



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

November 2023

## Dr. Arcurio's Corner

### **Fantastic Fall Conferences:**

It is now the time of year when we all start to dress a little warmer, enjoy the fall colors, and gear up for the holiday season. Another rite of autumn is school conferences. This is without a doubt one of the most powerful ways that you can continue to forge the home-school connection for your children. It gives you and your teachers an opportunity to discuss your child's progress. It is another opportunity for you to express your hopes and dreams for your child. I want to offer a few pointers regarding conferences from the National Education Association Website. Open lines of communication are one of the ways that we can work toward **all children learning optimally**.

*Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about:*

- things about your child's life at home, personality, problems, habits, and hobbies you feel it's important for the teacher to know
- your concerns about the school's programs or policies
- questions about your child's progress
- how you and the school can work together to help your child

*Some good questions to ask are these:*

- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? For example, have you noticed any squinting, tiredness, or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?
- What kinds of assessments are being done? What do the tests tell about my child's progress?
- How does my child handle taking tests?

Finally, don't forget to turn your clocks back on Sunday. We will have some lighter mornings and darker afternoons over the next couple of months.

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### **Important Dates**

Nov 2	BOE Mtg. 6:30pm
Nov 3	PTA Pizza Lunch Day
Nov 5	Daylight Savings ends (turn clocks back one hour)
Nov 6	PTA Mtg. 6:30pm
Nov 6-8	12:45pm Early Dismissals Conferences
Nov 9&10	School Closed - NJEA Convention
Nov 13-15	Book Fair
Nov 19	Girls On The Run 5K Race
Nov 22	Early Dismissal
Nov 23-24	School Closed - Thanksgiving
Dec 1	1st Trimester ends
Dec 4	PTA Mtg 6:30pm
Dec 5	BOE Mtg. 6:30pm
Dec 11	Report Cards Available in Parent Portal
Dec 21	Winter Concert
Dec 22	12:45pm Early Dismissal
Dec 25-Jan 1	School Closed -Winter Break

## Office Items

### 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](mailto:tduell@lebanonschool.org).

## YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)



### Health Office...

- **Bully-Free Zone:** October has been a busy month. The students celebrated Week of Respect, Anti-violence Awareness Week and Red Ribbon Week. During the week of respect and red ribbon week, the staff and students showed their school spirit. We also enjoyed the assembly given by Gizmo D. Robot. He taught us all how to be good humans. It was a special day of experiencing the six pillars of character in a fun and new way! For the months of November and December, our character trait is Caring. Our focus as a school community towards one another will be; kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness and helping people in need.

- **Nurse's news:** School screenings have begun. All students height, weight, blood pressure, vision and hearing will be screened.

The first grader will have their color vision checked and the 5th grade will have a scoliosis check in the Spring. You will only be notified if there is a problem or concern.



## Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Rylen Seelig you have been recognized as the Safety Patroller for the month of October. You've exhibited excellent leadership abilities and what it takes to be a successful Safety Patrol leader. Every day, you have demonstrated responsibility, kindness, and hospitality to the LBS family. Congrats and please keep up the fantastic work!

## The Walking School Bus

On Wednesday, October 18th Lebanon Borough School celebrated International Walk School Day by participating in the "Hunterdon County Safe Routes to School Program" which educates our students on walking to school safely. Students received a sticker for coming along.

Please join us on our next Walking School Bus! Hope to see you there!



## Art

Every grade has completed their first projects. Kindergarteners and first graders transformed 2-D line designs to wild 3-D reliefs inspired by Frank Stella. They've learned 3 new ways to attach paper for sculptural effects. We had a lot of fun pretending what it would be like to shrink small enough in order to explore their creations as if they were in amusement parks. Moving forward, they are investigating Paul Cezanne's new way of painting to render apples. Second and third graders are printed real



leaves to collage into their figure drawing assignment. The final results are full of movement and depth. Next month we are delving into what a landscape is and how to create a sense of depth when making one. Fourth through sixth grade classes have had a chance to reflect on their Zentangle sculptures and show off a little as sculptures grew higher and higher but remained balanced both visually and literally. We are all very excited to start a clay lesson if November's schedule allows it. In addition to assignments next month, we have some community

projects to introduce and take part in. If your child finished their first assignment, it's been uploaded and shared on the [Artsonia](#) page. Take a look! For now, it will be on display in the library or another bulletin board at school.



