did you know that tadpoles grow their back legs first, and then their front legs? Or that sunflowers have their own

circadian rhythm that helps them face the sun every day? And that all living things have a life cycle? These are just some of the awesome facts that

we've learned in 1st grade during our whole group reading time. First grade has been learning all about informational texts and their nonfiction features such as headings and labels. In the weeks to come, we will continue to closely read nonfiction texts while reading about baby animals and also identify the changes that happen to animals during the seasons. This unit has been a great way to incorporate science into our reading time! As always, we continue to work on our reading fluency and comprehension during centers and reading workshop time. In math, we have learned how to identify related facts and use them to check our addition and subtraction. Now, we will learn how to solve word problems with unknown addends using objects and drawings.



First grade is very excited about December and all the fun things we will learn! Take a look at pictures of our first mystery reader of the year, Mrs. Tawil, along with others from November!



Second Grade

November has come and gone in the blink of an eye and we have gotten so many things done in second grade! In Reading and Writing, we have touched on many different genres of writing, such as realistic fiction, informational texts, and poetry. We are getting better and better every day at our Daily Five routine, and really enjoying all of our different center rotations that we get to complete for those. We are becoming stronger readers every day, and building up our stamina and enjoy reading to ourselves so much!

In Math, we spent a lot of time perfecting our place values and learning how to break down numbers into hundreds, tens, and ones. We are able to write our numbers in many different forms, including standard, expanded, and word form. Place value is an important building block in second grade because it will set us up for learning how to add and subtract two and three-digit numbers.

In Science, we have covered several lessons on different materials, how they are made, and what they are used for. We were able to do many fun experiments- such as building strong towers out of index cards, and creating sand castles to see how erosion works. We have also been checking in on our pumpkin "Jack" to see the many phases of decomposition in the plant life cycle. It has been very fun to witness, and kind of gross! We have a very busy, but fun, December ahead of us and I can't wait to celebrate all the exciting things together!



Third Grade

November was a busy month! In Reading, we have almost completed Unit 2 called "Interactions". We have learned many things, such as understanding the author's purpose and how to read closely to find the main idea in nonfiction text. We continue to use nonfiction text features to increase our comprehension, and analyze text structure to help us understand the way text is being presented. We also worked on synthesizing information, which helps us connect



new learning to what we may already know. We've learned quite a bit about wolves in our reading and now understand how controversial this animal can be, especially out west! In math we have begun division. We are learning how to determine how we divide for a number of groups, or for numbers within each group. Because our knowledge of multiplication is strong, we are finding basic division very manageable! In science we completed our Life Cycle Unit and have begun Heredity and Traits Unit. Learning about life cycles with our class mealworms - pupas - and black darkling beetles was quite remarkable. I think our mealworms project will be a memorable 3rd Grade undertaking! We watched in real time as the life of an insect evolved in front of us. Now we are on to learning about the domestication of food and traits in animals. We also celebrated and honored our brave Veterans with "thank you" sentiments. We wrote beautiful fall poems using similes. We wrote opinion essays on some very interesting pets and wrote "How to" pieces on keeping mealworms as pets. We learned new multiplication games using playing cards, and have enjoyed working to multiplication-mastery while having fun together. In Social Studies we completed our maps and globes unit and now understand more about the economic, political, and social features of our country through maps. We learned a sign language poem of thanksgiving, made sweet turkey centerpieces with painted feathers, and disguised turkeys to perfection! In December we look forward to holiday activities and learning more about acts of kindness in our daily lives.



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Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade has had a "ROCK"ing month. Our rocks and volcanoes unit in science has us exploring volcano patterns around the world and analyzing lava types through experiments and lessons. We identified fossil types and sedimentary rocks. And we continue our



study on weathering, erosion, and landslides for the rest of this month. In math we are mastering our multiplication and division facts. We are using our understanding of our math vocabulary and clue words to determine which operations to utilize in our word problems. Our Rocket Math fast facts are helping us get to our solutions very quickly! Gratitude was a theme we journaled about and subsequently created a Cornucopia of Gratitude board for our hallway, using examples from our writing. Speaking of writing, our creative writing stories and RACE



responses are spectacular! We have really enjoyed creating “middles and ends” to story starters. The results are clever, funny, and well written.

