



# THE WILDCAT'S ROAR

Lebanon Borough School Family Newsletter

April, 2025

## Dr. Arcurio's Corner

As we embrace the 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**

- **Walking School Bus:** On April 17 at 8:00 AM, we will host our Walking School Bus, promoting healthy habits and environmental awareness.
- **4th Grade Wax Museum:** Also on April 17 at 9:30 AM in the gym, our 4th graders will showcase their hard work and creativity through the Wax Museum project.
- **Spring Break:** Please note that Spring Break will run from April 18 to April 27. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for the final push of the school year!
- **NJSLA Testing:** As we approach testing season, students in grades 3-6 will take the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments. The 5th-grade science tests will be on May 7-8, followed by ELA and Math assessments for grades 3-6 from May 12-16, with make-up days from May 19-23.
- **End-of-Year Events:** Looking ahead, we have several important dates to remember. Our 6th Grade Promotion is tentatively scheduled for June 4 at 6:30 PM, and our Spring Concert/Show will take place on June 5. Don't forget Field Day on June 6 and the last day of school on June 11 (tentative if no additional school closures).

### **Important Dates**

- Apr 1: BOE Meeting 6:30pm
- Apr 7: PTA Meeting 6:30pm
- Apr 9: PTA Pizza Lunch
- Apr 17: Walking School Bus 8am
- Apr 17: 4th Grade Wax Museum - 9:30am - gym
- Apr 17: Early Dismissal - Inservice
- Apr 18-27: Spring Break
- May 7-8: NJSLA 5th Science
- May 12-16: NJSLA 3rd-6th ELA/Math
- May 19-23: NJSLA Make-ups
- May 26: Memorial Day
- June 4: Early Dismissal - Inservice
- June 4: 6th Grade Promotion 6:30pm -tentative
- June 5: Spring Concert/Show
- June 6: Field Day
- June 10: Early Dismissal - Tentative
- June 11: Early Dismissal - Last Day of School - Tentative

## **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 through the PTA, mystery reading, or supporting our events, your involvement is key to creating a nurturing environment for our students.



## **Looking Ahead**

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

Better Together,  
Bruce Arcurio Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**BETTER TOGETHER!**

## YMCA Before/After Care

- [Registration](#)



## Health Office...

**Bully-Free Zone:** For the past month, the character trait was responsibility. The students focused on perseverance, self-discipline, and accountability. They also considered their actions and the consequences of those actions. The last character trait for the year is Trustworthiness. 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 Spirit Week. Also, the NJ State Troopers were often watching out for our students at the crosswalk morning drop-offs. We are so thankful that local law enforcement is here for LBS and the Lebanon Boro community. LBS is Better Together!

**Nurse's News:** Spring has finally arrived! As the weather becomes warmer, many are taking advantage of the 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](http://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](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/vectorborne/C2471--tick-borne_diseases_brochure.pdf).

## Safety Patrol

Congratulations, Teddy Abeles, as Safety Patroller of the Month for March. He has shown outstanding teamwork by coming to his post on time and being alert and ready to work. Most recently, Teddy has volunteered to guide and support our younger students to their class every morning. Great job, and thank you for helping out your team. Congratulations, and keep it up!



## Art

Thank you for your continued support! This month, our K-2 students created Thing 1 and Thing 2 characters, crafted Folk Art Flower Crayon Batik, expressed their aspirations for the future, and painted beautiful butterflies. Our 2nd to 4th graders learned how to sketch in nature, created their own Wocket in My Pocket creatures, and finished glazing their pottery. Meanwhile, the 5th and 6th graders worked on shamrock designs, continued glazing, and

began exploring op art with Vertex. Additionally, some students will contribute to the high school musical set design, while older students will paint tiles in preparation for Cinco De Mayo over the next few weeks.



Attached are some pictures of the artwork that was displayed at the Clinton Library. Thank you for being an essential part of our artistic journey!



