



THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

April 2024

Dr. Arcurio's Corner

As we welcome the vibrant spring season, I am filled with gratitude for the continued support and enthusiasm of our Lebanon Borough School community. April is a month of renewal and growth, and it's wonderful to see these themes reflected in the achievements and spirit of our students.

Spring into Learning Our students have been engaging in a variety of enriching activities that foster both academic excellence and personal growth. From our young scientists exploring the wonders of nature to our budding artists creating masterpieces that brighten our hallways, the passion for learning is palpable throughout our school.

Upcoming Schoolwide Events

- **PTA Book Fair:** Don't miss the PTA Book Fair from 3:00-5:00 PM on April 29th and 30th. It is a great opportunity to add books to your home, support classroom libraries, and foster a love of reading among our children!
- **NJSLA Testing:** During the weeks of May 7th and May 13th our students in grades 3-6 will be taking the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (See above for exact dates). These state assessments provide the school and the state with data regarding student achievement.
- **PTA Basket Bingo:** Basket Bingo for Kids and Adults will be held on May 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the LBS gym. We will play 8 games this year and will have prizes for both kids and adults - so for each game, a child will win and also an adult. This will be a fun event for the family to enjoy together and proceeds will benefit the LBS PTA. [See the flyer](#) and register using the [Google Form](#)
- **Spring Concert/Show:** Join us on May 30th for an evening of music and performances by our talented students. This year's spring show is Beauty and the Beast Jr. It's a celebration of the arts that you won't want to miss!

A Note of Appreciation I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and volunteers who have dedicated their time and resources to our school. Whether it is through the PTA, reading in classrooms, or shelving books in the library, your involvement is a key ingredient in creating a nurturing environment for our students.

Looking Ahead As we move forward, let's continue to encourage our children to be curious and to be kind. The lessons they learn now will benefit them throughout their lives.

Better Together,
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.
Superintendent

Important Dates	
Mar 29-Apr 5	School Closed-Spring Break
Apr 8	School Reopens Full Day
Apr 12	4th Grade Wax Museum
Apr 15	Board Meeting 6:45pm
Apr 17	12:45 pm early dismissal - Teacher Inservice
Apr 29-30	Book Fair - 3-5PM
Apr 30	Hunterdon County Parks Dept Reptile Display at Book Fair
May 7-8	5th Grade NJSLA Science Test
May 10	PTA Basket Bingo 6pm
May 13-17	3rd-6th grade NJSLA ELA and Math Test
May 30	Spring Concert/Show
May 31	Field Day

Office Items

Kindergarten Registration - [See Flyer](#)

K registration is always open. Please encourage Lebanon Borough families that you know who have children who will be five by September 30, 2024, to register for Kindergarten. New student registration forms can be found on our school website at www.lebanonschool.org or email rmuia@lebanonschool.org for more information

Park Camp 2024

[See Flyer](#)

Check out this year's Park Camp which will be run by Mrs. Farrell, LBS Preschool teacher. Find the flyer and registration form at the link above.

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: For April, the students will continue the character trait of Responsibility. Students are encouraged to focus on perseverance, self-discipline, and being accountable. They also consider their actions and the consequences of those actions. During March, the Student Council was busy encouraging us all to read, have school spirit, and foster a positive school climate through the Read Across America and March/Book Madness events. Mrs. Baldoni encouraged everyone to learn through the March Mammal Madness. Everyone enjoyed the Wingman Activity Day. **LBS is Better Together!**

Nurse's News: As the weather becomes warmer, many of us are spending time outdoors. Please take care to protect yourself against ticks. For info on how to protect yourself, how to remove a tick, and much more, go to www.cdc.gov/ticks. Also, here's a pamphlet from the NJ Department of Health that you can print out for your

reference: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/vectorborne/C2471--tick-borne_diseases_brochure.pdf.



Student Council News

As the Student Council, we are in charge of Spirit Week, so we come up with fun ideas for the school to participate in together. Our first two Spirit Weeks were to celebrate the 100th day of School and Read Across America week. We hold



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fundraisers, help the school and many more things to help out. This month a visitor told us about a volunteer group called Operation Jersey Cares. Our guest Jane taught us about how they help soldiers overseas by sending care packages. Inside, the packages include your everyday necessities like toilet paper, lip balm, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.. We hope to include letters to say Hello and thank the troops for serving us and our County!