### Enrichment/Media/Technology

Over the past month all grade levels K-6 have been discussing how to be good digital citizens. We discussed how to keep our technology safe and how to keep ourselves safe while using technology, such as what information is ok to share and what is not. If you are looking for a way to talk to your child about digital safety, Common Sense Media has some great information - <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>.

Grades 3-6 played a Google platform game that also allowed students to practice their digital safety skills.



The 3-6th grades also reviewed basic google slides skills. The students were asked to order items off of a menu and see which classmate could spend the most money. During the assignment students were



asked to copy and paste items into a google slide, format slides, insert photographs, text and working links. All these skills will be used on a regular basis during the school year in many different assignments and projects. 6th grade students also created fall themed animation slides with a corresponding story to share with younger students.

K-3 students enjoyed many different Fall/Halloween books the last two weeks of October. We created our own monsters, disguised pumpkins so they didn't get carved, and created ziplines for the Creepy Carrots to escape!

First & Second Grades built structures in small groups to model photographs. Then the groups tried to figure out what structure it was based on the examples we had and what the structures looked like. They were excellent detectives and were able to discuss the similarities and differences between the photographs and the structures.



**TREPS** students have been busy learning about 4 P's of promotion-product, place, price and promotion! We have been working on coming up with slogans and selling points. We have also been working on creating digital posters to advertise their store. The students are getting excited about selling their items at our marketplace on 12/6, we hope to see you there!



### Music

This month in music was “spooky” month. We have spent October covering different elements of music using Halloween themed songs and activities.



In preschool through third grade, we have sung, danced, identified notes and rhythms, and have performed rhythms using Halloween songs. Here are some YouTube links to some of the videos used in the various grade levels.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZTiDYKEbJU&authuser=0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBcv083Jk6I&authuser=0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trDI36m9pgA&authuser=0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U085B54mHYQ&authuser=0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27fu4bZLdik&authuser=0>



### Physical Education/Health

This October in PE all classes continued on to improve on their motor skills and fitness levels. They also participated in under-hand throwing and catching games like bowling, cornhole and games that practiced the “Tick-Tock, Step and Rock” cues taught to strengthen and enhance underhand throwing. 4th -6th grades practiced both underhand and overhand throwing cues



Students also worked on their catching cues. In health all classes worked on their Great Body Shop workbooks. The monthly focus was on body systems and their importance. The great thing about this program is that these workbooks always have a focus on anti-bullying, personal safety and self care. We also discussed our monthly pillar character trait, respect. In November we will continue practicing throwing and catching cues as these are



very important skills for the kids to build on. Health will concentrate on nutrition and the importance of eating healthy foods.

### Spanish

What a great month octubre as been! We are doing fabulous things in Spanish class! We have all learned about the holiday of Día de Los Muertos and the traditions of Mexico. Grades 4, 5, and 6 are creating a mini ofrenda (altar) to show how people in Mexico and other countries honor and remember their loved ones who have passed away. Grades K-2 have been learning the different objects that are common to see during Día de Los Muertos. Grades 1 and 2 are crafting the flores (flowers) commonly used during this holiday. Our kindergarten students



are learning all about calendar vocabulary, including the months of the year, days of the week and numbers. We are strengthening our cultural knowledge of other people around the world!



### **Preschool**

AM: This month in preschool we have been learning about apples, farms, trees and halloween. We all enjoyed Halloween and our class party. We have been practicing our pencil/crayon grip a lot in our handwriting books, we learned the letters L and F, practicing our counting, positional words and halloween crafts. We had a visit from the firetruck and

tasted apples to see which we liked the best. Next month we will continue learning letters, continue our tree study, learn about colors/color mixing, and thanksgiving.