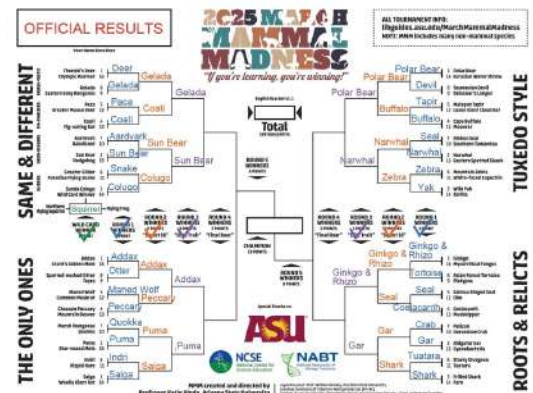
### Enrichment/Media/Technology

Celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday with Read Across America Week Kindergarten- third graders started out March with lots of rhyming and listening to different Dr. Seuss stories. The 2nd -3rd graders read *If I Ran the Circus* and found there were bizarre Dr. Seuss animals in the story. This inspired us to create their own Dr. Seuss-like creatures. There were so many creative animals shared at the end of the week! Kindergarten-Third grade also had a guest reader for Read Across America Week!

In Kindergarten, we continued to discuss rhyming and were able to do some predictive oral reading of stories using rhyming. We also began reading and comparing different versions of fairytales. So far, we have read Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Our favorite version of Goldilocks was Golilocks and the 3 Dinosaurs by Mo Willems.

Grades 4th-6th chose an African American person to research and create a slideshow to share with the class about their impact in our world. We learned about many famous people and their inventions, such as Garrett Morgan-traffic light creator, Alfred Craelle- ice cream scoop, and Alexander Miles- automatic elevator doors. We realized quickly that life would be so different without these amazing inventions!

**March Mammal Madness**-The 1st- 6th grades have 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 basketball brackets- we started with 64 animals/plants. The 2nd-6th graders were able to research the combatants to make their picks, the 1st grade students voted as a class to pick our bracket winners. March Mammal Madness has been conducted by Arizona State University since 2013. Their motto is "If you are learning, you're winning!" We definitely are winning; we all learned about many animals/plants that we did not know about prior to this competition! Everyone is so excited when the animal they picked advances to the next round. We are all excited to see which animal or plant, for that matter, comes out on top! The **FINAL ROAR** and the championship battle will be completed next week on April 2. We will anxiously be waiting to see who wins the championship title this year.



### Music

This month in music, we have begun rehearsing for "High School Musical" in the 5th and 6th grades. The students are working very diligently in the mornings to memorize their lines and stage placements. Fourth graders have been working on a new piece for the beginner band. The group sounds better every week that passes. They are also learning how to read music in a script book and identify the differences between different voices in the music. This includes two and three staff identification.

Third graders are working on note identification. They have begun to learn how to identify the treble clef, parts of a note, and how to differentiate between line and space notes.

Kindergarten through fourth grade has been working on musical dynamic identification using words such as forte, piano, and crescendo. These concepts have been presented along with the music for the musical.





## **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 and tee-ball. In health, we worked on the topics of The Great Body Shop workbooks. Below are some pics of our little Leprechauns getting dancing and exercising as well as other classes striking with an implement. 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. Kindergarten is reading a book called Manana Iguana and focusing on comparing and contrasting this story with another story we read. Of course, we talked about our



favorite animals too! Grade 1 is focusing on Numbers and played a game called NO DIEZ! Grades 2-3 are analyzing data and creating presentations talking about preferences. Grades 4, 5, and 6 have been watching a documentary to learn about how students in other countries spend their days and



learning about the cultures of some of the countries that speak Spanish.

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 started spider plant babies in water so we can watch the roots grow. We will plant



them in soil in a few weeks. We are continuing to move through the alphabet and numbers. We had a fun spirit week celebrating Read Across America Day and 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.



**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 plants. We planted sunflower seeds and are excited to watch them grow. 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 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 a butterfly, and start our community helpers unit.

### **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 during 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 six 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 have been working on characters, setting, and plot this month.

Next, we will be learning about folktales and fairytales and the elements of those genres. We are learning to compare different versions of the same story. We will continue to build on our comprehension skills. We are working to add more sentences while writing in our journals.

The class is continuing to learn new sight words. They are working on their “sight word challenge” individually and learning words throughout our reading program as well.

In math, we will be completing our module on addition and subtraction word problems. Next, 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 science, we are learning about living and non-living things and what plants need to survive. We planted sunflower seeds, and we are taking care of them and waiting for them to sprout. We discussed the weather patterns and signs of spring.