For this month's activity, we are doing a March Madness bracket, but with book characters such as Peter Pan, the Lorax, Voldemort, and the Baudelaire Children from *A Series Of Unfortunate Events*. The school chooses between 16 book characters at first, then eight, and now we are on our Final Four. These lucky four characters are Captain Hook from *Peter Pan*, The Grinch, Ron and Hermione from *Harry Potter*, and The Lorax.

-Emma Calvo and Susie Abeles, Presidents



Art

Older grade levels got off to a fast start on their recycled materials projects. Students in grades 5 and 6 are making Recycled Radial Designs using empty paper towel tubes. Inspiration was collected from mandalas and Talavera ceramic tiles. They were encouraged to play with the material to develop a unique design while maintaining radial symmetry. I think they'll particularly enjoy the next phase of the project using spray paint next month. Grade 4 is using egg cartons to develop whimsical animal portraits in the style of 19th-century traditional portraits. They thrive when given choices to make each project reflect their own personal style and interests, but still love working all

together as a group. The students in second and third grade have been finalizing their self-portraits by mounting their artwork because



artists must consider how to prepare art for presentation. Next month, we'll devise a way to share our reflections on these portraits with an audience before moving on to the next printmaking project. Kindergarteners and First Graders are finished with their family portraits. They are the largest artwork they've made to date. They started a new printmaking project inspired by Paul Klee and his painting, Cat and Bird, which will continue into April.

Keep watching our collection of artwork grow on [Artsonia](#). You may discover a sale on products as we near Mother's Day.

Enrichment/Media/Technology

Dr. Seuss

First and Second graders started out March with a Dr. Seuss Challenge! The challenge was to make the tallest 5 vertical striped hat that could be worn! We decided all the wearable hats won! They were only allowed 2 sheets of white



and 2 sheets of red construction paper, 1 paper plate, scissors, and tape, this required planning before cutting, and no extra supplies were handed out. There was some great teamwork demonstrated to make this challenge successful! Congratulations to our winners!

Solar Eclipse



The children have been learning about solar eclipses and why it happens. As you might have heard, a solar eclipse will be happening on Monday, April 8, 2024 from 2:09 pm to 4:09 pm in our area. We are in the 90% range for a partial solar eclipse.

The LBS PTA has graciously donated solar eclipse viewing glasses for the entire staff and student body! **THANK YOU** so much to the PTA for purchasing the solar eclipse glasses for everyone! On Monday, April 8th, hopefully, we will have clear skies so we can see the eclipse. If the weather cooperates, we will be outside trying to view the eclipse as a school from a little after 2 until dismissal time. Let's hope for a clear day so we can see the solar eclipse.

In addition to learning about the solar eclipse, this past week grades 3-6 took a field trip to the RVCC Planetarium. To prepare for that trip the students have been learning about objects in space and about constellations specifically. Each student selected a constellation to research and they are creating a Google slide presentation to share with the class on their research. We will be presenting the slideshows after spring break.



March Mammal Madness

The entire school has been involved in March Mammal Madness! The children are anxious to see if their picks make it to the championship round. It is set up similarly to NCAA basket brackets- we started with 64 animals/plants. The 3rd-6th graders were able to research the combatants to make their picks, the younger students we voted as a class to pick our bracket winners. After Round 1 there were some upsets- for example, the honeybee beat the forest elephant and the cobra lily (a plant) beat the Koala! The FINAL ROAR and the championship battle will be completed over spring break so the big reveal will be after we return from Spring Break. March Mammal Madness has been conducted by Arizona State University since 2013. Their motto is "If you are learning, you're winning!" We are winning, we all learned about many animals/plants that we did not know about before this competition! We are all excited to see which animal or plant for that matter comes out on top!