PM: This month in preschool we have been learning about apples, farms, families and halloween. We all enjoyed Halloween and our class party. We have been practicing our counting, writing in our journals, positional words, halloween crafts, letters B, D, R, N, M. We tasted apples to see which we liked the best. Next month we will continue learning letters, learn about colors/color mixing, pets and thanksgiving.



### **Kindergarten**

Early this month we released our monarch butterflies, so they could begin her migration south. The students seemed to really enjoy raising the butterflies. Currently in science we are studying plants and animals. The students are learning what living things need to survive. We are learning about the parts of a pumpkin and how a pumpkin grows. Next, we will be learning about weather. This will include storms and weather conditions. In reading we are learning about realistic fiction and informational text. We have been reading stories from these genres. We are learning letter sounds and we are beginning to blend those sounds into words. The students have been enjoying reading their decodable stories. In writer's workshop we have been writing in our journals and some of us are starting

to sound out words using phonetic spelling. They are doing an excellent job! In our next reading unit we will be reading fiction stories and a persuasive text. We will also continue to learn new sight words weekly.

In math we are working on comparing numbers. In our next module we will be sorting and classifying objects. We are working in small groups to complete math center activities on our individual levels. Next, we will be working on beginning addition and subtraction strategies.

This month we celebrated a week of respect. During that week the class listened to a variety of stories about kindness and being considerate of other people's feelings. We read: How Full Is Your Bucket? and other stories about empathy and kindness. They learned to consider other people's feelings. This week is Red Ribbon Week, so we are discussing the importance of being drug and bully free. The students have been creating a red ribbon book. We have been discussing healthy choices. We have also been reading many halloween stories and making a variety of projects.



## First Grade

The first graders have become awesome scientists! In Science, we've completed our unit on the Sun and Shadows. The students learned about the sun's seasonal and daily changes, its shadows, and how it can help us if we're lost. Now, we've moved on to our new unit called the Moon & Stars. We just recently explored the moon's phases by observing pictures of the moon at different times of the month. Later, we will learn about why stars come out at night and how stars can also help us when we're lost. In Social Studies, we will begin our unit on Holidays. The students will learn why people celebrate Thanksgiving. We will tie this into our other Social Studies unit called Yesterday & Today, and learn how life is different from the past, such as when the pilgrims came to America. In reading, we are almost done with our first unit My Neighborhood. In this unit, the students have read realistic fiction, informational texts, and procedural texts. We've

learned how to identify story elements like characters, setting, problem, and solution. We are also working on retelling the beginning, middle, and end of realistic fiction texts. As a culminating activity, the students have each chosen a community worker to research and will write an informational text about the person they chose. During our next unit, we will dig into informational texts and examine the

life cycles of frogs and sunflowers. We will also learn about the elements of poetry and drama. During guided reading, we are learning how to use context clues and pictures to solve for words we don't know.

In math, we just completed our unit on subtraction. The students learned how to subtract by counting back on a number line, using cubes, counting on, and using addition to help us subtract. In our 3rd module, the students will learn how to add with 3 addends, determine if equations are equal or not equal, and add in any order. Check out some of our latest photos of buddy reading with the 2nd grade, conducting a shadow experiment outside, painting at the art center, celebrating a birthday, Wingman, and enjoying this beautiful fall weather! Thanks for stopping by!



## Second Grade

October has come and gone in a flash, and we are busy as ever in second grade! We have come together as a class so much this past month, it's hard to believe we are only two months into the school year!

In English Language Arts, we completed our first big writing assignment about persuasive pieces! Each student had the opportunity to pick their favorite location in town and write about why they thought it was the very best. They persuaded their fellow classmates as they read their writing pieces aloud and talked about their favorite places. We learned lots of ways to state our opinions and created really awesome final drafts after going through the entire writing process! We were also introduced to poetry, and had lots of fun learning about the different kinds of poems.