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. We learned about pennies and how copper dills and changes. We used vinegar and salt to shine some pennies, we left some shiny pennies for the leprechaun. 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 been filled with lots of fun activities in First Grade! We celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday by teaming up with our 2nd-grade friends and buddy reading! Also, that sneaky little leprechaun tore through our classroom!

In Science, we’ve been learning about the difference between frogs and toads, their life cycle, and the adaptations of both. Later, we will wrap up our unit on sound. In Social Studies, we will begin learning about Maps and Globes.

In math, the students have learned how to add and subtract tens using a 120 chart. Currently, we are learning how to find the missing addend in an addition problem and find both addends when only the sum is given. In the weeks to come, the students will learn how to find the missing subtrahend when the difference is given.



In reading, the students loved reading Frog and Toad are Friends. We're learning that good readers can retell the events in order, understand the problem, solution, beginning and end, and analyze characters to predict what they will say and do. We've also been reading some nonfiction texts about frogs and toads. We are learning how nonfiction text features like the table of contents, captions, and subheadings to understand what we read.

In the weeks to come, the students will begin making their "All About" books. The students will choose an animal to research and write about! We will learn about their habitats, predators, the food they eat, physical features, and their geographic location.

First grade is looking forward to April and the many fun activities we will be doing! Take a look at our pictures of practicing our spelling words with shaving cream and buddy reading with Mrs. Corradi's 2nd-grade friends!



### Second Grade

Did We Catch a Leprechaun? No, but our second-grade class certainly tried! We followed engineering and design criteria, working in teams to create unique "traps" for the mischievous little Irishman. On St. Patrick's Day, he certainly made a mess of our classroom, but he outsmarted us once again! He left a charming goodbye message on the whiteboard, making the whole experience a delightful adventure for everyone. In addition to our leprechaun escapades, we enjoyed a wonderful Read Across America activity with our Kindergarten friends and, later this month, with our first-grade friends! Together as a class, we wrote Seussical poems and shared countless books, fostering a love of reading. In our writing activities, we discovered how important our opinions can be! We wrote opinion letters to Dr.

Arcurio, sharing our ideas for new school traditions. Our creative minds came up with exciting suggestions like a school anniversary day, a BBQ family day, and a special "Principal's" day! We felt so proud of our writing and the strong supporting details we included. In addition to our opinion letters, we wrote informational summaries after reading engaging texts. We also learned to create Diamante Poems using vibrant adjectives that truly brought our words to life! Currently, we are putting the finishing touches on personal writing pieces that explore our unique family food traditions. Looking ahead, we're excited to dive into personal narratives in April! In our reading sessions, we are honing our detective skills to use context clues for understanding new and challenging vocabulary. In Math, we have truly mastered regrouping! No matter how many digits we work with, we confidently understand the process of regrouping tens. We also explored



geometric shapes, learning to differentiate between 3D and plane shapes, as well as their attributes, like edges and sides. In Science, we are wrapping up a unit on the power of erosion. We designed hills with reinforcement to demonstrate our understanding of how certain factors can prevent landslides. In Social Studies, we are deepening our understanding of Native American cultures, examining how the original colonies partnered with Native Americans and the impact this had on their lifestyles. We also learned about the Revolutionary War and are excited to begin a new unit on Colonial Times. March has been an engaging and educational time for our class, filled with creativity and collaboration!



### **Third Grade**

It has been a busy and productive month of March in the third-grade classroom! In ELA, we finished our reading unit about how different people and animals adapt to their environments. We learned all about food chains, preservation, and how we as humans live amongst plants and animals in the world around us. We have since moved on to our new unit, where we are completing a novel study for the book *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. When we are finished reading the book, we will have the chance to watch the musical in class and compare and contrast the book to the movie. Additionally, we are working hard on our compare and contrast essays. Each

student has chosen a topic to compare and contrast, and we have learned all about the structure of this type of writing to successfully draft and publish these essays!

In Math, we have moved on from our multiplication and division units and are beginning to learn about rounding to the nearest hundredth and tenth. We

also continue to practice multi-step word problems to prepare us for fourth-grade math!