We are enjoying creative arts projects in addition to our academic studies. The character pumpkins, leaf art pictures, and disguise a turkey projects turned out beautifully.

And our latest STEAM project, BUILD A CRANBERRY BRIDGE was a big hit. Each student created a weight supporting bridge using only twenty toothpicks and twenty cranberries. Oliver’s bridge and Dominic’s bridge each supported the most weight- 686 grams!



Fifth Grade

It’s been a busy month of November, leading Grade 5 into an even busier December! Having largely finished up our unit on personal narratives, which asked students to write and publish a story of theirs that involved an animal (whether in a major or a minor way). We’ve recently practiced reading our writing out loud to a partner, to help identify ways we can make our stories more exciting, clear, and well-paced for our readers. Next, our class is about to begin researching and writing informational pieces of their own.

After working on division and multiplication concepts, fifth grade turned its focus to the Order of Operations, and understanding the importance of solving expressions and equations in the correct way. This is a skill which will help students as they tackle algebra problems and organize their mathematical thinking for many years to come. We are now exploring the concept of volume and how to determine the size of 3-dimensional objects, even when the entire shape cannot be seen.

We’ve leaped into social studies this year with our first major unit – Regions of North America. We began by taking a look at the Americas and defining the north, south, and central regions of the two continents and identifying some of the nations to be found there, both big and small. From there, we took a closer look at the United States, identifying the major landform regions of the country and highlighting some of the USA’s most significant and impressive bodies of water – from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Puget Sound.

Currently, we’re hard at work making flash cards to help us and future fifth graders memorize the names of each state’s capital city. In pairs, students are making a card for their share of the states, featuring not just the name of the capital, but an important symbol along with its postal abbreviation. Students carefully selected memorable symbols to use, and the cards are looking great!

And as the night skies get darker, December will be the perfect time to begin our next science unit on outer space! With many students involved in the TREP\$ marketplace and the school’s Winter Concert, December is sure to be an exciting, fast-moving month. We look forward to catching you up in 2024 in the January Wildcat!

Sixth Grade

In November and December we are focused on the fantasy genre in reading. We completed *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* and have just begun C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. We began by learning about the setting of the story: children evacuated from London during



the Blitz. The sixth graders spent some time exploring the BBC website on World War II, including primary sources such as photos and first-person memoirs from people who were evacuated as children from London during the bombings. Once we have completed that, we will be ready to begin our novel! Our adventures with Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy should take us into the middle of December, when we will focus on some short stories and fun holiday activities.



In social studies we finished up our studies on Ancient Latin America in which we



learned about the Aztec, Maya and Inca. Once we have studied for and completed our unit exam, we begin our exploration of Ancient Greece (which will continue into December and beyond). In science we have finished the interaction of organisms segment of our unit and begun working on biodiversity.

We continued our math journey this month by working on ratios in a variety of ways. We have begun making circle graphs (pie charts) and creating ratios to convert the percentages to numbers, and the numbers to percentages of the circle. As a byproduct, we are also learning how to use a compass and protractor.

In addition to all that learning, we also began our Wingman activities, teaching the younger grades about leadership and standing up for each other. November has truly flown by with all the activities and we can hardly believe we are headed into December!

Donate to the PTA and Stay Informed

- Our PTA is a wonderful organization that works in conjunction with the school to provide students with enriching opportunities that could not happen without its support. Field trips, assemblies, family events, supplies, and equipment are just a few of the many ways that our PTA supports the children of Lebanon Borough. Please be sure to donate to the PTA!
- The PTA is also using the Remind tool to keep parents up to date on all things LBS PTA. Please use the instruction sheet linked here to sign up.
 - [Donation Form and Remind Instructions](#)