Music

This month in music, we have begun rehearsing for "Beauty and the Beast" in 6th grade. Beginning after the break, all of the students will begin practicing for the musical



Third grade continues practicing note identification (please see picture for our coloring project)

Kindergarten through second grade has been working on musical dynamic identification using words such as *forte*, *piano*, and *crescendo*.



Physical Education/Health

This March in PE we played games that focused on striking with an implement. Students participated in games and activities such as floor hockey, paddle and racket games, and baseball. In health, we worked on the



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topics of The Great Body Shop workbooks. Below are a couple of pics of our preschoolers striking with their noodle rackets and our 6th graders playing hockey. This coming April we will participate in foot striking games and activities like kickball and soccer as we advance through the Great Body Shop health materials.

Spanish

¡Marvalous marzo! In March, we talked about ANIMALES in grades K-3. We learned vocabulary for many animal words and talked about noun gender associated with each word. We learned that most words that end with A use LA and most words that end with O use EL, and we sorted animals according to size, color, and shape. Of course, we talked about our favorite animals too! Grade 4 students have been reading our Spanish magazine, Que Tal, and realizing how easy it can be to read in Spanish using pictures and cognates, which are words that look similar in English and Spanish. Grades 5-6 are continuing to watch our Spanish Playground series Buena Gente, which is a story about two people searching for the owner of a wedding ring. How can the wedding happen if they don't have the special wedding ring?! We are practicing pronunciation and listening skills as well as developing vocabulary and comprehension skills.



Preschool

AM: In March the AM preschool finished up the wheels unit, and learned about St Patrick's Day, spring, and the life cycle of plants. We are continuing to move through the alphabet and numbers. We had a fun spirit week celebrating Read Across America Day and celebrated our 100th day of school! We got some outside playtime this month!!! We are all very excited for spring and the warmer weather. In April we will start our exercise unity and will be close to finishing up the uppercase letters and start looking at the lowercase letters. We will also go on a field trip to the farm in April.



PM: In March the PM preschool learned about our 5 senses, St Patrick's Day, and spring and started our unit on life cycles learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. We have finished learning how to write

our upper-case letters, we are moving through our numbers and learning about patterns. We continue to work on our play skills and being kind to our friends. We had a fun spirit week celebrating Read Across America Day and celebrated our 100th day of school! In April we will start learning how to write lowercase letters, learn about the life cycle of a frog and plant, and start our community helpers unit. We are also looking forward to our field trip!



Kindergarten

During the first week of March, we celebrated “Read Across America” week. We enjoyed reading Dr. Seuss books and participating in many activities. We had fun each day with our school-wide spirit week. We read to our stuffed animals and dressed up. We got together with the second-grade students to read. We also had a visit from our sixth-grade friends. They shared their fables with us and the kindergarten students each read a book to them. We also completed many centers with Dr. Seuss activities. We listened for rhymes and practiced writing sentences with rhyming words. We also practiced reading and writing from various word families. We discussed the genre of poetry this month. We read short nursery rhymes along with our Dr. Seuss books. We listened for the rhythm and clapped it out. We listened for the rhymes throughout, as well. We discussed characters, setting, and plot this month.



We will continue to build on those comprehension skills next month. We are currently learning about myths. We are also continuing to work on nouns, verbs, and adjectives. We are working to add more sentences while writing in our journals. We learned about the “magic e” so we can read both long and short vowel words. Everyone seems to be feeling very proud of their accomplishments while reading the decodable readers. They are progressing well.

This month in math we finished our modules on count sequence and numbers to 10. Next month we will be working on geometry. We will begin analyzing and comparing three-dimensional shapes. We will also be working on comparing two-dimensional shapes in the next few weeks.

In social studies, we will begin learning about our countries and our state symbols. In science we have been learning about animals

and why they have their babies in spring. We discussed the weather patterns and signs of spring. Next month, we will begin learning about seeds and planting.

We had a lot of fun with our St. Patrick’s Day activities. We found gold coins with addition problems on them around the room and we took turns reading the equations and solving them. The students enjoyed presenting and setting their leprechaun traps, that they made for homework. They all had very creative designs! It was a fun day.