In Math, we worked on addition and subtraction arrays, and learned how to count our rows and columns. We also learned all about different types of graphs and charts: tally charts, picture graphs, and bar graphs. We collected data on popular Halloween candy and created different types of charts and graphs to represent our data!

In Science, we completed our plant life cycle unit and learned all about what a plant needs to grow and survive, as well as how to take care of plants in the best way possible. We planted radish seeds and put them into two different environments: one with light and one without light. Our seeds sprouted quickly and we were able to learn about what our plants need to thrive. In Social Studies, we learned all about locations and why it is important to be able to read different types of maps.

We also had our first Wingman activity, and learned lots of things about our classmates and the Wingman volunteers in the upper grades. It has been a very fun month, and we are looking forward to working on all of these skills in November!

### **Third Grade**

The Crew embarked on their Personal Narrative writing journey this past month recounting memories from their past that were rich with interesting details so that we could capture our audience's full attention. We learned how to "Explode the Moment" and take our reader step by step into our experience sharing our senses and feelings. We also wrote Autumn simile poems that compared fall's bounty in a unique way for better description. In reading we completed our Environments Unit. We learned about the difficulties of living in the desert and how an environmentalist family shares a life in the swampland of Puerto Rico. We also learned all about traditional tales and myths and read a few engaging tales from



Nigeria and Puerto Rico. This month we also took a deeper look into nonfiction text features. We can spot and utilize essential visual pieces from text to better understand information within the text. In math we have learned more multiplication strategies, such as the Distributive and the Associative Properties. We can now decompose factors into their addends and break down difficult problems into smaller, more manageable parts. We continue learning our times tables and will soon begin division. In science we continue with our life cycles unit. We discovered mosquitoes are the most dangerous creatures alive, and we learned solutions to stop their breeding. We have thoroughly enjoyed observing Darkling Beetles in the classroom; we've recorded our observations and experienced a life cycle in real time: larva to pupa, to adult beetle. It will be hard to say goodbye to our beetles! In social studies we just wrapped up our unit on citizenship. We know it's imperative to be a good citizen.



We learned that we have freedoms and rights as citizens, and we should be a part of the common good as Americans. This past week we have enjoyed many seasonal activities and look forward to Halloween and Thanksgiving! In November we will be learning how to write Persuasive essays and continue learning about animals in their natural habitats.

### **Fourth Grade**

Jerome the Kindness Gnome has been a classroom guest and great champion of our acts of kindness. Desi's name was chosen in our Better Together Ticket pull at the end of September, and she earned guardianship of Jerome the Gnome for the whole month. Our students performed a WONDERFUL act of kindness by creating and delivering handmade care cards for our classmate, Andrew while he was out

of school for a few days. The smiles on everyone's faces could light up the world. It was a joy to witness.



Respect for ourselves, our communities, and our bodies has been a very big topic of discussion this month, as it's our monthly pillar of character. The students have engaged in great discussions and journal responses regarding their pledges to remain drug and alcohol free. They understand how to handle bully behavior, and how to treat others (and themselves) respectfully.

Our Investigation Squad has been diligently solving multistep equations and word problems in math. We are successfully using addition and subtraction to solve comparison problems and applying these operations to real life situations—such as how many minutes per school day we spend on lessons and learning, while taking into consideration other variables, such as minutes used walking to and from lunch, getting materials and supplies, visiting the nurse, etc. We enjoyed using dice and graph papers to determine perimeter and apply the

formula. And we are now able to distinguish between multiplicative and additive comparisons, as well as solve multistep problems with division and multiplication. Our multiplication Rocket Math skills are SUPER, and we are soon ready to take on division!

Our Writer's Workshop focus was 'personal narrative'. We proudly published our narratives from our Author's Share Chair. The narratives are beautifully constructed with lots of juicy details, figurative and descriptive language, and wonderfully creative dialogue.