In Science, we have completed our unit on pollination and plants. We learned several things about how plants are pollinated and why it is important that we keep bees alive to have successful planting seasons. In Social Studies, we are learning about the environment around us, how we can adapt to live in different environments, and how to best utilize our natural resources.

We celebrated Read Across America week at the beginning of the month and had mystery readers come in all week to read to us! We were lucky to be read to by Mrs. Barkel's mom and the puppy she is fostering, a State Trooper, and Mrs. Barkel's daughter, Matilda, and her husband! We've become such engaged readers, and getting to share our love for reading with others is one of our favorite things to do.

We are looking forward to all that April and spring have to

offer!

### **Fourth Grade**

Every Day is Lucky in Fourth Grade! The class has been writing, reading, multiplying, experimenting, predicting, debating, and so much more this past month! Speaking of lucky, we had the great fortune to be able to learn about Pi and join the fifth-grade class in our celebration of the irrational number. The students totally WOWED us with their memorization challenge activity. We had high scores of 76, 68, 55, and 50 digits of Pi memorized and recited! We competed in a dice roll challenge where groups raced to roll and record the first ten digits of Pi. We calculated the perimeter of many different







circles using the formula for pi:  $\pi = \text{circumference} \div \text{diameter}$ . We completed a 100 digits of pi paper chain challenge with the fifth grade! The Wax Museum Unit Project is well underway. The students read their selected biographies, researched important historical figures, and wrote their informative speeches about their chosen figures. They are super-engaged with this unit. I am so proud of their commitment to their checklists, organization of their materials, their research, note taking, writing, formatting, downloading, and overall passion for this project. They are super excited about the Wax Museum on April 17th. In social studies, we are studying our three equal branches of government: the judicial, the legislative, and the executive. We have had many engrossing discussions about local, state, and national governments. As always, this class brings a lot of curiosity and interest to our lessons. They are great debaters and offer very creative and intelligent solutions to our questions of the day. Our science unit has us answering questions about rocks, volcanoes, and the earth. We plotted the Ring of Fire volcanoes in group graphing activities. And we had to answer questions about the possibilities of volcanoes

erupting where we live in North America, based on recorded evidence.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the opening of the Fourth Grade Wax Museum on April 17th at 9:30 AM. Enjoy the Spring Recess!



### **Fifth Grade**

It's been a long and busy month for the fifth-grade class. Students have been getting to school early - and staying late! - to get ready for the spring play and have been involved in all kinds of clubs going on around the building. And we've been busy in the classroom, doing everything from writing science fiction stories to conquering operations with decimals.



After viewing and reading some classic examples of science fiction, students took to imagining their own stories. Some stories are set in the future, and others are on distant planets, but they are all teeming with vivid imagery and improbable (but very much possible!) science fiction elements.

Explaining how it all came to be while also grasping their reader with a compelling human story was the goal we set for ourselves, and our writers have delivered.

In math, we have explored what decimals represent in a number and are working on using them to complete operations. In doing so, we are revisiting those key operations – adding, multiplying, et. al. - and taking the opportunity to "brush up" on the steps to working through these problems successfully. Once we get past division with decimals, we will move on to topics such as geometry, the coordinate plane, and converting metric units.



In social studies, we completed our unit on the Declaration of Independence and the factors that led the American colonists to unite and pursue independence from Britain. We also looked at the ways these core values did (and did not) manifest in the way our nation's path unfolded and how this founding document still inspires people in our nation and abroad today. Finally, students got to choose their own



specific topic from this time period that they wanted to research and teach to the class. Due to their efforts, we got to learn about things like George Washington's childhood, Thomas Jefferson's inventions, and the role women played on the Revolutionary War battlefields.

As we shift back into Science, we are learning about water and its role in our ecosystem. Things can sometimes get (a little bit) wet, but we wish everyone a mostly dry, sunny, and altogether pleasant start to Spring 2025!

### **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 a number of important life lessons for our time. Once finished with this, we will work on some poetry in April prior to May testing.

In history, we finished Ancient Rome and began our brief foray into the Abrahamic religions, beginning with Hinduism. We will cover Hinduism, 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 finishing up the unit on finding the area of polygons. Next month, we will work on volume, surface area, 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 continue to work on our solar system by learning about scale.



Recess -- the best part of the day.



6th Graders hard at work.

Visit our district website

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