First Grade

March has flown by! In math, we have been learning about tens and ones, and figuring out how to represent them in different ways. In ELA, we’ve been spending a lot of time on biographies and informational texts which we’ll continue to work on during spring break. In reading, we’ve been learning about syllables. This week, we learned about open and closed syllables. We’ve also started learning about light and sounds in science. The first graders are having fun figuring out how sounds are made! In social studies, we finished up learning about living in different kinds of weather. Soon, we will be learning about holidays around the world! What a memorable March!



Second Grade

March has been a very productive and fun month in second grade! We have accomplished so many new things, and are excited to start applying all of the knowledge we have from the first half of the year to all of the challenging, new things we will learn.

In Reading and Writing, we have been learning all about biographies and important people in history. At the beginning of the month, we celebrated Read Across America Week and read to the kindergartners, and also attended “Camp Read a Lot!” We were able to listen to several books read by lots of mystery readers and had so much fun hearing them and playing reading games with them. We continue to work on our reading skills and our own reading goals to prepare us for third grade! We have begun working on our class cookbook that will eventually be published into a real book. The second graders are so excited to share their recipes and cultures with their

classmates in this big project! We are becoming better writers with every project we complete.

In Math, we have mastered two-digit addition and subtraction with two, three, and four numbers, and are beginning to apply what we know to different types of word problems. I am so proud of how hard the second graders have worked on these important skills! They know how to regroup for subtraction, and how to carry over the tens for addition. We will continue to practice them through the remainder of the school year. We also started learning about money, and how to count it in word problems by skip counting by fives, tens, and twenties.

In Science, we learned about water and erosion! We were able to complete a lot of fun experiments to see how water affects different locations, and how it can change the landscape over many years. We joined the 5th graders for a water experiment in which we tested different ways that evaporation can happen over certain bodies of water.

In Social Studies, we have begun learning about America’s Beginnings and the history of our country- from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

Wingman was this month, and we participated in a fun game of “Tensies” with the first-grade class! I am so proud of all of the hard work that the second graders are doing, and we are having so much fun together. I can’t wait to see what April brings- have a wonderful and restful spring break!



Third Grade

Goodbye, winter; hello spring! 3rd grade has enjoyed the seasonal shift with an adorable bunny drawing. Accompanying their long-eared creation is a beautiful spring poem which was created with AI software. Students had their first opportunity to prompt the computer with their detailed and individual spring thoughts and themes. Then we let the AI experience unfold. This was a fun break from the formal writing tasks we tackled this month. We completed our



historical fiction stories, and wrote persuasive essays titled, “Kids Can Be Heroes!”. 3rd Grade had brilliant ideas for being everyday heroes. This month is also Women’s History Month and we’ve learned about women who made a difference in the world by being very courageous; women who



faced the world head-on and were tenacious in their goals! We also shared a St. Patrick's Day reading/craft activity with the 1st Graders, which was fun and festive! We thoroughly enjoyed our Spirit Week activities, too. As a class, we have enjoyed daily student read-alouds as we continue our Read Across America time. We are also enjoying the novel, The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary. Our novel study has led to wonderful discussions as we work on text structures, themes, and characterization. In math, we



completed our first fractions module and will be moving into comparing fractions soon. In science, we are learning about world climates and how to spot stormy clouds. In social studies, we have concluded a unit on Early America. Students created wonderful 3D projects that they are currently presenting. They have done a beautiful job recreating Native American scenes. We look forward to reading biographies in our next reading unit and sharing more spring experiences in April!



Fourth Grade

March flew in and flew by for us in Fourth Grade! We really enjoyed having Mystery Readers celebrate Read Across America and read to us in class. We enjoyed reading aloud to other classes, too. Speaking of reading, we have been diligently reading and re-reading our biographies in preparation for our Wax Museum presentations. The students have been very conscientiously researching, note-taking, and organizing their

historical figure timelines for the April 12th Wax Museum.

The class and I really enjoyed reading Sharon Robinson’s, *The Hero Two Doors Down*. Jackie Robinson’s daughter wrote this story based on the true-life friendship her baseball legend father had with a young boy named Stephen Satlow. The story generated MANY interesting questions and comments regarding the different social issues the characters in the story were faced with. We are currently reading Gary Paulsen’s *Hatchet*. The class is deeply invested in



the young hero of the story as he navigates a plane crash survival ordeal in the deep woods of the north.