Geography and US Monuments study led us to create informative and catchy travel ads. The students researched a US monument and narrowed down their interesting facts to a small poster size ad to encourage visitors to travel around the US and visit these places.

Fridays are for STEAM Fun Art Projects! Our first fun Friday activity was the paper chain challenge. Each student was asked to create the longest paper chain using only one 12x18 piece of construction paper, scissors, and glue. Jake created the longest chain. It measured 160 inches! The Haunted Hotel Pulley Elevator Activity challenged the students to create a hotel elevator pulley system to lift and lower candy corn weights using a cereal box, a paper clip, a string, a bottlecap, and glue. The designs and processes were super inventive and successful!



### **Fifth Grade**

Fifth Graders have literally “Taken the Lead” this month by starting off each day making the morning announcements. They've done a great job keeping LBS informed about the day's weather, upcoming events, school birthdays, and passing along messages encouraging messages about good character and respect. Most of all, they've given everyone a cheery voice and also some jokes (this group has good timing!) to hear first thing in the morning!

Together with their peers in sixth grade, our students were excited to kick off this year's Wingman activities in classrooms

throughout the school. The leaders met with their teams, selected an activity, and decided the best way to share that activity with the grade level they would be joining. From there, these Wingmen ran the show as they hosted fun teambuilding games and challenges. It was a rewarding experience, and everyone is looking forward to November's Wingman day.



We've spent much of the month of October by brushing up on our division skills. Students applied the long division strategies they learned last year to new problems that involve double digit divisors. We also learned how to make area models (or as we've been calling it, the "Bartle Method") which offers each student the flexibility to solve division problems in a way that makes the most sense to them. From there, we will shift gears and focus on multi-step equations requiring the order of operations and then explore the concept of volume.

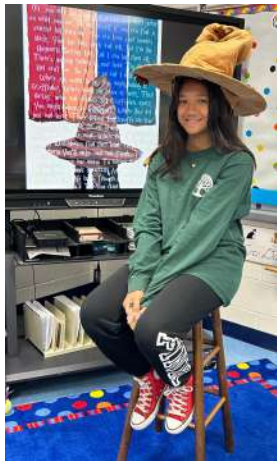
Our first science unit, Web of Life, has challenged students to reconsider the living things all around them. To kick off the unit, we competed to make the longest food chain, blew up and weighed balloons to test if air actually has enough weight to make a 4 million pound sequoia, and discovered why leaves don't pile up indefinitely in the forest. More recently, we grew mold terrariums to watch the effects of decomposers on our food under different conditions and even welcomes in a gang of nightcrawlers! These worms helped show us how their habits and body features are vital to our planet's ecosystem. Our class brings a wealth of scientific knowledge to our discussions and is eager to share their ideas. This kind of big thinking will certainly be beneficial as we launch into our next big science topic...Outer Space!

We have also begun our second class novel of the year: *Bunnacula*. A humorously spooky tale about a bunny that may or may not be a vampire, it has shown us how authors can strategically use point of view to make a story even more engaging.

We wish everyone a fulfilling November and a warm start to the holiday season!

### **Sixth Grade**

I cannot believe October is over already! It has been a busy month and has really flown by! We have celebrated Red Ribbon Week, School Violence Awareness Week, and the Week of Respect. In language arts we have begun *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* with an official sorting hat activity that set us into our various Hogwarts houses. We have a lot of fun with this: from our personal Platform 9 3/4 to creating our own



wands to taking ownership of our Houses. Next month we will finish Harry Potter, but continue the fantasy genre with *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. In math we have finished a full unit and are onto ratios and rates. In social studies we finished up our studies on Early River Civilizations in which we learned about Mesopotamia, Egypt, China and India. We are just beginning our exploration of MesoAmerica (which will continue into November). In science we have finished exploring genetics v. environment and are moving onto interaction of organisms. In addition to all that

learning, we also began our Wingman activities, teaching the younger grades about leadership and standing up for each other. It has been a month of education, enjoyment and energy!



### **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](#)

Visit our district website

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