In Math, we celebrated Pi Day (3-14) by learning how to apply the formula for circumference to a variety of circles at home and in the classroom. We designed our own “Pi plates,” measured the diameter, and calculated the circumference using the formula and pi. We participated in a collaborative Pi Day game with the fifth grade, rolling the first ten digits of pi as quickly as we could with dice. We created a “first one hundred digits of pi” colorful paper chain for our classwork display board! We have completed our

modules on calculating areas and perimeters, prime and composite numbers, multiples, and factors. We are currently comparing fractions, and we continue the daily practice of our division and multiplication Rocket Math fast facts.

In Social Studies we learned about the various landscapes throughout all of the regions of the United States. From the Appalachian Mountains to Denali, the students learned and shared about places they’ve

visited, and would like to visit, and compared and analyzed the aspects of the many different regions. We are currently studying the climates of the different regions, what affects climate, and how different plants and animals adapt to various climates.

Many thanks to our Mystery Readers who have been able to visit our classroom. The students LOVED your visits. We still have fifty more days of learning together, so please let us know if you would like to visit our class as a Mystery Reader!



Fifth Grade

It's been a long and busy month of March for the 5th grade class here at LBS! We recently traveled to RVCC along with 3rd-6th grade and got to see a show in the planetarium. Our guide Kevin gave us a star talk about the objects that can be seen in our night sky, discussed the meaning of the upcoming solar eclipse, and showed us a short film all about Pluto, and why it's no longer a planet! We enjoyed

exploring a host of space exhibits and eating lunch in the college cafeteria.

During math, after a few months in a row of working with fractions, we're now moving on to decimals. Students have excelled at rounding, ordering – and most importantly – understanding what decimals mean and how they are both similar to and different from



whole numbers. We are now adding and subtracting decimal numbers comfortably and have enjoyed playing games where we trade flats, longs, and cubes to try and add up to 5.00, or count down to 0.00. Teammates enjoy seeing the numbers slowly build or diminish before their eyes as they try to beat other groups and our class's record times!



In language arts, we've finished writing about the planets of our solar system and have begun drafting opinion articles. Students are researching zoos and forming their own opinions about whether they are good or bad for the animals that live there, as well as creatures

still in nature! And speaking of animals, we have recently read the humorous short story "A Pet for Calvin" (the pet is a worm!), the Japanese legend *The Carp*, and the play *The Hermit Thrush*, all of which have critters that end up having a key influence on the stories and their characters.

We'd like to wish everyone a terrific break! We are looking forward to an exciting Spring 2024 here at LBS!



Recess – the best part of the day.

Sixth Grade

In March we have been exploring topics and people related to Women's History Month. Each day we have a link (or two) about a topic and/or person from history who has contributed to the welfare of our country, particularly as it relates to women. It is a good time for the students to become familiar with these important people in our history.

We are in the middle of our study of the novel, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. It is a fable about the Holocaust, told from the perspective of a nine/ten-year-old German boy. Leading into this book, we learned about

fables and their function as a story genre. This fable is more complicated than most, but it has several important life lessons for our time. Once finished with this, we will work on some poetry in April before May testing. In history, we began our brief foray into the Abrahamic religions, beginning with Hinduism. We will cover Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, before moving into Medieval Times. We have also begun our mandated Civics unit, beginning with a survey of what human rights are and how we address these in our culture. So far we have had some great discussion sessions about this!

In math, we are continuing to finish the volume and surface area of prisms. After spring break we will work on Data Displays and Statistics, before doing some review of the NJSLA which I am sure the 6th graders are looking forward to (we are learning about irony and sarcasm in 6th grade!). Meanwhile, in science, we have completed our explorations of forces and motion and working on electricity. We had a field trip to the RVCC planetarium this week, which will be some foreshadowing for next month when we will be working on some sun activities related to the universe and geologic time scale.



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!

Visit our district website

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

